

**Statutes  
of the Slovak Football Association**

*Approved at the SFZ Conference held on June 3, 2016 in Bratislava*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on November 18, 2016 in Poprad)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on March 31, 2017 in Senec) As  
amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on June 29, 2017 in Poprad)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on February 2, 2018 in Senec)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on March 1, 2019 in Poprad) As  
amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on June 27, 2019 in Senec)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on February 28, 2020 in Senec)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference by per rollam took place from 27 March  
2021 00:01 to 01 April 2021 23:59)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on February 25, 2022 in Senec)*

*As amended by the SFZ Statutes (approved at the SFZ Conference held on September 27, 2024 in Senec)*

*(hereinafter referred to as the "Statutes")*

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**PREAMBLE**

*The Slovak Football Association was established in 1938 in extraordinary international and national conditions exactly 40 years after the first football match in the territory of Slovakia in 1898.*

*Despite the difficult circumstances that surrounded the emergence of the national football association during the war and the regime that ruled Slovakia until 1989, the Slovak football was an incessant source of joy and pleasure to all who practiced it both passively and actively irrespective of their gender, race, color, language, religion, political or other beliefs, national or social origin, nationality or ethnicity, wealth, lineage or other status, as well as irrespective of the political units and regimes at power in the present territory of the Slovak Republic.*

*The modern Slovak Football Association was established as a civic association under the Law on Association of Citizens from 1990 and it proudly presents itself as a continuation of the football history and successes in its territory from the times of Austria-Hungary, through the first Czechoslovak Republic, the Slovak State, the Renewed Czechoslovak Republic, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and Czechoslovak Federal Republic, until the establishment of the Slovak Republic in 1993, with special emphasis on the silver medal of the Czechoslovak National Team at the World Championship in Italy in 1934 and the World Championship in Chile in 1962, the triumphant victory of Slovan Bratislava in the UEFA Cup in 1969, the gold medals of the Czechoslovak representation from the European Championship in Belgrade in 1976, bronze medals from Marseille in 1960 and Rome in 1980, the Olympic silver from Tokyo in 1964 and the Olympic gold from Moscow in 1980.*

*It also proudly connects to its own past as a National Football Association - the message and activities of the Czechoslovak Football Association, whose successor it is - it views itself as a direct continuation and follows up on this history through its other achievements, the greatest of which is the first participation of the Slovak national team at the World Championship in South Africa in 2010 and in the final tournament of the European Championship in France in 2016.*

*Looking into the future, the Slovak Football Association will further support the development of football in the territory of the Slovak Republic in accordance with the principles of fair play and social responsibility, and protect and promote the interests of its members in achieving this highest goal not only on the national but also international level in the conditions of membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union and membership of the Slovak Football Association in the international federation FIFA and the UEFA confederation. Football is an instrument for the global development of man and a useful tool for building human society. The sheer respect for the rules of the game based on the principle of fair play, which is reflected in all the activities of the units and bodies of the football movement, helps to build a healthy civic society.*

*Owing to the above and with this vision, the Conference as the highest authority of the Slovak Football Association hereby passes the following Statutes:*

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## **TITLE ONE**

### **General provisions (Article 1 - 22)**

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **Introductory provisions (Article 1 - 2)**

##### **Article 1**

##### **SFZ name, registered office, legal form, membership in international sports organizations and symbols**

- (1) The name of the association in the Slovak language is **Slovenský futbalový zväz**. The name of the association in the English language is **Slovak Football Association**. The official acronym of the Slovak Football Association is **SFZ**.
- (2) The registered office of the Slovak Football Association is Tomášikova 30C, 821 01 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.
- (3) The SFZ was founded for an indefinite period and it was established as a civic association pursuant to Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on the association of citizens, as amended. The SFZ is a sports organization under Article 8 (1), Act no. 440/2015 Coll. on sports and amendments to other legislation (hereinafter referred to as the "Sports Act").
- (4) The SFZ acts as a national football association, and it is member of the International Federation of Football Associations ("*Fédération internationale de football association*", hereinafter "FIFA") and the Union of European Football Associations ("*Union des Associations Européennes de Football*", hereinafter referred to as "UEFA").
- (5) The SFZ has the following symbols: a flag, a logo with the full name "Slovenský futbalový zväz" (Slovak Football Association) and a logo with the acronym "SFZ".
- (6) The logo with the name "Slovenský futbalový zväz" (Slovak Football Association) and acronym "SFZ" is registered with the Central Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. The visual design of the flag and the logo is presented in the Annex.

##### **Article 2**

##### **Definition of terms**

For the purposes of the present Statutes and other SFZ Regulations (hereinafter referred to as the "SFZ Regulations"), the following terms or acronyms acquire the following meanings:

- a) **SFZ Member** - an ordinary member of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Ordinary Member") and associated member of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Associated Member") as a legal person; and an individual member of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Individual Member") and an honorary member of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Honorary Member") as a natural person,
- b) **Club** - a sports organization registered in the ISSF as a sports club,<sup>1</sup> which acts as an Ordinary Member; for the purpose of participation in the competitions, disciplinary proceedings and settlement of disputes, a club is also an association of persons on the basis of an Association Contract if it has an authorized representative<sup>2</sup> responsible for the proper performance of the duties of the club to the SFZ and other SFZ members,  
**Official** - member of a SFZ body or a unit within the SFZ member's body and other persons responsible for the organization, management and control of competitions within the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA, a person carrying out property rights or management activities in the club, particularly, the owner, statutory representative, director or any other person who has the control, decision-making or managerial authority related to the duties within the SFZ, UEFA FIFA or their members; the designation of persons who act as officials shall be determined by a special SFZ regulation,<sup>3</sup>
- d) **Player** - a sportsman participating in a football competition<sup>4</sup> organized by the SFZ or SFZ members, registered in ISSF in a club with registered office in the territory of the Slovak Republic, or a sports representative active in a foreign club,
- e) **Talented sportsman** - a player of 23 years of age or younger with a high level talent, sports skills and competences who is posted on the SFZ list of talented sportsmen,
- f) **Affiliation to the SFZ** - affiliation is based on
1. Participation in the competition on behalf of the SFZ,
  2. Participation in the competition organized or controlled by SFZ or another legal person authorized by the SFZ to organize or manage the competition,
  3. Participation in the organization or management of the SFZ competition, or another legal person authorized to organize or manage the competition,
  4. Registration on behalf of the SFZ in ISSF,
  5. Slovak sports representation (hereinafter referred to as "Sports Representation"),
  6. Member relationship or voluntary relationship with SFZ,
  7. Contractual relationship of players or sports experts<sup>5</sup> with the SFZ focusing on sporting activities,<sup>6</sup>
  8. Participation in the management and administration of the SFZ,
  9. Participation in the preparation of the competitions and the competition itself as the team's accompanying staff,
  10. Affiliation to the SFZ member,<sup>7</sup>
- g) **Football**- men's and women's football, futsal and beach football organized within the SFZ and SFZ members if it is not substantially clear that the relevant provision only applies to football or futsal,
- h) **Organized football** - organization, implementation, management, administration, support and development of football in the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA, which organize the competitions by the rules of football,
- i) **National League** - the highest competition in the category of adults (men) in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- j) **Professional football**- part of organized football, which is linked to the football clubs competing in the first and second league, as well as with their legal, economic, sports and other relations, including the Union of League Clubs (hereinafter referred to as "ULC"),
- k) **Amateur football**- part of organized football, which is not professional football,

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<sup>1</sup> **SPORTS CLUB** is a sports organization that creates favorable conditions for practicing sports, organization of sports competitions and preparation and participation of individuals or teams in the competitions. [Article 15 (1) of the Sports Act]

<sup>2</sup> Article 15 (2) of the Sports Act.

<sup>3</sup> SFZ Registration and transfer procedure.

<sup>4</sup> **COMPETITION** is an organized performance of sports by the rules defined by the sports organization, whose aim is to achieve a result or compare performance. [Article 3(g), Sports Act]

<sup>5</sup> Article 6 (1) of the Sports Act.

<sup>6</sup> **SPORTS ACTIVITY** is the implementation, organization, management, administration, support or development of sports. [Article 3 (a) of the Sports Act]

<sup>7</sup> Article 3 (k) of the Sports Act.

