

SWAFF

SOUTH WEST ASIAN
FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Statutes

Definitions

In interpreting these Statutes and any relevant regulations, the following terms shall be defined unless explicitly stated by the text or indicated by the context:

AFC:	Asian Football Confederation.
Association:	A football association which controls all forms of football in its country or territory.
CAS:	Court of Arbitration for Sport.
Club:	A professional or amateur club which participates in a league or competition affiliated to an Association.
Committee:	Any standing committee of the SWAFF as constituted in accordance with these Statutes.
FIFA:	Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
Football:	(as the context requires) Any or all types of football, including without limitation association football, futsal and beach soccer.
IFAB:	The International Football Association Board.
Laws of the Game:	The laws of association football issued by the IFAB.
League:	A professional or amateur league which consists of a combination of Clubs within the territory of an Association and which is subordinate to that Association.
Member Association:	An Association which is a member of the SWAFF.
Officials:	All office bearers and members of the Committees, and all persons responsible for technical, medical, and administrative matters in the SWAFF, its Member Associations, Leagues, and Clubs, as well as all persons obliged to comply with the Statutes (except Players).
Player:	A professional or amateur Football player registered with an Association.
Regulations:	Any rule, regulation, code, or directive issued by the Executive Board.
Statutes:	The SWAFF Statutes.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references to natural persons include both genders and the singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

Chapter 1: **The SWAFF**

1 Title, Legal Form, Headquarters, Language

- 1.1 The organisation shall be called the “South West Asian Football Federation” or “SWAFF”.
 - 1.2 The SWAFF is established as a legal entity pursuant to Saudi Arabian law. Its domicile and headquarters are in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - 1.3 The official language of the SWAFF shall be English. Arabic is a working language of the SWAFF. These Statutes shall be prepared in English and Arabic.
 - 1.4 All documentation and communications shall be produced in English and may be translated in to Arabic as required. In the case of any discrepancy in interpretation, the English text shall always prevail.
-

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the SWAFF are to:
 - 2.1.1 oversee, promote and enhance the development of Football in South West Asia, considering its common humanitarian, cultural, and educational values, including without limitation the development of technical knowledge, administrative capability, and football infrastructure;
 - 2.1.2 organise all types and categories of Football tournaments on regional level in accordance with the principles of fair play, sportsmanship and competition;
 - 2.1.3 control all types of Football played in the region played under the SWAFF Statutes whilst ensuring compliance with the FIFA Statutes and the AFC Statutes;
 - 2.1.4 adopt and enforce strict measures to prevent activities which threaten the integrity of matches or tournaments, such as match-manipulation, age-cheating, nationality fraud, bribery, corruption, and doping;
 - 2.1.5 protect the interests of its Member Associations as per the FIFA Statutes and the AFC Statutes;
 - 2.1.6 strengthen relations between its Member Associations and establish a common unified position on matters of regional and international importance; and
 - 2.1.7 follow and comply with the FIFA Statutes and the AFC Statutes, as well as any policy directives issued by FIFA and/or the AFC.

3 Neutrality and Non-Discrimination

- 3.1 The SWAFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
 - 3.2 Discrimination of any kind against a country, person or a group of persons, on the basis of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, or any other reason is strictly prohibited. Member Associations which engage in such conduct may be punished with suspension or expulsion.
 - 3.3 The SWAFF shall manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third-parties, however it shall be subject to the statutes and regulations of FIFA and the AFC.
-

4 Obligation to Comply

- 4.1 Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes must observe these Statutes and any Regulations of the SWAFF.
 - 4.2 Every person and organisation directly or indirectly bound by these Statutes must observe the statutes and regulations of FIFA and the AFC.
 - 4.3 In case of any inconsistency between the SWAFF Statutes and Regulations with those of FIFA or the AFC, the statutes and regulations of FIFA and/or the AFC shall prevail.
-

5 Bodies

- 5.1 The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body of the SWAFF.
- 5.2 The Executive Board is the executive body of the SWAFF.
- 5.3 The General Secretariat is the administrative body of the SWAFF.
- 5.4 The Committees (if appointed) shall assist the Executive Board in the performance of its functions. Their duties, terms of reference, and structure are defined in these Statutes.
- 5.5 The judicial bodies of the SWAFF are the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee. Their duties, terms of reference and structure are defined in these Statutes and any specific Regulations.
- 5.6 The Election Commission is responsible for organising and supervising any election.
- 5.7 The SWAFF may establish other bodies which it deems necessary for the development of Football in South West Asia.

