

STATUTES OF THE FIFA MASTER ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Statutes

Definitions

"Centre International d'Etude du Sport (CIES)" means The International Centre for Sports Studies, a private foundation, affiliated with the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland and created in 1995 by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the University, the City and Canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

"Executive Board" means the FIFA Master Executive Board which manages the operation of the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport.

"International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport" means the Master programme, more commonly known as the 'FIFA Master', initiated by FIFA, coordinated by CIES (Neuchâtel, Switzerland), and taught by De Montfort University (Leicester, UK), SDA Bocconi School of Management (Milan, Italy) and Neuchâtel University (Neuchâtel, Switzerland).

Interpretation

Words importing the singular only, include the plural and vice versa and words importing the masculine only, include the feminine, neuter and vice versa.

The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Rules.

Article 1 Name, domicile and duration

- 1.1. By these Statutes there is established, within the meaning of Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code, an Association of Alumni of the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport.
- 1.2 The Association shall be called, the "FIFA MASTER ALUMNI" association hereinafter referred to as the 'Association' and/or 'FMA'
- 1.3 The Association shall have its domicile in Neuchâtel, Switzerland.
- 1.4 The Association shall not be limited in time.

Article 2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the Association are:
 - 2.1.1. To officially represent the graduates of the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport, bringing together all the graduates and postgraduates;
 - 2.1.2. To promote and reinforce contacts, mutual assistance (notably in terms of employment prospects) and information between all its members, in particular across the various editions of the International Master:
 - 2.1.3. To promote and raise the awareness and profile of the International Master within sports organisations, on a worldwide basis;
 - 2.1.4. To maintain an active link between its members and official bodies of the Master (Universities, CIES, FIFA, Scientific Committee and Board of the Master);
 - 2.1.5. To serve an active role in the strategic planning of the future of the Master.
- 2.2. These objectives may be pursued all over the world.

Article 3 Language

The official language of the Association shall be English.

Membership

Article 4 Membership

4.1. Full Members of the association are graduates who have been awarded a diploma in the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport.

- 4.2. Partial Members of the association are persons who have completed the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport but who have not been awarded a diploma.
- 4.3. Persons enrolled on the course who have failed to complete the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport (MAS) shall be entitled to partial membership.
- 4.4. Temporary Membership is applicable to students enrolled on the course only for the duration of the academic year and expires at Graduation at which point current students fall into one of the other categories of Membership according to the above sub-articles 4.1, 4.2 or 4.3.

Article 5 Honorary Membership

Honorary members can be nominated by the Committee and admitted by the next General Assembly. These members can participate in the General Assembly but have no voting right.

Article 6 Loss of Membership

- 6.1 A Member may withdraw from the Association; such withdrawal shall take effect immediately after receipt of a written notice, sent to the Committee.
- 6.2 The General Assembly may exclude a Member at any time if the Member, as judged by the Committee, has acted contrary to the objectives of the Association or to regulations adopted by the General Assembly or the Committee, or has violated its obligations as a Member or has brought FMA, the FIFA Master or its stakeholders into disrepute. Termination shall be effective on the date specified in the Notice of termination delivered to the Member.

Article 7 Rights and Duties of the Members

- 7.1 The rights of the Members are:
 - 7.1.1 To know in advance the agenda of any General Assembly;
 - 7.1.2 To be called to the meeting within the prescribed time;
 - 7.1.3 To take part in the meeting;
 - 7.1.4 To apply to become member of the Committee (Full and Temporary Members only);
 - 7.1.5 To exercise their right to vote (Full and Temporary Members only);
 - 7.1.6 To act as an Auditor of the Association subject to nomination by the committee (Full Members only);
 - 7.1.7 To take part in Sub Committees or any other delegated functions provided by the Committee from time to time.
- 7.2 The duties of the Members are:

- 7.2.1 To contribute by all means to raise the awareness, notoriety and profile of the International Master (MAS) in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport;
- 7.2.2 To support and further the objectives and policies of the Association;
- 7.2.3 To seek to enhance and preserve the reputation and integrity of the Association;
- 7.2.4 To use his/her voting right in relation to proposals being put forward by the Committee.

