



SAFF

الاتحاد السعودي لكرة القدم
SAUDI ARABIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Electoral Code of SAFF 2026

Disclaimer: the official and binding language of the Electoral Code of SAFF is Arabic. This English-language translation is provided as a guide and is for informational purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between this version and the binding Arabic version, the latter shall prevail.

Table of Contents	
SAFF Electoral Code	
Part One: Definitions	4
Article (1): Definitions	4
Part Two: Scope of Application of Electoral Code and Governing Principles of Electoral Process	5
Article (2): Scope of Application of Electoral Code	5
Article (3): General Principles Governing Electoral Process	5
Part Three: Bodies Responsible for Electoral Process	6
Article (4): Electoral Committee	6
Article (5): Composition of Electoral Committee	6
Article (6): Expiry of Mandate of Electoral Committee	6
Article (7): Eligibility Criteria for Membership of Electoral Committee	7
Article (8): Powers of Electoral Committee	7
Article (9): Meetings and Decisions of Electoral Committee	8
Article (10): Expiry of Mandate of Electoral Appeals Committee	8
Article (11): Meetings and Decisions of Electoral Appeals Committee	8
Part Four: Rules Governing Composition of General Assembly, Election of President and Members of Board of Directors, and Nomination and Election Provisions	9
Article (12): Composition of General Assembly	9
Article (13): Eligibility Criteria for Nomination to Board of Directors	9
Article (14): Quorum and Resolutions of General Assembly	10
Article (15): Final List of Candidates	10
Article (16): Deadline for Convening General Assembly to Elect Board of Directors	10
Article (17): Election	10
Part Five: Electoral Procedures	11
Article (18): Ballot and Ballot Papers	11
Article (19): Ballot Boxes	11
Article (20): Voting Booths	11
Article (21): Voting	11

Article (22): Counting of Votes	12
Article (23): Invalid Ballot Papers	12
Article (24): Counting of Votes and Announcement of Results	12
Article (25): Announcement of Final Results	13
Article (26): Verification of Legality of Procedures	13
Part Six: Closing Provisions	13
Article (27): Closing Provisions	13
Article (28): Enforcement and Validity	14

Part One: Definitions

Article (1): Definitions

The following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them below wherever they appear in this Electoral Code. References to the singular shall include the plural and vice versa, unless the context requires otherwise:

Kingdom:	The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
SAFF:	The Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF).
FIFA:	Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
AFC:	Asian Football Confederation (AFC).
General Assembly:	The legislative and supreme authority of SAFF.
Board of Directors:	The executive body of SAFF.
General Secretariat:	The administrative body of SAFF.
Secretary General:	The Chief Executive Officer of SAFF General Secretariat.
Statutes:	The Statutes of SAFF.
Electoral Code:	SAFF Electoral Code.
Members:	The Members of the General Assembly of SAFF.
Election:	The process by which the Members of the General Assembly elect the President, the Vice President and the Members of the Board of Directors.
Electoral Committees:	The Electoral Committee and the Electoral Appeals Committee.
Electoral Committee:	The body responsible for organizing and supervising elections and the procedures of approval thereof at SAFF level.
Electoral Cycle:	The four-year period commencing from the date on which the Board of Directors assumes office.
Electoral Process:	The set of executive rounds for SAFF elections.
Electoral Period:	The period during which SAFF elections are conducted.

Voter:	SAFF General Assembly member.
Candidate:	Any person who satisfies the requirements set out in the Statutes and this Electoral Code to be included in an Electoral List.
Voters' List:	A list containing the names of the persons entitled to vote in the election.
Electoral List:	A list comprising twelve (12) candidates for the Board of Directors, namely the President, the Vice President and up to ten (10) Members, who are elected together as a list.
Ballot	The casting of votes by the Voters to elect the Electoral Lists.
Ballot Paper:	A paper or any technical means on which the Voter records the Electoral List selected.
Ballot Date:	The date scheduled for the ballot procedures.
Saudi Sports Arbitration Center (SSAC):	The judicial body having exclusive jurisdiction to hear, adjudicate and/or mediate all sports disputes and/or disputes related to sport after exhaustion of the internal appeal procedures of SAFF in accordance with the Statutes and its regulations.