6 Membership

- 6.1 The General Assembly, upon recommendation of the Executive Board, is the responsible body for deciding whether to admit, suspend or expel an Association.
 - 6.2 Any Association which is responsible for governing and supervising football in all its forms in its country or territory may become a Member Association. That Association must be a member of FIFA and the AFC.
 - 6.3 Only one (1) Association shall be officially recognised in each country or territory.
 - 6.4 Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member Association from its due financial obligations towards the SWAFF or other Member Associations but leads to cancellation of all membership rights.
 - 6.5 The initial founding Member Associations of the SWAFF are not required to apply for membership or resign their memberships of any other regional association.
-

7 Application for Membership

- 7.1 All applications for membership shall be submitted to the General Secretariat on an application form prescribed by the SWAFF.
- 7.2 The following documents shall be attached to the application:
 - 7.2.1 a copy of the Association's statutes;
 - 7.2.2 proof of its memberships of FIFA, the AFC, and any other regional association;
 - 7.2.3 a declaration that the Association agrees to comply with these Statutes and any Regulations, and the statutes and regulations of FIFA and the AFC;
 - 7.2.4 a declaration acknowledging the authority of the SWAFF judicial bodies, and the CAS as final arbiter of all disputes;
 - 7.2.5 a commitment to participate in all official tournaments;
 - 7.2.6 a declaration confirming that the Association is free from any undue third-party influence (as defined in the FIFA Statutes); and
 - 7.2.7 a list of its Officials, specifying the authorised signatories that have delegated authority to execute binding agreements.
- 7.3 The Executive Board shall assess all applications. The Executive Board shall subsequently recommend acceptance or rejection to the General Assembly. The applicant shall have the right to state their case for membership at the General Assembly.
- 7.4 A new Member Association shall acquire membership rights and obligations as soon as it has been admitted by the General Assembly, including (for the avoidance of doubt) the right to vote at a General Assembly.

8 Rights of Member Associations

8.1 The Member Associations shall have the following rights:

- 8.1.1 to participate in the General Assembly, to know its agenda in advance, to be notified of the General Assembly in the prescribed time, and to exercise their voting rights;
- 8.1.2 to submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;
- 8.1.3 to nominate candidates for all bodies that are subject to election;
- 8.1.4 to be informed of the affairs of the SWAFF through its bodies;
- 8.1.5 to take part in SWAFF competitions, through their representative teams and affiliated clubs;
- 8.1.6 to take part in SWAFF development activities and programmes; and
- 8.1.7 to benefit from the rights granted by these Statutes and any Regulations.

9 Obligations of Member Associations

9.1 Member Associations shall have the following obligations:

- 9.1.1 to comply with these Statutes, any Regulations, and the Decisions of the SWAFF and to ensure that these are respected by their members and affiliates;
- 9.1.2 to comply with the statutes, regulations, and decisions of FIFA, the AFC, and the CAS and to ensure that these are respected by their members and affiliates;
- 9.1.3 to take part in SWAFF competitions, development activities, and programmes without disturbing competitions, development activities and programmes of other regional associations;
- 9.1.4 to pay their membership fee;
- 9.1.5 to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB as well as the Futsal Laws of the Game and Beach Soccer Laws of the Game as issued by FIFA;
- 9.1.6 to adopt a statutory clause specifying that recourse to ordinary courts is prohibited to resolve any dispute relating to the Statutes, any Regulations, or any decision of the SWAFF;
- 9.1.7 to notify the SWAFF of any amendments to its statutes or list of Officials who are authorised signatories;

