

DIFA

STATUTES

**DEAF INTERNATIONAL
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**



Deaf International Football Association

President: Iakov Frenkel
Secretary General: Jean-Pierre Pemha

Internet: DIFA.org

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STATUTES OF THE DEAF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (DIFA)

DEFINITIONS

The terms given below denote the following:

Arbitration Tribunal: private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court

Association: a football Association recognized by DIFA and a Member of DIFA

Association Football: the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the Laws of the Game

CAS (TAS): Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne (Switzerland)

Confederation: a group of Associations recognized by DIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area)

Congress: the supreme body of DIFA

Deaflympics: an International Olympic Committee-sanctioned event at which deaf athletes compete at an elite level

Club: Member of a football Association (that is itself a Member of DIFA)

DIFA: Deaf International Football Association

Executive Committee: the executive body of DIFA

FIFA: Federation International de Football Association

ICSD: International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

IFAB: International Football Association Board

League: an organization subordinate to an Association

Member: a legal or natural person that has been admitted into membership of DIFA by the Congress

Officials: all board members, committee members, coaches, referees and attendants as well as other people responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters at FIFA or DIFA, a Confederation, Association, League or Club

Ordinary Court: state courts which hear public and private legal disputes

Player: a football player registered with an Association

Regional Association: an organization subordinate to an Association

References to natural persons include both genders.

The singular case applies to the plural and vice versa.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Name, headquarter, legal form

1. DIFA is a private organization of an associative nature, in compliance with the legislation of Switzerland and registered in Geneva. It is formed for an unlimited period.
2. The headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland, at c/o Oliver Ciric, avenue Calas 6, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland. Transferred to Moscow in Russia so requires a resolution of the Congress.
3. DIFA shall procure to become a Member of FIFA and Deaflympics.
4. The logo of DIFA shall display all key concepts of DIFA: football, deaf people, and international unity. The logo of DIFA represents a circle with light-blue and white edgings. On the top of the white edgings there is an inscription **DEAF INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**, below there is an inscription - an abbreviated name of the Organization in English -DIFA. On both parties from inscription DIFA are located two (2) stars. Four (4) stars of various colors (black, yellow, green and red) symbolize colors of continents of the Earth. In the Centre of the circle on background of outlines of continents of the globe the human figure with a football ball is represented which displays the commitment of the association towards the development of football all over the world. On the ball the element of the deaf international signs is displayed. It means deaf sports. The graphic representation of the logo of DIFA is attached hereto as Annexel.
5. DIFA shall procure to legally register the logo with Swiss and international intellectual property protection institutions.

Article 2: Objectives

The objectives of DIFA are:

- a. to improve the game of football among the hearing-impaired people constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of its members in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programs;
- b. to organize national or international competitions or in association with other associations;
- c. to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d. to protect the interests of its members;
- e. to control every type of Association by taking the appropriate steps to prevent infringements of the Status, regulations or decisions of DIFA as well as the laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
- f. to prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the integrity of matches or competitions;
- g. to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of DIFA;
- h. to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- i. to host competitions at international and other levels.

Article 3: Neutrality and non-discrimination

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

Article 4: Promoting friendly relations

DIFA shall promote friendly relations between its members, Clubs, Officials and Players. Every person and organization involved in the game of football is obliged to observe the Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair-play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship, and in society for humanitarian objectives.

DIFA shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between members, Clubs, Officials and Players of DIFA.

Article 5: Players

1. The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the DIFA Executive Committee in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations for the status and transfer of Players.
2. Players should be registered in accordance with the DIFA regulations.

Article 6: Laws of the Game

DIFA and each of its members play Football in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by IFAB. Only IFAB may lay down and alter the Laws of the Game.

Article 7: Conduct of bodies and Officials

The bodies and Officials of DIFA must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the FIFA Code of Ethics and DIFA in their activities. The Executive Committee shall draft and establish the DIFA Code of Ethics.

Article 8: Official languages

1. The official languages of DIFA shall be English, French, Russian, German, Spanish, and Arabic. Official documents and texts may be written in this/these languages. In the event of any divergence between the interpretations of text in different languages, the text written in English, shall be regarded as authoritative.
2. The official languages at the Congress shall be English, French, Russian, German, Spanish, and Arabic. Qualified interpreters shall translate into these languages. Delegates may speak in their mother tongue if they ensure interpretation into one of the official Congress languages by a qualified interpreter.