Part Two: Scope of Application of Electoral Code and Governing Principles of Electoral Process

Article (2): Scope of Application of Electoral Code

Subject to the provisions of the Statutes, this Electoral Code shall constitute the primary reference governing the election of the President of the Board of Directors of SAFF and the procedures of the Electoral Committees.

Article (3): General Principles Governing Electoral Process

The election shall be conducted in accordance with the following principles:

1. The independence of the Electoral Process in accordance with the principle of separation of powers within SAFF.
 2. Transparency in the conduct of the Electoral Process.
 3. Ensuring that Members are able to exercise their right to choose the Electoral List.
 4. Public announcement of the election procedures through the available media.
 5. Non-interference by any external party, except FIFA.
 6. The Electoral Committee shall base all of its decisions on the Statutes of SAFF and the relevant regulations and rules of AFC and FIFA.
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Part Three: Bodies Responsible for Electoral Process

Article (4): Electoral Committee

1. The members of the Electoral Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes.
 2. The Electoral Committee shall be responsible for organizing and supervising all stages of the election of the Board of Directors and for issuing the decisions relating thereto.
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Article (5): Composition of Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, and the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Appeal Committee of SAFF.
2. Where a member is unwilling to perform his or her duties or where the position becomes vacant, such member shall be replaced by the oldest member of the committee to which he or she belongs (the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or the Appeal Committee), until all members of that committee have been exhausted.
3. If there are no members of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or the Appeal Committee, the Board of Directors shall appoint the members of the Electoral Committee. At least one

member shall hold, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree in law or an equivalent qualification. Such appointments shall be subject to ratification by the General Assembly.

4. The Electoral Committee shall consist of:
 - a. A Chairperson.
 - b. Three (3) members.
 - c. The members of the Electoral Committee shall elect the Chairperson.
 - d. The Legal Department of SAFF shall act as the Secretariat of the Electoral Committee and shall participate in its activities in an advisory capacity. The General Secretariat of SAFF may assist the Electoral Committee at any time, provided that the individuals providing such assistance are not candidates in any SAFF election and have no conflict of interest.
5. Where a member of the Electoral Committee intends to stand as a candidate in the election, he or she shall declare such intention at an early stage to allow for his or her replacement without affecting the election timetable.

Article (6): Expiry of Mandate of Electoral Committee

The mandate and functions of the Electoral Committee shall expire upon the completion of the election timetable.

Article (7): Eligibility Criteria for Membership of Electoral Committee

1. The members of the Electoral Committee shall not be members of the General Assembly, the Board of Directors or the General Secretariat of SAFF.
2. Members of the Electoral Committee shall immediately withdraw from the matter under consideration and refrain from taking any decision in the following cases:
 - a. Where they have a direct family relationship with any candidate for any of the positions to be filled.
 - b. Where there is a potential conflict of interest.
3. Members of the Electoral Committee shall perform their duties with the highest standards of integrity and impartiality.

4. If a member of the Electoral Committee fails to satisfy any of the above requirements and/or ceases to be a member of the Electoral Committee for any reason, such member shall be replaced in accordance with Article (5) hereof.

Article (8): Powers of Electoral Committee

The Electoral Committee shall have the following powers:

1. To issue the election timetable.
2. To determine the opening date for nominations for the positions of President and Members of the Board of Directors.
3. To supervise and monitor the opening of the nomination period and the receipt of candidates' application files.
4. To supervise the closing of the nomination period for the positions of President and Members of the Board of Directors and prepare the relevant minutes.
5. To approve the preliminary and final lists of candidates for the positions of President and Members of the Board of Directors after reviewing them and verifying that they satisfy all the requirements set out in this Electoral Code.
6. To approve the preliminary and final lists of the Members of the General Assembly entitled to attend the General Assembly and vote on election day.
7. To exclude any candidate who does not satisfy the requirements set out in this Electoral Code.
8. To exclude any Member of the General Assembly who does not satisfy the requirements set out in this Electoral Code.
9. To monitor the activities of candidates and prevent any irregularities or violations.
10. To establish the executive committees responsible for administering the Electoral Process.
11. To determine the venue of the General Assembly convened for the election, in coordination with SAFF.
12. To prepare the organizational and procedural manuals and operational forms relating to the Electoral Process.

13. To educate Voters and Candidates regarding their rights and obligations.
 14. To issue the necessary guidelines for organizing the General Assembly convened for the election.
 15. To request information and manage relations with governmental authorities, where necessary.
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Article (9): Meetings and Decisions of Electoral Committee

1. The Electoral Committee shall have a quorum upon the attendance of an absolute majority of its members. Its decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall have the casting vote.
 2. The decisions shall be recorded in minutes signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Electoral Committee.
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Article (10): Expiry of Mandate of Electoral Appeals Committee

The mandate and functions of the Saudi Sports Arbitration Center shall expire upon the expiry of the appeal period and notification of the Electoral Committee of the decisions, in accordance with the election timetable.

Article (11): Meetings and Decisions of Electoral Appeals Committee

1. Decisions of the Electoral Committee may be appealed before the Saudi Sports Arbitration Center, in accordance with the election timetable, within five (5) days from the date of notification of the decision, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The arbitral tribunal shall consist of three (3) arbitrators.
 - b. The language of the arbitration shall be Arabic.
 - c. The seat of arbitration shall be the city in which the election is held.
 - d. The arbitration shall be conducted on an expedited basis.
 - e. The arbitral tribunal shall render its decision in accordance with the election timetable.
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Part Four: Rules Governing Composition of General Assembly, Election of President and Members of Board of Directors, and Nomination and Election Provisions

Article (12): Composition of General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall consist of the number of Members specified in the Statutes.
2. The Representatives shall belong to the Member they represent and shall be appointed or elected by the competent authority thereof. They shall also be able to provide evidence of such appointment or election upon request.
3. The Representatives of the General Assembly representing their respective Clubs shall be members of the Boards of Directors of such Clubs.
4. Each Member of the General Assembly shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy or correspondence shall not be permitted, and only Representatives of Members who are present may vote.
5. Members of the Board of Directors and the Secretary General shall attend meetings of the General Assembly without the right to vote. Members of the Board of Directors may not be appointed or elected as Representatives of a Member of the General Assembly throughout their term of office on the Board of Directors.
6. The General Secretariat shall prepare the Voters' List to be used on the Ballot Date, which shall include the names of the Representatives of the Members of the General Assembly entitled to vote on the Ballot Date, and shall publish it in accordance with the election timetable.

Article (13): Eligibility Criteria for Nomination to Board of Directors

1. The President and the Board of Directors shall be nominated in accordance with the procedure set out in the Statutes.
2. The eligibility criteria for nomination to the office of President shall be those prescribed in the Statutes.
3. The eligibility criteria for nomination to the offices of Vice President and Members of the Board of Directors shall be those prescribed in the Statutes.
4. No Candidate may stand for election on more than one Electoral List.

5. The following categories of persons shall not be eligible for nomination to the Board of Directors:
 - a. Military personnel, unless prior approval has been obtained from their competent authority.
 - b. Players, coaches and referees who have not retired.
6. Electoral Lists shall be submitted in the manner determined by the Electoral Committee.
7. The Electoral Committee shall verify that all nominations and Candidates satisfy the prescribed eligibility requirements.
8. The Electoral Committee shall register the nominations in alphabetical order in a special register. Upon the expiry of the nomination period, it shall prepare minutes confirming the completion of the candidate registration procedures, which shall be signed by the Chairperson and members of the Electoral Committee and accompanied by the list of Candidates for the election of the Board of Directors.
9. The Electoral Lists shall be published on a preliminary basis and thereafter on a final basis, in accordance with the dates specified in the election timetable, at the headquarters of SAFF, in local newspapers, or through electronic media or SAFF's social media platforms.
10. Any Candidate included in an Electoral List may withdraw his or her nomination by submitting a written notice of withdrawal to the General Secretariat within the period specified in the election timetable. Such Candidate shall be replaced by another Candidate from outside the Electoral List within two (2) days from the date of submission of the notice of withdrawal.
11. Each Electoral List shall be entitled to conduct its election campaign through all legally available media from the date of publication of the final Electoral Lists until the day preceding the Ballot Date. No Electoral List may directly or indirectly form an alliance with any other Electoral List.

Article (14): Quorum and Resolutions of General Assembly

The General Assembly at which the election is held shall be convened in accordance with the conditions and requirements set out in the Statutes and the relevant regulations.

Article (15): Final List of Candidates

The final Electoral Lists of Candidates shall be sent to all Members of the General Assembly no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the General Assembly convened for the election of the Board of Directors. They shall also be sent to the relevant governmental authorities and published at the headquarters of SAFF or through electronic means or SAFF's social media platforms.

Article (16): Deadline for Convening General Assembly to Elect Board of Directors

The Electoral Committee, through the General Secretariat of SAFF, shall convene the General Assembly for the election of the President and Members of the Board of Directors at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting. The notice shall be accompanied by the final Electoral Lists, and the General Assembly shall be announced through the various media.

Article (17): Election

1. The election shall be conducted by means of the list system in accordance with the procedures set out in the Statutes.
 2. The term of office of the Board of Directors shall be as prescribed in the Statutes.
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Part Five: Electoral Procedures

Article (18): Ballot and Ballot Papers:

1. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot.
 2. The Ballot Papers shall be prepared by the General Secretariat of SAFF under the supervision and responsibility of the Electoral Committee and shall be printed in a clear and legible form.
 3. The Ballot Papers shall be of a different color for each round of the election.
 4. The Ballot Papers shall clearly contain the information necessary to enable the election to be conducted in accordance with this Electoral Code.
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Article (19): Ballot Boxes

1. Before the commencement of the voting process, the Ballot Box shall be opened and presented to the Members of the General Assembly and shall thereafter be sealed.
2. The Ballot Boxes shall be transparent and shall be placed in a visible location near the members of the Electoral Committee.
3. One member of the Electoral Committee shall supervise the Ballot Boxes throughout the voting process.

Article (20): Voting Booths

Voting Booths shall be installed near the Ballot Boxes to enable the Members of the General Assembly entitled to vote to complete their Ballot Papers in secret.

Article (21): Voting

1. The Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall explain the voting procedure in detail, including the Ballot Boxes, valid and invalid Ballot Papers, the counting of votes, the required majority, the results and the application of the electoral rules, with reference, where possible, to the relevant provisions.
2. The Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall call each Member of the General Assembly entitled to vote in alphabetical order and request such Member to come to the front of the meeting hall for verification of his or her identity and completion of the voting formalities.
3. The Member shall receive a Ballot Paper after signing the Voters' List and shall proceed to the Voting Booth to mark his or her choice on the Ballot Paper.
4. The Member shall then place the Ballot Paper in the Ballot Box.
5. The counting of votes shall commence immediately after all Members entitled to vote have deposited their Ballot Papers in the Ballot Box. The Ballot Box shall then be opened, and all Ballot Papers shall be emptied before those present, after which the counting of votes shall begin.
6. The voting procedures shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Electoral Code.

7. Where there is only one Electoral List, it shall be elected by acclamation without the need to conduct the Electoral Process.

Article (22): Counting of Votes

The votes shall be counted independently and publicly at the ballot venue in preparation for the announcement of the final results of each round.

Article (23): Invalid Ballot Papers

1. The following Ballot Papers shall be deemed invalid in the Ballot:
 - a. Ballot Papers that do not bear the official identifying marks prescribed by the Electoral Committee.
 - b. Ballot Papers containing any words or markings other than the names of the Candidates.
 - c. Illegible Ballot Papers.
 - d. Ballot Papers containing any words or markings other than the names of the Candidates.
 - e. Ballot Papers bearing any identifying marks.
2. Spelling or typographical errors shall not invalidate a vote unless they make it impossible to identify the names of the Candidates accurately.
3. The Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall write the word "**Cancelled**" in red ink on the reverse side of any invalid Ballot Paper, stating the reasons for its invalidity, and shall confirm the same by signing it.
4. The decision of the Electoral Committee shall be final, binding and not subject to appeal in the event of any dispute concerning the validity or invalidity of any Ballot Paper, eligibility to vote, the recording of the minutes, the announcement of the results, or any other matter relating to the counting of votes.

Article (24): Counting of Votes and Announcement of Results

1. The results of the Ballot shall be determined on the basis of the valid Ballot Papers cast.

2. Once the Ballot Box has been opened at any stage of the election, the members of the Electoral Committee shall verify the validity of the Ballot Papers and count them aloud. If the number of Ballot Papers is equal to or less than the number of Ballot Papers issued, the Ballot shall be deemed valid. If the number of Ballot Papers exceeds the number of Ballot Papers issued, the Ballot shall be declared void and shall be repeated immediately.
3. After verifying the number of Ballot Papers, the members of the Electoral Committee shall commence counting the votes recorded on the Ballot Papers and shall read them aloud.
4. Immediately upon completion and verification of the counting process for each stage, the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall officially announce the results before the Members of the General Assembly.
5. Where a second round of voting is required, the voting procedures shall be repeated in accordance with the preceding Articles. The Members of the General Assembly shall be informed of the applicable statutory provisions governing the second round of voting, including any changes to the required majority or to the names of the Candidates who have been eliminated.

Article (25): Announcement of Final Results

1. Following each round of the election, the Chairperson of the Electoral Committee shall officially announce the results before the Members of the General Assembly. Minutes thereof shall be prepared and signed by the Chairperson and the members of the Electoral Committee.
2. The final minutes shall be distributed to the Members of the General Assembly, a copy thereof shall be sent to the relevant authorities, and the minutes shall be entered in the register of the General Assembly minutes.
3. The final election results shall be final, binding and not subject to appeal before any authority.

Article (26): Verification of Legality of Procedures

The Electoral Committee shall have the exclusive authority to verify the identity of the persons entitled to vote and to ensure compliance with the voting procedures.

Part Six: Closing Provisions

Article (27): Closing Provisions

1. The provisions of the Statutes of SAFF and FIFA relating to elections, the supervision thereof and the sanctions imposed for any violation of their provisions shall be observed.
2. The Electoral Committee shall deliver all official documents relating to the election to the General Secretariat of SAFF, which shall be responsible for forwarding them to the relevant authorities and archiving them, where necessary.
3. Any matters relating to the election that are not governed by this Electoral Code shall be subject to the discretion of the Electoral Committee. The Electoral Committee may exclude any Electoral List or any of its members in the event of a violation of the Statutes of SAFF, its regulations, this Electoral Code, or the relevant international statutes or regulations.

Article (28): Enforcement and Validity

1. Amendments to this Electoral Code were approved and declared at the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting convened on 23/01/1448 A.H., corresponding to 08/07/2026 A.D., and came into force as of the approval date thereof.
2. This Electoral Code shall prevail over all regulations, circulars or resolutions that contradict therewith, and any provision inconsistent with this Electoral Code shall be held null and void.