- 9.1.8 not to maintain relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognised by the SWAFF, the AFC, or FIFA or with Associations that have been suspended or expelled from the SWAFF;
 - 9.1.9 to respect and observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
 - 9.1.10 to maintain a register of members, which shall be updated on a regular basis; and
 - 9.1.11 to manage its affairs independently and with no influence from third-parties, even if such influence was not the fault of the Member Association concerned.
- 9.2 Violation of any of the above obligations may lead to sanctions.
-

10 Suspension

- 10.1 The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member Association.
- 10.2 The Executive Board, without a vote of the General Assembly, may temporarily suspend any Member Association if they seriously violate their statutory obligations. This temporary suspension shall continue until the next General Assembly, unless the Executive Board has revoked such suspension, whereby the General Assembly will vote whether to suspend the Member Association.
- 10.3 A vote by the General Assembly to suspend a Member Association (whether or not they are temporarily-suspended) requires a two-third (2/3) majority of votes cast to succeed.
 - 10.3.1 If a vote to suspend a temporarily-suspended Member Association does not receive the required number, that suspension shall be automatically lifted.
- 10.4 The General Assembly may lift the suspension of a Member Association. A vote by the General Assembly to lift the suspension of a Member Association requires a two-third (2/3) majority of the votes cast to succeed.
- 10.5 A suspended Member Association shall lose their membership rights. Other Member Associations are not permitted to maintain sporting contact with a suspended Member Association.
- 10.6 Member Associations which do not participate in SWAFF activities for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the General Assembly shall be suspended from voting at the General Assembly until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

11 Expulsion

- 11.1 The General Assembly may expel a Member Association if:
- 11.1.1 it fails to fulfil its financial obligations to the SWAFF;
 - 11.1.2 it seriously violates these Statutes, any Regulations, or decisions of the SWAFF;
 - 11.1.3 it ceases to be an Association in its own country or territory;
 - 11.1.4 it undertakes any bankruptcy event; and/or
 - 11.1.5 it ceases to be a member of FIFA or the AFC.
- 11.2 More than fifty percent (50%) of the Member Associations must be present at the General Assembly for a vote to expel a Member Association to occur.
- 11.3 A Member Association who is expelled is not eligible to reapply for membership for a period of one (1) year.
- 11.4 A vote by the General Assembly to expel a Member Association requires a three-quarter (3/4) majority of votes cast to succeed.
-

12 Resignation

- 12.1 A Member Association may resign from the SWAFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must be received in writing by the General Secretariat no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year.
- 12.2 A Resignation shall not affect any existing financial obligations towards the SWAFF or its Member Associations.
-

13 Regulations

- 13.1 A The Executive Board shall establish the Regulations to supplement and enforce these Statutes.

Chapter 2: **General Assembly**

14 Definition and Composition

- 14.1 A The General Assembly is the meeting at which all Member Associations convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of the SWAFF. Only a General Assembly which is properly convened in accordance with these Statutes has the authority to make decisions.
- 14.2 A General Assembly may be an ordinary or extraordinary meeting.
- 14.3 The General Assembly may appoint observers to take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or vote.
-

15 Delegates and Voting

- 15.1 Each Member Association shall have one (1) vote and is entitled to be represented by a maximum of three (3) delegates in the General Assembly. One (1) of the three (3) delegates shall exercise the right to vote on behalf of the Member Association.
- 15.2 The names of the delegates must reach the General Secretariat at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the General Assembly indicating the delegate authorised to vote.
- 15.3 Only the authorised delegates who are present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
- 15.4 The Executive Board may at its discretion invite any person to the General Assembly to participate without voting rights.
- 15.5 The Executive Board and the General Secretary shall take part in the General Assembly without voting rights.
-

16 Powers and Duties

- 16.1 The General Assembly shall have the following powers:
- 16.1.1 adopting or amending these Statutes;
 - 16.1.2 electing the Executive Board;
 - 16.1.3 electing the judicial bodies on the proposal of the Executive Board;
 - 16.1.4 approving the financial statements;