II- MEMBERSHIP

Article 9: Admission, suspension and expulsion, participation to events

1. The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a member.
2. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the DIFA requirements.
3. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the member from its financial obligations towards DIFA or other members of DIFA, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to DIFA.
4. Only a Member who is also a ICSD member can participate to the events organized by DIFA.

Article 10: Admission

1. The founding members of DIFA may be any natural or legal persons.
2. Upon DIFA constitution, any Association which is responsible for organizing and supervising football for hearing impaired people in its country may become a member of DIFA. In this context, the expression "country" shall refer to an independent state which is a member of the United Nations. Subject to par. 2, only one Association shall be recognized in each country.
3. An Association in a region which is not a country as defined herein above may, with the authorization of the Association in the country on which it is dependent, can also apply for admission to DIFA.
4. Any Association wishing to become a member of DIFA shall apply by writing to the DIFA Secretariat General and that Association shall provide the following documents:
 - a- Copy of its legally valid statutes and regulations;
 - b- declaration that it will always comply with the Statutes, regulations and decisions of DIFA and FIFA, and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Clubs, Officials and Players to comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
 - c- to recognize the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
 - d- The declaration that it is located and registered if legally required in the territory of its incorporation;
 - f- a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of its incorporation;
 - g- a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
 - h- a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
 - i- a declaration that it undertakes to organize or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of X and Y;
 - j- a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting.

5. This article shall not affect the status of existing members.

Article 11: Request and procedure for application

1. The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the DIFA Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

3. The new Member shall acquire membership rights and duties as soon as it has been admitted. Its delegates are eligible to vote and be elected with immediate effect;
4. DIFA President has the power to choose a member among the congress or an independent person to put him on the DIFA Executive Committee.

Article 12: Members' rights

1. The DIFA members have the following rights:
 - a. to take part in the Congress;
 - b. to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;
 - c. to nominate candidates for all bodies of X to be elected;
 - d. to be informed of the affairs of X through the official bodies of DIFA;
 - e. to take part in competitions and/or other sports activities organized by DIFA
 - f. to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of DIFA.
2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in these Statutes and the applicable regulations.

Article 13: Members' obligations

1. The Members of DIF A have the following obligations:
 - a. to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA and DIFA all time and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
 - b. to ensure the election of its decision-making bodies;
 - c. to take part in competitions and other sports activities organized by DIFA;
 - d. to pay their membership subscriptions;
 - e. to respect the Laws of the Game as laid down by IFAB and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
 - f. to communicate to DIFA any amendment of its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its Officials or persons who are authorized signatories with the right to enter into legally binding;
 - g. agreements with third parties;
 - h. Do not to maintain any relations of a sporting nature with entities that are not recognized or with members that have been suspended or expelled;
 - i. to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behavior as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
 - j. to observe the mandatory items specified under article 10 paragraph 3 for the duration of their affiliation;
 - k. to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;
 1. to comply fully with all other duties arising from, the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA and DIFA.
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

Article 14: 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.
2. The suspension shall last until the next Congress, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.

3. A suspension shall be confirmed at the next Congress by 2/3 majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
4. A suspended member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended member.
5. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
6. Members that do not participate in the sports activities of DIFA for 5 consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the Congress and their representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article 15: Expulsion

1. The Congress may expel a Member if:
 - a. it fails to fulfil its financial obligations towards DIFA;
 - b. it seriously violates the Statutes, regulations, directives or decisions of FIFA and DIFA.The presence of an absolute majority (50% + \) of members entitled to vote at the Congress is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three quarter (2/3) majority of the valid votes cast.

Article 16: Resignation

1. A member may resign from DIFA with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the general secretariat no later than three months before the end of the calendar year.
2. The resignation is not valid until the member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligations towards DIFA and the other Members of DIFA.

III. HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

Article 17: Honorary president and honorary member

1. The Congress may bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football for deaf people.
2. The DIFA Executive Committee shall make these nominations.
3. The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

IV. ORGANIZATION

Article 18: DIFA Bodies

DIFA may have the following bodies

1. The Congress is the supreme and legislative body.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body following as.
 - a. One (01) President.
 - b. Three (03) Vice-Presidents.
 - c. Five (05) members at large.
 - d. Four (04) Regional Representatives
3. The General Secretary is the administrative body.
4. DIFA may also appoint standing and ad-hoc committees which, if appointed, shall

advise and assist the Executive Committee in fulfilling its duties. Their duties, composition and function are defined in these Statutes and/or special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.

5. The bodies of DIFA shall be either elected or appointed by DIFA itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

A. CONGRESS

Article 19: Definition and composition of the Congress

1. The Congress is the meeting at which all of the Members of DIFA regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of DIFA. Only a Congress that is regularly convened has the authority to make decisions.

2. A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress.

3. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the standing orders of the Congress.

4. The Congress may appoint observers who take part in the Congress without the right to debate or to vote.

5. The honorary presidents or honorary members may take part in the Congress. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 20: Delegates and votes

1. Each member has one vote in the Congress and is represented by its delegates. Only the members' present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.

2. Delegates must belong to the member Association that they represent and be appointed by the appropriate body of that Association.

3. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their Association.

4. The President shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with This Statutes.

5. Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of this upon request.

6. Each delegate of member has an equal number of votes in the Congress. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by the letter is not permitted.

7. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights. During their terms of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their association.

Article 21: Areas of authority

The Congress has the following authority:

a. adopting or amending the Statutes, regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress;

b. appointing one Member to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;

c. electing the President and the vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee;

d. appointing the scrutineers;

e. approving the financial statements;

f. approving the budget;

g. approving the President's activity report;

h. appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;

- i. fixing the membership subscriptions;
- j. deciding, upon the nomination of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary president or honorary member;
- k. admitting, suspending or expelling a member;
- l. revoking the mandate of one or a number of members of a body of DIFA;
- m. dissolving DIFA;
- n. passing decisions at the request of a member in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 22: Quorum of the Congress

- a. Decisions passed by the Congress shall only be valid if the absolute majority (50% + 1) of the Members who are entitled to vote are represented.
- b. If a quorum is not achieved, a second Congress shall take place 24 hours after the first, with the same agenda.
- c. A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the DIFA Statutes, the election of the President and of the vice presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of DIFA, the expulsion of a member of DIFA or the dissolution of DIFA.
- g. approval of the minutes of the preceding Congress;
- h. President's activity report (containing the activities since the last Congress);
- i. presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statement;
- j. approval of the financial statements;
- k. approval of the budget;
- l. admission for membership (if applicable);
- m. 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);
- n. discussion of proposals submitted by the members and the Executive Committee;
- o. appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- p. dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);
- q. election of the President, vice-presidents and members of the Executive Committee (if applicable);
- r. any further items proposed by the members or the DIFA Executive Committee.
- s. The agenda of an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided [three-quarters/two-thirds] of the members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
- t. The Congress shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

Article 23: Extraordinary Congress

1. The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress at any time.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Congress if 1/5 of the DIFA members make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary Congress shall be held within three months of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary Congress is not convened, the members who requested it may convene the Congress themselves.
3. The members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least one month before the date of an Extraordinary Congress.

4. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary Congress is convened upon the request of members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those members.
5. The agenda of an Extraordinary Congress may not be altered.

Article 24: Amendments to the Statutes, regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress

1. The Congress is responsible for amending the Statutes, the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress.
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 1/5 of other members.
3. For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (50% +\) of the members eligible to vote must be present.
4. A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if 3/4 of the members present and eligible to vote agree to it.
5. Any proposal to amend the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Congress 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 and the standing orders of the Congress shall be adopted only if a simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

Article 25: Minutes

The General Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the Congress. The minutes shall be checked by those members designated and finally approved at the next Congress.

Article 26: Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the Congress shall come into effect for the members 60 days after the close of the Congress, unless the Congress fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/ EXECUTIVE BOARD

These articles shall govern the composition and powers of the Executive Committee.

Article 27: Composition

1. The Executive Committee consists of 15 members:
 - One (01) President
 - Three (03) Vice Presidents
 - One (01) Secretary General
 - Five (05) members at large
 - Four (04) Regional Representatives
 - One (01) Senior Adviser

2. The President, the vice Presidents and the members at large shall be elected by the Congress. Every candidate in the election of Executive Committee members must be proposed by at least one-woman member.

