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# STATUTES

## ARTICLE 1 INTERPRETATION

Unless indicated otherwise or unless the context indicates a different intent, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them hereunder:

1. “**CAF**” shall mean Confederation Africaine de Football.
2. “**COSAFA**” shall mean Council of Southern Africa Football Associations
3. “**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**” shall mean The Executive Committee of COSAFA constituted in accordance with these Statutes.
4. “**FIFA**” shall mean Federation Internationale de Football Association.
5. “**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**” shall mean The General Assembly of COSAFA constituted in accordance with these Statutes.
6. “**GENERAL SECRETARY**” shall mean The General Secretary of COSAFA appointed in accordance with these Statutes.
7. “**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**” shall mean A national association of COSAFA contemplated in article 5 of these Statutes, and “**MEMBER ASSOCIATION**” shall have a corresponding meaning.
8. “**PRESIDENT**” shall mean The President of COSAFA elected in terms of these Statutes.
9. “**RULES**” shall mean the Rules and Regulations of COSAFA together with additions and alterations which may from time to time be made or accepted by the Executive Committee.
10. “**INDEPENDENT MEMBER/PERSON** ” shall mean any member or person not having a contractual relationship with COSAFA, or with his or her national association, and not being a member of COSAFA Executive Board nor a member of his or her national association’s Executive Committee, during the last four years preceding his or her election by the General Assembly, according to the dispositions of the current statutes.
11. “**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**” shall mean the Governance Committee appointed in accordance with these Statutes.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **NAME, SCOPE AND AREA OF JURISDICTION**

- 2.1 The name of the Council shall be the COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN AFRICA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATIONS (from now on referred to as “COSAFa”) duly established and constituted in accordance with the Statutes of CAF.
- 2.2 COSAFa shall operate as a council of all Football Associations duly admitted and registered as such in accordance with these Statutes.
- 2.3 The area of jurisdiction shall be Southern Africa as defined by the Statutes of CAF.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **SEAT OF SECRETARIAT**

- 3.1 The seat of the Secretariat of COSAFa shall be Johannesburg, South Africa. It must benefit from the authorities of the host country all the advantages and prerogatives granted to organisations of similar status.
- 3.2 The seat of the Secretariat of COSAFa shall be determined by a two-thirds majority decision of an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly of COSAFa. The Secretariat may be transferred elsewhere only by a decision of a two-thirds majority of Member Associations present and voting at an Ordinary or Extraordinary General Assembly meeting and taken by secret ballot.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **LEGAL STATUS AND CHARACTER**

- 4.1 COSAFa shall have a separate and distinct existence from its members with powers to sue or be sued in its own name and shall have perpetual succession.
- 4.2 COSAFa shall hold property apart from its members.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND ADMISSION**

- 5.1 COSAFa shall consist of National Associations in Southern Africa, which are recognised by CAF and FIFA as being the official bodies controlling football in their respective countries and which are admitted by COSAFa in accordance with these Statutes.
- 5.2 Members of COSAFa are Angola Botswana. Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

- 5.3 The General Assembly of COSAFA has the right, based on the criteria related to geographical proximity as stipulated in Art. 13 of the CAF Statutes, to admit to its Membership, Associate Members recognised by CAF.
- 5.4 Only one National Association shall be recognised in each country provided that such National Association is recognised by CAF and FIFA.
- 5.5 Should a Member Association be suspended or cease to be recognised by CAF and FIFA, then the same status would apply with regard to its membership in COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **RIGHTS OF MEMBERS**

- 6.1 Participate in the General Assembly
- 6.2 Formulate proposals for consideration at the General Assembly
- 6.3 Nominate candidates for the election of the President, vice-President and Members of the Executive Committee
- 6.4 Participate in competitions organised by COSAFA
- 6.5 Benefit from the technical and development assistance programmes that are availed to COSAFA by CAF or FIFA or other bodies
- 6.6 Benefit from all other rights arising from these Statutes and other regulations.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS**

- 7.1 Respect unreservedly and at all times the principles of ethics and fair play as enacted by CAF and FIFA, the principles of integrity and sportsmanship, the Statutes, Regulations, decisions and directives of COSAFA, CAF and FIFA.
- 7.2 Participate in a minimum of four (4) competitions organised by COSAFA annually.
- 7.3 Pay Affiliation Fees, in full, as defined under Art. 38.1 Finance.
- 7.4 Respect the Laws of the Game.
- 7.5 Respect the COSAFA Code of Ethics.
- 7.6 Conduct their affairs independently and ensure no interference of any kind by any third party.
- 7.7 Comply with the World Anti-Doping Code, observing its regulations.
- 7.8 Respect all internationally recognised human rights.
- 7.9 A Member Association which fails to pay its annual subscription or other financial dues in terms of these Statutes shall lose all rights and privileges in COSAFA, provided that it shall remain bound by these Statutes and the duties and obligations imposed on every Member Association. Such Member Association shall be liable for suspension by the

Executive Committee. Such a Member Association shall also be liable for penalties to be imposed by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE 8 SUSPENSION**

8.1 The General Assembly has the capacity to suspend any Member.

The Executive Committee may suspend, with immediate effect, any member found guilty of serious violations of its obligations. Such suspension shall remain in effect until the next General Assembly unless the Executive Committee lifts it.

8.2 Any suspension decided by the Executive Committee must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the next General Assembly. Should a majority vote not be obtained, such sanction shall automatically be lifted with immediate effect. Any decision submitted to the General Assembly must indicate the period of suspension.