- 16.1.5 approving the budget;
 - 16.1.6 approving the General Secretariat activity report;
 - 16.1.7 appointing independent external auditors;
 - 16.1.8 fixing the membership subscription;
 - 16.1.9 admitting an Association, or suspending or expelling a Member Association;
 - 16.1.10 dissolving the SWAFF; and
 - 16.1.11 acting upon proposals submitted by a Member Association or the Executive Board in accordance with these Statutes.
-

17 Quorum, Decisions, Minutes

- 17.1 The quorum for a General Assembly shall be a simple majority (more than 50%) of the Member Associations entitled to vote.
 - 17.2 If a quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly shall be held within twenty-four (24) hours with the same agenda.
 - 17.3 Unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes, a decision of the General Assembly requires a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast.
 - 17.4 Abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.
 - 17.5 Decisions shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count, save in cases of elections, which shall be carried out under specific Regulations.
 - 17.6 Decisions shall take effect immediately after the close of the General Assembly, unless otherwise stipulated in these Statutes or decided otherwise by the General Assembly.
 - 17.7 The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of the General Assembly. They shall be distributed to the Member Associations within one (1) month of the meeting.
-

18 Elections

- 18.1 The Executive Board shall pass specific Regulations governing elections to SWAFF bodies.
- 18.2 Elections to the Executive Board shall be by secret ballot. Where a candidate has no opponent for a seat, they may be elected by acclamation. No voting by letter or proxy is permitted.

- 18.3 Names of the candidates for the Executive Board must reach the General Secretary by latest two (2) months prior to the date of the elections.
- 18.4 The position of President shall be elected as follows:
- 18.4.1 where there are two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast is necessary;
 - 18.4.2 where there are more than two (2) candidates on the first ballot, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast is necessary. Should no candidate receive two-thirds (2/3) of the votes on the first ballot, all candidates move to the second ballot. From the second ballot (if required) onwards, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue (if required) until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.
- 18.5 The position of Senior Vice-President shall be elected as follows:
- 18.5.1 where there are two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast is necessary;
 - 18.5.2 where there are more than two (2) candidates on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue (if required) until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.
- 18.6 The positions of Vice-President and Board Member shall be elected as follows:
- 18.6.1 where there is one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast is necessary. If no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved;
 - 18.6.2 where there is more than one (1) position available on the first ballot, a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is necessary. Where:
 - (i) at least one (1) candidate is elected but not all positions are filled, all remaining candidates shall move into the subsequent ballot;
 - (ii) no candidate is elected, the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot.
 - (iii) This process shall continue until two (2) candidates remain and a simple majority is achieved.
- 18.7 The Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and members of the judicial bodies shall be elected by the General Assembly by a simple majority (more than 50%) of the votes cast.

19 Ordinary General Assembly

- 19.1 The ordinary General Assembly shall be held annually.
- 19.2 The Executive Board shall fix the date and venue. Notice shall be communicated to the Member Associations no later than three (3) months in advance.
- 19.3 The General Secretary shall, no later than thirty (30) days before the date, notify the Member Association of:
 - 19.3.1 the agenda;
 - 19.3.2 the General Secretary activity report;
 - 19.3.3 the financial statements and independent external auditor report;
 - 19.3.4 the names of the candidates for election;
 - 19.3.5 proposals for amendments to the Statutes (if any); and
 - 19.3.6 any other proposal submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Board.
- 19.4 The agenda shall comprise of the following:
 - 19.4.1 a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
 - 19.4.2 the approval of the agenda;
 - 19.4.3 an address by the President;
 - 19.4.4 suspension or expulsion of a Member Association (if applicable);
 - 19.4.5 dismissal of a person or body (if applicable);
 - 19.4.6 the approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;
 - 19.4.7 the General Secretariat activity report for the period preceding the General Assembly;
 - 19.4.8 the reports of the Committees and bodies;
 - 19.4.9 the submission for approval of the financial statement and independent external auditor report;
 - 19.4.10 the approval of the budget (if applicable);
 - 19.4.11 admission for membership (if applicable);
 - 19.4.12 the proposals for amendments and alterations to the Statutes;
 - 19.4.13 consideration of proposals (if any) submitted by Member Associations or the Executive Board;