3. The mandate of the President, Vice Presidents and members at large are for four years. They may be re-elected.

4. The members of the Executive Committee shall have already been active in football, must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence and have residency in DIFA member country, football experience required, and deaf or hard of hearing can be part of the Executive Committee.

5. Candidatures must be sent to the general secretariat of DIFA. The official list of candidates must be passed to the members of DIFA along with the agenda for the Congress at which the Executive Committee will be elected.

6. A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body or legal Commission of DIFA.

7. If a position should become vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill that position until the next Ordinary Congress, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.

8. The General Secretary is appointed by the DIFA President with Executive Committee's approval and he is the head of DIFA's administration.

IV. ORGANIZATION

Article 28: Meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

2. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If at least 50% of the Executive Committee members request a meeting, the President shall convene it within 21 days.

3. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall not be held in public. The Executive Committee may however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties shall not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the Executive Committee.

Article 29: Powers of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee:

a) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;

b) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary Congress of DIFA;

c) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees; shall appoint

d) the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies; may decide to set up ad-hoc committees, if necessary, at any time;

e) shall compile the regulations for the organization of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;

f) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex officio;

- g) shall propose the independent auditors to the Congress;
- h) shall decide the place and dates and the number of teams participating in the competitions of DIFA;
- i) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;
- j) shall approve regulations stipulating how DIFA shall be organized internally;
- k) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- l) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a member of DIFA provisionally until the next Congress;
- m) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of DIFA or third parties.

Article 30: Decisions

1. The Executive Committee shall not engage in valid debate unless a majority of its members are present.
2. The Executive Committee shall reach decisions by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
3. Any member of the Executive Committee must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.
4. The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.
5. The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.

Article 31: Dismissal of a person or body

1. The Congress may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the Congress. The Executive Committee may also dismiss a person or body provisionally. Any Executive Committee member may submit a proposal to place such a motion for dismissal on the agenda of the Executive Committee or Congress.
2. The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the members of DJFA along with the agenda.
3. The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defense.
4. If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the Congress or Executive Committee shall reach a decision by means of secret ballot. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes is required.
5. The person or body dismissed (provisionally) must be relieved of his or its functions with immediate effect.

C- PRESIDENT

This article governs the duties, powers and election of the President of DIFA as a legal representative

Article 32: President

1. The President represents DIFA legally. The President shall be a deaf person who shall communicate in International Sign Language and who is recognizing the present Articles, FIFA, and ICSD.
2. He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of DIFA in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) relations between DIFA and its Members, FIFA, ICSD, political bodies and other organizations.
3. Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
4. The President shall preside over the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Emergency Committee meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed chairman.
5. The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote.
6. If the President is absent or unavailable, the longest serving vice president available shall deputize.
7. Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organization regulations of DIFA.
8. The Vice-Presidents assist the President in the performance of his duties.

Article 33: Candidates for the office of the President

1. The President shall be elected by the Congress for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the Congress which has elected him. A President may be re-elected.
2. For the election of the President, two-thirds of the votes recorded and valid are necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, an absolute majority of the votes recorded (50% + 1) is sufficient. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
3. Only Members of DIFA may propose candidates for the office of President. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the presidency of DIFA at least 2 months before the date of the Congress.
4. The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least 1 month before the date of the Congress.
5. If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the longest serving vice-president shall represent him until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary.

Article 34: Representation and signature

The President represents DIFA legally and is entitled to sign for DIFA. The Executive Committee may set up internal organization regulations regarding the joint signature of officers, in particular, in case of the President's absence and concerning all important business of DIFA.

D- EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Article 35: Emergency Committee

1. The Emergency Committee shall deal with all matters requiring immediate settlement between two meetings of the Executive Committee. The Committee shall consist of the President of DIFA and 2 members chosen from amongst the Association's Members and appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of 4 years.
2. The President shall convene the Emergency Committee meetings. If a meeting cannot be convened within an appropriate period of time, decisions may be passed through other means of communication. Such decisions shall have immediate legal effect. The President shall notify the Executive Committee immediately of the decisions passed by the Emergency Committee.
3. All decisions taken by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
4. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the longest serving vice-president available shall deputize.

