

NFF Statutes

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DEFINITIONS

The following terms, abbreviations and/or acronyms are used in the interpretation of these statutes:

“FIFA” stands for Fédération Internationale de Football Association;

“NFF” means Nigeria Football Federation;

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

“Player” refers to a football player registered with the federation;

“Member” refers to a legal or natural person that has been admitted into membership of the NFF by the General Assembly;

“Consultative committee” means a standing or ad hoc committee with no decision-making powers;

“Laws of the Game” refers to the Laws of the Game authorized by the International Football Association Board;

“IFAB” means “International Football Association Board”, which authorizes and modifies the Laws of the Game;

“CAF” means “Confederation of African Football”;

“Confederation” means “A group of Associations recognized by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area)”;

“WAFU” means “West African Football Union”;

“NPL” means “Nigeria Premier League”, the body subordinate and duly recognized by NFF and responsible for the organization of premier league football in Nigeria;

“NNL” means “Nigeria National League”, the body subordinate and duly recognized by NFF and responsible for the organization of non-amateur football or national league football in Nigeria;

“NAL” means “Nigeria Amateur League”, the body subordinate and duly recognized by

NFF and responsible for the organization of national amateur football in Nigeria;

"NWL" means "Nigeria Women League", the body subordinate and duly recognized by NFF and responsible for the organization of both female amateur and professional leagues in Nigeria;

"League" means any other body subordinate and duly affiliated to NFF, that has been granted the authority by NFF to organize a competition or competitions which has been sanctioned by the NFF in accordance with this statutes;

"Association" means "a football Association recognized by and a Member of FIFA"

"General Assembly" means the supreme body of NFF; assembly of delegates of members affiliated to NFF, entitled to attend such assembly convened in accordance with these statutes;

"Executive committee" means executive body of NFF elected in accordance with these statutes;

"NOC" means Nigeria Olympic Committee

"Auditing body" means any other auditing body so selected by the NFF;

"State football association(s)" means one or all of the thirty- six state football associations including the Federal Capital Territory duly affiliated to the NFF, in accordance with this statutes;

"Territory", "Country" or "Nigeria" means the territory of Federal Republic of Nigeria;

"Association football" means the game controlled by FIFA and organized in accordance with the Laws of the Game;

"Ordinary Courts" means state courts which hear public and private legal disputes;

"Arbitration Tribunal" means a private court of justice acting instead of an Ordinary Court;

"CAS (TAS)" means the Court of Arbitration for Sport (Tribunal Arbitral du Sport) in Lausanne, Switzerland;

NB: References to natural persons include both genders. The singular case applies to the plural and vice-versa.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 Name, headquarters, legal form,

1. Nigeria Football Federation is a private organization of an associative nature in compliance with the laws of Nigeria. It is formed for an unlimited period.
2. The NFF headquarters is in ABUJA. Plot 2033 Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Zone 7, Wuse 2, Abuja, FCT.
3. NFF is a member of FIFA, CAF and WAFU.
4. The flag of the NFF shall be as determined by the general assembly.
5. The emblem of the NFF shall be as determined by the general assembly.
6. The logo of the NFF shall be as determined by the general assembly.
7. The abbreviation of the federation is NFF.
8. The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered with Trade Marks Registry of the appropriate authority in Nigeria.

Article 2 Objectives

NFF pursues the following particular objectives:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of Nigeria in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to develop, promote, control and regulate the sport of association football in all its forms throughout the territory of Nigeria;

- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the joint interests of its members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and NFF 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 or give rise to abuse of Association Football;
- g) to control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of Nigeria;
- h) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- i) to encourage the sport at a national level, and in a spirit of fair play;
- j) to host competitions at international and other levels;
- k) to accept, train, classify and control Football coaches and referees in the territory of Nigeria;
- l) to organize competitions in association football in all its forms at a national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various leagues of which it is composed;

Article 3 Neutrality and non-discrimination

1. NFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
2. 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

1. NFF shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and society for humanitarian objectives.
2. 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.
3. NFF shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of NFF.

Article 5 Players

1. The status of players and the provisions for their transfers shall be regulated by the Executive Committee of NFF in accordance with the FIFA Regulations on Status and Transfer of Players.
2. Players shall be registered in accordance with Regulations of NFF on the Status and Transfer of players.