- l) **Football movement** - natural and legal persons operating in the territory of the Slovak Republic in football in an organized way within the SFZ and SFZ members,
- m) **SFZ strategic plan**- conceptual document drafted by the SFZ and approved at the first proper Conference after the Electoral Conference for the next term of office, which contains the objectives and tasks in the defined time period divided into the fundamental areas implemented particularly by the main activities of the SFZ and in cooperation with the SFZ members; the document contains the objectives and tasks of the SFZ particularly in the following key areas:
1. Organizational structure of the SFZ,
  2. International relations (other national football associations, UEFA, FIFA),
  3. Development of football, youth, coaches, referees and delegates,
  4. Representation teams,
  5. Professional football,
  6. Amateur football,
  7. Women's football,
  8. Futsal,
  9. Legislation,
  10. Finance,
  11. Marketing,
  12. Media and public relations,
  13. Infrastructure,
  14. Protection of the integrity of football and initiatives against negative phenomena in sports,
- n) **ISSF**- Information system of Slovak football, the database of SFZ resources and members,<sup>8</sup>
- o) **Publication in ISSF** - publication of ISSF data on the SFZ's public webpage,<sup>9</sup>
- p) **Qualified majority** - at least a seventy percent majority of all the members of the relevant SFZ body,
- q) **"Per rollam" (distance) voting** - a written vote on the draft decision of the relevant SFZ body without convening a meeting, the rules of which are governed by a special SFZ regulation,<sup>10</sup>
- r) **In writing** - regular or electronic transmission, notification or delivery of information, submissions, decisions or other documents using the ISSF, the Sports Information System, the addressee's data account or other addressee's commonly used email account notified to the SFZ for this purpose and posted for this use in the ISSF or its publication at a dedicated place designated by the SFZ on the SFZ website; a certified electronic signature is not required,
- s) **SFZ Administration** - the SFZ's executive body for the personal, organizational, technical and administrative provision of main SFZ activities and performance of SFZ tasks.
- t) **reorganization of the competition** - significant change in the structure of the official competitions and includes the change of:
1. the organization and the number of competitions of individual or more levels of control of the official competitions and their division into the individual territorial areas in compliance with the administrative division of the Slovak Republic, or
  2. the number of teams in a official competition, which is not a modification of the competition referred to in Article 2 (u),
- a) **modification of the competition** - modification of the competition related to the change of:
1. the model of the competition without affecting the number of teams which participate in the competition,
  2. the number of teams in the competition due to insufficient number of teams entered in the competition
  3. the number of promoting teams and relegating teams without affecting the number of teams participate in the competition.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Mission, objectives and main activities of the SFZ (Article 3 - 4)

#### Article 3

#### Mission and objectives of the SFZ

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<sup>8</sup> **Database of resources** is the records of sports organizations with data on natural or legal persons. [Article 3 (q) of the Sports Act]

<sup>9</sup> Currently: [www.futbalnet.sk](http://www.futbalnet.sk).

<sup>10</sup> SFZ guideline on distance voting.

- (1) The SFZ was established and founded as an independent legal entity in order to foster the association of natural and legal persons operating in organized football in the territory of the Slovak Republic and fulfillment of their joint mission and objectives set out in the Statutes.
- (2) The SFZ's mission includes:
  - a) Exercise of exclusive authority and competence for organized football in the territory of the Slovak Republic as a valid member of UEFA and FIFA for the Slovak Republic and member of the Slovak Olympic Committee,
  - b) Organization of national football competitions for adult players and national competitions for youth,
  - c) Selection and preparation of players for the sport representation teams and their participation in international competitions,
  - d) Care for talented sportsmen,
  - e) Support and development of professional and amateur football with particular emphasis on children's and youth football.
- (3) By fulfilling the SFZ's mission, the SFZ's objectives and public interest in sports are met as well<sup>11</sup>, with focus on the promotion and development of youth, training and participation of the sports teams at major competitions<sup>12</sup>, protection of integrity in sports<sup>13</sup> and promotion of a healthy lifestyle in the general population.
- (4) The mission and objectives of the SFZ are achieved by carrying out the SFZ's activities.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Main activities of the SFZ**

- (1) The SFZ's main activities are the activities carried out by the SFZ on a systematic and continual basis, independently, in the name and on behalf of the SFZ, and are not deemed to be business activities.
- (2) The SFZ's main activities particularly include:
  - a) Represent the interests of the football movement in society,
  - b) Act on behalf of the football movement and promote its interests in international sports organizations, national sports federations, national sport organizations, the state, territorial self- government and other legal entities and natural persons,
  - c) Define the philosophy and outline of SFZ's activities with the aim to develop football, which is reflected in the SFZ's Strategic Plan and SFZ's Budget,
  - d) Implement the SFZ's Strategic Plan,
  - e) Create, maintain and update the database of SFZ's sports representatives,<sup>14</sup>
  - f) Propose sports representatives for inclusion in the departmental sports centers,<sup>15</sup>
  - g) Preparation of the representation teams and their participation in major competitions,
  - h) Care for sports representatives and methodical management of their preparation,

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<sup>11</sup> Article 2 of the Sports Act.

<sup>12</sup> **A SIGNIFICANT COMPETITION** is

1. *International competition under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee and the International Paralympic Committee,*
2. *International competition under the auspices of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, international Movement for Special Olympics, International University Sports Federation and International School Sport Federation,*
3. *World championships, European championships, World Cup and other world competitions in a recognized sport as referred to in (f) of the first and second point, or*
4. *World championships and European championships in a recognized sport as referred to in (f) of the third and the fourth point. [Article 3 (h) of the Sports Act]*

<sup>13</sup> **The INTEGRITY OF SPORT** is *the principles ensuring the natural uncertainty and unpredictability of the course and results of a competition and identical rules and conditions for all the participants before and during the competition. [Article 3 (j) of the Sports Act]*

<sup>14</sup> **a SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE** is *a citizen of the Slovak Republic who was nominated as an athlete to be member of a national sports team by a national sports association or any other sports organization that has the relevant authorization to do so arising from the international sporting rules, regulations or decisions.*

<sup>15</sup> **a DEPARTMENTAL SPORTS CENTER** is *a state budgetary organization, which provides*

1. Preparation of top sportsmen who operate in the departmental sports center based on a proposal of the national sports association and are on the list of the top representation athletes,
2. Employment and social security for the top sportsmen operating in the departmental sports center,
3. Health care for the top sportsmen operating in the departmental sports center provided by a health care provider under special regulations and care for *the sports facilities within its scope of competence. [Article 3 (c) of the Sports Act]*

- i) Care for talented sportsmen and methodical management of their preparation,
- j) Maintain the list of talented sportsmen and publish it in ISSF,<sup>16</sup>
- k) Place the players on the SFZ list of talented sportsmen based on the performance criteria approved by the SFZ Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Committee"),<sup>17</sup>  
Organize and manage the nationwide competitions and other competitions in football and futsal, or delegate this responsibility to another sporting organization which is a member of the SFZ,
- m) Approve the conditions for participation of the SFZ members and other sports organizations in the SFZ competitions and, after meeting the conditions for participation in the SFZ competition, grant the SFZ members or other sports organizations the right of participation in the SFZ competition (competition license),
- n) Define the types of sports experts operating in organized football and their professional qualifications required for the performance of professional activities in sports, ensure their expert training and verify their professional competence,
- o) Recognize the professional qualifications of the sports experts, if the recognition of their professional qualifications is not governed by special regulations,<sup>18</sup>
- p) Organize and control the preparation, activities and education of sports experts, including their publication activities, particularly the coaches, referees, delegates, organizers, main organizers, security managers, controllers, sports managers and other persons exercising the professional activities within the SFZ, and education according to the UEFA and FIFA regulations or other international sports organizations,
- q) Support the construction of sports infrastructure,
- r) Establish a business in connection with sports representation or acquire a share in a company, if the SFZ is the sole shareholder in such a company, or if it is a shareholder together with the state, regional self-governing body or municipality,<sup>19</sup>
- s) Establish a company for the purpose of construction and operation of a sports facility or acquire a share in a company,<sup>20</sup>
- t) Establish or participate in the creation, formation and activities of another company as those referred to in point (r) and (s) with the aim of meeting the objectives and mission of the SFZ and raise additional funds for their financing,
- u) Establish or set up another legal person as those referred to in point (r) to (t) with the aim of meeting the mission and goals of the SFZ,
- v) Create, operate and manage the ISSF,
- w) Keep a register of contracts and agreements under Article 35, 39, 43, 47 and 48 of the Sports Act and their amendments,
- x) Provide synergy to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic and other public authorities in the performance of tasks in the field of sports,
- y) Adopt, implement and carry out the rules of the world anti-doping program, measures against the manipulation and fixing of the matches and their results and other rules and measures against the negative phenomena in sports following from the international regulations and decisions,
- z) Carry out and foster the projects and activities aimed at combating violence and misdemeanor at sports events and racism, xenophobia and other related types of intolerance in football,
- aa) create and continuously update the system of SFZ rules to ensure their uniform application within the framework of organized football,
- ab) establish a system for the settlement of disputes arising in connection with the SFZ's and SFZ members' sports activities, including disciplinary misconduct,

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<sup>16</sup> Article 16 (2) (d) of the Sports Act.

<sup>17</sup> Article 16 (2) (c) of the Sports Act.

<sup>18</sup> Article 49 (1)(d), third subparagraph, Act No. 422/2015 Z. z. on the recognition of education certificates and professional qualifications and amendments to other legislation.

<sup>19</sup> Article 18 (1) of the Sports Act. The profit or share of the profits from the company may only be used for the performance of duties under Article 16 (1) (d) to (f) and (2) (l) of the Sports Act.

<sup>20</sup> Article 18 (2) of the Sports Act. The profit or share of the profits from the company may only be used for the performance of duties under Article 16 (1) (d) to (f) and (2) (l) of the Sports Act.

- ac) coordinate the cooperation and promote unity, communication, synergy and polite behavior among the SFZ members,
- ad) value the players who have achieved exceptional results in elite football<sup>21</sup> and personalities who have contributed to the promotion and development of football.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Principles and relations of the SFZ (Article 5-6)**

#### **Article 5**

##### **Principles used in the SFZ activities**

- (1) The activities of the SFZ, its bodies and members are governed by **general and specific principles**.
- (2) **The general principles** are applicable to all activities undertaken in carrying out the SFZ's mission, objectives and tasks. They include:
  - a) **Fair play** - actions in accordance with the ethical principles that promote the integrity of sports/competition and equality of opportunity for all competing athletes, emphasizing the respect for man and the value of every single individual involved in the sports event,
  - b) **Olympic spirit** - as defined in the Olympic Charter,<sup>22</sup>
  - c) **Professionalism** - in populating the positions in the SFZ bodies, procedures or decisions within the framework of SFZ's activities and its bodies, the emphasis is always put on expertise, professional knowledge, abilities, skills and experience of the person concerned, irrespective of the regional or group interests or regional or group affiliation,
  - d) **Decency and politeness** - the parties behave respectfully and politely to each other and adhere to moral principles in the exercise of their duties,
  - e) **Adequacy** - through their actions, the parties try to achieve a state or result that may be deemed reasonable, and whose aim is to achieve a balance of respective relations, interests and values,
  - f) **Effectiveness and efficient use of resources** - in any decision or procedure, a quantitative and qualitative analysis is made regarding the efficiency of the available solutions from the perspective of reasonableness of costs, energy and time vis-a-vis the objective to be achieved;
  - g) **Causation** - when dealing with the individual issues, questions or problems, the SFZ authorities or the authorities of SFZ members not only identify the shortcomings and their consequences, but also their causes, which are taken into consideration in their procedures and adoption of decisions or regulations,
  - h) **Apolitical behavior** - the SFZ bodies and the bodies of SFZ members assume a neutral stance in political and religious issues,
  - i) **Loyalty** - persons with affiliation to the SFZ solve the issues and disputes related to organized football preferably before the SFZ bodies that have the necessary jurisdiction to decide the case, avoiding negative unilateral publicity,
  - j) **Due process** - the process for resolving the disputes of the persons with affiliation to the SFZ and the disciplinary procedures shall be carried out with the principles of due process in mind.<sup>23</sup>
- (3) **The special principles** are used when the SFZ Regulations or decisions of the SFZ bodies envisage the use of such principles, or their use has been expressly foreseen and agreed. They include:
  - a) **Regional approach** - when populating the SFZ bodies or implementing the SFZ procedures or decisions in the framework of its activities or the activities of its bodies, the adherence to the principle of professionalism is also supplemented by regional interests; this principle is usually expressed by an agreement of the representatives of regional football associations (hereinafter referred to as "Regional Association"), and if no agreement is reached, the observance of the regional principle is determined by the ratio of the members representing the individual Regional Associations. If not provided or agreed otherwise, the ratio of 3 is used (East-Slovakian Football)

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<sup>21</sup> **ELITE SPORTS** is an ongoing preparation of athletes in order to achieve a top result in a sports competition and participate in an international competition, or in the top national competition. [Article 3 (b) of the Sports Act]

<sup>22</sup> Available on the Internet: <https://www.olympic.sk/userfiles/files/Olympijsk%C3%A1%20charta%208.12.2014%20SK.pdf>.

<sup>23</sup> Article 52 (3) of the Sports Act.

Association): 3 (Central-Slovakian Football Association): 3 (West-Slovakian Football Association): 1 (Bratislava Football Association):

**Territorial approach** - the clubs and their teams participate in the competitions organized by the relevant regional association or Regional Football Association (hereinafter referred to as "Regional Association") under the territorial jurisdiction of the municipality or city where the home pitch of the competing team is located to the respective Regional Association or District Association, whereby the head office of the club shall be in the same municipality or city as is the home pitch of the club; with the exceptions referred to in Article 16 (2),

- c) **Alternation approach** - when carrying out the relevant duties there is a regular exchange or alternation of the representatives of the individual regions or interest groups in the order and under the conditions established by the decision of the Executive Committee.
- (4) The procedures and decisions of the SFZ bodies or SFZ members shall be in accordance with the general principles, even if their use is not explicitly stated in the SFZ Regulations, or a SFZ member's regulations.
- (5) The general principles shall be adequately taken into account even if the SFZ Regulations expressly demand the use of a special principle.

## Article 6

### Relations within the SFZ

- (1) The SFZ, SFZ members, SFZ bodies, SFZ members' bodies and the persons with affiliation to the SFZ shall promote friendly relationships between the clubs, officials, sports professionals and experts, athletes, fans and other persons with affiliation to SFZ in organized football as well as in the sports movement in general.
- (2) The SFZ, SFZ members, SFZ bodies, SFZ members' bodies and the persons with affiliation to the SFZ are obliged to comply with the SFZ Regulations, UEFA and FIFA regulations of a binding nature, rules stipulated in the World Anti-Doping Code, rules of football and the decisions of UEFA and FIFA, binding decisions of the international and national arbitration and settlement bodies and respect the general and special principles if their use is explicitly specified or agreed upon.
- (3) Each SFZ member is obliged to promote the good name and reputation of the SFZ, members of the SFZ and Slovak football in general, and refrain from any actions which might unfairly harm or threaten it.
- (4) Within the framework and structures of the SFZ, SFZ members and persons affiliated to the SFZ, the following actions are prohibited:
- political and religious agitation,
  - all types of discrimination,
  - defamation of a nation, race or conviction, or incitement to national, racial or ethnic hatred,
  - attacks or threats of attacks of any kind against the country, its authorities, group of persons or individual persons, or their denigration based on their national, racial or ethnic origin, sex, language, political or religious belief or for any other illegal reason.
- (5) Any violations of the principles referred to in Section 4 are considered a serious disciplinary offense, which may lead to the suspension of membership in the SFZ.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SFZ normative system and decision-making (Article 7-14)

#### Article 7

##### SFZ Regulations and other acts issued by the SFZ bodies

- (1) The highest SFZ Regulations are the **SFZ Statutes**.
- (2) Within the framework of their competences as defined by the Statutes, or on the basis of the Statutes, the SFZ bodies issue their **regulations, decisions, recommendations and opinions**, which must be in accordance with the legal code of the Slovak Republic and the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "Legal Code"), and the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA regulations.
- (3) Within the SFZ, the relevant SFZ bodies issue the following binding SFZ Regulations to all SFZ members whose activities they relate to



- a) **Rules of Procedure** – approved by the Executive Committee, if the Statutes do not define that they shall be approved by the Conference; they regulate the most important areas of SFZ's activities,
  - b) **Statutes** – approved by the Executive Committee; they regulate in particular the rules governing the activities of the SFZ bodies,
  - c) **Directives** – approved by the Executive Committee; they regulate the rules for the functioning of the different sections and areas in the scope of the Executive Committee and the SFZ Administration,  
**Organizational Instructions** – issued by the SFZ Secretary-General (hereinafter referred to as "Secretary-General"); they regulate the organization of work and performance of tasks within the competence of the Secretary-General.
- (4) **Decisions** – issued by the SFZ bodies in the scope of their competence by means of a resolution.
- (5) **Recommendations** and **opinions** are not binding, with the exception of the opinion of the Jury of Appeals pursuant to Article 60(13) (d) or (14), which is binding for all SFZ bodies and members. Under all circumstances, the SFZ bodies are required to consider the recommendations and opinions of the SFZ Auditor (hereinafter referred to as "Auditor") and other SFZ bodies in their decisions. They serve to unify the procedures and provide expert information for the decision-making of the SFZ bodies. The SFZ bodies issue them within their scope of competence.

### **Article 8**

#### **Binding nature of the SFZ Regulations and their relationship to the UEFA and FIFA legal code, case laws and regulations**

- (1) The SFZ Regulations shall be in accordance with the laws and settled case-law of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "case law").
- (2) The SFZ Regulations shall be in accordance with the provisions of the UEFA and FIFA regulations, in which compliance with the regulations of the national football associations is expressly required. An exception is the cases in which compliance with the UEFA and FIFA regulations would stand in contrary to the legal code.
- (3) If a contradiction is identified within the SFZ Regulations themselves, or between the SFZ Regulations and the legal code, case law or binding FIFA and UEFA regulations, acting upon the initiative of a SFZ member, SFZ body or even without such an initiative, the Secretary-General shall ensure the development of a draft amendment of the relevant SFZ regulation, which shall be submitted for discussion and approval by the competent SFZ body.
- (4) In legally difficult matters, the formulated draft amendment to an existing SFZ regulation is also reviewed by the Legislative, Legal and Ethics Committee of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Legislative-Legal Committee"), and where appropriate, the Auditor's opinion is solicited. If the draft amendment of the SFZ regulation is materially related to the agenda of any of the SFZ bodies, or it is directly related to its scope of competence or competence of a SFZ member and the amendment is of a crucial nature, the draft amendment of the SFZ regulation shall be reviewed by the concerned SFZ body and SFZ member. The opinions of the bodies concerned, including the opinion of the Auditor and the concerned SFZ members, will be discussed in the working committee to prepare the draft amendment of the SFZ regulation if such committee was established.
- (5) The SFZ members and persons with affiliation to the SFZ are obliged to abide by the SFZ Regulations.
- (6) The SFZ and each SFZ member is required to ensure the compliance with the SFZ Regulations even in relation to all the persons within its own competence.
- (7) The SFZ Regulations and the amendments thereto are published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF within 15 days of approval.

### **Article 9**

#### **Interpretation of SFZ Regulations**

- (1) The interpretation of the Statutes is made by the Executive Committee, which shall in cases of serious nature relating to the interpretation of the Statutes, solicit an expert opinion of the Auditor

and the Legislative-Legal Committee. If the solicited opinions on the interpretation of the Statutes are not in agreement, the Executive Committee discusses the draft interpretation and implements the necessary measures to achieve agreement in the opinions, or proposes a change in the provision under review. The draft interpretation of the Statutes by the Executive Committee and the solicited opinions are recorded in the minutes. If the Executive Committee presents the interpretation of the Statutes, which is not in accordance with the opinion of the Auditor or the opinion of the Legislative-Legal Committee, it is required to provide a justification of its decision in the minutes.

- (2) If the SFZ Regulation does not detail the SFZ body with authority to provide its interpretation, the interpretation of the SFZ Regulation is provided by the SFZ Executive Committee, which may entrust the interpretation of the regulation to another SFZ body or pertinent SFZ unit. In matters of serious nature, the procedure under Section 1 is used. Based on an initiative but also without one, the Executive Committee may change or annul the interpretation of the SFZ Regulation, which was presented by an expert committee.
- (3) The interpretation of the SFZ Regulation shall be made in writing. The body that presented the interpretation ensures its publication in the ISSF in conjunction with the SFZ administration.

## **Article 10**

### **Binding nature of the SFZ decisions**

- (1) Any final decision of the SFZ body shall be binding in its entirety. A decision which is specifically addressed to particular legal entities and/or individuals shall be binding to such designated entities and/or individuals only.
- (2) In urgent cases the decisions of the competent SFZ bodies are binding and unchangeable from the sporting point of view. An exception to this rule may be unlawful conduct, which constitutes a serious breach of the SFZ Regulations.
- (3) The SFZ Regulations shall determine which decisions of the SFZ bodies or SFZ members' bodies can be appealed by a judicial remedy.
- (4) The nullity or annulment of the decision or other act of the SFZ can be sought in the case of procedural errors of the SFZ or its bodies only if a different result would have been achieved through the procedurally correct procedure.
- (5) The SFZ members and persons with affiliation to the SFZ are obliged to abide by the decisions of the SFZ bodies.
- (6) The SFZ and each SFZ member is required to ensure the compliance with the SFZ decisions even in relation to all the persons within its own competence.

## **Article 11**

### **Regulations and decisions of the SFZ members**

- (1) The founding documents<sup>24</sup>, regulations and decisions of the SFZ members shall comply with the law and the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA regulations.
- (2) Article 21 and 22 of the Sports Act shall be taken into account in the statutes and other founding documents of the SFZ member sports organizations, so that their activities are in accordance with these documents. If the SFZ finds a SFZ member in violation of this obligation, it shall notify the Auditor thereof and further action shall be taken in accordance with the Sports Act.<sup>25</sup>
- (3) The statutes and other regulations of Ordinary Members and Associated Members shall be adequately consistent with the Statutes, especially with Article 2, 5 to 13, 15 to 19, 22, 27 to 30, Article 31, Article 32, 35 to 39 except for Article 36 (19) and Article 38 (11) and (12), Article 38a (2) to (9), Article 41, 43, 45, 46, 55 to 57, Article 58 except for (3), Article 59 and 60 except for (2) to (6), Article 71 and Article 72 (1), (4) to (7) of the Statutes.
- (4) The legal issues concerning the compliance of the statutes or other regulations and decisions of the SFZ members with the law or the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA regulations are assessed by the Auditor based on an impetus. If the Auditor identifies a non-compliance, he/she shall submit the matter

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<sup>24</sup> **a FOUNDING DOCUMENT** is the statutes, articles of association, charter, memorandum of association, certificate of incorporation or other document proving the establishment of a sports organization. [Article 3 (l) of the Sports Act]

<sup>25</sup> The activities of a sports organization, which includes sports associations in accordance with Article 21 and 22 of the Sports Act, are one of the eligibility criteria for the recipients of public funds, the loss of which makes it impossible for the sports organization to receive state funding. [Article 65 (3) (b), (5) and (6) of the Sports Act]."

accompanied by his/her opinion to the Executive Committee to discuss it and decide about further actions. In matters of serious nature, the Secretary-General or Auditor may seek the opinion of the Legislation and Legal Department of the SFZ or the Legislative-Legal Committee. This shall not affect the Auditor's obligations set out in the Sports Act<sup>26</sup>.

Under Section 4, the SFZ is authorized to decide about the requests to eliminate the non-compliance of the SFZ members' regulations or decisions with the law and SFZ, UEFA or FIFA regulations. When requested by the affected body, and after the issuance of a statement by the Legislative and Legal Department of the SFZ or the Legislative-Legal Committee, the Executive Committee may submit a proposal to the SFZ Dispute Resolution Chamber (hereinafter referred to as the "Chamber") to decide on the suspension of the contested regulation or its part with respect to the persons with affiliation to the SFZ.

- (6) A person with affiliation to the Ordinary Member or Associated Member may ask the SFZ to assess the statutes of the Ordinary Member or Associated Member if these are deemed to be incompatible with the Statutes. For those parts where the SFZ finds non-compliance with the Statutes, the concerned SFZ member shall harmonize its statutes with the SFZ Statutes within the set deadline; this also applies to a fundamental conflict of other regulations of the SFZ member with the SFZ Statutes.
- (7) Failure to meet the SFZ's requirement under Section 5 or 6 and remedy the non-compliance of the SAF member's regulations with the SFZ Regulations is a serious disciplinary offense, which may lead to the suspension of membership in the SFZ.
- (8) With serious or repeated non-compliance of the SAF member's regulations with the SFZ Regulations, the failure to meet the SFZ's requirement to harmonize the regulations may lead to the exclusion of the member from the SFZ. The disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by the President, Secretary-General or Auditor.
- (9) If a dispute arises as a result of assessing the compliance of the SFZ member's regulations with the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA regulations or the Sports Act, the dispute shall be decided by the Chamber<sup>27</sup> upon request of the affected SFZ member or the Auditor; and Section 7 shall be applied only after the dispute is decided.

## **Article 12**

### **Disciplinary proceedings**

- (1) The disciplinary proceedings are conducted by the SFZ disciplinary bodies (hereinafter referred to as the "Disciplinary Body") and disciplinary bodies of the SFZ members against a player, sports expert, club or other person with affiliation to the SFZ for the infringement of competition rules, SFZ Regulations, SFZ member's regulations, or decisions of the SFZ bodies or the bodies of the SFZ members (hereinafter "disciplinary offense"), which were committed during the period of their affiliation to the SFZ.
- (2) The disciplinary bodies authorized to hear the disciplinary offense, enforce disciplinary sanctions and determine the protective measures are as follows:
  - a) SFZ Disciplinary Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Disciplinary Commission") and
  - b) SFZ Jury of Appeals (hereinafter referred to as the "Jury of Appeals")
- (3) If so determined in the SFZ Regulations, the disciplinary offense, disciplinary sanction and protective measures can also be decided by another SFZ body, which has the status and competence of a disciplinary authority according to the SFZ Regulations.
- (4) The disciplinary sanctions and measures in accordance with the principles in Article 5 (2) and (3) for the disciplinary offense are imposed on a person with affiliation to the SFZ and under the disciplinary authority of the SFZ bodies. The imposed disciplinary sanctions and protective measures shall be proportionate to the type and severity of the disciplinary offense. To achieve the

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<sup>26</sup> Article 14 (8) of the Sports Act.

<sup>27</sup> *If, after being notified of a serious deficiency found during the inspection, the sports organization fails to remedy such a serious deficiency within a period defined by the Auditor, the Auditor shall immediately, but not later than ten days after the defined period lapses, inform the Chief Sports Auditor on the issue. The motion filed by the Auditor shall be accompanied by a notification of reasons for non-compliance and other documents necessary for the assessment. The Auditor shall take the same steps even if the competent authority of a sports organization fails to inform about the grounds for refusal within the specified period.* [Article 52 (2) (d) of the Sports Act]

purpose of the disciplinary proceedings, the disciplinary sanctions may also be imposed conditionally.

- (5) The disciplinary sanctions and measures that can be imposed for the disciplinary offense, are governed by the SFZ Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the "Code of Conduct") and other SFZ Regulations.<sup>28</sup>
- (6) The imposed fines and costs of other imposed and implemented sanctions and protective measures or parts thereof can be reclaimed by the person who bears them from the person who caused them, to which the SFZ authorities provide the necessary assistance.
- (7) The protective measures consisting of reasonable restrictions and obligations, whose aim is to take preventive action and correct the adverse consequences, are imposed in addition to the disciplinary sanctions, or separately.
- (8) In the interests of individual and general prevention, as well as to educate the youth<sup>29</sup> and other members of the football movement, the disciplinary bodies may decide to make the decision regarding the disciplinary offense public in its entirety on the SFZ or ISSF website. Otherwise, only the disciplinary sanctions and measures are published in the usual way.
- (9) The decisions of the disciplinary body regarding serious disciplinary offenses, decisions which were appealed and decisions about a legal remedy, shall all be justified.<sup>30</sup>
- (10) The breach of an obligation contained in the SFZ Regulation, the infringement of which is considered serious under the SFZ Regulations, is considered to be a serious disciplinary offense.

## **Article 13**

### **Settlement of disputes**

- (1) In the event of disputes within the football movement, which are linked to the sporting activities, especially in the organization, implementation, management and administration of sports affecting the competitions, clubs, players, sports experts, officials and other persons with affiliation to the SFZ, the SFZ members undertake to resolve such disputes preferably through the SFZ bodies competent to resolve the disputes under the threat of disciplinary sanctions under the Code of Conduct.
- (2) The SFZ members accept the jurisdiction and competence of the *Court of Arbitration for Sport*; (hereinafter referred to as "CAS") as the highest independent and impartial body to hear the disputes in football under the relevant provisions of UEFA and FIFA.

## **Article 14**

### **Decision-making in the case of unforeseen events and force majeure**

- (1) The decision on the matters not provided for in the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA regulations, or in cases of force majeure, is made by the Executive Committee, unless the nature of the matter implies that the decision falls within the scope of competence of another SFZ body.
- (2) Before making a decision under Section 1, the Executive Committee or another SFZ body shall solicit an opinion of the relevant SFZ body, whose agenda falls within the scope of the matter to be decided. The decision shall be taken in accordance with the law and the principles under Article 5 (2) and (3).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **Organization and implementation of sport in the SFZ (Articles 15-22)**

## **Article 15**

### **Rules of the game**

- (1) The SFZ and the members of the SFZ play football according to the rules issued by the *International Football Association Board* (IYFAB), which has the exclusive right to issue and change the rules.

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<sup>28</sup> Article 54 (2) of the Sports Act.

<sup>29</sup> **YOUTH** athletes are athletes up to 23 years of age; and in the case of athletes participating in the competition, until the end of the relevant competition period in which the athlete reaches 23 years of age. [Article 3 (n) of the Sports Act]

<sup>30</sup> Article 54 (3) of the Sports Act.

- (2) The SFZ and the SFZ members play futsal by the rules issued by FIFA, which has the exclusive right to issue and amend the rules of futsal.
- (3) The SFZ and the SFZ members play beach football by the rules issued by FIFA, which has the exclusive right to issue and amend the rules of beach football.

## **Article 16**

### **Competitions**

- (1) As a member of UEFA and FIFA for the Slovak Republic the SFZ shall organize, coordinate and ensure the long-term management of the championship competitions and cup competitions of the clubs in football and futsal on the territory of the Slovak Republic, which are listed in the schedules of competitions of the SFZ and SFZ members in care of the respective competitions.
- (2) The championship competitions are organized in a pyramid way using the principle of descent and ascent from/to lower and higher competitions based on the territorial principle. If it is in the interest of the development of youth football and a reasonable request is made by the club, the Executive Committee may grant an exemption from compliance with the territorial principle. To grant such an exemption, however, it is necessary to obtain a consent of the executive committee of regional and district associations in the territory where the exemption was requested.
- (3) The right of the club to participate in the national championship primarily depends on the sporting criterion. The club qualifies to the national championship by holding its position in the relevant championship, or on the basis of the club ascending from a lower-level championship or descending from a higher-level championship in the previous competitive year.
- (4) In addition to the sporting criterion, the participation of the club in the national championship may also depend on other criteria laid down in the framework of the club licensing system and/or the criteria laid down by the managing body of the competition, whereby the emphasis is put on sporting, infrastructure, administrative, legal and financial aspects.
- (5) Any changes in the legal form or organizational structure of the club, or other legal action taken in order to facilitate the fulfillment of the sporting criteria and/or other criteria established by the managing authority of the relevant competition and/or for the acquisition of license to participate in the national championship competitions, are prohibited in order to preserve the integrity of competition/sport especially if the change applies to the club's registered office, name or transfer of the shares between the clubs. The approval of legal and organizational changes in the clubs, which may have an effect on the placement of the teams within the competition, is governed by a special SFZ regulation.<sup>31</sup>
- (6) The Executive Committee may delegate the management of one or more competitions to a SFZ member.<sup>32</sup>
  - a) Professional football,
  - b) Amateur football,
  - c) In a geographically or administratively defined territory, which falls within the territorial scope of the relevant SFZ member, or
  - d) In specified fields of sports, which fall within the sporting scope of the relevant SFZ member.
- (7) The competitions organized by the SFZ take precedence over other competitions, with the exception of competitions of professional football. The competitions held in accordance with Section 2 shall be harmonized (date and venue) with the competitions organized by SFZ and ULC, and their schedule shall be coordinated with the representation team dates. The Executive Committee may issue regulations or decisions to this end.
- (8) Taking into account the interests in protecting the integrity of sports/competition, the managing body of the competition organized by the SFZ decides whether the clubs without a legal status can participate in the competitions held by the SFZ.<sup>33</sup>

## **Article 17**

### **International competitions and events**

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<sup>31</sup> Directive on legal and organizational changes in the clubs.

<sup>32</sup> For example, a regional association, district association, Slovak Futsal.

<sup>33</sup> Article 15 (2) of the Sports Act.

- (1) The UEFA and FIFA has the exclusive right to organize an international football event between the teams or clubs from different national football associations. No international event may take place without the prior consent of or notice to UEFA or FIFA in accordance with their regulations.
- (2) The SFZ undertakes to respect the international calendar of events, which is made by the UEFA and FIFA.
- (3) The SFZ shall not organize and hold competitions or establish and maintain sports contacts with those national football associations that are not members of the UEFA and FIFA, and with temporary members of any of the confederations, without the approval of UEFA and FIFA.  
The clubs having the status of an Ordinary Member may not be members of another national football association and may not take part in the competitions organized or held by another national football association without a prior consent of the SFZ, other national football association, UEFA or FIFA, except for exceptional circumstances.
- (5) The SFZ is the organizing body of international events for the representation teams in futsal and beach football. The SFZ registers the Slovak representatives into the international club competitions in futsal and beach football organized by the UEFA and FIFA.

### **Article 18**

#### **Club licensing**

- (1) The Executive Committee is responsible for the application of and compliance with the relevant regulations of the UEFA and FIFA governing the granting of licenses to clubs.
- (2) The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the SFZ Licensing Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Licensing Commission") prepares and approves the regulations and documents valid for the club licensing scheme, governing the conditions for participation of the clubs in the competitions managed by SFZ and ULC, as well as the licensing of clubs to participate in the UEFA competitions.
- (3) The participation of a club in the highest competitions managed by ULC, highest men's and women's competitions managed by the SFZ and the men's UEFA Cup is contingent upon a license granted by the licensor, i.e. the SFZ.
- (4) The licensing procedure and the criteria, which the club must meet to enter the competition in accordance with Section 3, shall be governed by a special regulation.<sup>34</sup>
- (5) The grant of, or refusal to grant, a license is decided by the SFZ licensing bodies.

### **Article 19**

#### **Players**

- (1) Only properly registered players in the respective football, futsal or beach football club may participate in the events within the framework of the competitions held by the SFZ and SFZ members. If the competition is held for schools or other organizations, which are organized within the framework of the activities of the SFZ, the affiliation of the player to the relevant school or organization participating in the competition is relevant.
- (2) The entry or modification of the registration in the ISSF is a determining factor for the creation or modification of the player's registration.
- (3) One and the same player may be simultaneously registered only in one football club, one futsal club and one beach football club, in which he/she may participate in the competitions at the same time and in the same period/year; however, the player's registration in the club does not prevent him/her to participate in the school competitions as member of a school team, educational facility team or a team of other sports organizations.
- (4) The registration of players, the amateur or professional status of players, and the rules for the transfer of players, are governed by the SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules, which are based on the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.<sup>35</sup>
- (5) The SFZ respects the decisions of the Court of Justice of the EU, CAS and the FIFA Dispute Resolution Chamber<sup>36</sup> in matters relating to the transfer of players, severance pay and penalties,

<sup>34</sup> SFZ Club Licensing System Guideline and SFZ Guideline for UEFA Women's Club Competitions

<sup>35</sup> FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players; FIFA RSTP

<sup>36</sup> Dispute resolution Chamber; DRC.

and shall adopt the said principles and rules into the SFZ Regulations even for purely national relations.

## **Article 20**

### **National representation**

- (1) Representation is the highest honor for any member of the national representation team, members of the executive bodies of the national representation team and other persons nominated as members of the national representation team.  
The scope of the rights and obligations of a member of the national representation team is defined in the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team, which may be implemented as a contract. Each active member of the national representation team shall be familiar with the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team. The member of the national representation team may contest the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team, and the submission shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
- (3) The Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team are approved or amended by the the Executive Committee, which may in appropriate cases decide on a derogation from the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team.
- (4) The obligation to protect the reputation and good name of Slovak football, the SFZ and the Slovak Republic applies to the members of the national representation team, members of the executive body of the team, and other representatives of the Slovak football movement who have been nominated as members of the national representation team<sup>37</sup> or are part of the official trip of the national representation team. The protection is also given to the symbols associated with the Slovak representation.
- (5) The member of the national representation team and members of the executive team are obliged to use the Slovak national emblem and identification of nationality during the sporting event.
- (6) Any breach of the duties relating to the membership in the national representation team listed in the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team and Section 4 and 5, may result in disciplinary action or be submitted to the Legislative-Legal Commission to assess the compliance of actions or behavior with ethical principles.

## **Article 21**

### **Futsal**

- (1) The management of futsal is ensured within the SFZ in cooperation with Slovak Futsal. The relations between the SFZ and Slovak Futsal related to the management of futsal in the Slovak Republic are governed by a cooperation contract between the SFZ and Slovak Futsal, approved by the Executive Committee.
- (2) After meeting the conditions stipulated in the Statutes, the clubs competing in the futsal competitions managed by the SFZ and Slovak Futsal or its members are deemed as Ordinary Members who are represented at the Conference by the delegates representing futsal. The delegate at Conference representing futsal is elected by the highest body in Slovak Futsal.
- (3) The players registered in the futsal clubs as Ordinary Members become Individual Members following the fulfillment of conditions pursuant to Article 29.
- (4) The compliance of the entities operating in futsal with the SFZ membership requirements is verified by Slovak Futsal.
- (5) Based on a proposal of Slovak Futsal, the Executive Committee may appoint a futsal representative into the SFZ body, or it may establish a separate board for futsal, responsible for the futsal agenda.
- (6) The futsal representative and member of the Senate for futsal pursuant to Section 5 is nominated by Slovak Futsal, members of the SFZ Executive Committee or the Secretary-General based on the principle of professionalism.

## **TITLE TWO**

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<sup>37</sup> Article 29 (4) of the Sports Act.

## **Membership in the SFZ (Articles 22-34)**

### **Article 22**

#### **Membership in the SFZ and SFZ members**

- (1) Membership in the SFZ is voluntary. Each member of the association may at any time end its membership in accordance with the SFZ Statutes.<sup>3638</sup>)
- (2) The SFZ membership is an expression of support, loyalty and identification of the SFZ member with the mission, goals, objectives and regulations of the SFZ as a civic association.  
Through membership in the SFZ, a member of the association manifests its agreement and will to abide by the rules of the football movement, respect and abide by the rights and obligations set out in the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA rules or resulting from the decisions of their bodies issued under these regulations.
- (4) The SFZ fulfills its mission, objectives and tasks particularly through its members and in cooperation with them.
- (5) The information relating to the establishment and termination of membership in the SFZ is registered in the ISSF. The actions relating to the establishment and termination of membership in the SFZ are preferably performed electronically. The details are defined in the SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules.

### **Article 23**

#### **Establishment and termination of membership in the SFZ**

- (1) An applicant who meets the conditions set out in the Statutes (Articles 22, 27-30) may become a member of the SFZ. There exists no legal entitlement to qualify for membership in the SFZ.
- (2) The procedure for accepting a member of the SFZ is defined in the Statutes and SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules.
- (3) Membership in the SFZ is terminated by:
  - a) resignation,
  - b) exclusion,
  - c) death or legal dissolution of the SFZ member,
  - d) legal dissolution of the SFZ.
- (4) The termination of membership in the SFZ also results in the extinction of all the rights associated with the membership. The termination of membership in the SFZ does not relieve the member of its financial obligations to the SFZ and SFZ members.
- (5) The paid membership fees are not refunded in the case of termination of membership in the SFZ.
- (6) Upon termination of membership in the SFZ during an ongoing competition, the implications in terms of the validity of results of the games played and the results of the planned games of the teams of the SFZ member whose membership terminates, are governed by the Football Competition Order.

### **Article 24**

#### **Withdrawal from the SFZ**

- (1) An Ordinary Member wishing to withdraw from the SFZ is required to inform the SFZ in writing at least two months in advance in order to maintain the integrity of the competitions.
- (2) An Ordinary Member who has the status of a club shall finish the matches in the ongoing competition year. If this is not possible, the SFZ in cooperation with the governing bodies of the relevant competition decides on the actions and settlement relations regarding the resignation of the Ordinary Member of the SFZ.
- (3) An Associated Member shall inform the Secretary-General about its withdrawal from the SFZ in writing.
- (4) An Individual Member shall inform the SFZ or its certification authority in writing about its withdrawal from the SFZ (Article 29 8)).
- (5) In the notice of withdrawal from the SFZ, the member shall indicate the date under Section 3 or 4 shall on which it withdraws from the SFZ. If the notification indicates an earlier date than the date of receipt of the notification by the SFZ, or if the date of withdrawal is not provided in the notice,



the day on which the notice of withdrawal was delivered to the SFZ is deemed to be the day of withdrawal.

## **Article 25**

### **Suspension of membership in SFZ**

- (2) The Executive Committee may, having received an impetus from the Disciplinary Commission other SFZ body or SFZ member's body or even without such an impetus, decide with immediate effect on the suspension of membership in the SFZ especially if the SFZ member is reasonably suspected of:
  - a) Influencing and fixing the course or outcome of the competition, including attempted influencing, whose aim usually is to win an advantage for oneself or for another person, and partial or complete elimination of unpredictability associated with the course of a competition or the results thereof,
  - b) Direct betting or betting through a third-party on the competitions which it participates in as a player, sports expert or other person who is involved in the competition through its status, functions or activities,
  - c) Misuse or disclosure of confidential information about the SFZ, SFZ members and their activities that could jeopardize the integrity of competitions,
  - d) Criminal offense committed in connection with participation in public sports events,<sup>39</sup> or
  - e) Other serious criminal activities (crime).
- (3) The Executive Committee shall suspend the membership of a SFZ member indicted for corruption in sports<sup>40</sup> until the end of criminal proceedings for this offense.<sup>41</sup>
- (4) Due to a serious or repeated breach of the obligations that stand contrary to the regulations or decisions of the SFZ and seriously endanger and threaten the sporting ethics and reputation of the SFZ, the Executive Committee may decide to suspend the membership even with an immediate effect.
- (5) If the Executive Committee decides to suspend the membership of an Individual Member or Honorary Member, it also initiates the proceedings at the Disciplinary Commission; if it decides to suspend the membership of an Ordinary Member or Associate Member, it shall submit the matter to the Conference. The suspension of membership lasts until a decision on the matter is reached by the competent SFZ bodies, unless the Executive Committee revokes its decision to suspend the membership.
- (6) The membership is suspended:
  - a) to an SFZ member who did not pay the membership fee to the SFZ; membership shall be suspended automatically after the lapse of the deadline specified in the motion to pay the membership fee, which is not less than 30 days and is sent through the ISSF, and the suspension of membership lasts until the date of payment of the membership fee or the date of termination of membership in the SFZ,
  - b) to an ordinary member that did not register any of its teams into any of the competitions managed by the SFZ or SFZ members; membership shall be suspended automatically after the lapse of the last deadline for the registration of the teams into the competition, and it lasts until the registration is filed, or the date of termination of membership in the SFZ.
- (7) The SFZ member who had its membership suspended, loses the rights of an SFZ member that are passed onto the member in the SFZ regulations, including the right to carry out sports activities within the SFZ if the Executive Committee does not decide otherwise. The SFZ member who had its membership suspended shall be labeled as an inactive SFZ member in the ISSF.
- (8) The suspension of membership in the SFZ shall not hinder the imposition of disciplinary sanctions and protective measures by the Disciplinary Commission.

## **Article 26**

### **Exclusion from the SFZ**

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<sup>39</sup> Article 122 (14) of the Criminal Code.

<sup>40</sup> Article 336b of the Criminal Code.

- (1) An SFZ member can be expelled from the SFZ if:
  - a) It seriously violates the rules and regulations of the SFZ; whereby the following issues are deemed to be a serious violation of the SFZ rules and regulations:
    1. Influencing the course or outcome of the competition.
    2. Violation of anti-doping rules,<sup>42</sup>
    3. Active participation in spectator violence and misbehavior in relation to the public sporting events
    4. Sports corruption committed by an SFZ member, statutory body or any official of the SFZ member, or another person for the benefit of the SFZ member,
    5. Other serious criminal activity (crime) committed by an SFZ member, statutory body or any official of the SFZ member, or other person for the benefit of the SFZ member, or
    6. Severe, long-term or repeated breach of duties of the SFZ member SFZ defined in the SFZ Regulations or decisions of the SFZ bodies, which endangers or may seriously jeopardize the principles and relations in the SFZ, or the authority of the legal system and decision-making activities in the SFZ,
  - b) It no longer meets the conditions of membership in the SFZ, or
  - c) It did not register any of its teams in the competition managed by the SFZ or SFZ members in two consecutive competition years.
- (2) The Conference decides about the exclusion of an Ordinary Member or Associated Member of the SFZ. The exclusion of an Individual Member or Honorary Member of the SFZ is decided by the disciplinary bodies. The excluded SFZ member shall be labeled as inactive in the ISSF.
- (3) The procedure under Section 1 (a) is only possible after the final decision of the authorities competent to act and decide on the offense is reached.

#### **Article 27**

#### **Ordinary membership in the SFZ**

- (1) The following entities may become Ordinary Members after fulfilling the conditions specified by the Statutes:
  - a) clubs operating as legal persons in organized football or futsal,
  - b) sports organizations associating the clubs operating in organized football, futsal and beach football (regional associations, district associations, ULC, Slovak Futsal).
- (2) The Executive Committee shall decide about the admission of an Ordinary Member if the applicant fulfills and meets the conditions under Section 3 and 4.
- (3) The legal person who wishes to become an Ordinary Member shall submit a written application for registration as an Ordinary Member to the SFZ.
- (4) The application referred to in Section 3 shall also contain:
  - a) a copy of the founding document that complies with the Statutes and the law, stating that the applicant's core business or main activities is the sporting activity,<sup>43</sup>
  - b) a recent extract from the relevant register applicable for legal purposes (e.g. Business/Commercial Register, Trade Register, Register of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic)
  - c) identification number certificate (IČO) if the identification number is not shown in the accompanying extract referred to in paragraph b),
  - d) Value added tax number certificate (DIČ) and Tax Identification Number (IČ DPH) if it was assigned to the applicant;
  - e) a statement that the applicant's legal status and capacity allows it to make decisions independently of any other third party,
  - f) list of officials and the indication of statutory bodies that have the power to enter into legally binding commitments with the third parties.
  - g) a copy of the minutes from the last meeting of the highest body,
  - h) a written statement that the applicant shall comply with the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA, which also applies to all the parties affiliated to it,

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<sup>42</sup> Article 88 (1) of the Sports Act.

<sup>43</sup> Article 3 (a) and Article 8 (1) of the Sports Act.

- i) a statement that the applicant accepts the jurisdiction of the Chamber, Licensing Authority, Disciplinary Commission, Jury of Appeals, and FIFA and CAS arbitration bodies in matters pertaining to the member relations, the statutes, resolutions and decisions of the football movement, its members and affiliated persons, and that it undertakes to settle the disputes with persons affiliated to the SFZ or SFZ members through the competent SFZ bodies,
  - j) a written statement that in the event of termination of membership of the applicant in the SFZ, its financial and other obligations from the time of its membership shall not lapse and become void,
  - k) a written statement that in all the competitions that the applicant or its affiliated persons participate in, or all competitions managed or organized by the applicant, it shall respect and abide by the rules of football, rules of futsal and beach football,
  - l) if the applicant is a club, a statement that the applicant and its affiliated persons will participate exclusively in the competitions organized by the SFZ, UEFA, FIFA, League Club Union, Slovak Futsal, regional associations, district associations and other competitions with the prior written consent of the SFZ,
  - m) if the applicant is a football club, favorable opinion on the admission of the applicant as an Ordinary Member from the regional association depending on the geographic location of the team's home pitch,
  - n) if the applicant is a futsal club, favorable opinion on the admission of the applicant as an Ordinary Member from the SFZ member designated to manage the competition depending on the geographic location of the team's home pitch,
- (5) If the applicant is a club under Article 16 (8), the application referred to in Section 3 is filed by the representative of the club, who is an Individual Member. Section 4 shall apply accordingly.

#### **Article 28**

##### **Associated membership in the SFZ**

- (1) A legal entity different from the entities pursuant to Article 27 (1) may become an Associated Member, which is involved in the activities and performance of the tasks in organized football, and whose mission, objectives and scope of activities are not contrary to the Statutes, mission and purpose of the SFZ.
- (2) Particularly the following entities may become Associate Members:
  - a) associations and other organizations, players, referees, coaches and delegates,
  - b) associations and other legal entities representing futsal, women's football and beach football,
  - c) associations and other legal entities providing special training for the football players without participation in the competition managed by the SFZ or SFZ members,
  - d) associations of football internationals, fans, media, sponsors, promoters, sports lawyers and sports doctors.
- (3) The admission of as an Associated Member is decided by the Conference. The proposal to admit an Associated Member is presented to the Conference by the Executive Committee on the basis of an application for registration as an Associated Member, which is filed in writing by the legal entity applying for associate membership in the SFZ, and contains the appendices referred to in Article 27 (4).
- (4) The representative of the Associated Member may attend the Conference without the voting right if he/she has not been elected or appointed as a delegate at the Conference pursuant to the Statutes.

#### **Article 29**

##### **Individual membership in the SFZ**

- (1) An Individual Member is a natural person satisfying the conditions of membership and being involved in the sports activities in the bodies or structures and competitions of the SFZ or SFZ members registered in the ISSF.
- (2) An Individual Member is particularly a player, coach, delegate, referee and SFZ board member.
- (3) An Individual Member has no direct voting rights at the Conference. He/she has the right to participate in the activities of the SFZ, propose amendments to the SFZ rules indirectly through the

Ordinary Members or Associated Members to which it has affiliation, or through other persons engaged in the SFZ bodies.

- (4) Individual membership in the SFZ becomes active upon the approval of registration of the natural person in the ISSF. Registration is contingent by prior active involvement of the natural person in the sporting activities within the SFZ.