8.3 Suspended members shall automatically forego all rights and privileges pertaining to their membership. All other members shall immediately cease sporting contact with the suspended member association failing which they shall be subject to the sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Board.

8.4 Members who have not participated in at least one (1) COSAFA official competition over a period of two (2) consecutive years shall be deprived of their right to vote at a General Assembly, and from the support and financial assistance of COSAFA until the fulfilment of this obligation.

## **ARTICLE 9 EXPULSION**

9.1 The General Assembly may expel a member solely at the request of the COSAFA Executive Committee if without limitation:

- a) The Member has been found guilty of a serious violation of the Statutes, Rules and Regulations and Standing Orders of COSAFA or CAF directives & decisions, or Code of Ethics of COSAFA and CAF.
- b) The Member fails to fulfil its financial obligations to COSAFA.
- c) The Member ceases to have the legal status of a Football Association in its own country.
- d) The Member ceases to be a member of CAF or FIFA.

9.2 The Executive Committee may, without a vote of the General Assembly, temporarily suspend with immediate effect a Member association that is found guilty of a serious violation of its obligations. A suspension approved by the Executive Committee shall

be in effect until the next General Assembly unless the Executive Committee has revoked such suspension prior to such General Assembly.

9.3 The presence of an absolute majority of Members eligible to vote at the General Assembly is necessary for an expulsion to be valid; as well as the two-thirds majority of the votes validly cast.

## **ARTICLE 10 WITHDRAWAL**

10.1 A Member Association wishing to withdraw from COSAFA shall notify the General Secretary of such intention no later than six (6) months before the end of the calendar year by either by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail.

10.2 Such withdrawal shall be accepted and become effective only once the Executive Committee is satisfied that the Member Association has fulfilled all its obligations to COSAFA and its members.

10.3 Once permitted to withdraw, a Member Association may re-apply for but shall not be re-admitted to [membership](#) until it shall have paid all subscriptions and other financial obligations for the period during which such Association had withdrawn its membership.

## **ARTICLE 11 OBJECTIVES AND DUTIES**

The objectives and duties of COSAFA shall include the following:

- 11.1 To promote, regulate and develop the game of football in Southern Africa in every way which may seem proper to COSAFA and/or its Executive Committee without discrimination by reason of ethnicity, gender, handicap, language, religion, politics and in accordance with the laws of the game of football as laid down from time to time by FIFA.
- 11.2 To foster friendly sporting relations among Member Associations by encouraging matches at youth, club and national levels and other forms of interaction.
- 11.3 To organise and/or sponsor competitions and tournaments and such other matches as may be deemed desirable from time to time.
- 11.4 To organise courses and seminars for coaches, referees, sports doctors, administrators and other personnel necessary for the development of football in Southern Africa.

- 11.5 To promote the development of women's football and ensure the full participation of women at all levels of football governance.
- 11.6 To maintain strong relations concerning the development of football with CAF, FIFA and other football Councils and Zonal Unions within CAF.
- 11.7 To follow, where possible, the agenda and decisions of CAF and FIFA meetings and to adopt a common attitude towards them.
- 11.8 To sanction or disallow competitions, tournaments or matches organised by teams, and/or National Associations provided that such competitions, tournaments or matches are such that they require COSAFA's approval.
- 11.9 To deal only with Member Associations and in no cases enter into any relations with local football bodies or clubs affiliated to Member Associations.
- 11.10 To ensure due to compliance with the statutes and regulations of CAF and FIFA.
- 11.11 To fight against doping and to take the necessary measures to combat the use of prohibited substances in order to protect the health of footballers and the credibility of the competitions.
- 11.12 To use COSAFA activities, wherever possible, to promote social responsibility initiatives within and for the advancement of communities in Southern Africa.
- 11.13 To ensure that the activities of COSAFA are carried on in a non-profit manner and with altruistic or philanthropic intent.
- 11.14 To ensure that no activity of COSAFA will directly or indirectly promote the economic self-interest of any member, person or employee of COSAFA otherwise than by way of reasonable remuneration.
- 11.15 To comply with COSAFA's status as a non-profit organisation by submitting a copy of all amendments to the founding document of COSAFA to the Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for approval from time to time.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **POWERS OF COSAFA**

COSAFA shall have the power to:



- 12.1 Ensure that the provisions of these Statutes and the Statutes and Regulations of CAF and FIFA are complied with and observed.
- 12.2 Purchase, lease, take on hire or otherwise acquire any property wherever situate.
- 12.3 Exercise disciplinary control over its members, officials, employees and other persons and the game of football within its Member Associations, provided, however that this shall be done in accordance with these Statutes and/or the Regulations made hereunder.
- 12.4 Manage, insure, let, sell, alienate, mortgage or otherwise deal with any of its property.
- 12.5 Receive donations or gifts of monies or other property from any person or body and, for the furtherance of its objects, to receive donations or gifts beneficially or as trustees of any trust established for the furtherance of its objectives.
- 12.6 Dissolve its organs or other committees on motions and in the manner and procedure provided herein.
- 12.7 Do or perform any act necessary to or directed towards the furtherance of its objectives.
- 12.8 Open and operate bank accounts, apply for credit, loans and other financial instruments in the furtherance of its operations and objectives.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **ORGANS OF COSAFA**

The following shall be the organs of COSAFA:

1. General Assembly
2. Executive Committee
3. Standing Committees
4. Secretariat
5. Governance Committee
6. Judicial Bodies
7. Ethics Board