Article 6 Laws of the Game

NFF and each of its Members shall play Association 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 NFF must observe the Statute, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of ethics of FIFA, CAF and WAFU and of NFF in their activities.

Article 8 Official languages

1. The official language of the NFF shall be English. Official documents and texts shall be written in this language. In the event of any divergence between the interpretations of texts in different languages, the text written in English shall be regarded as authoritative.
2. The official language of the General Assembly shall be English.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 9 Admission, suspension and expulsion

1. The General Assembly shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.
2. Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of NFF.
3. Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve a member from its financial obligations towards NFF or other Members of NFF, but leads to cancellation of all rights in relation to NFF.

Article 10 Admission

1. The members of NFF are:
 - a) state football associations, including the Federal Capital Territory, subordinate to NFF;
 - b) the leagues, subordinate to NFF;
 - c) the players' association, subordinate to NFF;
 - d) the Nigeria Football Coaches Association, subordinate to NFF;
 - e) the Nigeria Referees' Association, subordinate to NFF;
2. Any legal or natural person wishing to become a member of NFF shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of NFF.
3. The application must be accompanied by the following mandatory items:
 - a) a copy of its legally valid statutes and regulations;
 - b) a declaration that it will always comply with Statutes, regulations and decisions of NFF, FIFA, CAF and WAFU, and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Clubs Official and Players;

- c) a declaration that it will comply with Laws of the Game in force;
- d) a declaration that it recognizes the Arbitration Tribunal of NFF and the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
- e) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of Nigeria;
- f) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of Nigeria;
- g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of an external entity;
- h) a list of its 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 on the prior consent of NFF;
- j) a copy of the minutes of its last general assembly or constitutional meeting;
- k) a declaration to the effect that it recognizes the exclusive authority of an arbitral tribunal of the NFF in respect of all legal disputes involving itself or any of its members;
- l) a declaration to the effect that it agrees to be bound by the statutes, regulations, and directives in their current form, and subject to later changes, as well as by the decisions of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and of NFF and, of the leagues of which it is composed;

4. 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 regulation approved by the Executive Committee of NFF.
2. The Executive Committee shall request the General Assembly either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the General Assembly.
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. The general assembly of NFF has the sole right to decide on the affiliation of a member.

Article 12 Members' rights

1. The members of NFF have the following rights:
 - a) to take part in the General Assembly of NFF, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Assembly within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
 - b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly;
 - c) to nominate candidates for all bodies of NFF to be elected;
 - d) to be informed of the affairs of NFF through the official bodies of NFF;
 - e) to take part in competitions and /or other sports activities organized by NFF;
 - f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statutes and regulations of NFF;
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 NFF have the following obligations:
 - a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and NFF at all times 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 competition and other sports activities organized by NFF;
 - 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 adopt statutory clause specifying that any dispute requiring arbitration involving itself or one of its members and relating to the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and NFF or the League(s) shall come solely under the jurisdiction of the appropriate Arbitration Tribunal of FIFA, CAF, WAFU or NFF and that any recourse to Ordinary courts is prohibited;
 - g) to communicate to NFF 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 agreements with third parties;
 - h) 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 behaviour as an expression of fair play through statutory provision;
 - j) to observe 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;

- l) to comply fully with other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and NFF;
2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any member may lead to sanctions provided for in these Statutes.

Article 14 Suspension

1. The General Assembly is responsible for suspending a Member. The Executive Committee may, however, suspend a member that seriously violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension shall last until the next General Assembly, unless the Executive Committee has lifted it in the meantime.
2. A suspension shall be confirmed at the next General Assembly by a three-quarter majority of the votes taken. If it is not confirmed, the suspension is automatically lifted.
3. A suspended member shall lose its membership rights. Other members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. The Disciplinary Committee may impose further sanctions.
4. Members that do not participate in the sports activities of NFF for two (2) consecutive years shall be suspended from voting at the General Assembly and representatives shall not be elected or appointed until they have fulfilled their obligations in this respect.

Article 15 Expulsion

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

Article 16 Resignation

1. A Member may resign from NFF with effect from the end of a calendar year. Notice of resignation must reach the General Secretariat no later than six months before the end of the year.
2. The resignation is not valid until the Member wishing to resign has fulfilled its financial obligation towards NFF and the other Members of NFF.

Article 17 Dissolution

The dissolution of the legal entity of a member may be voluntary or legal. In each case it results in the loss of member status, even before the liquidation stage is reached.