Structure and Organisation

Article 8 Structure

- 8.1 The organs of the Association shall be:
 - 8.1.1 The General Assembly;
 - 8.1.2 The Committee:
 - 8.1.3 The Auditors of the Accounts.
- 8.2 The Committee may establish Sub-Committees for specific tasks.

Article 9 The General Assembly

- 9.1 The General Assembly is composed of all Members of the Association as defined in art. 4 & 5 of these Statutes.
- 9.2 The Committee shall call a session of the General Assembly at least once a year.
- 9.3 The sessions of the General Assembly can take the format of either:
 - 9.3.1 An actual meeting of its members (preferably at a venue and time coinciding with major sporting events -Olympic Games, FIFA World Cup, UEFA Euro Tournament-), or.
 - 9.3.2 A remote correspondence and discussion of its members (email, via website, fax or any other appropriate means of communication).
- 9.4 The General Assembly shall be convened by the Committee sending Notices to the Members at least ninety (90) days before the date of the General Assembly, in the case of an actual meeting and at least fifteen (15) days in the case of a remote correspondence and discussion. The Notice of the meeting shall state the time and place (if applicable) and agenda of the meeting. The General Assembly may be held anywhere in the world.
- 9.5 A quorum shall be achieved at a General Assembly if 1/5th or more Full Members are present or qualify to vote under clause 9.8.

- 9.6 The General Assembly has the right and the duty to:
 - 9.6.1 Elect the Committee;
 - 9.6.2 Adopt the Annual Report and the Annual Accounts;
 - 9.6.3 Approve the administration of the Committee;
 - 9.6.4 Decide on exclusion of a member from the Association:
 - 9.6.5 Admit Honorary members;
 - 9.6.6 Decide on amendments to or modifications of the Statutes in accordance with article 23 thereof;
 - 9.6.7 Decide on the dissolution of the Association in accordance with article 24 thereof:
 - 9.6.8 Take action on any matters referred by the Committee;
 - 9.6.9 Take action on any matters otherwise vested in it by these Statutes;
 - 9.6.10 Approve the minutes of the last General Assembly meeting.
 - 9.6.11 Approve the report and accounts of the FMA Fund
- 9.7 The agenda may be modified by a simple majority of the votes validly cast by the Full Members in favour of the modification.
- 9.8 A member who is unable to be in attendance at a General Assembly shall be entitled to vote by way of fax, email, or by any other method of correspondence as stipulated by the committee from time to time in advance of a General Assembly.
- 9.9 The members of the Committee shall not vote on any decision regarding their administration.
- 9.10 Unless otherwise stipulated in the law or in the present Statutes, the General Assembly takes a decision or elects persons by a simple majority of the votes validly cast, except when a qualified majority is required by these statutes.
- 9.11 Extraordinary sessions may be convened by the Committee either on its own motion, or as a result of a request supported by one tenth of the Full Members. An extraordinary session is to be convened no later than sixty (60) days after submission of the request in the case of an actual meeting and no later than 10 days after submission of the request in the case of a remoter correspondence and discussion. The rules governing the General Assembly herein also apply to Extraordinary sessions.
- 9.12 When an extraordinary assembly is convened on the initiative of the Committee, this body must set the agenda. When it is convened at the request of at least one tenth of the Full Members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those members.

Article 10 The Committee

10.1 The Association shall be administered by a Committee composed of the six (6) Full Members who are elected by the General Assembly.