- 19.4.14 appointment of independent external auditors (if applicable);
 - 19.4.15 the election of the judicial bodies upon the proposal of the Executive Board (if applicable); and
 - 19.4.16 the election of the Executive Board (if applicable).
- 19.5 Any proposal that a Member Association wishes to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least six (6) weeks before the date of the General Assembly.
-

20 Extraordinary General Assembly

- 20.1 An Extraordinary General Assembly may be convened:
- 20.1.1 by the Executive Board whenever deemed necessary; or
 - 20.1.2 if the office of President falls vacant for more than one (1) year; or
 - 20.1.3 upon a written request by at least one-third (1/3) of the Member Associations, no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of the written request.
- 20.2 The date and venue shall be determined by the Executive Board. The General Secretary shall notify the Member Associations of the date, venue, and agenda by latest thirty (30) days before the date.
- 20.3 When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Executive Board, it must draw up the agenda.
- 20.4 When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of Member Associations, the agenda shall be drawn up by the General Secretary and must contain the points raised by those Member Associations.
- 20.5 Amendment of the agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly is not permitted.
-

21 Amendments to the Statutes

- 21.1 Only the General Assembly may amend the Statutes.
- 21.2 Proposals to amend the Statutes may either be submitted by a Member Association or the Executive Board.
- 21.3 Proposals received from Member Associations must be in writing and submitted no later than six (6) weeks before the date of the General Assembly.
- 21.4 Amendments to the Statutes require the approval of three-quarters (3/4) of the votes cast.

Chapter 3: Executive Board

22 Executive Board

- 22.1 The Executive Board shall consist of ten (10) individuals, comprising of:
- 22.1.1 the President;
 - 22.1.2 the Senior Vice-President;
 - 22.1.3 two (2) Vice-Presidents; and
 - 22.1.4 six (6) Board Members.
- 22.2 Upon being elected, every member of the Executive Board undertakes and accepts responsibility to faithfully, loyally, and independently act in the best interests of the SWAFF and the promotion and development of Football in South West Asia.
- 22.3 The Executive Board shall be elected by the General Assembly.
- 22.3.1 There shall be five (5) members from each geographic zone.
 - 22.3.2 At least two (2) of the individuals elected shall be women, with at least (1) from each geographic zone.
 - 22.3.3 The President and Senior Vice-President shall not be from the same geographic zone.
 - 22.3.4 The two (2) Vice-Presidents shall not be from the same geographic zone.
- 22.4 Individuals elected to the Executive Board shall serve a term of four (4) years and may serve no more than three (3) terms. They may not at the same time be a member of any judicial body.
- 22.5 Candidates for election shall be:
- 22.5.1 under the age of seventy (70) as at the date of election;
 - 22.5.2 elected or appointed to the executive body or senior management of their Member Association; and
 - 22.5.3 be of good character (as defined by the Electoral Commission).
- 22.6 Candidates must be nominated by their Member Association in accordance with the Regulations passed by the Executive Board.
- 22.7 Member Associations may propose only one (1) candidate for each position in the Executive Board. Member Associations are eligible to be represented by maximum one (1) individual on the Executive Board.

- 22.8 If the President ceases to carry out or is prevented from performing their duties, the Senior Vice-President shall deputise until the next General Assembly.
- 22.9 If a position should become vacant, the Executive Board, upon the proposal of the President, shall fill that position until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.
-

23 Powers and Duties

- 23.1 The Executive Board shall be empowered to make decisions on all matters which are not exclusive to the General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes, including the release of the funds of the SWAFF towards the fulfillment of its objectives.
- 23.2 The Executive Board shall have power to:
- 23.2.1 carry out the objectives of the SWAFF;
 - 23.2.2 prepare and convene the General Assembly;
 - 23.2.3 ensure that the Statutes are applied, and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
 - 23.2.4 formulate the Regulations;
 - 23.2.5 appoint and replace the members of the Committees;
 - 23.2.6 propose to the General Assembly the individuals to be elected or dismissed as members of the judicial bodies;
 - 23.2.7 establish ad-hoc committees if required;
 - 23.2.8 approve and submit to the General Assembly:
 - (i) the General Secretariat activity report;
 - (ii) the reports of the Committees and judicial bodies;
 - (iii) the statement of accounts and independent external auditor report;
 - (iv) the budget;
 - (v) proposals for amendments and alterations to the Statutes;
 - (vi) the appointment of the independent external auditors; and
 - (vii) other proposals submitted by the Executive Board in accordance with these Statutes;