E- STANDING COMMITTEE

Article 36: Standing Committees

1. The standing committees of DIFA are:
 - a) Finance Committee;
 - b) internal Audit Committee;
 - c) Organizing Committee for DIFA competitions;
 - d) Technical and Development Committee;
 - e) Referees' Committee;
 - t) Legal Committee;
 - g) Women's Football Committee;
 - h) Youth Football Committee;
 - i) Futsal Committee;
 - j) Sports Medical Committee;
 - k) Players' Status Committee;
 - l) Committee for Ethics and Fair Play;
 - m) Media Committee;
 - n) Football Committee;
 - o) Strategic Studies Committee;
 - p) Marketing and Television Advisory Board;
 - q) Audiogram Committee;
 - r) Anti-doping Committee;
 - s) Beach soccer Committee

2. The chairman and deputy chairman of the standing committees shall be members of the Executive Committee with the exception of those for the Internal Audit Committee, who may not belong to the Executive Committee. The members of each standing committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of the members of DIFA or the President of DIFA. The chairman, deputy chairman and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of four years.
3. Each chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant organization regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
4. Each chairman shall fix the dates of meetings in collaboration with the General Secretary, ensure that all tasks are carried out and report back to the Executive Committee.
5. Each committee may propose amendments to its regulations to the Executive Committee.

Article 37: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial management and advise the Executive Committee on financial matters and asset management. It shall analyze the budget of DIFA and the financial statements prepared by the General Secretary and submit them to the Executive Committee for approval. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 38: Internal Audit Committee

The Internal Audit Committee shall ensure the completeness and reliability of the financial accounting and review the external auditors' report at the request of the Executive Committee. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 39: Organizing Committee for DIFA competitions

The Organizing Committee for DIFA competitions shall organize the competitions of DIFA in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to DIFA competitions, It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 40: Technical and Development Committee

The Technical and Development Committee shall primarily analyze the basic aspects of football training and technical development. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 41: Referees' Committee

The Referees' Committee shall implement the Laws of the Game. It shall appoint the referees for matches in competitions organized by DIFA, organize refereeing matters within DIFA in collaboration with the administration of DIFA and monitor the education and training of referees. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 42: Legal Committee

The Legal Committee shall analyze basic legal issues relating to football and the evolution of the Statutes and regulations of DIFA and its Members. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 43: Women's Football Committee

The Committee for Women's Football shall organize women's football competitions and deal with all matters relating to women's football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 45: Youth Football Committee

The Committee for Youth Football shall organize youth football competitions and deal with all matters relating to youth football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 45: Futsal Committee

The Futsal Committee shall organize futsal competitions and deal with all matters relating to futsal. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 46: Sports Medical Committee

The Sports Medical Committee shall deal with all medical aspects of football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 47: Players' Status Committee

1. The Players' Status Committee shall set-up and monitor compliance with transfer regulations in accordance with the FIFA Regulations for the status and Transfer of Players and determine the status of Players for various competitions of DIFA. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations governing the Player's' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

2. Players' status disputes involving DIFA, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall be settled by an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 48: Committee for Ethics and Fair Play

The Committee for Ethics and Fair Play shall deal with everything relating to ethics in football and the promotion of fair play also fight against racism in football. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 49: Media Committee

The Media Committee shall deal with the working conditions for the media at DIFA events and maintain relations with media organizations. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 50: Football Committee

The Football Committee shall deal with general issues in football but primarily with its structure as well as relations between clubs, leagues, members, FIFA and ICSD. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 51: Strategic Studies Committee

The Strategic Studies Committee shall deal with global strategies for football and its political, economic and social status. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 52: Marketing and Television Advisory Board the Marketing and Television

Advisory Board shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to drafting and implementing contracts between DIFA and its marketing/television partners and analyze marketing and television strategies that have been devised. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 53: Ad-hoc committees

The Executive Committee may, if necessary, create ad-hoc committees for special duties and a limited period of time. The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman, a deputy chairman and the members. The duties and function are defined in special regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee. An ad-hoc committee shall report directly to the Executive Committee.