Article 18 Status of State Football Associations, Clubs, Leagues, and other groups of club

1. State Football Associations, Clubs, Leagues, or any other groups of Clubs affiliated to NFF shall be subordinate to and recognized by NFF. These Statutes define the scope of authority and rights and duties of these Clubs and groups. Their statutes and regulations and or subsequent amendments must be approved by the Executive Committee of NFF.
2. The affiliated State Football Associations, Clubs, Leagues and Groups of NFF shall take all decisions on any matters regarding their membership independently of any external body. This obligation applies regardless of their corporate structure.
3. In any case, no natural or legal person (including holding companies and subsidiaries) shall exercise control over more than one Club or group whenever the integrity of any match or competition could be jeopardized.

III HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY MEMBER

Article 19 Honorary president and honorary member

1. The General Assembly may bestow the title of honorary President or honorary member upon any persons for meritorious service to football.

2. The Executive Committee shall make these nominations.
3. The honorary president or honorary member may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

IV ORGANISATION

Article 20 Bodies (of the NFF)

1. The General Assembly is the supreme and legislative body.
2. The Executive Committee is the executive body.
3. Standing and ad-hoc committees 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.
4. The general secretariat is the administrative body.
5. The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary, and Appeals Committees.
6. The bodies of NFF shall either be elected or appointed by itself without any external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in these Statutes.

A. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 21 Definition of and composition of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is the meeting at which all of the members of NFF regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of NFF. Only a General Assembly that is regularly convened has the authority to make decisions.
2. A General Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly.

3. The President shall conduct the General Assembly business in compliance with the standing orders of the General Assembly.
4. The General Assembly may appoint observers who take part in the General Assembly without the right to debate or vote.
5. The honorary chairmen or honorary members may take part in the General Assembly. They may join the debates but are not entitled to vote.

Article 22 Delegates and votes

1. The General Assembly is composed of forty-four (44) members of two (2) delegates each. The eighty-eight (88) delegates are as follows:
 - a) the thirty-seven (37) state football associations, including the federal capital territory, subordinate to NFF, each shall have two (2) delegates;
 - b) the Nigeria Referees' Association, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
 - c) the Nigeria Premier League, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
 - d) the players' association, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
 - e) the Nigeria Football Coaches Association, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
 - f) Nigeria National League, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
 - g) Nigeria Amateur League, subordinate to NFF, shall have two (2) delegates;
 - h) Nigeria Women League, subordinate to NFF shall have two (2) delegates;
2. 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.

3. Each of the 44 members shall have one vote in the General Assembly. The names of the delegates, including the one with the right to vote, shall be notified to the General Secretariat before the opening of the General Assembly . Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
4. The Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the General Assembly without voting rights. During their term of office, members of the Executive Committee may not be appointed as delegates for their association.

Article 23 Areas of authority

The General Assembly has the following areas of authority:

- a) adopting or amending the Statutes, regulations governing the application of the Statutes and standing orders of the General Assembly;
- b) appointing six (6) members to check the minutes and approving the minutes of the last meeting;
- c) appointing the scrutineers;
- d) approving the financial statements;
- e) approving the Presidents' activities report;
- f) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;
- g) approving the budget;
- h) fixing membership subscriptions;
- i) electing the President, Vice Presidents and other members of the executive committee;
- j) deciding, on the proposal of the executive committee, whether to bestow the title of honorary President or member on a person who has made a particularly valuable contribution to football within NFF;
- k) admitting, suspending or expelling a member;

- l) revoking the mandate of one or a number of the members of a body of the NFF;
- m) dissolving NFF;
- n) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with these Statutes;

Article 24 Quorum of the General Assembly

1. Decisions passed by the General assembly shall only be valid if the absolute majority (50% +1) of the members who are entitled to vote are represented.
2. If a quorum is not achieved, a second General Assembly shall take place 24 hours after the first, with the same agenda.
3. A quorum is not required for the second meeting unless any item on the agenda proposes the amendment of the Statutes of NFF, the election of the President and the election of the Vice Presidents and members of the Executive Committee, the dismissal of one or a number of members of a body of NFF, the expulsion of a member of NFF or the dissolution of NFF.