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- 14.1 The General Assembly shall be the supreme governing and legislative body of COSAFA.
- 14.2 The General Assembly shall consist of:
- a) delegates duly designated as such by respective National Associations. Each National Association shall be entitled to be represented by not more than three delegates at the General Assembly meeting, one of whom shall be designated, in writing, by the National Association to vote on its behalf.
  - b) The General Assembly shall also include ex officio, members of the CAF Executive Committee from the Southern Zone (COSAFA) and a CAF representative.
- 14.3 The General Assembly shall meet annually on a date and at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee, preferably during one of the COSAFA tournaments. Meetings of COSAFA may take place in person, by teleconference, by video-conference or by any virtual platform or by any other similar means of communication.
- 14.4 The General Assembly may be convened for an Extra-Ordinary Meeting at the instance of the Executive Committee or at a written request of at least two-thirds of the member Associations of COSAFA. In the event of a Meeting at the written request of the Members, the Executive Committee shall convene such a Meeting as soon as is practicable after receiving the request.
- 14.5 The date and place of an Annual General Assembly meeting shall be notified by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail to all National Associations, at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting.
- 14.6 The travelling, boarding and lodging expenses of delegates to the General Assembly meeting shall be paid by their National Associations unless the Executive Committee decides otherwise.
- 14.7 The expenses of the President, Vice President, Executive Committee members, Honorary Members and Staff of COSAFA to an Annual General Assembly meeting, Extra Ordinary General Assembly meeting and/or any other meeting of and/or organised by COSAFA shall be borne by COSAFA.

- 14.8 Each and every National Association shall have a right to one vote on any point deliberated upon by the General Assembly, which requires a decision by voting.
- 14.9 Only delegates present shall be entitled to vote and voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- 14.10 No delegate shall be allowed to represent more than one National Association.
- 14.11 All proposals, nominations and questions to be submitted to the General Assembly meeting by National Associations or the Executive Committee shall be sent to the General Secretary by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail at least thirty (30) days before such General Assembly meeting.
- 14.12 The agenda specifying the nature of business to be transacted, the Executive Committee report, the balance sheet and Auditor's report, and audited Financial Statements shall be sent to all National Associations by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail at least thirty (30) days before an annual General Assembly meeting.
- 14.13 The following items shall be included on the agenda for an Annual General Assembly meeting:
- a) Roll call and apologies;
  - b) Address by the President;
  - c) Designation of two (2) Members responsible for checking the official Minutes;
  - d) Appointment of the Scrutineers;
  - e) Consideration and confirmation of minutes of the preceding General Assembly meeting(s);
  - f) Activity Report covering the period since the preceding Annual General Assembly meeting;
  - g) Submission of Audited Financial Report and Appointment of Auditors;
  - h) Submission of the Annual Budget;
  - i) Admission, suspension, expulsion and/or resignation of Member Associations;
  - j) Consideration of proposals for alterations and/or amendments to the Statutes, Regulations and/or Standing Orders of COSAFA;
  - k) Consideration of proposals and questions from National Associations duly submitted in terms of these Statutes;
  - l) Urgent matters not submitted to the General Secretary in terms hereof may be dealt with by the General Assembly provided that a two-thirds majority of Member Associations present and voting agree;
  - m) Consideration of the countries to organise forthcoming competitions, if necessary;
  - n) Election of office bearers, including the election of Judicial Body Chairmen and Deputy chairpersons, when necessary;

- o) Any other matter deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.
- 14.14 Voting on all matters shall be by a show of hands or by calling the roll, except in the case of the election of office bearers which shall be by secret ballot or as otherwise provided for in these Statutes, unless the General Assembly directs otherwise.
- 14.15 The quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the Member Associations.
- 14.16 In case of lack of a quorum, the General Assembly shall be called to reconvene after 24 hours when half the Member Associations plus one shall form a quorum.
- 14.17 Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority unless otherwise specifically provided.
- 14.18 Decisions taken by the General Assembly shall be binding on all members as long as they are not contrary to CAF or FIFA statutes. Such decisions shall come into effect immediately unless directed otherwise by the General Assembly.
- 14.19 Minutes of the General Assembly shall be circulated to Member Associations by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail within thirty (30) days from the date of any General Assembly meeting.
- 14.20 Unless notification to the contrary is received by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail within thirty (30) days of the date of dispatch, approval of the Minutes shall be assumed.
- 14.21 In the event of disapproval on any point in the Minutes, the matter shall be included in the agenda of the next General Assembly meeting.
- 14.22 The Standing Orders of the General Assembly of CAF and the Congress of FIFA shall apply in all matters of procedure otherwise not provided for herein.
- 14.23 The General Assembly has the power to suspend or expel a member.
- 14.24 Any member guilty of a serious breach of obligations may be suspended immediately by the Executive Committee. If this is not lifted in the meantime by the Executive Committee, it remains valid and in force until the next General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- 15.1 The Executive Committee shall be the body vested with executive powers to act on behalf of COSAFA and shall be answerable to the General Assembly.
- 15.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, five (5) Members, at least one (1) of whom shall be a Woman and up to two (2) Co-opted Members.
- 15.3 The President, Vice President and Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected on merit and by secret ballot by the General Assembly in accordance with the COSAFA Electoral code through the Electoral Committee. They shall hold office for a period of 4 years and shall be eligible for re-election subject to the provisions of Art. 15.6, 15.7 and 15.8 of the COSAFA Statutes.
- 15.4 The Executive Committee may, upon a proposal by the President, decide to co-opt a maximum of 2 members for a term of four (4) years by a simple majority of the Members present. Such Co-opted Members shall not be granted voting rights.
- 15.5 The names of candidates for election of President, Vice President and Executive Committee Members shall be submitted to the General Secretary by Member Associations at least thirty (30) days before the date of the General Assembly meeting at which the elections are due to be held.
- 15.6 Each Member Association may nominate only ONE (1) candidate for the position of President and Vice-President. They must be the President-in-Office of his/her member association at the time of his/her election.
- 15.7 In the event that the President ceases to hold office or loses his/her position as President of his/her member association, he/she automatically loses the position of President of COSAFA and must vacate the position. The Vice-President shall act in his/her position for the remainder of the term until an election is held at the next General Assembly for the position of President.
- 15.8 In the event that the Vice-President ceases to hold office or loses his/her position in his/her member association, he/she automatically loses the position of Vice-President of COSAFA and must vacate the position. The most senior Executive member shall act in the position of President for the remainder of the term until an election is held at the next General Assembly for the position of President and Vice-President.
- 15.9 In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Committee before the end of the term of office, a member shall be co-opted by the Executive Committee for the remainder of the current term and ratified at the next Ordinary General Assembly.

## ARTICLE 16

### DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 16.1 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the execution of the policies and decisions of the General Assembly.
- 16.2 The Executive Committee may decide upon any other matter that does not fall within the competence of the General Assembly or the Judicial bodies.
- 16.3 The Executive Committee may, from time to time, and as often as it may deem fit, delegate its powers to standing or-ad hoc committees to deal with special matters arising during the course of the management of COSAFA.
- 16.4 It shall approve the working programme of the Competitions Committee and other Committees and shall make stipulations concerning financial matters.
- 16.5 The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice a year, and it may also additionally meet at the written request of at least two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Executive Committee. Meetings of the Executive Committee may take place in person, by teleconference, by video-conference or by any virtual platform or by any other similar means of communication.
- 16.6 A member of the Executive Committee or of any Standing Committee who has an interest in a matter before the Executive Committee or Standing Committee, as the case may be, shall disclose such interest and shall recuse himself/herself from the meeting during deliberations on the matter and shall not vote when a decision is being taken on such matter.
- 16.7 The Executive Committee shall have the power to dismiss any member of a Standing Committee for failure to discharge his/her functions or duties and may replace such member as it deems fit.
- 16.8 All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be adopted by a simple majority of votes recorded. In the event of a split vote, the President shall have a casting vote. The decisions of the Executive Committee are binding, with immediate effect.
- 16.19 A quorum shall be half of the members of the Executive Committee plus one.
- 16.10 In the event of the death, resignation or dismissal of the President, the Vice President shall act as the President until the next General Assembly and, in the event of both of them being unavailable for whatever reason, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy occasioned by the aforesaid events until the next General Assembly. In

considering such members, regard shall be had to the merits of such members in order to fill the vacancy.

- 16.11 The Executive Committee may, if it deems it fit, enquire into cases of serious misconduct of any office bearers, individual members of the Executive Committee, a Member Association and/or any other person or body subject to its jurisdiction and refer the matter to the Disciplinary Board for appropriate action.
- 16.12 The Executive Committee shall admit as Ex-officio Members those members on the CAF Executive Committee from the Southern Zone of CAF who are not on the COSAFA Executive Committee, provided such members are allowed to attend and participate at Executive Committee meetings without voting rights.
- 16.13 The Executive Committee may co-opt two (2) Members to serve on the Executive Committee provided that such Members shall not have voting rights.
- 16.14 Upon the proposal of the President of the COSAFA, the Executive Committee shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary.
- 16.15 The Executive Committee shall propose to the General Assembly the names of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Members of the Judicial Bodies, Ethics Board and the independent Governance Committee after receipt of nominations from the Member Associations.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF EXCO**

#### **17.1 PRESIDENT**

The President:

- a) Shall, subject to these Statutes, preside over the General Assembly meetings and other meetings of COSAFA, provided however that, if the President is not present at any of these meetings, the Vice-President shall preside over the meeting. In the event that both the President and Vice-President are not present, the Members present shall choose one of them to preside over the meeting.
- b) Or, in his/her absence, the Vice-President, and the General Secretary shall jointly sign all documents binding COSAFA. No document, which is not signed in accordance with these statutes, shall have any binding effect on COSAFA.

- c) Shall represent COSAFA in other fora.
- d) Shall be responsible for the general running and wellbeing of COSAFA. He/she shall implement, through the Secretariat which he/she oversees, the decisions taken by the Executive Committee.
- e) Shall propose to the Executive Committee the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary.

## 17.2 VICE-PRESIDENT

The Vice-President shall assist the President in his/her duties and, in the absence of the President, shall act in his/her place.

## 17.3 MEMBERS OF EXCO

Members of the Executive Committee shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Executive Committee or the President.

# **ARTICLE 18 DUTIES OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

The GENERAL SECRETARY:

- 18.1 Shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in consultation with the CAF General Secretary.
- 18.2 Shall be provided with a contract of employment by CAF, be integrated into the CAF administration, be paid by CAF and must reside in the city in which the COSAFA Secretariat or the principal administrative offices are located.
- 18.3 Shall be the head of the Secretariat and the principal executive officer of COSAFA and may, in consultation with the President and/or the Vice President, employ and dismiss staff in accordance with the organisational structure approved by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- 18.4 May act as COSAFA's legal representative if empowered specifically by the President and the Executive Committee.
- 18.5 Shall administer the affairs of COSAFA and, in particular, implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee under the authority of the President in accordance with any instructions that he/she may give.



- 18.6 Shall also be responsible for the financial management of COSAFA and shall, in that regard, perform the following duties:
- a) Receive and keep all monies due to COSAFA;
  - b) Keep or cause to be kept all books of accounts of COSAFA and a full and correct account of all monies received or expended;
  - c) Keep or cause to be kept a register of assets owned, received or otherwise disposed of by COSAFA;
  - d) Prepare and submit to the General Assembly audited financial statements provided that he/she shall make available management accounts to the Executive Committee at Executive Committee meetings;
  - e) Prepare, in collaboration with the Finance Committee, a budget of income and expenditure of COSAFA for submission to the Executive Committee and/or the General Assembly
  - f) Ensure that books of accounts are duly examined and audited in terms of these Statutes.
  - g) Hand over all the books of accounts and all relevant information to auditors duly appointed as such in terms hereof.
  - h) Sign all documents authorising the expenditure.
- 18.7 From time to time and with the approval of the President and the Vice President, determine the rates of any allowance payable in terms hereof.
- 18.8 Shall prepare the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Standing Committees, in consultation with the President.
- 18.9 Shall compile the Minutes of the meetings of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Standing Committees.
- 18.10 Shall manage COSAFA's correspondence and public relations.
- 18.11 Be answerable to the Executive Committee in the performance of his/her duties.
- 18.12 Shall take part in all COSAFA meetings without any voting rights.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **SECRETARIAT**

The Secretariat shall be the administrative arm of COSAFA and shall:

- 19.1 Comprise the General Secretary and staff appointed in terms of these Statutes.
- 19.2 Be headed by the General Secretary.

- 19.3 Implement and execute the decisions of the Executive Committee and shall perform all other functions as may be designated to it from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- 19.4 Discharge all duties and functions designated to it in these statutes.
- 19.5 Be responsible for the day to day running of the affairs of COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

- 20.1 The following shall be the Standing Committees of COSAFA:
  - a) Finance Committee
  - b) Competitions Committee
  - c) Referees Committee
  - d) Legal and Statutes Committee
  - e) Technical and Development Committee
  - f) Medical Committee
  - g) Women's Football Committee
  - h) Media Committee
  - i) Commercial and Television Committee
  - j) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee
- 20.2 Members of Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall each hold office for a period of four (4) years provided that the Executive Committee may re-appoint all or some of such members for further periods of two years.
- 20.3 Standing Committees shall be answerable to the Executive Committee and shall do all that may, from time to time, be required of them by the Executive Committee.
- 20.4 The Executive Committee shall appoint chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of all Standing Committees whose Secretary shall be the General Secretary, who shall be an ex-officio member.
- 20.5 The Executive Committee shall determine the number of members to be appointed to each Standing Committee.
- 20.6 Standing Committees shall meet as often as may be necessary.

- 20.7 The Executive Committee may, if necessary, set up a bureau and/or sub-committee to deal with urgent matters. This bureau and/or sub-committee shall comprise no less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members.

## **ARTICLE 21 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The duties of the Finance Committee shall be to:

- 21.1 Advise the Executive Committee and General Secretary on the finances of COSAFA.
- 21.2 Analyse the budgets and annual accounts of COSAFA prepared by the General Secretary and to submit them to the Executive Committee for approval and recommendation to the General Assembly.
- 21.3 Participate in the financial matters pertaining to COSAFA competitions.

## **ARTICLE 22 ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR COMPETITIONS**

The Committee shall:

- 22.1 Organize and control all competitions arranged by COSAFA in accordance with the governing rules and regulations, terms of reference and the contracts and agreements concluded between COSAFA, the Host Association and/or the Local Organising Committee and the authorities of the Host country.
- 22.2 Deal with all complaints and protests lodged during COSAFA competitions and to make decisions thereon.
- 22.3 In respect of other organisational matters, refer any member of COSAFA or individual as it deems fit to one of the Judicial bodies of COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 23 REFEREES COMMITTEE**

The Referees Committee shall be responsible for:

- 23.1 Advising the Executive Committee on all matters relating to refereeing;
- 23.2 Participating in the organisation of COSAFA competitions and, amongst other things, designate one of its members to the Organising Committee;

- 23.3 Designating Referees for matches organised by COSAFA;
- 23.4 Implementation and interpretation of the Laws of the Game;
- 23.5 Training of referees either directly or with the help of National Associations;
- 23.6 Developing strategies for the development of Referees and Instructors within the COSAFA Zone

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **LEGAL AND STATUTES COMMITTEE**

The Legal and Statutes Committee shall:

- 24.1 Advise the Executive Committee and General Assembly on legal matters pertaining to football;
- 24.2 Submit to the Executive Committee proposals for amendment of the Statutes and Regulations of COSAFA;
- 24.3 Assist National Associations at the request of such National Associations in revising their statutes and/or rules provided that such assistance is given through the Executive Committee of COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **TECHNICAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Technical and Development Committee shall:

- 25.1 Advise the Executive Committee on Technical and Development matters;
- 25.2 Conduct studies and advise on policies for the development and promotion of the game of football;
- 25.3 Produce technical reports on COSAFA competitions in order to develop strategies and programmes for developing football in the Zone.

## **ARTICLE 26**

### **MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

The Medical Committee shall:

- 26.1 Advise the Executive Committee on all medical matters related to football;

26.2 Assist the Technical and Development, Referees and Competitions Committees on medical matters.

26.3 Implementation of anti-doping controls, if possible and overseeing the MRI testing during age category competitions.

## **ARTICLE 27 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL COMMITTEE**

The Women's Football Committee shall:

27.1 Advise the Executive Committee on all matters relating to the development of Women's Football including Players, Coaches, Administrators in the Zone;

27.2 Designate members to sit on the Organising Committee for Competitions during Women's Football competitions.

## **ARTICLE 28 MEDIA COMMITTEE**

The Media Committee shall:

28.1 Advise the Executive Committee on media-related issues;

28.2 Deal with the working conditions for the media at COSAFA events and co-operate with international media organisations;

28.3 Promote the image of COSAFA and its competitions through the media.

## **ARTICLE 29 COMMERCIAL AND TELEVISION COMMITTEE**

The Commercial and Television Committee shall advise the Executive Committee with regard to the drafting and implementation of marketing, sponsorship, broadcasting and multimedia contracts with COSAFA's partners.

## **ARTICLE 30 FUTSAL AND BEACH SOCCER COMMITTEE**

The Futsal and Beach Committee shall:

- 30.1 Advise the Executive Committee on all matters relating to the development of Futsal and Beach Football including Players, Coaches, Administrators in the Zone.
- 30.2 Designate members to sit on the Organising Committee for Competitions during Futsal and Beach Soccer competitions.

## **ARTICLE 31**

### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

- 31.1 The Governance Committee shall consist of at least five members and not more than 10 Members and are nominated by the Executive Committee and appointed by the General Assembly;
- 31.2 Candidates shall be knowledgeable and experienced in governance and/or financial and/or legal matters;
- 31.3 Candidates for any position on the Governance Committee as well as the incumbent members of the committee shall fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the COSAFA Statutes.
- 31.4 Their terms shall last four years, beginning at the end of the General Assembly which has elected them. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and other members of the Governance Committee may only be relieved of their duties by the General Assembly.
- 31.5 The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the Governance Committee may serve a maximum of three terms (whether consecutive or not).
- 31.6 If the chairperson, deputy chairperson or a member of the Governance Committee resigns or becomes permanently incapacitated with regard to performing his or her functions during his term of office, the General Assembly shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next General Assembly, when a replacement shall be elected for the remainder of the initial term of office.
- 31.7 The Governance Committee shall report to the General Assembly.
- 31.8 The chairperson, deputy chairperson and a member of Governance Committee shall constitute a Review Sub Committee to conduct eligibility tests of candidates for COSAFA bodies requiring such eligibility tests as provided for in these Statutes and the COSAFA Electoral Code.

- 31.9 The Governance Committee shall also conduct independence reviews in respect of candidates and incumbent members of the judicial bodies who must fulfil the independence criteria in accordance with these Statutes.
- 31.10 The Governance Committee shall deal with, and advise and assist the COSAFA Executive Committee on all COSAFA governance matters as per COSAFA Statutes, COSAFA Governance Regulations and CAF, FIFA Governance Regulations;

## **ARTICLE 32 JUDICIAL BODIES**

- 32.1 The judicial\_bodies of COSAFA shall be:
- a) The Disciplinary Board;
  - b) The Appeals Board.
- 32.2 The Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Members shall be independent persons, in line with CAF and FIFA Statutes.
- 32.3 Judicial bodies shall be competent for events occurring before and during COSAFA competitions as well as during competitions entrusted by CAF to COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 33 DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

The Disciplinary Board:

- 33.1 Shall consist of one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary.
- 33.2 The remit of this body shall be governed by the COSAFA Disciplinary Code, the COSAFA Statutes and COSAFA Regulations. All cases not provided for by the COSAFA Disciplinary Code, Statutes and Regulations or cases of “vis major” shall be decided in accordance with CAF and FIFA Codes, Regulations and Statutes insofar as they are applicable.
- 33.3 Shall make decisions only when at least three (3) members are present.
- 33.4 May impose sanctions as described in these Statutes and/or the COSAFA Disciplinary Codes and/or COSAFA Regulations against Members, clubs, officials or players.

- 33.5 Shall be authorised to sanction any breach of COSAFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body of COSAFA.
- 33.6 Subject to the disciplinary powers of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with regard to suspensions and expulsions, the Disciplinary Board shall be responsible for:
- a) Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
  - b) Rectifying obvious errors in disciplinary decisions based on referees' reports;
  - c) Extending the duration of suspensions incurred automatically by an expulsion;
  - d) Pronouncing additional sanctions to those imposed by the referee, such as a fine. Sanctions may be taken after viewing a recording of the match;
  - e) Suspend a person for one (1) or two (2) matches or for a period of up to two (2) months;
  - f) Impose a fine;
  - g) Rule on requests to extend a sanction taken by the national associations in the framework of their local activities to continental level.

## **ARTICLE 34**

### **APPEAL BOARD**

The Appeals Board shall:

- 34.1 Shall consist of one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson and the number of members deemed necessary.
- 34.2 The remit of this body shall be governed by the COSAFA Disciplinary Code, the COSAFA Statutes and COSAFA Regulations. All cases not provided for by the COSAFA Disciplinary Code, Statutes and Regulations or cases of “vis major” shall be decided in accordance with CAF and FIFA Codes, Regulations and Statutes insofar as they are applicable.
- 34.3 Be responsible for hearing and deciding on appeals against any decision of the Disciplinary Board or other committee, unless the COSAFA regulations declare such decision to be final or referable to another body.
- 34.3 Subject to appeals that may be lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), make decisions which shall be final and binding on all the parties concerned.



## **ARTICLE 35**

### **ETHICS BOARD**

The Ethics Board shall:

- 35.1 Consist of one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson, and the number of members required who shall be independent persons, in line with CAF and FIFA Statutes.
- 35.2 The powers and functions of the Ethics Board are governed by the Zone's Ethics Code, the Statutes and the Regulations of COSAFA and CAF.
- 35.3 It shall make decisions only when at least three (3) members are present;
- 35.4 It shall impose sanctions as described in these Statutes and/or the COSAFA, CAF or FIFA Ethics Codes against members, clubs, officials or players.

## **ARTICLE 36**

### **DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

- 36.1 National associations, clubs, officials and players who willfully or negligently violate the provisions of the COSAFA Statutes, Regulations and the decisions of the competent bodies, or who behave in an unsporting or unreasonable manner may be penalised in accordance with the provisions of these Statutes and the COSAFA Disciplinary or CAF or FIFA Disciplinary Code and the COSAFA Code of Ethics.
- 36.2 COSAFA may impose the following disciplinary measures:
  - 36.2.1 Against natural persons and legal entities:
    - a) Warning
    - b) Reprimand
    - c) Fine
    - d) Return of prizes
    - e) Suspension
  - 36.2.2 Against natural persons:
    - a) Caution;
    - b) Expulsion;
    - c) Match suspension;

- d) Ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- e) Ban from entering the stadium;
- f) Ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

36.2.3 For legal entities:

- a) Ban on registering new players in COSAFA competitions;
- b) Playing a match behind closed doors;
- c) Playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) Can on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) Annulment of the result of a match;
- f) Expulsion;
- g) Awarding of a match by default;
- h) Deduction of points;
- i) Fine;
- j) Suspension

36.3 For any infringement of the COSAFA, CAF and FIFA Statutes and Regulations or in the event of any dispute related to COSAFA competitions, the Disciplinary and Appeal Boards may impose upon National associations, clubs, officials and players the penalties mentioned in paragraph 29.2.

36.4 The Executive Committee and Standing Committees may also impose the same penalties when the provisions of the Statutes or Regulations allow.

36.5 National associations may only be suspended by decision of the General Assembly or, in cases of absolute and urgent necessity, by decision of the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the General Assembly at its next meeting.

36.6 The automatic suspension provided for in these Statutes for the failure of a national association to honour its obligations shall be notified directly to the Association concerned by the General Secretary.

36.7 A suspended national association shall forfeit its right to vote at the General Assembly and shall not be allowed to take part in COSAFA competitions.

## **ARTICLE 37**

### **DISPUTES**

37.1 National associations, clubs or members of clubs shall not bring before Courts of Law disputes with COSAFA or other Associations, clubs or members of

clubs. They shall submit any such disputes to an arbitration tribunal appointed by common consent.

- 37.2 Should the laws of a country entitle the National association concerned and its clubs and their members to appeal to a Court of Law, the National Association shall insert a clause in its Statutes by which it, along with its clubs and their members, freely renounces that right and undertakes to accept the decisions of the arbitrators selected.
- 37.3 In the event of a disagreement between two (2) or more associations, and if the associations concerned are unable to agree upon the choice of an arbitrator, the Executive Committee shall have the right to make a decision on the matter. This decision shall be final and binding upon the associations concerned.
- 37.4 National Associations shall adhere strictly to the decisions taken by COSAFA or by the arbitrators selected by it. Where these decisions concern a club, a zonal union or a league, the club or zonal union or league must take the necessary steps to observe such decisions.
- 37.5 In disputes referred to competent bodies of COSAFA, National associations may not, apart from their "bona fide" members, be assisted by a person belonging to one of the bodies of COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 38**

### **COURT OF ARBITRATION ("CAS")**

- 38.1 Appeals against final decisions passed by COSAFA's judicial bodies and against decisions passed by Confederations, National associations or leagues shall be lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport "CAS: within 21 days of receipt of the decision in question.
- 38.2 Recourse may only be made to CAS after all other internal channels have been exhausted.
- 38.3 CAS, however, does not deal with appeals arising from:
- a) violations of the Laws of the Game;
  - b) suspensions of up to four matches or up to three months (with the exception of doping decisions);
  - c) decisions against which an appeal to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal recognised under the rules of an Association or Confederation may be made.
- 38.4 The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect. Decisions appealed against shall remain effective pending the final verdict of CAS.

- 38.5 COSAFA is entitled to appeal to CAS against any internally final and binding doping-related decision passed in particular by the Confederations, Member associations or leagues in accordance with the provisions set out in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 38.6 National Associations, leagues or clubs shall agree to recognise CAS as an independent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, players and officials comply with CAS' arbitration. The same obligations shall apply to licensed match agents and licensed players' agents.

## **ARTICLE 39**

### **FINANCE**

- 39.1 Membership fees and subscriptions shall be payable in accordance with rates prescribed by the Executive Committee from time to time.
- 39.2 COSAFA may open and maintain bank accounts with such banks as the Executive Committee shall approve.
- 39.3 COSAFA may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, make application to financial institutions for credit, overdraft, loans and mortgages in order to achieve its objectives.
- 39.4 Financial instruments committing COSAFA shall be signed by the Secretary General and either the President or Vice President provided that, for amounts of less than USD10,000 (Ten thousand US Dollars) the General Secretary may, with the express authority of the President, sign as the sole signatory.
- 39.5 Any person may, with prior authority of the Secretariat, be entitled to be paid an allowance in respect of expenses necessarily incurred in the performance by his/her official duties for or on behalf of COSAFA.
- 39.6 The resources of COSAFA shall include:
- a) Annual subscriptions of Member Associations in U.S. Dollars currency to be fixed by the Executive Committee from time to time.
  - b) Surpluses from competitions.
  - c) Grants and contributions from CAF and/or FIFA or any other organisation as approved by the Executive Committee.
  - d) Rental payments from properties owned by COSAFA.
  - e) Revenue from granting rights to COSAFA competitions and events.
  - f) Competition participation fees.