- 23.2.9 appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President;
 - 23.2.10 provisionally dismiss a person or body; and
 - 23.2.11 provisionally suspend a Member Association until the next General Assembly.
- 23.3 The powers and duties may be defined in greater detail within specific Regulations.
- 23.4 The Executive Board may delegate tasks arising out of its areas of authority to the President, other bodies of the SWAFF, or third-parties.
-

24 Meetings and Decisions

- 24.1 The terms of reference, standing orders for meetings, and ability to make decisions of the Executive Board shall be stipulated in specific Regulations.
 - 24.2 The Executive Board shall meet at least three (3) times per year.
 - 24.3 The President shall convene meetings. If fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Board members request a meeting or if the President deems it necessary, the President shall convene it within twenty-one (21) days.
-

25 Dismissal of a person or body

- 25.1 The General Assembly may dismiss a person or body.
- 25.2 The Executive Board may dismiss a person or body provisionally until the following General Assembly.
- 25.3 The Executive Board may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the General Assembly. The motion for dismissal must be accompanied with written reasons and shall be sent with the agenda of the General Assembly.
- 25.4 The person or body in question has the right to speak in their own defense.
- 25.5 The General Assembly shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast is required.

26 The President

- 26.1 The President represents the SWAFF legally.
- 26.2 The President shall ensure that the SWAFF's objectives, strategic direction, policies and values, as defined by the Executive Board, are protected and advanced.
- 26.3 The President shall maintain and develop good relations between and among the Member Associations, the AFC, FIFA, other confederations, other regional associations, and international organisations.
- 26.4 The President chairs the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Board.
- 26.5 The President shall be an ex officio member of all Committees without the right to vote.
- 26.6 If the President is absent or unavailable, the Senior Vice-President shall deputise.
- 26.7 The powers and duties of the President may be defined in greater details within specific Regulations.
- 26.8 The President may delegate tasks arising out of their areas of authority to the Executive Board and to the General Secretariat.

Chapter 4: **General Secretariat**

27 General Secretariat

- 27.1 The General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the SWAFF under the direction of the General Secretary.
 - 27.2 The General Secretariat is supervised by and accountable to the Executive Board.
 - 27.3 The powers and responsibilities of the General Secretariat may be defined in greater detail within specific Regulations.
-

28 General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary

- 28.1 The General Secretary shall be the chief executive of the General Secretariat and shall work under the direction of the Executive Board.
- 28.2 The General Secretary shall be appointed and dismissed by the Executive Board upon the proposal of the President.
- 28.3 The General Secretary shall report to the Executive Board.
- 28.4 The General Secretary shall:
 - 28.4.1 implement decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Board;
 - 28.4.2 be responsible for the administration of the General Secretariat;
 - 28.4.3 act as secretary to the General Assembly, Executive Board, and Committees;
 - 28.4.4 be responsible for all correspondence of the SWAFF;
 - 28.4.5 liaise with FIFA, the AFC and any other organisation in the promotion of the objectives of the SWAFF;
 - 28.4.6 manage and keep the accounts properly; and
 - 28.4.7 sign decisions on behalf of the Committees, provided that no other ruling exists in specific Regulations.

- 28.5 The powers and responsibilities of the General Secretary may be defined in greater detail within specific Regulations.
- 28.6 The Deputy General Secretary shall be appointed and dismissed by the Executive Board upon the proposal of the President.
- 28.7 The Deputy General Secretary shall deputise for the General Secretary in all matters.
- 28.8 The powers and responsibilities of the Deputy General Secretary may be defined in greater detail within specific Regulations.
- 28.9 In the absence of the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary shall act in the role until the vacancy is fulfilled.