Article 25 Decisions of the General Assembly

1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Statutes, a simple majority of the members entitled to vote is sufficient for a vote to be valid. The number of valid votes counted shall decide the majority. Spoiled or blank voting slips or any other forms of abstentions are disregarded in calculating the majority.
2. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands or by means of an electronic count. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken calling the roll in alphabetical order.

Article 26 Elections

1. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

2. For a person to be elected, an absolute (50% + 1) majority of the votes recorded and valid is necessary in the first ballot. In the second and any other requisite ballot, a simple majority of the votes recorded is also sufficient.
3. If there are more than two (2) candidates for one available position, the candidate that obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated as from the second ballot until only two candidates are left.
4. The elections shall be conducted in accordance and in compliance with Electoral Code of the NFF, as directed by FIFA.

Article 27 Ordinary General Assembly

1. The Ordinary General Assembly shall be held every year.
2. The Executive Committee shall fix the place and date. The members shall be notified in writing at least three months (90 days) in advance.
3. The formal convocation shall be made in writing at least one month before the date of the General Assembly. This convocation shall contain the agenda, the President's activity report, the financial statements and the auditors' report and any other relevant documents.

Article 28 General Assembly agenda

1. The General Secretary shall draw up the agenda based on proposals from the Executive Committee and the Members. Any proposal that a member wishes to submit to the General Assembly shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing, with a brief explanation, at least two (2) months before the date of the general Assembly.
2. The General Assembly agenda shall include the following mandatory items:
 - a) a declaration that the General Assembly has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes of NFF;
 - b) approval of the agenda;

- c) an address by the President;
- d) appointment of Members to check the minutes;
- e) appointment of scrutineers;
- f) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);
- g) approval of the minutes of the preceding General Assembly;
- h) President's activity report (containing the activities since the last General Assembly);
- 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 General Assembly (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 Executive Committee of NFF;

3. The agenda of an Ordinary General Assembly may be altered, provided three-quarters of the Members present at the General Assembly and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.
4. The General Assembly shall not make a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

Article 29 Extraordinary General Assembly

1. The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary General Assembly at any time.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if one-fifth of the Members of NFF make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items for the agenda. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be held within three months of receipt of the request. If an Extraordinary General Assembly is not convened, the Members who requested it may convene the General Assembly themselves. As a last resort, the Members may request assistance from FIFA.
3. The Members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda at least one month before the date of an Extraordinary General Assembly.
4. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, it must draw up the agenda. When an Extraordinary General Assembly is convened upon the request of Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those Members.
5. The agenda of an Extraordinary General Assembly may not be altered.

Article 30 Amendments to the Statutes

1. The General Assembly is responsible for amending the Statutes.
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 five (5) other Members.

- 3 For a vote on an amendment to the Statutes to be valid, an absolute majority (50% +1) of the Members eligible to vote must be present.
- 4 A proposal for an amendment to the Statutes shall be adopted only if, three-quarters 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 General Assembly 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 General Assembly shall be adopted only if a simple majority of the Members present and eligible to vote agree to it.

Article 31 Minutes

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

Article 32 Effective dates of decisions

Decisions passed by the General Assembly shall come into effect for the Members seven (7) days after the close of the General Assembly, unless the General Assembly fixes another date for a decision to take effect.

B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 33 Composition

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of fifteen (15) persons, two (2) from each of the six (6) geo-political zones of the territory of Nigeria:

- a) A President
 - b) 1st Vice President
 - c) 2nd Vice President, who shall be chairman of the Premier League;
 - d) One ordinary member who shall be chairman of the Nigeria National League.
 - e) One ordinary member who shall be chairman of the National Amateur League.
 - f) One ordinary member who shall be the chairman of the Nigeria Women League.
 - g) One ordinary member who shall be chairman of the body of State Football Association Chairmen
 - h) Eight (8) other ordinary members.
2. The President, the 1st vice-president and the eight (8) ordinary members (cf. art. 33 (h) here above) of the executive Committee shall be elected by the NFF General assembly.
 3. Every candidate for the post of President must be nominated by his state FA of origin and endorsed by three (3) members of NFF from three (3) other geo-political zones.
 4. The 1st vice-president and the other eight (8) ordinary candidates for the executive committee must be nominated by their state FA of origin and endorsed by two (2) members of NFF from two (2) other geo-political zones.
 5. The candidatures shall be submitted to the NFF General Secretariat not later than two (2) months before the General Assembly at which the election into the executive committee is on the agenda.
 6. The mandate of the president, vice presidents and members of the executive committee is for four years. They may be re-elected.
 7. Every candidate for the executive committee must have already been active in football and must not have been previously found guilty of a criminal offence and have residency in the territory of Nigeria.
 8. Candidatures must be sent to the general secretariat of NFF. The official list of candidates must be passed on to members of NFF along with the agenda for the general assembly at which the election of the Executive Committee is due to take place.