Article 54: Audiogram Committee

This commission is responsible for dealing with audiogram test by following the guidelines of the ICSD audiogram regulation. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 55: Anti-doping Committee

This commission is responsible for combatting doping in deaf football by following the guidelines of the World Anti-Doping Agency. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

Article 56: Beach Soccer Committee

The Beach Soccer Committee shall organize beach soccer competitions and deal with all matters relating to beach soccer. It shall consist of a chairman, a deputy chairman and 2 members.

F- GENERAL SECRETARIAT

This section shall govern the duties and the work of the general secretariat as the administrative body and the General Secretary as the chief executive of the secretariat. He shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article 57: General Secretariat

The general secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of DIFA under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the general secretariat are bound by the internal organizational and DIFA regulation. And shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.

Article 58: General Secretary

1. The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of DIFA Administration.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.
3. He shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - c) organizing the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
 - d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - e) Managing and keeping the accounts of DIFA properly;
 - f) the correspondence of DIFA;
 - g) relations with the members, committees, FIFA and Regional Confederation;
 - h) organizing the general secretariat and manage the budget envelope dedicated to General Secretariat;
 - i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the general secretariat;
 - j) proposing managerial staff to the President.
4. The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of DIFA.

G- THE SENIOR ADVISER

This section shall govern the duties and the work of the Senior adviser. He shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article 59: The Senior Adviser

The Senior adviser shall carry out all the relations with FIFA under the direction of the General Secretary. He is bound by the internal organizational and DIFA regulation. And shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.

Article 60: The Senior Adviser is responsible for

1. all relationships between DIFA and FIFA.
2. He shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications in international relations.
3. He shall be responsible for:
 - a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives in regard with FIFA;
 - b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - c) the correspondence of FIFA;
 - d) relations with the FIFA and Regional Confederations;

- e) he allows DIFA to become an associate member of FIFA and wishes to strengthen DIFA's position within FIFA;
- f) He participates in meetings, seminars, workshops organized by FIFA as a representative of the voice of the DIFA and report to the DIFA Executive Committee;
- g) Strengthens the collaborative links between DIFA and FIFA
- h) Determines the global development strategy of the DIFA and makes key decisions and represent DIFA in the FIFA's Road map;
- i) responsible for the information sphere with FIFA in the place of DIFA
- j) advise the DIFA President and His Executive Committee for the smooth running of DIFA activities.

H- JUDICIAL BODIES

This section shall govern the composition and duties of the judicial bodies. FIFA recommends the constitution of two judicial bodies: a Disciplinary Committee and an Appeal Committee. The Disciplinary Committee shall deal with any internal violation of the regulations of FIFA as applicable to DIFA, and DIFA (e.g. Statutes, Disciplinary Code, Laws of the Game, regulations). An appeal may be lodged before the Appeal Committee of DIFA against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee

Article 61 : Judicial bodies

1. The judicial bodies of DIFA are:
 - a) the Disciplinary Committee;
 - b) the Appeal Committee.
2. The responsibilities and functions of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Disciplinary Code of DIFA, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. The decision-making power of other committees remain unaffected.
4. The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of DIFA at the same time.

Article 62: Disciplinary Committee

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The chairman and the deputy chairman shall have legal qualifications.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of DIFA. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of DIFA.
3. The committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of DIFA on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and match and players' agents.
4. These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of members.

Article 63: Appeal Committee

1. The Appeal Committee shall consist of a chairman, deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The chairman and deputy chairman shall have legal qualifications.
2. The function of this body shall be governed by the Disciplinary Code of DIFA. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the chairman may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of DIFA.
3. The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final.

Article 64: Disciplinary measures

To ensure uniformity, the DIFA are requested to adopt the disciplinary measures described in the FIFA Statutes.

The disciplinary measures are primarily:

1. for natural and legal persons:

- a) a warning;
- b) a 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 Team/Clubs:

- 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 the match;
- f) expulsion;
- g) a forfeit;
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division.

Article 65: Arbitration

DIFA shall create an Arbitration Tribunal, which shall deal with all internal national disputes between DIFA, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents that do not fall under the jurisdiction of its judicial bodies. The Executive Committee shall draw up special regulations regarding the composition, jurisdiction and procedural rules of this Arbitration Tribunal.

