



# Statutes of the PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL FEDERATION

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The terms given below denote the following:

**FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.

**AFC:** Asian Football Confederation

**AFF:** Asean Football Federation

**PFF:** Philippine Football Federation

**Association:** a football Association recognised by and a Member of FIFA.

**League:** an organisation subordinate to an Association.

**Provincial Football Association:** an association subordinate to PFF.

**Confederation:** a group of Associations recognised by FIFA and belonging to the same continent (or similar geographic area).

**Club:** Member of a football Association (that is itself a Member of FIFA).

**Officials:** 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, Club or all the candidates for the elective positions.

**Player:** a football player registered with an Association.

**Congress:** the supreme body of PFF.

**Board of Governors:** the executive body of PFF.

**Member:** a legal person that has been admitted into membership of PFF by the Congress.

**Association Football:** the game controlled by FIFA and organised in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

**IFAB:** the International Football Association Board.

**Ordinary Courts:** state courts which hear public and private legal disputes.

**Arbitration Tribunal:** tribunal acting instead of an Ordinary Court.

**CAS (TAS):** 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

- <sup>1</sup> PFF is a non-stock non-profit corporation established and organised in accordance with Philippine laws with principal office at PFF House of Football, Pasig City, Philippines and duly registered in the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines. It is formed for an unlimited period.
- <sup>2</sup> PFF is a Member of FIFA, AFC, AFF, POC (Philippine Olympic Committee) and recognised by Philippine Sports Commission as the National Sports Association for Football.
- <sup>3</sup> The emblem of PFF is round in form, with the words "Philippine Football Federation 1907" written in blue inside a ring colored yellow. A second inner yellow ring (under the words above-mentioned) shall contain the initial "PFF" in black, with a black and white soccer ball, on top of which are two flags, one colored blue and another, on the right, colored red.
- <sup>4</sup> The abbreviation of PFF is PFF.
- <sup>5</sup> The flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation are legally registered with Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

### Article 2 Objectives

The objectives of PFF are:

- a) to improve the game of football constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of PFF in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;
- b) to organise 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 sanctioned by PFF;
- c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
- d) to protect the interests of its Members;
- e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, of AFC and PFF 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 jeopardise 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 PFF;
- h) to manage international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;
- i) to host competitions at international and other levels.



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**Article 3 Neutrality and non-discrimination**

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- <sup>1</sup> PFF is neutral in matters of politics and religion.
- <sup>2</sup> Discrimination of any kind against a Country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited and punishable by suspension or expulsion.

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**Article 4 Promoting friendly relations**

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- <sup>1</sup> PFF shall promote friendly relations between its Members, Clubs, Officials and Players and in society for humanitarian objectives.
- <sup>2</sup> Every person and organisation involved in the game of football is obliged to observe the PFF Statutes, regulations and the principles of fair play as well as the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
- <sup>3</sup> PFF shall provide the necessary institutional means to resolve any internal dispute that may arise between Members, Clubs, Officials and Players of PFF.

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**Article 5 Players**

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- <sup>1</sup> The status of Players and the provisions for their transfer shall be regulated by the Board of Governors of PFF in accordance with the current FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players.
- <sup>2</sup> Players shall be registered in accordance with the regulations of PFF.

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**Article 6 Laws of the Game**

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- <sup>1</sup> PFF and each of its Members must 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.
- <sup>2</sup> PFF and each of its Members must play Beach Soccer and Futsal in compliance with the Laws of the Game issued by FIFA. Only FIFA may lay down and alter the Beach Soccer and Futsal laws of the Game.

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**Article 7 Conduct of bodies and Officials**

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The bodies and Officials of PFF must observe the Statutes, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, of AFC and of PFF in their activities.

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**Article 8 Official languages**

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<sup>1</sup> The official languages of PFF shall be English and Filipino. Official documents and texts shall be written in English.

<sup>2</sup> The official languages at the Congress shall be English and Filipino.

## **II. Membership**

**Article 9 Admission, suspension and expulsion**

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<sup>1</sup> The Congress shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

<sup>2</sup> Admission may be granted if the applicant fulfils the requirements of PFF.

<sup>3</sup> Membership is terminated by resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its legal and financial obligations towards PFF or other Members of PFF, but leads to cancellation of all rights as a Member of PFF.

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**Article 10 Admission**

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of PFF are:

- a) Clubs of the first division and second division of the National League to be established by PFF;
- b) Provincial Football Associations;
- c) Leagues (recognized by PFF) of national or regional scope (i.e. Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao);
- d) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Referees' groups;
- e) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Coaches' groups;
- f) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Women's Football groups;
- g) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Youth Football groups;
- h) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Futsal groups;
- i) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Beach Soccer groups;
- j) The National Association (recognized by PFF) of Players' groups;

k) University- or College-based football leagues (recognized by PFF) which are national or regional in scope

<sup>2</sup> Any legal person wishing to become a Member of PFF shall apply in writing to the general secretariat of PFF.

<sup>3</sup> 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 the Statutes, regulations and decisions of PFF, FIFA and AFC and ensure that these are also respected by its own Members, Clubs, Officials and Players;
- c) a declaration that it will comply with the Laws of the Game in force;
- d) a declaration that it recognises the Arbitration Court of PFF [if applicable] and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, as specified in these Statutes;
- e) a declaration that it is located and registered in the territory of Philippines;
- f) a declaration that it will play all official home matches in the territory of Philippines;
- g) a declaration to the effect that the legal composition of the applicant guarantees that it can make decisions independently of any external entity;
- h) a list of Officials, specifying those who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
- i) a declaration that it undertakes to organise or participate in friendly matches only with the prior consent of PFF;
- j) a copy of the minutes of its last congress or constitutional meeting.

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Article **11** Request and procedure for application

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<sup>1</sup> The procedure for admission shall be regulated by special regulations approved by the Board of Governors of PFF.

<sup>2</sup> The Board of Governors shall request the Congress either to admit or not to admit an applicant. The applicant may state the reasons for its application to the Congress.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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Article **12** Members' rights

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<sup>1</sup> The Members of PFF have the following rights:

- a) to take part in the Congress of PFF, to know its agenda in advance, to be called to the Congress within the prescribed time and to exercise their voting rights;
- b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Congress;