9. A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same time be a member of a judicial body of NFF.
10. If a position should be vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill that position until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be elected for the remaining term of mandate.

Article 34 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 General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;
- b) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly of NFF;
- c) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;
- d) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the judicial bodies;
- e) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;
- f) shall compile the regulations for the organization of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;
- g) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex officio;
- h) shall propose the independent auditors to the General Assembly;
- i) shall decide the place and dates of and the number of teams participating in the competitions of NFF;
- j) shall appoint the coaches for the representative teams and other technical staff;

- k) shall approve regulations stipulating how NFF shall be organized internally;
- l) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;
- m) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of NFF provisionally until the next General Assembly;
- n) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of NFF or third parties.

Article 35 Meetings

1. The executive committee shall meet as required, but at least four times a year.
2. The President shall convene the Executive Committee meetings. If seven members request a meeting, the President shall convene a meeting within the three weeks following the request. If the President does not convene the meeting in this time, one of the members who requested the meeting may do so.
3. The President shall compile the agenda. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to propose items for inclusion in the agenda. The members of the Executive Committee must submit the points they wish included in the agenda for the meeting to the General Secretariat at least two weeks before the meeting. The agenda must be sent out to the members of the executive committee at least seven days before the meeting.
4. The General Secretary must take part in the meetings of the executive committee, in a consultative role.
5. The meetings of the executive committee are not held in public. The executive committee may, however, invite third parties to attend. Those third parties do not have voting rights, and may only express an opinion with the permission of the executive committee.

Article 36 Decisions

1. The executive committee shall not engage in valid debate unless in the presence of eight (8) of its members.
2. It shall make decisions by a simple majority of the members present. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the casting vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.
3. Any member of the executive committee must withdraw from the debate if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests with a member of NFF.
4. The decisions taken are recorded in the minutes.
5. The decisions taken by the executive committee shall come into effect immediately, unless the executive committee decides otherwise.

Article 37 Dismissal of a person or body

- 1 The General Assembly may dismiss a person or body. The Executive Committee may place the dismissal of a person or body on the agenda for the General Assembly. 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 General Assembly.
- 2 The motion for dismissal must be justified. It will be sent to the Members of NFF along with the agenda.
- 3 The person or body in question has the right to speak in his or its own defence.
- 4 If the motion for dismissal is upheld, the General Assembly 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

Article 38 President

- 1 The President represents NFF legally.
- 2 He is primarily responsible for:
 - a) implementing the decisions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee through the general secretariat;
 - b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of NFF in order that they achieve the objectives described in these Statutes;
 - c) supervising the work of the general secretariat;
 - d) relations between NFF and its Members, FIFA, CAF, WAFU, political bodies and other organizations.
- 3 The President shall propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.
- 4 The President shall preside over the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and Emergency Committee meetings and those committees of which he has been appointed President.
- 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 1st Vice-President shall deputize.
- 7 Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organization regulations of NFF.

Article 39 Candidates for the office of the President

- 1 The President shall be elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years. His mandate shall begin after the end of the General Assembly which elected him. A President may be re-elected.

- 2 For the election of the President, two thirds of the votes recorded and valid should be 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 NFF may propose candidates for the office of the President of NFF. Members shall notify the general secretariat in writing of the name of a candidate for the President of NFF at least two (2) months before the date of the General Assembly.
- 4 The general secretariat shall notify the Members of the names of the proposed candidates at least, one (1) month before the date of the General Assembly.
- 5 If the President is permanently or temporarily prevented from performing his official function, the 1st Vice-President shall represent him until the next General Assembly. This General Assembly shall elect a new President, if necessary.

Article 40 Representation and signature

The President represents NFF legally and is entitled to sign for NFF. 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 NFF.

D. EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

Article 41 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 NFF and five (5) members chosen from the Executive Committee for a period of two (2) 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 1st Vice-President shall deputize.

