



# OFC Statutes

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## OFC Statutes

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Regulations governing the Application of Statutes

Standing orders of the Congress



# OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION INCORPORATED STATUTES

## DEFINITIONS

In the interpretation of the Statutes, Regulations and Standing Orders, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Ad Hoc Committee**” means any committee formed by the Executive Committee under Article 34;

“**Auditor**” means any professional services firm appointed to audit the financial statements of OFC;

“**Associate Member**” means a National Association within the Region which is not in direct affiliation with FIFA and whose membership has been approved by the OFC Executive Committee;

“**Club**” or “**Clubs**” means a member of a Member Association or a member of a league recognised by a Member Association that enters at least one team in a competition;

“**Committees**” means the Standing Committees and the Ad Hoc Committees;

“**Confederation**” or “**OFC**” means the Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated;

“**Congress**” means the supreme and legislative body of OFC and shall be Ordinary or Extraordinary;

“**Eligibility Criteria**” means the eligibility criteria set out in Article 59;

“**Executive Committee**” means the Executive body of OFC;

“**FIFA**” means Federation Internationale de Football Association;

“**FIFA Council**” the strategic and oversight executive body of FIFA;

“**FIFA Statutes**” means the Statutes adopted by FIFA and in force and includes the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the FIFA Congress;

“**Football**” means Association Football, the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game;

“**Full Member**” means an Association that has been admitted into membership of FIFA by the FIFA Congress and has been admitted into full membership of OFC at an OFC Congress;

“**General Secretariat**” means the General Secretariat referred to in Article 45;

“**General Secretary**” means the General Secretary of OFC, as referred to in Article 46;

“**Independent**” means a person who satisfies the independence criteria set out in Article 60;

“**Judicial Bodies (or “Judicial Body”)**” means the OFC judicial bodies (or an OFC judicial body) established pursuant to Article 36 of these Statutes (being the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee);

“**Laws of the Game**” means the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board;

“**Member**” means a Full Member, Provisional Member or Associate Member and where applicable includes their members, officials and players;

“**National Association**” or “**Association**” means the controlling body for association football within the country or territory concerned;

“**Oceania Region**” or “**Region**” means the region for which OFC is responsible to FIFA and includes generally the islands and nations of the Pacific and adjacent seas and such other nations as may be determined from time to time;

“**Official**” any board member (including the members of the FIFA Council), committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, OFC, a member association, a league or a club as well as all other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA, OFC or member association Statutes (except players and intermediaries);

“**Player**” means any football player who is affiliated to a Member;

“**President**” means the president of OFC elected by Congress pursuant to these Statutes;

“**Provisional Member**” means a National Association which has applied to become a member of FIFA and which has been granted provisional membership by OFC at the request of FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Statutes;

“**Stakeholder**” a person, entity or organisation which is not a member association and/or body of OFC or FIFA but has an interest or concern in OFC or FIFA's activities, which may affect or be affected by FIFA's or OFC's actions, objectives and policies, in particular Clubs, players, coaches and professional leagues; and

“**Standing Committees**” means the Audit and Risk Committee and the Eligibility Committee.

## I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Article 1: TITLE, CONSTITUTION and HEADQUARTERS

1. The Oceania Football Confederation Incorporated is an incorporated society entered in the Register of Incorporated Societies in New Zealand pursuant to the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 of New Zealand.
2. The Headquarters of the Confederation shall be in Auckland, New Zealand and may only be transferred by a resolution of Congress.

### Article 2: OBJECTIVES

1. To improve the game of Football constantly and promote it throughout the Oceania Region in the light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes.
2. To promote the game of Football in the Oceania Region in a spirit of peace, understanding and fair play without discrimination as to politics, gender, religion or race.
3. To control football in the Oceania Region by taking appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the FIFA Statutes and the OFC Statutes, Regulations and Standing Orders, decisions of FIFA or OFC, or the Laws of the Game and to prevent the introduction of improper methods or practices into the game and to protect it from abuses.
4. To enforce due compliance with the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA and OFC.
5. To provide by Statute, Regulations, By-Laws or otherwise the method of deciding and settling all differences or disputes that may arise between Members, and Clubs, leagues, Officials and Players affiliated to Members.
6. To organise or assist in the organisation of competitions within the Oceania region.
7. To purchase, hold or otherwise acquire any real property or equipment, or any interest in the same, respectively, which shall be for the benefit of OFC or which will assist in the promotion of any of the objectives of OFC.
8. To take all necessary steps to maintain the integrity and credibility of OFC, its Members, Clubs, Leagues Officials and Players having regard to the position of OFC in the World of Football.
9. To promote and provide charitable activities through Football which shall be beneficial to the community of the Oceania Region and/or to the members of OFC and no benefits to an individual.
10. To use its efforts to ensure that the game of Football is available to and resourced for all who wish to participate, regardless of gender or age.
11. To promote the development of women's Football and the full participation of women at all levels of football governance.

### Article 3: LOGO/ABBREVIATION

1. The logo and common seal of the Confederation shall be:



2. The use of the common seal shall be subject to the control of the Executive Committee.
3. The abbreviation of the Confederation is "OFC".

### Article 4: OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

1. The official languages of the Confederation and the Congress shall be English and French.
2. English is the official language for minutes, correspondence and announcements of OFC. However at the discretion of the Secretariat the minutes, correspondence and announcements of OFC shall also be published in French. In the event of any discrepancy, the English version shall be authoritative.

### Article 5: NON-DISCRIMINATION, GENDER EQUALITY AND STANCE AGAINST RACISM

Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or groups of people on account of ethnic origin, gender, disability, language, religion, politics or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

#### **Article 6: PROMOTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS**

1. OFC shall promote friendly relations:
  - a) between Members, Confederations, Clubs, Officials and Players; and
  - b) in society for humanitarian objectives.
2. OFC shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any difference or dispute that may arise between Members, and Clubs, Officials and Players affiliated to Members.

#### **Article 7: PLAYERS**

Each Member of OFC shall respect the decisions of the FIFA and/or OFC in relation to the regulation of the status of Players and the provisions for their transfer in accordance with the respective regulations.

#### **Article 8: LAWS OF THE GAME**

Each Member of OFC shall play Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game.

### **II. MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Article 9: ADMISSION**

1. Congress shall decide to admit, suspend or expel a member of OFC.
2. Membership of OFC shall be open to National Associations situated in the Oceania region. In exceptional circumstances, a National Association that is situated in another continent may be admitted to membership, provided that it is not a member of the Confederation of that continent or of any other Confederation, and that FIFA approves its membership of OFC.
3. An Association in a region which has not yet gained independence may, with the authorisation of the Association in the country on which it is dependent, also apply for admission to OFC.
4. Only one Association shall be recognised as a Member in each country or territory.
5. There shall be three classes of membership:
  - a) Full Membership – means a National Association which has been admitted as a member of FIFA and whose application for full membership has then been subsequently approved by the OFC Congress.
  - b) Provisional Membership – means a National Association which has applied to become a member of FIFA and which has been granted provisional membership by the OFC at the request of FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Statutes.
  - c) Associate Membership – which shall be open to National Associations within the region which are not in direct affiliation with FIFA and whose membership has been approved by the OFC Executive Committee.
6. The Regulations Governing the Application of the OFC Statutes shall regulate the details of the procedure for admission.
7. Upon being admitted as a member of FIFA, a Provisional Member's application is then referred to an OFC Congress for approval as a full member of OFC.
8. The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted by OFC. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect.
9. This article shall not affect the status of existing Members.

#### **Article 10: MEMBERS RIGHTS**

1. All Full Members have the right:
  - a) To take part in the Congress and to exercise their right to speak and vote;
  - b) To draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
  - c) To nominate candidates for election at the Congress;
  - d) To take part in the competitions organised by OFC;
  - e) To take part in FIFA's and OFC's assistance and development programmes;
  - f) To exercise all other rights arising out of these Statutes or those recognised by the regulations, directives and decisions of OFC and FIFA.
2. All Provisional Members and Associate Members have the right:
  - a) To take part in the Congress and to exercise their right to speak but not to vote;
  - b) To take part in the competitions organised by OFC;

- c) To take part in some OFC assistance and development programmes as approved by the Executive Committee; and
- d) To exercise all other rights arising out of these Statutes or those recognised by the regulations, directives and decisions of OFC and FIFA as they apply to Provisional Members and Associate Members.