- 10.2 A Committee member shall not be personally liable in pursuit of discharging the objectives and functions of the Association unless they have discharged their duties in a corrupt or criminal manner.
- 10.3 Every year, a minimum of two (2) seats will be subject for election:
 - 10.3.1 One (1) seat within the Committee will be allocated automatically to a representative of the current/last edition of the Master. If no representative of the current/last edition applies for election, this seat will then be taken by any other graduate elected by the General Assembly. The representative shall be a graduate or student about to graduate depending on the timing of the election, on condition that the student elected actually graduates and is awarded a diploma.
 - 10.3.2 In addition, at least one (1) other seat will be open to election by the General Assembly.
- 10.4 The Committee shall decide and select the two (2) members, whose seats will be subject for election, as described in paragraph 10.3. Shall the Committee be unable to reach a consensual decision; all six (6) seats will be open to election.
- 10.5 In the event of a tied vote the Committee shall order a re-vote in a manner prescribed by the committee. In the event of a second tied vote the votes shall be counted by edition with each edition counting as one vote. The Candidate with the most "edition" votes shall be elected. In the event of a tied vote following the edition vote a fresh third vote shall take place.
- 10.6 Any Committee member may stay up to three (3) years maximum within the Committee without being subject to re-election. At the end of this period, the said Committee member(s) will have to be re-elected, should they wish to stay within the Committee.
- 10.7 The Committee members shall name the President from among themselves. The five (5) other members will be Vice-presidents. Among the five Vice-presidents, the Committee shall name one (1) to act as Treasurer and one (1) to act as Secretary.
- 10.8 The members of the Committee may be re-elected.
- 10.9 Office in the Committee shall end:
 - 10.9.1 At the end of their term of office, subject to re-election;
 - 10.9.2 By resignation;
 - 10.9.3 By dismissal by the General Assembly; or
 - 10.9.4 Upon withdrawal or termination of the membership of the Full Member.

In the event of any committee member ending their term in office under 10.9 the Committee shall remain validly appointed as a Committee notwithstanding clause 10.1 above until the next election

- 10.10 The Committee shall hold sessions (in the form of actual meeting or remote correspondence) at least six (6) times a year as called by the President or any Vice-president.
- 10.11 Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. In case of deadlock, the President shall have the casting vote.
- 10.12 A meeting of the Committee shall achieve the quorum when at least the majority of the members of the Committee are present. Decisions of the Committee shall require a majority of the votes expressed.
- 10.13 The President and the Treasurer of the Committee, or an authorised appointed individual, are authorised and empowered to sign documents on behalf of, and to represent the Association vis-à-vis third parties or a designated person by these Committee members.
- 10.14 The Committee shall have all responsibility for the management of the Association and shall have complete authority to take any action on behalf of the Association that is not incompatible with these Statutes.

In particular:

- 10.14.1 The Committee shall be responsible for formulating the Association's general policy.
- 10.14.2 The Committee shall have the powers and duties set out in these Statutes, any power vested upon it by the General Assembly and, more specifically, to:
 - a) Determine the visions and missions of the Association with a view to promoting the objectives of the Association;
 - b) Dispose of all matters not specifically assigned to any other organ of the Association.
 - c) Represent the Alumni by attending Board Meetings of the Executive Board.
 - d) Manage the FMA Fund.

Article 11 The President

- 11.1. The President officially represents the Association towards all third parties (in particular towards the CIES, the Three Partner Universities and FIFA). In his absence, any other Vice-president can take this role.
- 11.2. The President, in his absence the longest serving Vice-president, chairs the sessions of the General Assembly and of the Committee.
- 11.3. The President/Chairman shall have the duties and powers set out in these Statutes. In particular, he shall:
 - 11.3.1. Chair the meetings of the Committee and the General Meetings;
 - 11.3.2. Represent the Committee at General Meetings;

- 11.3.3. Refer matters to the Committee for its consideration and approval;
- 11.3.4. Report regularly to the Committee and to the General Meetings on the activities of the Association in the pursuit of the Association's objectives; and,
- 11.3.5. Make and act upon such decisions as he may think fit in the exercise of all powers and discretion expressly granted by these Statutes and by resolutions of the Committee or, as the case may be, the General Meeting, provided they serve the objectives of the Association.

Article 12 The Treasurer

- 12.1. The Treasurer is responsible for the budget and all accounts of the Association.
- 12.2. Once a year, the Treasurer shall present to the General Assembly, for approval, an Annual Report including the Accounts of the Association's financial transactions during the previous accounting year and the proposed budget for the following year.