Article 66: Jurisdiction

1. DIFA, its members, Players, Officials and match and player's agents will not take any dispute to ordinary Courts unless specifically provided for in these Statutes and FIFA regulations. Any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of DIFA.
2. DIFA shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to DIFA. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

Article 67: Court of Arbitration for Sport

1. In accordance with Articles 59 and 60 of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding DIFA decision shall be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland. CAS shall not, however, hear appeals on violations of the Laws of the Game, suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months, or decisions passed by an independent and duly constituted Arbitration Tribunal of an Association or Confederation.
2. DIFA shall ensure its full compliance and that of its members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents with any final decision passed by DIFA body or CAS.

V. FINANCE

This section shall govern financial provisions such as the financial period, revenue, expenses, auditors, membership subscriptions, settlement and levies.

Article 68: Financial period

1. The financial period of DIFA shall be one year and shall begin on 1st January and end on 31st December.
2. The revenue and expenses of DIFA shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. DIFA 's major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.
3. The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of DIFA with its subsidiaries as at 31st December.

Article 69: Revenue

The revenue of the DIFA arises specifically from:

- a) Members' annual subscriptions;
- b) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which DIFA is entitled;
- c) fines imposed by the authorized bodies;
- d) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by DIFA.

Article 70: Expenses

DIFA bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
- b) other expenses approved by the Congress and expenses that the Executive Committee is entitled to incur within the scope of its authority;
- c) all other expenses in keeping with the objectives pursued by DIFA.

Article 71: Independent auditors

The independent auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of 2 years. This mandate may be renewed.

Article 72: Membership subscriptions

1. Membership subscriptions are due on 1st January. The annual subscription for new members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the Congress at which they are admitted.
2. The Congress shall fix the amount of the annual subscription every 2 years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same for every member.
3. DIFA shall not levy annual subscription for the first 4 years since its creation, ending at the end of the calendar year which marks the 4th year since its creation.

Article 73: Settlement

DIFA may debit any Member's assets to settle claims.

Article 74: Levies

DIFA may demand that a levy be paid by its members for matches.

VI. COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS IN COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

Article 75: Competitions

1. DIFA organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its responsibility: Championship, Cup, league etc...
2. The Executive Committee may delegate to DIFA's subordinate Leagues the authority to organize competitions. The competitions organized by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by DIFA. Competitions organized by DIFA shall take priority.
3. The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

Article 76: Club licensing

The Executive Committee of DIFA will set up regulations regarding a club licensing system governing the participation of Clubs in competitions of DIFA.

Article 77: Rights

1. DIFA 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 utilized and draw up special regulations to this end.
3. The Executive Committee shall alone decide whether these rights shall be utilized exclusively, or jointly with a third party or entirely through a third party.

Article 78: Authorization

DIFA and its members are exclusively responsible for authorizing 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.

Article 79: International matches and competitions

The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams lies solely with DIFA. No match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of the DIFA Executive Committee. In addition, permission from the relevant Confederation may be required in accordance with the DIFA regulations.

Article 80: Contacts

DIFA shall not play matches or make sporting contacts with Associations that are not members of FIFA or ICSD or with provisional members of a Confederation without the approval of respectively FIFA or ICSD.

Article 81: Approval

Clubs, Leagues or any other group of Clubs that are affiliated to DIFA cannot belong to another Association or participate in competitions on the territory of another Association without the authorization of DIFA and the other Association and of FIFA, except in exceptional circumstances.

VII. INTERNATIONAL MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

This section governs provisions such as unforeseen contingencies, force majeure, the dissolution of DIFA and the enforcement of the Statutes of DIFA.

Article 82: Unforeseen contingencies and force majeure

The Executive Committee shall have the final decision on any matters not provided for in the Statutes or in cases of force majeure.

Article 83: Dissolution

1. Any decision relating to the dissolution of DIFA requires a majority of two-thirds of all of the members of DIFA, which must be obtained at a Congress specially convened for the purpose.
2. If DIFA is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to such recipient as the final Congress may designate. The recipient shall hold these assets in trust as "bonus pater familiar" until DIFA is reestablished.

Article 84: Enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the Congress in Geneva on 11 November 2009 and will come into force immediately.



Statutes approved at the 4th DIFA Extraordinary Congress held in Haikou (CHINA) on 18 April 2024

DIFA Secretary General



Jean Pierre Valery PEMHA

DIFA President



Iakov FRENKEL