E. STANDING COMMITTEES

Article 42 Standing Committees

The standing committees of NFF are:

- a) Finance Committee
 - b) Internal Audit Committee
 - c) Organizing Committee for NFF Competition
 - d) Technical and Development Committee
 - e) Referees' Committee
 - f) Legal Committee
 - g) Women's Football Committee
 - h) Youth Football Committee
 - i) Futsal/Beach Soccer Committee
 - j) Sport 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, Sponsorship and Television Advisory Committee
 - q) Protocol and Ceremonial Committee
 - r) Security Committee
-
- 2 The chairmen and deputy chairmen 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 committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee on the proposal of

the President of NFF. The chairmen, deputy chairmen and the members of the standing committees shall be designated for a term of office of two (2) years.

- 3 Each Committee Chairman shall represent his committee and conduct business in compliance with the relevant organization regulations drawn up by the Executive Committee.
- 4 Each Committee 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 43 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 NFF 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 three members.

Article 44 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 three members.

Article 45 Organizing Committee for NFF competitions

The Organizing Committee for NFF competitions shall organize the competitions of NFF in compliance with the provisions of these Statutes and the regulations applicable to NFF competitions. It shall consist of a Chairman, who is the 1st Vice President, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 46 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 three members.

Article 47 Referees' Committee

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

Article 48 Legal Committee

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

Article 49 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 three members.

Article 50 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 three members.

Article 51 Futsal/ Beach Soccer Committee

The Futsal/Beach Soccer Committee shall organize Futsal and Beach Soccer competitions and deal with all matters relating to Futsal and Beach

Soccer. It shall consist of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 52 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 three members.

Article 53 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 NFF. The Executive Committee may draw up special regulations governing the Players' Status Committee's powers of jurisdiction. The Players' Status Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and three members.
- 2 Players' status disputes involving NFF, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents shall be settled by an Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with these Statutes.

Article 54 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. It shall consist of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 55 Media Committee

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

Article 56 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, WAFU, CAF and FIFA. It shall consist of a Chairman, who is the 1st Vice President of NFF, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 57 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 three members.

Article 58 Marketing, Sponsorship and Television Advisory Committee

The Marketing and Television Advisory Board shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to drafting and implementing contracts between NFF 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 three members.

Article 59 Protocol and Ceremonial Committee

The protocol and Ceremonial Committee shall advise the executive Committee on all order of protocol at all the NFF competitions and events. It shall also be in charge of all protocol and ceremonial and shall consist of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 60 Security Committee

The Security committee shall advise the NFF on all security matters at all NFF competitions and events. It shall be responsible for the strict implementation of the security/safety regulation issued by FIFA and shall consist of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and three members.

Article 61 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.

F. GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 62 General Secretariat

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

Article 63 General Secretary

- 1 The General Secretary is the chief executive of the general secretariat.
- 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 General Assembly and Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives;
 - b) attending the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - c) organizing the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;
 - d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the General Assembly, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;
 - e) managing and keeping the accounts of NFF properly;
 - f) the correspondence of NFF;
 - g) relations with the Members, committees, FIFA, CAF and WAFU;
 - h) organizing the general secretariat;

- i) proposing managerial staff to the President.
4. The General Secretary may not be a General Assembly delegate or a member of any body of NFF.

G. JUDICIAL BODIES

Article 64 Judicial bodies

- 1 The judicial bodies of NFF 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 NFF, which shall comply with the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 3 The decision-making powers of other committees remain unaffected.
- 4 The members of the judicial bodies may not belong to any other body of NFF at the same time.

Article 65 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 NFF. 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 NFF.
- 3 The committee may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the Disciplinary Code of NFF on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and match and players' agents.
- 4 These provisions are subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with regard to the suspension and expulsion of Members.

Article 66 Appeal Committee

- 1 The Appeal 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 NFF. The committee shall pass decisions only when at least three members are present. In certain cases, the President may rule alone in accordance with the Disciplinary Code of NFF.
- 3 The Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final.

Article 67 Disciplinary measures

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 legal persons:
 - a) a transfer ban;
 - b) playing a match without spectators;
 - c) playing a match on neutral territory;
 - d) a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - e) annulment of the result of the match;
 - f) expulsion;
 - g) a forfeit;

- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division.