Article 13 The Auditors of the Accounts

- 13.1. Two Auditors of the Accounts are elected by the General Assembly for a period of one year.
- 13.2. The Auditors shall audit the all the accounts of the Association and present their report to the members of the General Assembly
- 13.3. They may be re-elected.

Article 14 The Secretary

- 14.1 The Secretary documents the proceedings of meetings of the General Assembly and of the Committee in written minutes to be respectively approved by the General Assembly and by the President, or in his absence the Vice-president.
- 14.2 The Secretary prepares and forwards the Agenda for meetings of the General Assembly and the Committee.

Article 15 Sub-Committees

- 15.1. Sub-Committees can be set up by the Committee on an ad hoc basis. They shall provide recommendations to be examined by the Committee.
- 15.2. The size of each sub-committee shall correspond to the tasks concerned.
- 15.3. Each sub-committee shall include at least one member of the Committee.

15.4. The Committee shall set up standing orders for each Committee.

Article 16 Headquarters and administration

The Headquarters of the Association are located at the CIES in Neuchâtel, the CIES assisting with the administration of the Association.

Finance and Assets

Article 17 Assets

The assets of the Association consist of:

- a) The movable and immovable property belonging to the Association;
- b) Reserve funds carried over from the last balance:
- c) Donations, Bequests and inheritances
- d) Intellectual Property of the Association.
- e) The FMA Fund.

Article 18 Revenue

- 18.1. The revenue of the Association may include:
 - 18.1.1. Subsidies and grants;
 - 18.1.2. Receipts generated by special events;
 - 18.1.3. Dispositions of all kinds;
 - 18.1.4. Capital and Interest Yields
 - 18.1.5. Donations
- 18.2. The use of the revenue is dedicated to the objectives of the Association.

Article 19 Surplus

Any surplus of funds at the end of an accounting period may be carried over to the next period.

Article 20 Debts

The Association may not engage in loans to finance its activities without the prior consent of at least 2/3rds of the General Assembly.

Article 21 Liability

21.1. The liability of the Association is limited to its assets.

Article 22 The FMA Fund

- 22.1 The Association establishes a separate account to be named hereafter the "FMA Fund" of which the objective is to create a culture of "giving back" so that graduates of the FM can remain active and involved in FMA and in the continued promotion and improvement of the Master.
- 22.2 Resources The Fund will be open to donations from, though the following is not exhaustive, Alumni, sport organisations or companies, educational institutions, and other bodies or individuals with an interest in supporting FMA activities and initiatives.
- 22.3 Management of the Fund The Fund shall be managed by the Committee and its operations covered in a separate document on the Policies and Procedures of said Fund.
- 22.4 The FMA Fund shall be audited once per year by the auditors who will present their report to the General Assembly.

Article 23 Financial Accounting Year

The financial accounting year of the Association (the "Accounting Year") shall be twelve months, commencing on July 1 and ending on June 31, or as may otherwise be determined by the Committee. The first Accounting Year shall commence on the Effective Date and shall end on June 31 of the next calendar year

Final Provisions

Article 24 Amendment to the Statutes

These Statutes may be amended by a resolution of the General Assembly passed by a majority of 2/3rd of the votes validly cast by the Full Members.

Article 25 Dissolution

- 25.1. The decision relating to the dissolution of the Association requires an extraordinary session of the General Assembly, especially convened for that purpose, in which at least 2/3 of the Full Members, who are entitled to vote.
- 25.2. The dissolution of the Association shall be voted by a majority of 75% of the Full Members
- 25.3. In the event of dissolution of the Association, its assets go to the CIES.

Article 26 Applicable Law

The relationships among the Members and the Association and the acts of the various governing organs of the Association shall be governed by these Statutes, which shall in all aspects be regarded as made under, and governed by, Swiss law.

Article 27 Matters not provided for in the Statutes

Any matters not provided for under these statutes or cases of force majeure must be settled by the Committee.

Article 28 Effective Date

These Statutes have been adopted by the Members whose names are listed in Appendix 1 herewith and shall come into effect as of

Article 29 Notices

Notices or communications may be by way of letter, fax or email.

The President

The Vice-president, acting as Secretary