#### **Article 11: MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS**

1. Every Member of the Confederation has the following obligations:
  - a) To comply fully with Statutes, regulations, Code of Ethics, directives and decisions of FIFA and OFC at all times;
  - b) To take part in competitions organised by OFC and/or FIFA (except provisional members which cannot participate in FIFA final competitions);
  - c) To pay their membership subscriptions;
  - d) To respect the Laws of the Game;
  - e) To ensure that their own members comply with Statutes, regulations, Code of Ethics, directives and decisions of FIFA and OFC at all times;
  - f) To ensure that none of its Officials and/or members who have been found guilty of breaching the FIFA and/or OFC Code of Ethics and as a result have been suspended for a period of six (6) months or more and/or fined for a sum of at least \$500 or more in the previous five (5) years from the relevant date can:
    - i. Be entitled to represent any Member Association or its Members at any OFC Meeting, Congress, Seminar, Course or any OFC or any FIFA event organized under the auspices of OFC its members, sponsors or related parties; and
    - ii. Be entitled to be appointed to any ad hoc and/or standing committee of OFC or OFC representative on any ad hoc and/or standing committee of FIFA.
  - g) To comply fully with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other regulations; and
  - h) To submit no later than 31 December each year to the OFC Secretariat their audited financial accounts for the previous year.
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

#### **Article 12: SUSPENSION**

1. The Congress is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a Member that seriously and repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.
2. A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a two-thirds majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
3. A suspended Member shall lose its Membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.

#### **Article 13: EXPULSION**

1. The Congress may expel a Member:
  - a) If it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards OFC; or
  - b) If it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations, decisions of FIFA or OFC; or
  - c) If it loses the status of an Association representing Association Football in its country.
2. The presence of an absolute majority of Full Members at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes taken.

#### **Article 14: RESIGNATION**

1. A Member may resign from OFC with effect from the end of the calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretary no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year and be sent by registered letter.
2. The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its outstanding financial obligations towards OFC and its other Members.

#### **Article 15: BODIES**

1. A Member's bodies shall be either elected or appointed in that Association. A Member's statutes shall provide for a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment.
2. Any Member's bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 1, even on an interim basis, shall not be recognised by OFC.

3. Decisions passed by bodies that have not been elected or appointed in compliance with paragraph 1 shall not be recognised by OFC.

#### **Article 16: STATUS OF LEAGUES AND OTHER GROUPS OF CLUBS**

1. Leagues or any other groups affiliated to a Member shall be subordinate to and recognised by that Member. The Member's statutes shall define the scope of authority and the rights and duties of these groups. The statutes and regulations of these groups shall be approved by the Member.
2. Every Member shall ensure that its affiliated Clubs can take all decisions on any matters regarding membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of an affiliated Club's corporate structure. In any case, the Member shall ensure that neither a natural nor a legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercises control over more than one Club whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardised.

### **III. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP/ OFC AWARDS**

#### **Article 17: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP/OFC AWARDS**

1. The Congress may grant titles of Honorary President or Honorary Members to any individual for meritorious services rendered to OFC.
2. All such individuals as referred to in paragraph 1 shall be permitted to attend the Congress with the right to join in discussions but not to vote.
3. Nominations for the grant of such titles or awards shall be made to the Executive Committee by a member of the Association or member of the Executive Committee.
4. Congress may also grant the OFC Gold or OFC Silver Award where Congress considers any individual has given meritorious services to OFC.
5. Nominations for the grant of such titles or awards shall be made to the Executive Committee by a National Association.

### **IV. IORGANISATION**

#### **Article 18: LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES**

1. The Congress shall be legislative / governing body of OFC.
2. The Executive Committee shall be the executive body of OFC.
3. Except as specified in these Statutes, the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties.
4. The Judicial Bodies of OFC shall be the disciplinary body of OFC.
5. The General Secretariat shall be the administrative body of OFC.

#### **A. CONGRESS**

#### **Article 19: CONGRESS**

1. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.
2. The Ordinary Congress shall be held once every year. The Executive Committee shall fix the date and place. The Members shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance. Except where the Congress involves the election of the President (FIFA Vice President) and the two (2) members on the FIFA Council in which case the members shall be notified in writing no less than fourteen (14) weeks in advance.
3. The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that a Member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least twenty one (21) days before the date of the Congress.
4. The Ordinary Congress agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
  - a) A declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;
  - b) Approval of the agenda;
  - c) Address of the President;
  - d) Roll Call;
  - e) Appointment of scrutineers to check the voting;
  - f) Suspension or expulsion of a Member (if applicable);
  - g) Approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;

- h) Activity report (containing the activities since the last Ordinary Congress);
  - i) Receipt and consideration of the Auditor's report and of the annual accounts;
  - j) Presentation of an annual budget and strategic plan for the next financial year;
  - k) Admission for membership (if applicable);
  - l) Votes on proposals for amendments to the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress (if applicable);
  - m) Consideration of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee;
  - n) Consideration of any proposed amendments to the OFC Code of Ethics;
  - o) Approval of any Audit and Risk Committee recommendation regarding the compensation to members of the Executive Committee and members of the Judicial Bodies;
  - p) Appointment of Auditors (if applicable);
  - q) Election of the members of the Eligibility Committee (if required);
  - r) Election of all of the members of the Audit and Risk Committee (if required)
  - s) Election of all members of all Judicial Bodies (if required);
  - t) Election of the OFC President (if required); and
  - u) Election of the two (2) members on the FIFA Council (if required).
5. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided two-thirds of the Members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
  6. The General Secretary shall, not later than fourteen (14) days before the date of the Congress, send out to all members the following:
    - a) Agenda of the Congress;
    - b) Activity Report of the Confederation;
    - c) Auditors Report and Annual Accounts;
    - d) Proposals for amendment and/or alterations to the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the Congress;
    - e) Any other matter raised by Members or the Executive Committee for which due notice has been given;
    - f) The annual budget and strategic plan; and
    - g) Names of candidates for election.
  7. Quorum of Congress shall be two thirds of the Full Members.

#### **Article 20: EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS**

1. The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress upon the written request of at least two thirds of the Full Members. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within two (2) months of the receipt of the request.
3. The Members shall be notified of the date, place and agenda of such Extraordinary Congress at least twenty one (21) days before the date fixed for the Extraordinary Congress and only the items included in the agenda shall be discussed. Except where the Extraordinary Congress involves the election of the President (FIFA Vice President) and the two Members on FIFA Council in which case the Members shall be notified in writing no less than 14 (14) weeks in advance.
4. Representation, voting and the conduct of an Extraordinary Congress shall be the same as those for an ordinary Congress where they apply.

#### **Article 21: VOTES AND DELEGATES**

1. Each Full Member has one vote in the Congress and is entitled to be represented by two (2) delegates.
2. Each Provisional Member and Associate Member is entitled to be represented by one (1) delegate who may take part in all discussions but who shall have no right to vote on any issue.
3. Delegates to the Congress must belong to the Member Association they represent and must be appointed by the body of the Member Association.
4. The OFC President will be the chairperson the Congress, but will not be entitled to vote.
5. Members of the Executive Committee are not entitled to represent a Member Association at the Congress; nor are they entitled to vote at the Congress.