Article 68 Arbitration Tribunal

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

Article 69 Jurisdiction

- 1 NFF, 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 FIFA, CAF, WAFU or NFF.
- 2 NFF shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to NFF. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

Article 70 Court of Arbitration for Sport

- 1 In accordance with relevant articles of the FIFA Statutes, any appeal against a final and binding FIFA 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 NFF shall ensure its full compliance and that of its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents with any final decision passed by FIFA, CAF, WAFU body or CAS.

Article 71 Financial period

- 1 The financial period of NFF shall be one year and shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
- 2 The revenue and expenses of NFF shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period. NFF'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 NFF with its subsidiaries as at 31 December

Article 72 Revenue

The revenue of the NFF arises specifically from:

- a) receipts generated by the marketing of rights to which NFF is entitled;
- b) fines imposed by the authorized bodies;
- c) other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by NFF.
- d) Members' annual subscriptions;
- e) all money realized for the general purpose of the NFF;
- f) all money accruing to the NFF by means, including grants-in-aid, endowments and donations;
- g) all charges, fees, dues or other sums recovered by the Executive Committee;
- h) return on investment;
- i) sponsorship;
- j) loans, fines and other receipts due to the NFF;
- k) all money as may be granted to the NFF by the Government of Nigeria.

Article 73 Expenses

NFF bears:

- a) the expenses stipulated in the budget;
- b) other expenses approved by the General Assembly 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 NFF.

Article 74 Independent Auditors

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

Article 75 Membership Affiliation/Subscriptions

- 1 Membership affiliation/subscriptions are due on 30th June of every year. The annual subscription for new Members for the year in question shall be paid within 30 days of the close of the General Assembly at which they are admitted.
- 2 The General Assembly shall fix the amount of the affiliation/membership annual subscription every two years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. It shall be the same amount for every member and shall not be more than N 50'000.— (fifty thousand Naira)

Article 76 Settlement

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

Article 77 Levies

NFF may demand that a levy be paid by its Members for matches.

Article 78 Competitions

- 1 NFF organizes and coordinates the following official competitions held within its territory:
 - a) the FA Cup
 - b) the Premier League
 - c) the National League
 - d) the Amateur League
 - e) the professional women's league
 - f) the amateur women's league
 - g) the women's FA Cup
 - h) any other competition that the general assembly may approve.
- 2 The Executive Committee may delegate to NFF's subordinate Leagues the authority to organize competitions. The competitions organized by the Leagues shall not interfere with those competitions organized by NFF. Competitions organized by NFF shall take priority.
- 3 The Executive Committee may issue special regulations to this end.

Article 79 Club licensing

- 1 The NFF shall operate a Club licensing system in accordance with the principles of the Club licensing regulations of FIFA and CAF.
- 2 The objective of the Club licensing system is to safeguard the credibility and integrity of Club competitions, to improve the level of professionalism of the NFF, to promote sporting values in accordance with the principles of fair play as well as safe and secure match environments and to promote transparency in the finances, ownership and control of Clubs.
- 3 The Executive Committee of the NFF shall issue Club licensing regulations governing the Club licensing system. Inter alia, the Club licensing regulations shall stipulate to which Clubs the system applies. As a minimum, the Club licensing system must be implemented in respect of top-division Clubs which qualify for CAF Club competitions on sporting merit.

Article 80 Rights

- 1 NFF 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. 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 81 Authorization

NFF 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 82 International Matches and competitions

- 1 The authority for organizing international matches and competitions between Association teams and between Leagues and/or Club teams lies solely with FIFA. No match or competition shall take place without the prior permission of the FIFA Executive Committee. In addition, permission from the relevant Confederation may be required in accordance with the FIFA regulations.
- 2 NFF is bound to comply with the international match calendar compiled by FIFA.

Article 83 Contacts

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

Article 84 Approval

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

Article 85 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 86 Dissolution

- 1 Any decision relating to the dissolution of NFF requires a majority of two-thirds of all of the Members of NFF, which must be obtained at a General Assembly specially convened for the purpose.
- 2 If NFF is disbanded, its assets shall be transferred to the agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria in charge of sports. It shall hold this asset in trust as "bonus pater familiae" until NFF is re-established. The final General Assembly may, however, choose another recipient for the assets on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

Article 87 Adoption and enforcement

These Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly in Abuja on 29 December 2009 and took effect from 5 January 2010.

Abuja, 9 December 2009

For the Executive Committee

President
Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi

General Secretary
Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba

