

# The FIFA Council and FIFA committees

## FAQ

December 2016

### What is the FIFA Council and what is its mandate?

Following the adoption of landmark reforms by the Extraordinary FIFA Congress on 26 February 2016, the amended [FIFA Statutes](#) (which entered into force in April 2016) provide a clear separation between strategic and oversight functions on the one hand and executive, operational and administrative functions on the other. Art. 34 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) states that the FIFA Council (replacing the FIFA Executive Committee) is the body that “defines FIFA’s mission, strategic direction, policies and values, in particular with regard to the organisation and development of football at worldwide level and all related matters”. The Council is presided over by the FIFA President.

The general secretariat is the executive, operational and administrative body (art. 24 par. 3 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)) and performs its tasks under the direction of the Secretary General, who is the chief executive officer of FIFA (art. 37 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)). The Congress is FIFA’s supreme and legislative body (art. 24 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)). Details on the reform process are available [here](#).

### How often does the FIFA Council meet?

In accordance with the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#), the Council shall meet at least three times a year (art. 9 par. 1 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### How many members of the Council are there and how are they elected?

The FIFA Council comprises a total of 37 members (art. 33 par. 1 FIFA Statutes), 36 of whom are elected by the FIFA member associations at their respective confederation congresses (art. 33 par. 3 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), as well as arts 64-76 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)). The President is elected by the FIFA Congress (art. 33 par. 2 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), as well as arts 40 to 63 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

According to art. 33 par. 4 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), the confederations are allocated the following places on the Council:

a) CONMEBOL:	vice-president (1)	members (4)
b) AFC:	vice-president (1)	members (6)
c) UEFA:	vice-presidents (3)	members (6)
d) CAF:	vice-president (1)	members (6)
e) CONCACAF:	vice-president (1)	members (4)
f) OFC:	vice-president (1)	members (2)

As per the [FIFA Statutes](#), all members of the Council (including the President), the standing committees, the independent committees and the Secretary General are required to fulfil eligibility checks in compliance with Annexe 1 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#).

### Have all FIFA Council members been elected?

The election of additional FIFA Council members is still pending in the AFC – three members are still to be elected. The FIFA Council will therefore not have a full complement when it meets in

January 2017. The election process for the remaining FIFA Council members is the responsibility of the respective confederation.

### **How are the eligibility checks conducted?**

The confederations are requested to submit the identification details of the candidates for the positions of vice-president or member of the Council to the FIFA general secretariat at least four months before the start of the respective confederation congress (art. 71 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)). The Review Committee carries out the eligibility check within 21 days of receipt of the respective candidature from the FIFA general secretariat and passes a decision on the eligibility of the candidate concerned (art. 72 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

Candidates for the Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee and incumbent members are subject to periodic eligibility reviews (art. 27 par. 8 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 38 par. 3 and art. 37 par. 1 c of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#))

With regard to the standing committees, according to art. 39 par. 5 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), the candidates must pass an eligibility check carried out by the Review Committee. Candidates for the Governance Committee must pass an eligibility check carried out by the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee in accordance with art. 27 par. 6 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#).

Candidates for the office of President also have to pass the eligibility check conducted by the Review Committee (art. 48 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#).)

General provisions on eligibility checks, including information on the screening process and eligibility questionnaire, are contained in Annexe 1 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#). Further details are available in the [informative note on eligibility checks](#).

### **How does FIFA ensure the participation of more women in decision-making roles in football?**

Contrary to the former Executive Committee, which only reserved one seat for a female member, under the amended [FIFA Statutes](#) (art. 33 par. 5), the members of each confederation must ensure that they elect at least one female member to the Council. In the event that no female candidate is elected by the members of a confederation for the Council, the seat reserved for a female member of such confederation will be considered to have been forfeited and remain vacant until the next election of members of the Council.

In addition, the Council is also responsible for ensuring adequate female representation on the standing committees (art. 39 par. 4 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

This should be seen as the first step in a collective effort to enhance female participation at the decision-making level.

### **How will the female members of the FIFA Council be elected?**

The [FIFA Statutes](#) do not make a distinction between the way male and female members of the Council are elected (see above).

### **Are there term limits for the President and the members of the FIFA Council?**

According to the new [FIFA Statutes](#), term limits (no more than three terms of office of four years, i.e. 12 years, whether consecutive or not) have been introduced for the FIFA President and the FIFA Council members (art. 33 pars 2 and 3).

## **What about disclosure of individual compensation?**

The individual annual compensation of the President, the vice-presidents and members of the Council will be published in the annual FIFA Financial Report (art. 6 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)), which will be made available on [FIFA.com](#). The compensation of the Secretary General, as well as that of the chairperson of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the costs of the judicial bodies, will also be published in the Financial Report.

## **What happens if a Council member or the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his/her official function?**

According to art. 33 par. 8 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), any vice-president or other member of the Council who is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his/her official function shall be replaced by the members of the relevant confederation which elected that vice-president or member for the remaining period of office in line with the applicable regulations.

Based on art. 33 par. 7 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), if the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the longest-serving vice-president shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President until the next Congress. This Congress shall elect a new President, if necessary. If the longest-serving vice-president is prevented from assuming the powers and responsibilities of the President, the next longest-serving vice-president shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President.

## **What is the Bureau of the Council?**

The Bureau of the Council is the body that deals with all matters within the competence of the Council requiring an immediate decision between two meetings of the Council. It consists of a maximum of seven members. The FIFA President and the six confederation presidents are ex officio members of the Bureau of the Council (art. 38 par. 1 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

## **What is the role of the FIFA standing committees?**

The standing committees advise and assist the Council and the general secretariat in fulfilling their duties. To improve the efficiency of the decision-making processes, it was decided to reduce the number of standing committees from 26 to nine, following the latest reforms approved by the Extraordinary FIFA Congress and the amendment of art. 39 of the [FIFA Statutes](#). The process of transforming the standing committees under the previous edition of the FIFA Statutes to those under the 2016 edition is still ongoing. The standing committees report to the Council. Their composition and structure, as well as their specific duties and powers, are stipulated in arts 39 to 48 of the [FIFA Statutes](#), and arts 18 to 35 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#).

## **How are the members of the standing committees appointed?**

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of each standing committee are appointed by the FIFA Council on the proposal of the member associations, the President of FIFA or the confederations, except for the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance Committee (see below), who are elected by the Congress on the proposal of the Council (art. 39 par. 4 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

The terms of office are four years, beginning on the respective date of appointment by the Council. Members of the standing committees may be relieved of their duties at any time by the Council, except for the members of the Governance Committee, who may only be relieved of their duties by the Congress (art. 39 par. 4 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

### **What is the Governance Committee?**

The Governance Committee is the body that deals with, and advises and assists the Council on, all FIFA governance matters (e.g. monitoring material changes to FIFA's governance and governance-related regulations as well as the introduction of material new regulations, proposing material amendments to FIFA regulations and introducing new material regulations, and advising on social responsibility, human rights, environmental protection and gender equality matters). It consists of at least three members and not more than 12 members and no fewer than half of the committee's members, including the chairperson and the deputy chairperson, shall fulfil the independence criteria as defined in art. 5 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#). For more information on the Governance Committee's responsibilities, please see art. 27 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#).

### **What is the Review Committee?**

The chairperson, deputy chairperson and one independent member of the Governance Committee, while remaining members of the plenary committee, form the Review Committee (art. 40 par. 2 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 27 par. 2 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

The Review Committee conducts eligibility checks on candidates and incumbent members of FIFA bodies in accordance with the [FIFA Statutes](#) and the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#). The Review Committee is not in a position to comment on individual cases relating to eligibility checks. However, an informative note providing further information in the context of eligibility checks has been published and can be found [here](#). In addition, the Review Committee conducts reviews of the independence of candidates and incumbent members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and the judicial bodies as well as of candidates and incumbent members of the standing committees who must all fulfil the independence criteria, and reviews the related-party declarations submitted by the members of the Council (art. 40 pars 4 and 5 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

### **What is the Finance Committee?**

The Finance Committee determines FIFA's financial and asset management strategy, the preparation of the budget, analysis of the consolidated financial statements, drafting of policies, as well as rules and guidelines regarding FIFA's overall strategy in financial and asset management matters. The Finance Committee consists of members who are qualified to deal with financial matters and no fewer than half of the committee's members have to fulfil the independence criteria set out in art. 5 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#) (cf. art. 41 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 28 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Development Committee?**

The Development Committee is responsible for the strategy and budgeting allocation for FIFA's global development programmes as well as the Implementation, review and drafting of the relevant regulations and guidelines. No fewer than half of the committee's members have to fulfil the independence criteria defined in art. 5 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#) (cf. art. 42 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 29 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions?**

The Organising Committee for FIFA Competitions is responsible for the organisation of all official FIFA competitions in compliance with the applicable regulations and hosting documents (cf. art. 43 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 30 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Football Stakeholders Committee?**

The Football Stakeholders Committee is responsible for ground-level football matters, in particular for optimising the relations between football stakeholders, the structure of the game, and technical development. Each confederation will be represented in the Football Stakeholders Committee and the composition also reflects the different stakeholders involved in association football (cf. art. 44 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 31 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Member Associations Committee?**

The Member Associations Committee is responsible for dealing with relations between FIFA and its member associations, as well as the member associations' compliance with the FIFA Statutes (cf. art. 45 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 32 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Player's Status Committee?**

The Player's Status Committee is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and determines the status of players for various FIFA competitions. It is also responsible for the work of the Dispute Resolution Chamber. The Player's Status Committee is composed of member association representatives, player representatives and club representatives (cf. art. 46 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 33 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Referees Committee?**

The Referees Committee is responsible for the implementation and interpretation of the Laws of the Game. It also appoints referees and assistant referees for the FIFA Competitions. The Referees Committee is made up of two sub-committees: a Competitions Sub-Committee and a Refereeing Development Sub-Committee (cf. art. 47 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 34 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What is the Medical Committee?**

The Medical Committee is responsible for all medical aspects of football, including the fight against doping. The Medical Committee consists of members who are qualified in sports medicine, specialised in football and, together, represent as many areas of sports medicine as possible. (cf. art. 48 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and art. 35 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)).

### **What are FIFA's independent committees?**

FIFA has the following independent committees:

#### Audit and Compliance Committee:

- Function: advises, assists and oversees the Council in monitoring FIFA's financial and compliance matters, and monitors compliance with the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#). It also supervises the general secretariat (art. 51 par. 7 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).
- Independence criteria: candidates for any position on the Audit and Compliance Committee as well as the incumbent members of the committee have to fulfil the independence criteria defined in the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#) (art. 51 par. 2 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

- Election process: the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee are elected by the Congress (art. 51 par. 3 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).
- Terms: their terms last four years, beginning at the end of the Congress which has elected them (art. 51 par. 3 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

Three judicial bodies:

The Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee:

- The composition, powers and responsibilities, and proceedings of the FIFA judicial bodies are established in the [FIFA Statutes](#), the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#), the [FIFA Disciplinary Code](#) and the [FIFA Code of Ethics](#).
- Independence criteria: the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary Committee, of both chambers of the Ethics Committee and of the Appeal Committee have to fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#) (art. 52 par. 4 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).
- Election process: the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the judicial bodies are elected by the Congress and cannot be members of any other FIFA body (art. 52 par. 5 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).
- Term: their terms last four years, beginning at the end of the Congress which has elected them (art. 52 par. 5 of the [FIFA Statutes](#)).

What are the independence criteria?

The independence criteria detail the restrictions resulting from the requirement of independence of members of the relevant FIFA bodies. The independence criteria are therefore applicable to members of standing committees requiring independence, as well as to the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Audit and Compliance Committee and judicial bodies (cf. arts 40, 41, 42, 51 and 52 of the [FIFA Statutes](#) and arts 5, 27, 28, 29, 37 and 38 of the [FIFA Governance Regulations](#)). Additional provisions apply to the members of the FIFA Ethics Committee (cf. art. 34 of the [FIFA Code of Ethics](#)).

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