Chapter 5: Committees and Judicial Bodies

29 Committees

- 29.1 The Committees are the:
- 29.1.1 Competitions Committee;
 - 29.1.2 Finance Committee;
 - 29.1.3 Development and Social Responsibility Committee;
 - 29.1.4 Women's Football Committee; and
 - 29.1.5 Legal Committee.
- 29.2 The Committees shall report to the Executive Board and shall advise and assist the Executive Board in their respective fields of function.
- 29.3 The terms of reference, standing orders for meetings and their ability to make decisions are governed by specific Regulations.
- 29.4 Each Committee shall consist of maximum seven (7) individuals. The Chairperson shall be a member of the Executive Board. The members (excluding the Chairperson) shall equally represent the geographic zones.
- 29.5 The Executive Board shall appoint the Committee and shall ensure appropriate gender representation on each Committee.
- 29.6 The term of office for the members is four (4) years. Members may be relieved of their duties at any time by the Executive Board.
- 29.7 Each Chairperson shall conduct business in compliance with these Statutes and any specific Regulations.
- 29.8 Meeting dates shall be fixed by the General Secretariat in consultation with the relevant Chairperson.
- 29.9 Any decisions made by a Committee must be either in accordance with a delegation from the Executive Board or subsequently ratified by the Executive Board to take effect.

30 Judicial Bodies

- 30.1 The judicial bodies are the:
 - 30.1.1 Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
 - 30.1.2 Appeal Committee.
- 30.2 Each judicial body shall consist of a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and three (3) members. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall have legal qualifications.
- 30.3 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in any Regulations on all parties identified in these Statutes or any Regulations.
 - 30.3.1 The powers of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee are subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and Executive Board regarding the suspension and expulsion of Member Association, person, or body.
- 30.4 The Appeal Committee may hear appeals from decisions made by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee as permitted by the Regulations.
- 30.5 The powers, duties, and procedures of the judicial bodies shall be stipulated in specific Regulations.
- 30.6 Members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of the SWAFF.

Chapter 6: **Dispute Resolution**

31 Court of Arbitration for Sport

- 31.1 The SWAFF recognises the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as the final arbiter to resolve disputes between the SWAFF, its Member Associations and their members and affiliates, Players, Officials, and Clubs.
-

32 Obligations of Member Associations

- 32.1 Member Associations shall recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and ensure that their members and affiliates comply with all CAS decisions regarding the SWAFF.
- 32.2 Recourse to ordinary courts of law (including all types of provisional measures) is prohibited unless specifically provided for in any Regulations.
-

33 Jurisdiction of CAS as an Ordinary Court of Arbitration

- 33.1 CAS shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration, to deal with disputes between the SWAFF and:
- 33.1.1 Member Associations, their members and affiliates;
 - 33.1.2 Players;
 - 33.1.3 Officials; and
 - 33.1.4 Clubs.
- 33.2 CAS shall only intervene in its capacity as an ordinary court of arbitration if the dispute does not fall within the competence of a SWAFF body.
- 33.3 The CAS Code of Sports-related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. The applicable law in all matters shall be the Regulations. Where relevant, the law of domicile of the SWAFF shall apply in a subsidiary manner.
- 33.4 Any hearing (if applicable) shall be held in a CAS Alternate Hearing Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, unless the parties involved expressly agree otherwise.

34 Jurisdiction of CAS as an Appeal Arbitration Body

- 34.1 Any final decision made by a SWAFF body may be disputed exclusively before CAS in its capacity as an appeal arbitration body, to the exclusion of any ordinary court or any other court of arbitration.
- 34.2 Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted. Appeals shall be lodged with CAS within twenty-one (21) days of notification of the decision in question. The relevant Regulations may contain further stipulations or amend this time limit.
- 34.3 The following types of decisions are not appealable to CAS:
- 34.3.1 violations of the Laws of the Game;
 - 34.3.2 decisions which any Regulations identify as final and binding and not appealable; and
 - 34.3.3 decisions of a purely administrative nature.
- 34.4 The CAS Code of Sports–related Arbitration shall apply to the proceedings. The applicable law in all matters shall be the Regulations. Where relevant, the law of domicile of the SWAFF shall apply in a subsidiary manner.
- 34.5 Any hearing (if applicable) shall be held in a CAS Alternate Hearing Centre located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, unless the parties involved expressly agree otherwise.
- 34.6 The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. The appropriate SWAFF bodies, or alternatively, CAS may order the appeal to have a suspensive effect.
- 34.7 Only parties directly affected by a decision may appeal to CAS.
- 34.8 The World Anti-Doping Agency is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed by the SWAFF in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

Chapter 7: **Miscellaneous**

35 Finances

- 35.1 The SWAFF financial year shall accord to the financial year under the laws of its place of domicile.
 - 35.2 The revenue and expenses of the SWAFF shall be responsibly managed, including where appropriate, the creation of reserves.
 - 35.3 The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the SWAFF and its subsidiaries as at the end of each financial year.
-

36 Revenue

- 36.1 The revenue of the SWAFF arises specifically from:
 - 36.1.1 membership subscriptions;
 - 36.1.2 receipts generated by the marketing of the rights owned by the SWAFF;
 - 36.1.3 fines imposed by the judicial bodies; and
 - 36.1.4 other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by the SWAFF.
-

37 Expenses

- 37.1 The SWAFF bears:
 - 37.1.1 the expenses stipulated in the budget;
 - 37.1.2 other expenses approved by the General Assembly and that the Executive Board is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority; and
 - 37.1.3 all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by the SWAFF.
-

38 Membership Subscription

- 38.1 Each Member Association shall pay an annual membership subscription due by 1 January of each calendar year. The membership subscription for new Member Associations shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the General Assembly at which they were admitted.

- 38.2 The General Assembly shall fix the amount of the membership subscription on the recommendation of the Executive Board.
-

39 Settlement

- 39.1 The SWAFF may debit any Member Association account to settle claims.
-

40 External Auditors

- 40.1 The Executive Board shall recommend an independent external auditor for a period of four (4) years for approval by the General Assembly.
- 40.2 The external auditor shall examine and certify the accounts before they are presented to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.
- 40.3 The external auditor report shall be submitted to the Executive Board and the General Assembly.
-

41 Competitions

- 41.1 The Executive Board shall compile a SWAFF Competitions Calendar that shall be binding on Member Associations.
- 41.2 The Executive Board shall determine the official competitions to be organised and sanctioned by the SWAFF.
- 41.3 The Executive Board shall produce Regulations governing SWAFF competitions.
- 41.4 By the act of entering a competition organised by the SWAFF, Member Associations and their members and affiliates, Players, Officials, Clubs, and Stakeholders agree to comply with these Statutes and any Regulations.
-

42 Intellectual Property

- 42.1 The SWAFF is the original owner of all rights emanating from competitions, programmes, and any other event held under its jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include without limitation, every kind of financial rights, audio-visual and radio recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and incorporeal rights such as emblems and rights arising under copyright law.

- 42.2 All rights to use and/or exploit the SWAFF symbol, logo, hymn, flag, motto, identifications, designations, emblems and any other musical works, audio-visual works or creative works or artefacts commissioned in connection with the SWAFF, its competitions, its programmes, or any other events belong exclusively to the SWAFF.
- 42.3 The Executive Board shall decide how and to what extent the SWAFF rights are utilised, including whether the SWAFF rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.
-

43 Matters Not Provided For

- 43.1 The Executive Board shall have the final decision on any matter not provided for in these Statutes or in cases of force majeure.
-

44 Dissolution

- 44.1 The SWAFF may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the votes cast at the General Assembly.
- 44.2 Upon the dissolution of the SWAFF, its funds and assets shall be entrusted to the appropriate authority of the country of its domicile until such time that it is re-established.
-

45 Adoption of Statutes

- 45.1 These Statutes were adopted by the General Assembly on 12 August 2018 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- 45.2 These Statutes supersede all previous texts and come into force immediately.

For SWAFF

Dr Adel Ezzat

President