- 39.7 The financial year of COSAFA shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October of one year and end on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September of the following year.
- 39.8 The independent auditors duly appointed by the General Assembly shall carry out annual audits of the accounts and financial statements in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- 39.9 Pending approval of the budget by the General Assembly, at the beginning of the financial year of COSAFA, the Executive Committee may, exceptionally, allow the General Secretary to incur the expenses necessary for the operation of COSAFA, provided that they are not of an extraordinary nature and do not exceed the amounts already approved by the last General Assembly for the same budget lines.

## **ARTICLE 40 COMPETITIONS**

- 40.1 COSAFA shall organize as many competitions as the Executive Committee may decide, which competitions may include the following:
- a) COSAFA Senior National Team Competition;
  - b) COSAFA National Youth Competitions of various age groups;
  - c) COSAFA Club Champions Competitions;
  - d) COSAFA Women's Football Competitions;
  - e) COSAFA Futsal Competition;
  - f) COSAFA Beach Soccer Competition.
  - g) Any other style/form of Football competitions.
- 40.2 These competitions shall be primarily open to the teams of Member Associations, which shall be admitted to the competitions on the basis of conditions set out in the relevant Regulations provided that the Executive Committee may extend invitations to teams outside the region to take part in COSAFA competitions.
- 40.3 Member Associations whose teams participate in such competitions shall ensure that their teams observe the competition Regulations.
- 40.4 COSAFA may, according to a CAF-approved Memorandum of Understanding, organise inter-zonal competitions.
- 40.5 COSAFA and the member associations are original owners, without restriction of content, time, place and right, of all rights that may arise from competitions and other events within their respective fields of competence. These rights include, among other things, economic rights of all kinds, audio visual

recording, reproduction and broadcasting rights, multimedia rights, marketing and promotional rights and intellectual property rights such as rights to distinctive signs and copyrights.

- 40.6 The Executive Committee determines the type of exploitation and the extent of the use of these rights and issues special provisions to this effect. The Executive Committee is sovereign over the exploitation of these rights. It can also exploit them either directly or with third parties or delegate the total or partial exploitation.

## **ARTICLE 41**

### **CANDIDATURE FOR STAGING COMPETITIONS**

- 41.1 The Executive Committee shall decide on candidatures of Member Associations wishing to stage any of the COSAFA competitions, taking into consideration that the organisation of the competitions shall, as far as possible, be on a rotational basis.
- 41.2 Applications and/or confirmations to host COSAFA competitions must reach the General Secretary 6 months prior to the event and must be accompanied by a comprehensive memorandum giving details of sports installations and other necessary facilities, including accommodation and transport available in the country of the Applicant Association.
- 41.3 An Organising Association Agreement shall be entered into between COSAFA and the Hosting Association of any COSAFA competition and/or a competition that has been entrusted to COSAFA by CAF.

## **ARTICLE 42**

### **AMENDMENT OF STATUTES**

- 42.1 These statutes may only be amended by the General Assembly of COSAFA.
- 42.2 Amendments to the Statutes shall only be effected by at least two thirds of the members of COSAFA who are present and entitled to vote.
- 42.3 All proposed amendments to the Statutes must be in writing and addressed to the General Secretary, duly signed and stamped by the General Secretary of the Member Association submitting the proposal.
- 42.4 Proposals for amendment of the Statutes may also emanate from the Executive Committee of COSAFA.

## **ARTICLE 43**

### **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

- 43.1 The General Assembly, on the proposal of the Executive Committee, may grant the title of Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President, Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Member to any person for meritorious services rendered to COSAFA.
- 43.2 Honorary President(s), Honorary Vice-President(s), Honorary General Secretary and Honorary Member(s) may be invited to attend the General Assembly and, in the case of the Honorary President, Honorary Vice-President and Honorary General Secretary to the Executive Committee meetings, with the right to participate in the discussions, but not to vote.

## **ARTICLE 44**

### **DISSOLUTION OF COSAFA**

- 44.1 COSAFA may be dissolved only by at least four-fifths (80%) of the members present at the opening of a General Assembly and entitled to vote, provided that a motion to this effect shall have been notified by the General Secretary in writing and by registered mail, courier, fax and/or e-mail to all members at least sixty (60) days before the General Assembly that is convened to deal with such motion of dissolution.
- 44.2 If COSAFA is dissolved, all financial obligations shall be honoured and the fixed property and/or fixed assets shall be realized and distributed to the Member Associations of COSAFA to promote football in the southern zone.

## **ARTICLE 45**

### **UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

All cases not provided for by these Statutes or by COSAFA Regulations or COSAFA Code of Ethics or cases of “vis major” shall be decided as follows:

- 45.1 In accordance with CAF and FIFA Statutes or Regulations insofar as they are applicable.
- 45.2 In the event of both CAF and FIFA Statutes or Regulations not being applicable, the Executive Committee shall decide such matters and its decision shall be final and binding.

**ARTICLE 46**  
**ADOPTION OF STATUTES**

These Statutes were adopted by the COSAFA Ordinary General Assembly meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2014, amended by the COSAFA Ordinary General Assembly meeting held in Johannesburg on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2021 and subsequently amended by the COSAFA Extra-Ordinary General Assembly held virtually on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2022.

For the Executive Committee, on behalf of the General Assembly:

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**DR PHILLIP CHIYANGWA**  
**PRESIDENT**

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**SUE DESTOMBES**  
**GENERAL SECRETARY**