## **Article 22: NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION**

1. In accordance with Article 33(4) of the FIFA Statutes, OFC are allocated one (1) Vice President and two (2) members on the FIFA Council.
2. In accordance with Article 33(5) of the FIFA Statutes, the members of OFC must ensure that they elect at least one (1) female member to the FIFA Council. In the event that no female candidate is elected by members of OFC for the FIFA Council, the seat reserved for a female member of such a confederation will be deemed forfeited by all members of OFC and shall remain vacant until the next election of members of the FIFA Council.
3. By virtue of being elected as OFC President the President shall assume the position of FIFA Vice President on the FIFA Council.
4. Only Full Member Associations may propose candidates for the position of President (FIFA Vice President), two (2) members on the FIFA Council and any vacant positions for members of the Standing Committees and Judicial Bodies.
5. Candidates for the position of President (FIFA Vice President) and for the two (2) members on the FIFA Council (including any such candidate's identification details and the position he or she is proposed for), must be proposed to the General Secretariat by Full Member Associations no less than three (3) months before the start of the Congress at which an election shall take place. Any such proposals that are received by OFC will be submitted by OFC to the FIFA General Secretariat.
6. Candidates for positions on the Standing Committees or Judicial Bodies must be proposed to the General Secretariat no less than three (3) months before the start of the Congress at which an election shall take place.
7. Each Full Member Association is entitled to submit only one (1) proposal for each of the following positions; President (FIFA Vice President), member of the FIFA Council, member of Audit and Risk Committee, member of Eligibility Committee, member of the Ethics Committee, member of the Appeals Committee and member of the Disciplinary Committee. If a Full Member Association presents proposals for more than one (1) candidate for any one position, such proposals shall be deemed invalid.
8. Only president of a Full Member Association can be candidate for the position of President. The candidates for FIFA Council members must be affiliated to that Member Association.
9. A candidate for the position of a member on the FIFA Council shall have played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within FIFA, a confederation or an association, etc.) for two (2) of the last five (5) years and, before being proposed as a candidate and has not been found guilty of breaching the FIFA and/or OFC Code of Ethics.
10. Any candidate for President (FIFA Vice President) and the FIFA Council Member must also pass any eligibility check carried out by the FIFA Review Committee in accordance with the FIFA Governance Regulations as well as meet the Eligibility Criteria.
11. The General Secretariat shall notify the Member Associations of the names of proposed candidates who are eligible for the office of President (FIFA Vice President), the FIFA Council, the Standing Committees and the Judicial Bodies at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the Congress.
12. The conditions to be observed during a candidature for the office of President (FIFA Vice President) and for members on the FIFA Council are stipulated in the FIFA Governance Regulations. The elections of the President (FIFA Vice President) and members of the FIFA Council at the OFC Congress may be monitored by persons appointed by the FIFA Governance Committee.

## **Article 23: AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES, REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES, THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE CODE OF ETHICS**

1. The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes, the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the Congress and the Code of Ethics.
2. Any proposals for an amendment to the Statutes must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee. A proposal submitted by a Member is valid, provided it has been supported in writing by at least two (2) other Members.
3. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (half of the Members plus one Member) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.
4. A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if two-thirds of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.
5. Any proposal to amend the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the Congress or Code of Ethics must be submitted in writing with a brief explanation to the General Secretariat by a Member or by the Executive Committee.
6. A proposal for an amendment to the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes, the Standing Orders of the Congress or Code of Ethics shall be adopted only if a simple majority of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.
7. Any proposal must reach the General Secretary twenty one (21) days before the date of the Congress. The General Secretary shall notify the members of the proposal for amendment at least fourteen (14) days before the date of Congress.

## **Article 23A: RESTRICTION OF POWERS**

No addition to or alteration of the non-profit aims, personal benefits or the dissolution clause shall be made which affect the tax exempt status. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from these Statutes and shall be included and implied into any document that replace these Statutes.

#### **Article 24: ELECTIONS, OTHER DECISIONS, REQUISITE MAJORITY**

1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
2. Any other decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or voting cards. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll, members being called in English alphabetical order.
3. For the election of the President (FIFA Vice President), and the election of the two (2) FIFA Council members, candidates are elected if they obtain a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast in the first ballot. If there are more than two (2) candidates for the election of the President or FIFA Council members and after the first ballot no candidate has obtained a simple majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast, then as from the second ballot whoever obtains the lowest of votes is eliminated until only two (2) candidates are left. In the event of a tie a further ballot shall be held. If the candidates are still tied after the further ballot, the election shall be determined by drawing lots.
4. For the election of members of the Standing Committees and Judicial Bodies, voting will take place by ballot paper, with each delegate of a Full Member Association entitled to vote having the same number of votes as there are vacancies to fill. The successful candidates will be those who receive the most number of votes for the elected positions that are available. In the event of a tie a further ballot shall be held between the candidates who have tied. If the candidates are still tied after the further ballot, the election shall be determined by drawing lots.
5. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the simple majority. Abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.

#### **Article 25: MINUTES**

1. The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress.
2. The minutes of the Ordinary Congress and any Extraordinary Congress shall be approved at the next ensuing Ordinary Congress.

#### **Article 26: EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS**

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the Members at the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

### **B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Article 27: COMPOSITION AND TERM OF OFFICE**

##### Composition

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of:
  - a) The President who is elected at the Congress;
  - b) The other presidents of each Full Member Association; and
  - c) The two FIFA Council members who are elected in accordance with Article 22 (as a non-voting member unless they are the president of a Full Member Association).
2. The chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee will:
  - a) Receive the notice of meetings, agendas and all relevant correspondence in respect of all Executive Committee meetings and approvals;
  - b) Be invited, and have the right to attend, Executive Committee meetings;
  - c) Have speaking rights, but will not be entitled to vote.
3. The President shall have the power to invite observers to attend the Executive Committee meetings who shall have rights to participate in all discussions but have no voting rights.
4. The Executive Committee shall elect from amongst its members three (3) Vice Presidents whose role and responsibilities are set out in Article 33 below.
5. From the first Congress after the adoption of the Statutes no person can be a member of the Executive Committee until such time as the Eligibility Committee has confirmed that that person has satisfied the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59. Term of Office

##### Term of Office

6. The President and the two (2) FIFA Council members shall be elected by the Congress for a term of four (4) years in the year following the FIFA World Cup. Their term of office shall begin after the end of the Congress. The President and two (2) FIFA Council members may not serve as Vice -President or members of the FIFA Council for more than three (3) terms of office (whether consecutive or not).
7. If during the four (4) year term, the President (as FIFA Vice President) or other members of the FIFA Council are:
  - a) permanently prevented from performing their official function;
  - b) do not meet the Eligibility Criteria;

- c) resign; or
  - d) in the case of the President, is not the president of Full Member Association; they shall be replaced by the Congress for the remaining period of office. Until Congress meets the longest serving Vice President will replace the President. In the event of the Vice Presidents having served for an equal period of time, the Vice President that deputises for the President will be decided by the Executive Committee.
8. If during the four (4) year term, the President is temporarily prevented from performing his/her function, one of the three (3) Vice Presidents will deputise for the President pursuant to Article 33(2) below until the President is able to resume his/her duties. In such circumstances, the President may nonetheless continue to exercise his/her functions as FIFA Vice President, unless he/she is temporarily prevented from performing that role (in which case it will remain vacant until the President is able to resume his/her duties).
  9. If a member of the Executive Committee becomes ineligible to hold office, resigns or no longer holds office as president within their respective Full Member Association, then he/she shall no longer be a member of the Executive Committee.

#### **Article 28: ROLE AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The role and powers of the Executive Committee are to:
  - a) Set the strategic framework of OFC (including a strategy for the development of football in the Oceania region);
  - b) Determine policies and regulations for OFC;
  - c) Approve OFC competitions and tournaments (including the appointment of tournament host countries and Associations) and associated regulations;
  - d) Have a supervisory role over the Ad Hoc Committees and the General Secretariat;
  - e) Delegate the execution and management of OFC operations, business and finance related matters to the General Secretariat;
  - f) Approves the annual budget for presentation to the Congress;
  - g) Approves the annual audited financial statements and the annual activity report to be submitted to the Congress for approval;
  - h) Set up Ad Hoc Committees to deal with particular matters on such terms and with such powers and duties as it considers appropriate;
  - i) Appoint and dismiss the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of any Ad Hoc Committee;
  - j) Appoint and dismiss the General Secretary on the recommendation of the President;
  - k) Give notice to any member of the Executive Committee, Committee member or Judicial Body member terminating their appointment immediately if the Executive Committee is advised by the Eligibility Committee that any such member does not meet the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59 or the Independence Criteria set out in Article 60 (as applicable);
  - l) Resolve, at the request of any Member, any disputes between Members;
  - m) Consider and approve any application for provisional membership of OFC;
  - n) Report to FIFA on the manner in which Provisional Members are organised;
  - o) Refer to the next Congress any application for full membership of OFC by an Association which has been admitted to membership of FIFA;
  - p) Control the use and investment of OFC's funds (which includes a power to authorise the borrowing of funds by OFC); and
  - q) Act in good faith and in the best interests of OFC.

#### **Article 28:(A) CLUB LICENSING**

1. OFC shall implement a Club licensing system in the Confederation. The objective of the club licensing system is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of Club competitions, to improve the level of professionalism, to promote sporting values in the principles of fairplay as well as safe and secure environments, and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of the Clubs.
2. The Executive Committee shall establish club licensing regulations based on the FIFA Club Licensing Regulations.
3. The Executive Committee shall appoint a club licensing committee to assist the Executive Committee in implementing the club licensing in an advisory role.
4. The Member Associations of OFC shall implement a Club licensing system in accordance with the minimum criteria set by OFC. They should include this obligation in their Statutes and describe the licensing body therein. They should also draw up Club licensing regulations.

#### **Article 29: MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
2. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If half the members of the Executive Committee request a meeting, the President shall convene it.

3. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be face to face, by any digital audio-visual means or by telephone.
4. The General Secretary shall give fourteen (14) days' notice to call an OFC Executive Committee meeting.

#### **Article 30: VOTING**

1. Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote (except for the two (2) FIFA Council members unless they are also the president of their Full Member Association). Observers shall have no voting rights.
2. Unless provided otherwise, a decision shall be made in elections and votes if supported by more than half of the votes cast. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote. Votes shall be open and elections shall be secret.
3. Resolutions of the Executive Committee may be passed in writing where a majority of the members of the Executive Committee approve any such resolution that is circulated in writing to all.

#### **Article 31: SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee may suspend a member of the Executive Committee or a member of another organ until the next Congress where it considers that person to have committed a gross dereliction of duty or an act of improper conduct.
2. Such decisions shall be made if supported by two-thirds or more of all members of the Executive Committee. A member of the Executive Committee affected by the decision shall not be entitled to take part in the deliberations or vote.
3. Where the Executive Committee has suspended a member pursuant to this Article, the next Congress shall consider whether to expel or reinstate that member. Congress may vote to expel a suspended member by a two-thirds majority of votes taken. If the suspended member is not expelled by the Congress then the suspension will be lifted (subject to the member meeting the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59).

### **C. PRESIDENT**

#### **Article 32: PRESIDENT**

1. The role of President requires the incumbent to:
  - a) Be responsible for in, conjunction with the General Secretary, for stakeholder liaison;
  - b) Chair the Congress and Executive Committee meetings (but not any other Committee meetings);
  - c) Recommend the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary to the Executive Committee;
  - d) Be accountable to the Congress; and
  - e) Foster a positive image of OFC in Oceania and around the World.
2. By virtue of his/her election as the OFC President the President shall automatically be installed as the FIFA Vice President.
3. The President shall compile the agenda for Executive Committee meetings (with each member of the Executive Committee being entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda).
4. The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote (except in the case of an election).

### **D. VICE PRESIDENTS**

#### **Article 33: VICE PRESIDENTS**

1. The primary role of the Vice Presidents is to deputise for the President when he/she is not able to perform his/her function (as set out in Article 32 above).
2. The Vice President who deputises for the President in any given circumstance will be the longest serving Vice President. In the event of Vice Presidents having served for an equal period of time, the Vice President that deputises for the President will be decided by the Executive Committee.

### **E. COMMITTEES**

#### **Article 34: COMMITTEES**

1. The Executive Committee may:
  - a) as required, set up temporary advisory Ad Hoc Committees to deal with particular matter) on such terms and with such powers and duties as it considers appropriate; and
  - b) appoint and dismiss the Chairperson and members of the Ad Hoc Committees.

2. The President and General Secretary are ex officio members on all Ad Hoc Committees (but without voting rights).
3. The quorum for all Ad Hoc Committee meetings shall be satisfied when fifty percent or more of the members of the Committee are present.
4. Each chairperson of a Committee shall be responsible for representing his/her committee, seeing that its business is properly conducted, fixing the date of the meetings in conjunction with the General Secretary and reporting to the Executive Committee on its work.
5. A Committee may set up a bureau or expert group/panel.
6. To the extent not set out in these Statutes, the Executive Committee shall specify the duties and responsibilities of each Committee
7. The Executive Committee shall determine any compensation to Committee members after receiving the recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee. .

#### **Article 34A: AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

1. The Audit and Risk Committee shall consist of five (5) members who are all elected by the Congress; with the elected members comprising:
  - a) Three (3) members who must be Independent; and
  - b) Two (2) members who need not be Independent.
2. The members of the Audit and Risk Committee will appoint a chairperson and deputy chairperson from amongst the members who are Independent.
3. Members of the Audit and Risk Committee must meet the Eligibility Criteria at all times.
4. The quorum for the Audit and Risk Committee shall be four (4).
5. Members of the Audit and Risk Committee shall hold relevant legal/financial qualifications or be knowledgeable and experienced in financial and/or regulatory and legal matters.
6. The term of office shall be four (4) years. A member may be elected only for one (1) further term of four (4) years (which need not be consecutive). The initial term will commence on the date of the first applicable Congress after these Statutes come into effect.
7. If any member of the Audit and Risk Committee during his/her term of office:
  - a) Is permanently prevented from performing their function as a committee member;
  - b) do not meet the Eligibility Criteria;
  - c) resigns; or
  - d) in the case of the Independent member are not Independent, the Congress shall elect a replacement to fill the vacancy.
8. The Audit and Risk Committee shall assist the Executive Committee in monitoring OFC's audit, compliance and risk matters by reviewing and making recommendations on:
  - a) The robustness of the internal control framework and financial management practices;
  - b) The integrity and appropriateness of internal and external reporting and accountability arrangements;
  - c) The robustness of risk management systems, processes and practices;
  - d) The independence and adequacy of internal and external audit functions;
  - e) Compliance with applicable laws, standards, funding requirements and best practice guidelines;
  - f) The establishment and maintenance of controls to safeguard OFC's financial and non-financial assets; and
  - g) The completeness and reliability of the financial statements, the consolidated financial statement and the external auditors' report.
9. The Audit and Risk Committee shall make recommendations to the Congress with respect to any compensation (if any) to members of the Executive Committee and members of Judicial Bodies.
10. The Audit and Risk Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee with respect to any compensation (if any) to members of Committees.
11. The individual compensation of the President, the members of the Executive Committee and the OFC Secretary General shall be made public.

#### **Article 34B: ELIGIBILITY COMMITTEE**

1. The Eligibility Committee's role is to:
  - a) Check that all candidates / nominees for office (including President, Executive Committee members, Committee members, Judicial Body members and the General Secretary) are eligible to hold office by meeting the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59 and the Independence Criteria set out in Article 60 (where applicable), and that they hold any necessary qualifications as set out in these Statutes;

- b) Report to the Executive Committee if an office holder fails to meet the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59 or the Independence Criteria set out in Article 60 (where applicable) while holding office.
- 2. The Eligibility Committee shall consist of five (5) Independent members.
- 3. The quorum for the Eligibility Committee shall be three (3).
- 4. The members of the Eligibility Committee will elect their own chairperson and deputy chairperson.
- 5. The term of office shall be four (4) years. A member may be elected only for one (1) further term of four (4) years (which need not be consecutive). The initial term will commence on the date of the first applicable Congress after these Statutes come into effect.
- 6. If any member of the Eligibility Committee during his/her term of office:
  - a) Is permanently prevented from performing their function as a committee member;
  - b) do not meet the Eligibility Criteria;
  - c) resigns; or
  - d) are not Independent,
  - e) the Congress shall elect a replacement to fill the vacancy.
- 7. The first Independent members of the Eligibility Committee will be appointed by the Executive Committee and have their eligibility checked by an external agency appointed by the Executive Committee to ensure that they meet the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59 or the Independence Criteria set out in Article 60. The term of the first members of the Eligibility Committee will continue through to the first Congress after the adoption of these Statutes (at which time, a new Eligibility Committee, and future Eligibility Committees, will be elected by Congress). For the avoidance of doubt, the first Independent members of the Eligibility Committee may stand for election at congress (with their initial term not counting as one of the terms referred to in Article 34B(5) above).

## V. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

### Article 35: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

- 1. for natural and legal persons:
  - a) a warning;
  - b) reprimand;
  - c) a fine;
  - d) the return of awards.
- 2. for natural persons:
  - a) a caution;
  - b) an expulsion;
  - c) a match suspension;
  - d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
  - e) a ban from entering a stadium;
  - f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity.
- 3. for legal persons:
  - a) a transfer ban;
  - b) playing a match without spectators;
  - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
  - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
  - e) annulment of the result of a match;
  - f) expulsion;
  - g) a forfeit;
  - h) deduction of points;
  - i) relegation to a lower division.
- 4. The Executive Committee shall draw up an OFC Disciplinary Code.

## **VI. JUDICIAL BODIES**

### **Article 36: JUDICIAL BODIES**

1. The Judicial Bodies of OFC are:
  - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
  - b) the Ethics Committee; and
  - c) the Appeal Committee.
2. The Judicial Bodies shall comprise the following members elected by the Congress:
  - a) the Disciplinary Committee: Seven (7) members;
  - b) the Ethics Committee: Eight (8) members; and
  - c) the Appeal Committee: Four (4) members.
3. Each Judicial Body will elect their own chairperson and deputy chairperson.
4. The quorum for any meeting or hearing of a Judicial Body will be three (3).
5. Members of each Judicial Body shall not be a member of the Executive Committee or any Committee.
6. All members of the Judicial Bodies must be experienced lawyers/attorneys who are qualified to practise law (and hold a current practising certificate, or similar document) in the country where they normally reside. All members of the Judicial Bodies must meet both the Eligibility Criteria set out in Article 59 and the Independence Criteria set out in Article 60 at all times.
7. The term of office shall be four (4) years. A member may be elected for only one (1) further term of four (4) years (which need not be consecutive). The initial term will commence on the date of the first applicable Congress after these Statutes come into effect.
8. The responsibilities and function of the Judicial Bodies shall be stipulated in the OFC Disciplinary Code and the OFC Code of Ethics.
9. The current members of the Judicial Bodies will stay in office, (notwithstanding Article 36) until the next Congress after the adoption of these Statutes.

### **Article 37: DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

1. The function of this body shall be governed by the OFC Disciplinary Code. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairperson may rule alone.
2. The Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the OFC Disciplinary Code on Members, Clubs, Officials, Players and match and players' agents.
3. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

### **Article 38: ETHICS COMMITTEE**

1. The function of the Ethics Committee shall be governed by the OFC Code of Ethics. The Ethics Committee shall take decisions if at least three (3) members are present. The chairperson may take decisions alone in specific cases.
2. The Ethics Committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes, the OFC Code of Ethics and OFC Disciplinary Code on Officials, Players and match and players' agents.

### **Article 39: APPEAL COMMITTEE**

1. The function of this body shall be governed by the OFC Disciplinary Code and OFC Code of Ethics. The Committee shall pass decisions only when at least three (3) members are present. In certain cases, the chairperson may rule alone.
2. The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the OFC Disciplinary Committee and the OFC Ethics Committee that are not declared final by the relevant OFC regulations.
3. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee shall be irrevocable and binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

## **VII. ARBITRATION**

### **Article 40: DISPUTES**

1. Unless specifically provided for in these Statutes or the FIFA regulations, Members, and Clubs, Players, Officials and Match and Player's Agents affiliated to Members shall not take before any national court of law any dispute relating to the FIFA Statutes or the OFC Statutes or Regulations or the administration of football.

#### **Article 41: COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)**

1. Members of the Confederation, their Clubs, members of their Club and any Players, Officials and licensed match agents and players' agents may have recourse to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, an independent arbitration tribunal with headquarters in Lausanne (Switzerland), recognised by OFC, to resolve any disputes between FIFA, the Confederations, Members, Leagues, Clubs, Players, Officials and licensed match agents and players' agents.
2. The CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration governs the arbitration proceedings. With regard to substance, CAS applies the various regulations of FIFA or, if applicable, of the Confederations, Members, Leagues and Clubs and, additionally, Swiss law.
3. The Members and Leagues shall agree to recognize CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated Players and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to licensed match and players' agents.

#### **Article 42: JURISDICTION OF CAS**

1. Only CAS is empowered to deal with appeals against decisions and disciplinary sanctions of the last instance, after all previous stages of appeal available at FIFA, OFC, Member or League level have been exhausted. The appeal shall be made to CAS within twenty one (21) days of notification of the decision.
2. Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted
3. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on;
  - a) violations of the Laws of the Game;
  - b) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three (3) months;(with the exception of doping decisions)
  - c) decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal of a member or Confederation.
  - d) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of a member or Confederation may be made.
4. CAS is also empowered to deal with all disputes between a third party and any entities or persons mentioned in Article 42(1) if an arbitration agreement exists.

### **VIII. SUBMISSION TO DECISIONS OF FIFA and OFC**

#### **Article 43: PRINCIPLE**

1. The Members and Leagues shall agree to comply fully with any decisions passed by the relevant OFC and FIFA bodies.
2. They shall take every precaution necessary to ensure that their own members, Players and Officials comply with these decisions.
3. The same obligation applies to licensed match and players' agents.

#### **Article 44: SANCTIONS**

Any violation of the foregoing provisions will be punished in compliance with the OFC Disciplinary Code or FIFA Disciplinary Code.

### **IX. GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND GENERAL SECRETARY**

#### **Article 45: GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

1. The General Secretariat shall undertake the following roles under the direction of the General Secretary:
  - a) Organisation of competitions and all related matters, in accordance with the decisions and directions of the Executive Committee;
  - b) The negotiation, execution and performance of all commercial contracts, in accordance with the delegations of authority, policies and procedures recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the Executive Committee;
  - c) Administrative support for the various Committees;
  - d) Management of the operations and day-to-day business of OFC, in accordance with the parameters and budget established by the Executive Committee; and
  - e) All other administrative matters necessary for the efficient operation and organisation of OFC, as required and authorised by the Executive Committee from time to time.
2. The General Secretariat is supervised by, and is accountable to, the Executive Committee with regard to the discharge of its functions.
3. The staff of the General Secretariat are appointed by the General Secretary, and are accountable to the General Secretary.



#### **Article 46: GENERAL SECRETARY**

1. The General Secretary is the chief executive of OFC, with responsibility for managing the General Secretariat to conduct the business of OFC in line with the strategy, policies, delegations and the Budget set by the Executive Committee (as presented to the Congress).
2. The General Secretary will report to the Executive Committee.
3. The General Secretary shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by New Zealand law.
4. The General Secretary shall be responsible for:
  - a) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the General Secretariat (with the appointment of any managerial staff (directors) being subject to consultation with the members of the Executive Committee);
  - b) for stakeholder liaison, in conjunction with the President.

### **X. FINANCE**

#### **Article 47: FINANCIAL PERIOD**

1. The financial period of OFC shall be annually from 1 January to 31 December in each year.
2. The revenue and expenditure of OFC shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of OFC as at 31 December.

#### **Article 48: AUDITORS**

1. The auditors shall audit the accounts approved by the Executive Committee and present a report to the Congress.
2. The auditors shall be appointed by the Congress for a period of four (4) years. This mandate may be renewed.

#### **Article 49: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

1. The annual subscription for membership shall be as determined from time to time by Congress.
2. The annual subscription shall be due on 1 January of each year and payable on or before 31 March of each year. A Member which has not paid its subscription by 1 April shall be automatically suspended from being a Member unless a reason for non-payment acceptable to the Executive Committee is submitted prior to that date. A notification of suspension of membership for non-payment of annual subscription shall be sent by the General Secretary to the Member. Subject to payment of the subscription in arrears before 30 June of that year the Member regain its rights.
3. Annual subscriptions payable by Members are as follows:
  - i. Full Members NZ\$500 (Five Hundred New Zealand dollars); and
  - ii. Provisional Members NZ\$100 (One Hundred New Zealand Dollars).
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions the Executive Committee for good cause shown may exempt an applicant for membership or a Member from payment of all or part of any of the abovementioned sums.

#### **Article 50: SETTLEMENTS**

OFC may debit any Member's account to settle claims.

#### **Article 51: LEVIES**

1. Members shall pay OFC a levy for every international match played between two "A" Association teams. Matches played as part of the Olympic Football Tournaments shall be regarded as international matches. The levy shall be calculated in compliance with the provisions in the Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes on the basis of the gross revenue and shall be payable by the Member in whose country the match is being played.
2. The Member is obligated to pay an additional levy to FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Statutes and Regulations governing the application of Statutes.

## **XI. RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS**

### **Article 52: RIGHTS**

1. OFC and its Members are the original owners of all of the rights emanating from competitions and other events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law. These rights include, among others, every kind of financial rights, audiovisual 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.
2. The Executive Committee shall decide how and to what extent these rights are utilised and draw up special regulations or directives to this end. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilised exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

### **Article 53: AUTHORISATION**

1. OFC and its Members are exclusively responsible for authorising the distribution of image and sound and other data carriers of football matches and events coming under their respective jurisdiction, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and technical and legal aspects.
2. The Executive Committee shall issue special regulations or directives to this end.

## **XII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS**

### **Article 54: VENUE**

The Executive Committee shall decide the venue and match schedules for the competitions organised by OFC. The Executive Committee shall issue guidelines in this connection.

### **Article 55: INTERNATIONAL MATCH CALENDAR**

The Executive Committee shall compile an OFC match calendar that shall be binding upon OFC and its Members and in line with the FIFA International Match Calendar

### **Article 56: INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS**

1. OFC shall have the right to organise any competition as may be determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with regulations approved by the Executive Committee and/or FIFA from time to time.
2. Other international competitions within the Region organised by Members shall have the prior approval of the Executive Committee and, where necessary, of FIFA, before they can be held and shall be subject to any levy prescribed in these Statutes.
3. Rules and Regulations governing competitions organised by other bodies within the region and in which any one or more member of the Confederation is playing shall be approved by the Executive Committee and, where necessary, by FIFA.

### **Article 57: CONTACTS**

1. Matches may not be played or sporting contacts made between Members and Associations that are not Members of FIFA or OFC, or their Clubs, without the approval of FIFA and/or OFC.
2. Matches against teams whose Players do not belong to a Club or a League affiliated to a FIFA Member are prohibited.
3. Members and their Clubs may not play on the territory of another Member without the latter's approval.
4. Members of the Confederation may not play matches on the ground of another National Association (whether a member of the Confederation or not) without the consent of such Association.

### **Article 58: APPROVAL**

Any Association, League or Club that is affiliated to a Member cannot belong to another Member or participate in competitions on the territory of another Member without the authorisation of FIFA and only in exceptional circumstances.

### **XIII. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

#### **Article 59: ELIGIBILITY**

The following persons are ineligible from being appointed (or holding office) as President, a FIFA Council member, a member of the Executive Committee, a member of a Committee, a member of a Judicial Body or as General Secretary:

- a) A person who is under 18 years of age;
- b) A person who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- c) A person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993 or any equivalent legislation overseas;
- d) A person who is disqualified from being an officer of a charitable entity under section 31(4)(b) of the Charities Act 2005 or any equivalent legislation overseas;
- e) A person who has been declared to lack legal capacity to manage their own affairs;
- f) A person who has been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2 (1) of the Crimes Act 1961) within the last seven (7) years, or any equivalent legislation overseas;
- g) A person who has been subject to sanctions by the FIFA Ethics Committee or the OFC Ethics Committee; or
- h) A person who has been suspended by OFC's Ethics Committee or the FIFA Ethics Committee (provided that any such person will be eligible when the term of any such suspension is lifted and the equivalent amount of time of the suspension has passed since the lifting of the suspension).

### **XIV. INDEPENDENCE CRITERIA**

#### **Article 60: INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES AND JUDICIAL BODIES**

1. Subject to Article 60(2) below, Independent members of any Committee or Judicial Body may not have any Material Relationships that would disqualify them as being independent (other than through their service as a member of the relevant Committee or Judicial Body).
2. Members of Judicial Bodies may be members of judicial / disciplinary bodies of other Football Organisations.

For the purpose of interpretation of this Article, the following definitions shall apply:

"Family Member" means a person's spouse, parents, children, stepchildren, siblings, mother, father, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters-in-law and anyone (other than domestic employees) who shares such person's home.

"Football organisation" includes FIFA, OFC, any other confederation or sub-confederations, any member association and its affiliates including (but not limited to) regional associations, clubs and leagues

"Material Relationship" means a relationship where:

- a) a member of a Committee or Judicial Body has received direct compensation or benefits (other than travel to Committee or Judicial Body meetings) of more than NZD\$500 per annum from a Football Organisation within the last three years; or
- b) a member of a Committee or Judicial Body or a Family Member is, or has been within the last three (3) years, an employee of a Football Organisation;
- c) a member of a Committee or Judicial Body or a Family Member is, or has been within the last three (3) years, an officer or committee member of a Football Organisation; or
- d) a member of a Committee or Judicial Body or a Family Member has, within the last three (3) years, provided consultancy services to OFC or a Member Association; or
- e) in the case of the Audit and Risk Committee, a member of a Committee or Judicial Body is a current partner or employee of the Auditor or has been in the last three (3) years; or
- f) in the case of the Audit and Risk Committee, a Family Member of a Committee or Judicial Body member is a partner of the Auditor or is an employee of the Auditor and who personally worked on OFC audit during the last three (3) years.

### **XV. FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 61: UNFORESEEN CONTINGENCIES AND FORCE MAJEURE**

The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in these Statutes (subject to Article 63 below) or in cases of force majeure.

#### **Article 62: INTERPRETATION**

1. In this article the term "Rules" shall include the Statutes, Regulations, and Standing Orders.
2. In any matter not covered by the OFC Rules, the FIFA Rules shall apply if the context permits.

3. In the case of any inconsistency between the Rules of FIFA, OFC, or Members, the FIFA Rules shall prevail over the OFC Rules, which in turn shall prevail over the Members' Rules.
4. In the case of any inconsistency between these Statutes, the OFC Regulations, and the OFC Standing Orders, the Statutes shall prevail over the Regulations, which shall prevail in turn over the Standing Orders.
5. Subject to the preceding requirements, the Executive shall have the authority to interpret the Statutes, Regulations and Standing Orders, and to rule accordingly.

#### **Article 63: DISSOLUTION**

1. A dissolution of the Confederation can only be decreed by a Congress and provided that two-thirds of the Full Members are present at the Congress and the resolution for dissolution has received the approval of at least two-thirds of the votes recorded.
2. In case of dissolution of the Confederation, the funds and assets of the Confederation shall be given to FIFA to be held on trust for the benefit of any future equivalent Confederation.

### **XVI. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 64: ENFORCEMENT**

These statutes were adopted at the OFC Extraordinary Congress in Auckland on 21 November 2018 and come into force on 22 November 2018.

FOR THE OFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

General Secretary

SIGNED By the Representatives of at least three (3) members:

# **REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE APPLICATION OF THE STATUTES**

## **I. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF OFC**

### **Article 1: APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

1. A National Association that wishes to become a Member of OFC shall submit a written application for admission including its constitution, internal organisation and details relating to its infrastructure to FIFA.
2. The Association's legally valid statutes shall be enclosed with the application for membership and shall contain the mandatory following provisions:
  - a) always to comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and OFC;
  - b) to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
  - c) to recognise the Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in these Statutes.
3. If FIFA is satisfied that the application is complete and requests OFC to admit the association to Provisional Membership of OFC, the Executive Committee shall decide whether to grant Provisional Membership to the Association.

### **Article 2: ADMISSION PROCEDURE**

1. Once the National Association has been approved provisional Membership, OFC shall observe the manner in which the applicant Association is organized over a period of at least two years.
2. As soon as the Executive Committee considers a Provisional Member is qualified to become a Member of FIFA, the Confederation shall send to FIFA a detailed report on the organisation of the Association, and all other necessary documents, for the consideration of the FIFA Executive Committee to decide whether or not to submit the Association's application for affiliation to the FIFA Congress.
3. Upon being admitted as a member of FIFA by a FIFA Congress, the next OFC Congress shall decide whether to admit the Association or not as a Full Member. If necessary an OFC Extraordinary Congress shall be convened for the purpose of admitting a full member of OFC.

## **II. DEFINITION, ANNOUNCEMENT AND REGISTRATION OF MATCHES**

### **Article 3: INTERNATIONAL MATCHES**

1. International football matches recognised by the Confederation shall be those between two National Associations affiliated to the Confederation and/or FIFA for which each Association fields a representative national team.
2. An international "A" match shall be a match that has been arranged between two National Associations affiliated to the Confederation and/or FIFA and for which both Associations field their first national representative teams.
3. The terms used to define a match shall be those recognised as giving an appropriate political and geographical description of the countries or territories within the National Associations whose teams are involved in the match and over which countries or territories they have sole control and jurisdiction.
4. If a Member allows one of its leagues to choose a team which bears the name of its country, the match shall be considered an international match as described in the aforementioned para.1.

### **Article 4: INTERCLUB AND INTERLEAGUE MATCHES**

1. An interclub match shall be a match played between two Clubs. Although the Clubs may belong to different Members, such a match shall not be recognised as an international match.
2. An inter league match shall be a match played between two leagues. Although the leagues may belong to different National Associations, such a match shall not be recognised as an international match subject to the provision of Art. 3.4 above.

### **Article 5: NOTIFICATION**

1. Every international "A" match including friendly matches and those played in tournaments or in games comprising football shall be made known to the OFC General Secretariat by the National Associations organising them at least 14 days before the matches are held.
2. Failure to give notification of a match within this prescribed period shall incur a fine of NZ\$500. Failure to provide any notification whatsoever shall incur a fine of NZ\$1,000. These fines shall be paid within 10 days of receipt of written advice from OFC. Provided The Executive Committee shall have the powers to waive the fine in the event of any force majeure.

#### **Article 6: REPORT**

1. The Secretary of the National Association on whose territory the match or the tournament is played shall within 14 days of each match, notify the Confederation of the result of the match, the surnames and first names of the referee and assistant referees who officiated, the surnames and first names of the Players and substitutes of each team, and the surnames and first names of the goal scorers, using the official form for this purpose. This form shall be completely filled in and signed.
2. Failure to send the form in within the prescribed period shall incur a fine of NZ \$100 to be paid to OFC. Failure to send the form at all shall incur a fine of NZ \$500. These fines shall be paid within 10 days of receipt of the written advice of the Confederation. In case of repetition, the amount of the fine may be increased by the Executive Committee.

### **III. INTERCLUB AND INTERLEAGUE MATCHES**

#### **Article 7: AUTHORISATION**

1. No interclub or inter league matches between teams from different Members shall be played without the express authorisation of the Members concerned. The Members shall include a provision in their regulations stipulating at what point in time the clubs are required to seek authorisation and, in addition, the sanctions to be imposed if this rule is breached.
2. A Member shall inform the Members concerned of every match who it knows has been arranged and played in their area of jurisdiction and for which permission was either not sought or given.
3. Scratch teams consisting of Players not belonging to the same Club or Member shall not be permitted to play Clubs or teams representing Members or similar teams unless authorisation has been granted by the Members concerned and the Confederation on whose territory the match is planned. If the Players belong to Clubs or Members from different Confederations, the authorisation of FIFA is required.

### **IV. TOURNAMENTS**

#### **Article 8: AUTHORISATION**

1. All tournaments involving more than two teams, local or national, (Clubs or representative teams) which belong to different National Associations must be authorised by the Confederation. If any of the teams involved belong to different confederations, the authorisation of FIFA is required.
2. The request for authorisation shall be submitted by the National Association in whose country the tournament is planned to take place at least two months before the commencement of the tournament.
3. The request for authorisation shall be accompanied by a list of the teams who are planning to take part in the tournament and the tournament regulations drawn up by the organising National Association.
4. If a tournament is played in the territory of a National Association without prior permission, the National Association in question shall be fined an amount of at least NZ\$1,000 and may be subject to further sanctions by the OFC Executive Committee, and if necessary, by FIFA.

### **IV FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **Article 9: LEVIES**

1. The levy to be paid directly to OFC for each international "A" match including friendly matches, those played in tournaments or in games comprising football - except for junior tournaments - and includes matches of the preliminary Olympic Football Tournament and the preliminary World Cup shall amount to 1%.
  - This levy to OFC of 1% is in addition to the levies due to FIFA which are governed by Art. 10 of the FIFA Regulations governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes, or by the individual Regulations of the respective FIFA competitions.
2. If one team is from another confederation, the levy payable shall be 1/2% to OFC and 1/2% to the confederation concerned.
  - The levies due to the respective confederations in this case shall be paid to FIFA in addition to the 1% due to FIFA and FIFA will retrocede 1/2% to each of the confederations as per Art 10.4 (b) of the Regulations Governing the Application of the FIFA Statutes.
3. The amount shall be based on the gross receipts (ticket sales, advertising rights, rights for television and radio broadcasts, film and video rights and Government or other grants, etc) derived from matches subject to levies.
4. The only deductions that may be made from the gross income are state or local taxes actually paid (but not bank charges or differences in exchange rates) and any charges for the hire of the stadium. The total amount of the deductions shall not exceed 30% of the entire gross income.

In the case of the levy due to OFC, the Executive Committee shall have discretion to allow other deductions from the gross gate in addition to those named in the aforementioned para. 4 before calculating the OFC levy, and also to allow the total amount of the deductions to be greater than 30%.

#### **Article 10: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT**

1. For each match subject to a levy, a detailed statement of account shall be drawn up by the National Association of the country in which the match has been played.
2. This statement shall contain all the requisite figures reflecting the entire income and any taxes or charges deducted there from.
3. The statement of account and the amount due from the levy shall be sent to the Confederation within 60 days of the date the match was held.
4. Failure to conform to these requirements shall be penalised with one of the sanctions provided under the OFC Statutes.

#### **Article 11: MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION**

Whatever the financial outcome of the match, the minimum contribution to be paid to OFC is NZ\$250.

### **V. MATCH AGENTS AND PLAYERS AGENTS**

#### **Article 12: MATCH AGENTS**

1. Match agents may be employed to arrange matches.
2. Match agents hired to organise match between teams from within OFC must be officially recognised by OFC and possess an agent's licence issued by OFC. The OFC Executive Committee shall draw up regulations governing the award of this licence.
3. Match agents hired to organise match between teams from different Confederations shall hold a FIFA Licence.
4. The body responsible for supervising and ruling on any matters connected with the application of the OFC Regulations governing match agents shall be the OFC Executive Committee.
5. OFC shall be entitled to intervene to enforce the agreements concluded between match agents and teams in the following cases:
  - a) If the match or tournament at the source of the dispute involves teams from different National Associations within OFC; and
  - b) If the match agent in question holds an OFC licence.
6. FIFA shall be entitled to intervene to enforce the agreements concluded between match agents and teams in the following cases:
  - a) If the match or tournament at the source of the dispute involves teams from different Confederations; and
  - b) If the match agent in question holds an OFC licence and FIFA licence.

#### **Article 13: PLAYERS AGENT**

Players may use the services of player's agent to negotiate transfers. Such players' agents must be in possession of a licence issued by FIFA to carry out this work.

### **VI. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR ASSOCIATION TEAMS**

#### **Article 14: PRINCIPLE**

1. Any person holding the nationality of a country is eligible to play for the representative teams of the Association of his country. The Executive Committee shall decide on the conditions of eligibility for any Player whose nationality would entitle him to represent more than one Association.
2. As a general rule, any Player who has already represented one Association (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category may not play an international match with another Association team.
3. If a Player has more than one nationality, or if a Player acquires a new nationality, or if the Player is eligible to play for several Association teams due to his nationality, the following exceptions apply:
  - a) Up to his 21st birthday, a player may only once request changing the Association for which he is eligible to play international matches. A Player may exercise this right to change Associations only if he has not played at "A" international level for his current Association and if at the time of his first full or partial appearance in an international match in an official competition of any other category, he already had such nationalities. Changing Associations is not permitted during the preliminary competition of a FIFA competition, continental championship or Olympic Tournaments if a player has already been fielded in a match of one of these competitions.
  - b) Any Player who has already acquired eligibility to play for one Association but has another nationality imposed upon him by a government authority, is also entitled to change Associations. This provision is not subject to any age limits.
4. Any Player who wishes to exercise this right to change Associations shall submit a written and substantiated request to the FIFA General Secretariat. After submitting the request, the Player is no longer qualified to play for his current Association's team. The Players' Status Committee shall decide on the request. The committee's decision may be brought before the Appeal Committee. The Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players contain more detailed provisions.

5. Any Players who have already had their 21st birthday at the time of implementation of these provisions and who fulfil the requirements in par. 3 (a) are also entitled to submit such a request to change Associations. This entitlement will expire definitively twelve months after implementation of this provision.

## **VII. LAWS OF THE GAME**

### **Article 15: AMENDMENTS TO THE LAWS**

1. FIFA shall notify its Members of any amendments and decisions regarding the Laws of the Game within one month of the ordinary annual meeting of IFAB.
2. The Members shall enforce these amendments and decisions no later than 1 July following IFAB's annual meeting. Exceptions may be granted only to Members whose football season has not terminated by this date.
3. Members may apply such amendments and decisions as soon as they have been issued by IFAB.

## **VIII. REFEREES AND ASSISTANT REFEREES**

### **Article 16: NOMINATION**

1. Each referee and assistant referee appointed to an international match shall belong to a neutral Member unless otherwise previously agreed by the Members concerned.
2. The referee and assistant referees chosen to officiate at an international match shall be included in the official FIFA List of International Referees and Assistant Referees.

### **Article 17: REPORT**

1. **The referee** of every international "A" match shall send a report within 48 hours of the match both to FIFA and the Member on whose territory the match was played.
2. This report shall be made on the official form given to the referee by the Member under whose jurisdiction the match was played.
3. The report shall record all the disciplinary measures taken and the reasons for these measures.

### **Article 18: REIMBURSEMENT**

1. Referees and assistant referees at international matches shall be entitled to:
  - a) a daily allowance; and
  - b) reimbursement of travel expenses.

OFC shall determine the amounts, travel category and number of days due for reimbursement to which referees and assistant referees are entitled.

2. The amount owed to the referees and assistant referees shall be paid to them in an easily convertible currency on the same day as the match by the organising Member.
3. The expenses for hotel and board incurred by referees and assistant referees of international matches shall be borne by the organizing Member or the Confederation.

## **FINAL PROVISION**

### **Article 19: ENFORCEMENT**

These Regulations Governing the Application of the Statutes were adopted by the OFC Extraordinary Congress in Paris, France on 19 May 2004.

FOR THE OFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

General Secretary

SIGNED By the Representatives of at least three members:



# OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION STANDING ORDERS OF THE CONGRESS

## Article 1: PARTICIPATION IN THE CONGRESS

1. Each Member may be represented at the Congress by a maximum of two delegates, all of whom may take part in the debates.
2. The names of the delegates, including the one with the right to vote, shall be notified to the General Secretariat before the opening of the Congress. The General Secretariat enters the delegates mentioned on to a list (numbered 1 to 2). The delegate with the right to vote is entered as number 1. If the delegate with the right to vote leaves the Congress during the debates, the delegate entered as number 2 on the Member's delegation list is entitled to vote.
3. OFC shall bear the costs of travel and accommodation for one delegate of each Member taking part in the Congress. The Executive Committee shall issue appropriate directives in this connection.

## Article 2: CHAIR

1. The President shall chair the Congress. If the President is unable to attend the Congress shall elect one of the three Vice Presidents as a member of the Executive Committee as chairman.
2. The chair shall ensure that the Congress is conducted in strict compliance with these Standing Orders, open and close the Congress and debates, and, unless the Congress decides otherwise, grant delegates permission to speak and conduct all discussions.
3. The chair shall be responsible for maintaining order during debates. He may take the following action against any Congress participant who disturbs the debates:
  - a) A call to order;
  - b) A reprimand; or
  - c) Exclusion from one or more sessions.
4. If an appeal is made against such action, the Congress shall decide immediately without debate.

## Article 3: SCRUTINEERS

At the beginning of the first session, the Congress shall appoint three scrutineers to count the votes given for and against whenever a vote is taken and to assist the General Secretary in distributing and counting voting papers issued for the elections.

## Article 4: INTERPRETERS

Official interpreters shall be appointed to translate into the official languages of the Congress. They shall be appointed by the General Secretary.

## Article 5: DEBATES

1. Debates on each item on the agenda shall be preceded by a short report:
  - a) by the chair or a member of the Executive Committee designated for this purpose;
  - b) by a representative of the committee designated by the Executive Committee to give a report;
  - c) by a delegate from the Member that requested the item be included in the agenda.
2. The chair then opens the debate.

## Article 6: SPEAKERS

1. Permission to speak is granted in the order in which it is requested. A speaker may not start speaking until he has obtained permission to do so. Speakers shall address the Congress from the rostrum intended for this purpose.
2. A speaker may not speak for a second time on the same item until all other delegates who have requested permission to speak have spoken.

## Article 7: PROPOSALS

1. All proposals shall be submitted in writing. Proposals which are not relevant to the subject under discussion shall not be admitted to the debate.

2. Any amendment shall be drawn up in writing and passed to the chair before being put to the debate.

#### **Article 8: PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND CLOSING OF DEBATES**

1. If a procedural motion is made, discussion on the main question shall be suspended until a vote has been taken on the motion.
2. If a motion is made to close the discussion, it shall immediately be put to the vote without debate. If the motion is approved, permission to speak shall only be granted to those Members who have asked to speak before the vote was taken.
3. The chair shall close the discussion unless the Congress decides otherwise by a simple majority of those voting.

#### **Article 9: VOTES**

1. Voting by secret ballot is prohibited.
2. Before each vote, the chair, or the person designated by him, shall read the text of the proposal aloud and explain the voting procedure (quorum) to the Congress. If an objection is raised, the Congress shall decide immediately.
3. Votes may be taken by roll call if requested by at least 5 of the Members present and entitled to vote.
4. No-one is compelled to vote.
5. As a rule, votes are taken by a show of hands (voting cards) or by the use of electronic equipment.
6. Proposals shall be put to the vote in the order in which they are submitted. If there are more than two main proposals, they shall be put to the vote in succession and the delegates may not vote for more than one of the proposals.
7. Alterations to amendments shall be put to the vote before the amendments proper, and amendments before the main proposal.
8. Proposals without a vote against are regarded as having been passed.
9. The chair shall check the results of the vote and announce it to the Congress.
10. No-one is permitted to speak during the vote and until after the result has been announced.

#### **Article 10: ELECTIONS**

1. Elections shall be carried out with ballot papers by secret ballot. The General Secretary, assisted by the scrutineers, shall conduct the distribution and counting of the ballot papers.
2. The number of ballot papers that have been distributed shall be announced by the chair before the count.
3. If the number of ballot papers returned is equal to or less than the number of ballot papers distributed, the election shall be declared valid. If the number returned exceeds that of the ballot papers distributed, the vote shall be declared null and void and another vote shall be taken immediately.
4. The absolute majority shall be calculated on the basis of the number of valid ballot papers collected. Empty ballot papers or invalid votes are disregarded. If two or more votes are given in support of one candidate on one ballot paper, only one vote shall be valid.
5. The chair shall announce the result of each ballot.
6. The General Secretary shall put the ballot papers that have been collected and counted into envelopes intended for this purpose and seal them immediately. The General Secretariat shall keep these envelopes and destroy them 60 days after the end of the Congress.

#### **Article 11: ENFORCEMENT**

These Standing Orders of the Congress were adopted by the Extraordinary Congress in Paris on 19 May 2004 and will come into force on 1 June 2004.

#### **FOR THE OFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President

General Secretary

SIGNED By the Representatives of at least three members:



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