A player who was nominated into the representation team but is registered in a club, which is based outside the Slovak Republic, may become an Individual Member. If such a player does not become an Individual Member, his/her membership in the SFZ for the period of representation is provided by the Sports Act.<sup>44</sup>

- (6) Any other blameless<sup>45</sup> natural person other than the natural persons referred to in Section 2 and 4 may become an Individual Member on the basis of an application for registration as an Individual Member.
- (7) An employee or another person performing the activities or providing services for the SFZ or an SFZ member based on a contract may not be an Individual Member; in which case the membership of the person in the SFZ is governed by the Sports Act.<sup>46 46</sup> )
- (8) Upon filing the application for registration as an Individual Member, the applicant for individual membership in the SFZ under Section 6 shall state their affiliation to a particular Ordinary Member or Associated Member who is to perform the verification of the data provided by the applicant, and shall be responsible for updating the database of members which it verifies. If the applicant is a natural person and has no affiliation to any Ordinary Member or Associated Member, the verification authority shall be the SFZ.
- (9) The players without affiliation to Ordinary Members who participated in the cup championship or competition organized by the SFZ or an SFZ member are becoming temporary Individual Members with a time limit of one year; whereby with underage players in school or other competitions, a consent of their legal guardian is required. Temporary membership can be repeatedly extended always for one year, or it can change into indefinite membership.

### **Article 30**

#### **Honorary membership in the SFZ**

- (1) Honorary membership can be granted to a natural person who has particularly fostered the promotion and development of Slovak football.
- (2) The proposal to grant honorary membership may be submitted to the SFZ Conference by the SFZ President (hereinafter referred to as the "President"), another member of the Executive Committee, a delegate at the Conference, or an Ordinary Member.
- (3) A Honorary Member may participate in the Conference, but has no voting rights.
- (4) A president who made an contribution to the development of Slovak football may be granted the title of a Honorary President of the SFZ (hereinafter referred to as "Honorary President") by the Conference upon a proposal of the persons under Section 2. By virtue of this title, the Honorary President is also becoming an Honorary Member.
- (5) The granting of other honorary titles, awards and distinctions within the SFZ shall be governed by a special SFZ regulation approved by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 31**

#### **Rights of an SFZ member**

- (1) An SFZ member has the right to:
  - a) Nominate a candidate into an elected or appointed function in the SFZ unless the Statutes specify that this candidate shall be nominated by a specific member of the SFZ or relevant interest group of clubs, players, sports specialists or other members of the SFZ,
  - b) Be nominated as a candidate for elected or appointed functions in the SFZ if they meet the conditions of candidacy determined by the SFZ Regulations,
  - c) Participate in the activities of the SFZ in the fulfillment of tasks delegated to it,
  - d) Propose amendments to the SFZ Regulations,

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<sup>44</sup> Article 3 (k), Section 5.

<sup>45</sup> Article 7 (2) and (3) of the Sports Act.

<sup>46</sup> Article 3 (k) of the Sports Act, Section 6 to 10.

- e) Lodge a complaint or proposal to the competent SFZ body,
  - f) Be informed and solicit information about the SFZ affairs through the SFZ administration and ISSF,
  - g) Use own personal account within the ISSF,
  - h) Enjoy other benefits provided to the SFZ members.
- (2) In addition to the rights under Section 1, an Ordinary Member has the following rights:
- a) Elect the Conference delegates and vote through them at the Conference,
  - b) Submit proposals to be included in the Conference agenda,
  - c) Represent the interests of the football movement in the name of the clubs, territories and regions
  - d) Cooperate with state and local authorities,
  - e) Represent the common interests of its members and affiliated persons,
  - f) Issue regulations governing its own sporting activities, including the competitions it organizes or manages,
  - g) Manage the participation of its member clubs in the competitions organized and managed by the SFZ or SFZ members,
  - h) Receive awards and remunerations for places in the competitions, training subsidies, solidarity contributions and other payments in connection with sporting activities.
- (3) An Ordinary Member exercises its rights and interests at the Conference either directly or through elected delegates or otherwise appointed delegates.
- (4) In the case of football clubs, the authorization of an Ordinary Member to exercise the right to vote at the Conference and elect a delegate at the Conference is dependant on the minimum number of teams competing or registered in the competition managed by the SFZ or SFZ members. The minimum number of teams in a club that is
- a) a member of the District Association is two teams,
  - b) a member of the Regional Association is three teams,
  - c) competes in the second highest league is four teams,
  - d) competes in the highest league is six teams.

## **Article 32**

### **Duties of an SFZ member**

- (1) An SFZ member is particularly obliged to:
- a) Comply with the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA, FIFA and CAS
  - b) Oversee the general development of football, and particularly seek to increase its popularity among the youth and children,
  - c) Make a commitment under Article 13 and Article 27 (4) (i) of the Statutes that any local dispute related to the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA shall be preferably settled by the competent authorities of the SFZ, if not provided otherwise by the law; whereby the SFZ member is also obliged to submit itself to the jurisdiction of CAS.
  - d) Send a written notice to the SFZ through ISSF on any significant legal change immediately after the change has occurred or the SFZ member learned about it, especially:
    1. change in the statutes of the SFZ member,
    2. change in the identification and billing data of the SFZ member,
    3. change in the list of officials,
    4. change in the representation of the SFZ member, especially when it comes to the change in the company secretary, ISSF club manager, ISSF team manager, conference delegate, statutory representative or representative of the SFZ member,
    5. filing a proposal for bankruptcy or liquidation,
    6. payment of the contribution fee by its members,
    7. change in the data that are condition for the exercise of functions in the SFZ body under Article 36 (1), or
    8. other relevant and legally material facts affecting the membership in the SFZ,
  - e) Not maintain sporting relationships with entities:
    1. Regarding which a decision was issued by the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA,

2. Whose membership in the SFZ has been suspended or terminated, this does not apply if the membership is suspended in accordance with Article 25 (6).
- f) Pay membership fees in the amount and within the due date specified for each type and category of membership by the Conference,
  - g) Pay fees in the amount specified by the SFZ Regulations or decisions of the SFZ bodies,
  - h) Present the Contract referred to in Article 8, paragraph 4 of the Sports Act within 30 days of its conclusion for the purpose of record-keeping of contracts and agreements by the SFZ,
  - i) Within its scope of competence, ensure the compliance with the rules of the world anti-doping program, measures against the manipulation and fixing of the matches and their results and other rules and measures against the negative phenomena in sports following from the international regulations and decisions,
  - j) Define the negative phenomena under Section (i) as a serious disciplinary offenses in its regulations,
  - k) Ensure the performance of sporting activities by professionally qualified sports professionals if such professional competence is required.
- (2) Any violations of the duties referred to in Section 1 (i) and (j) are considered a serious disciplinary offense, which may lead to the suspension of membership in the SFZ.

### **Article 33**

#### **Regional and district associations**

- (1) Regional and district associations are sports organizations with the legal form of a civic association, associating mainly the clubs active in the competitions managed by these associations.
- (2) Regional and district associations are responsible for the management of amateur football competitions within their territorial competence and the exercise of rights delegated into their responsibility by the SFZ Regulations, by the decision of the Executive Committee and the contract between the SFZ and the regional associations governing the mutual cooperation in the management of amateur football.
- (3) Regional and district associations cooperate with regional, district and other organizations, which take care about the organization and development of women's football, futsal and beach football at the local level, and provide the necessary synergy and support.
- (4) The involvement of a regional or district association into the system of the football movement and the change of such involvement is approved by the Conference.

### **Article 34**

#### **Union of League Clubs**

- (1) The ULC is a sports organization active in matters of professional football.
- (2) The ULC is responsible for the management of professional football competitions and the exercise of rights delegated into its responsibility by the SFZ Regulations, by the decision of the Executive Committee and the contract between the SFZ and the ULC governing the mutual cooperation in the management of professional football.
- (3) The ULC has the exclusive authority to propose adjustments in the top league.
- (4) The ULC, in accordance with the contract between the SFZ and ULC and the SFZ Regulations, can establish their own managerial, professional and administrative bodies of professional football.
- (5) The founding document of the ULC shall be fundamentally consistent with the Statutes.
- (6) The ULC respects the sovereignty of the SFZ, the Conference and the Executive Committee, and abide by all the decisions of the SFZ adopted in accordance with the rules of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA.

## **TITLE THREE**

### **SFZ bodies (Article 35 - 65)**

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **Common provisions regarding the SFZ bodies (Article 35 - 39)**

#### **Article 35**

## **General provisions**

- (1) The Conference is the highest SFZ body.
- (2) The President and Executive Committee are the highest executive bodies.
- (3) The Auditor, SFZ Review Board (hereinafter referred to as "Review Board") and SFZ Electoral Commission (hereinafter referred to as "Electoral Commission") are the SFZ supervisory bodies.
- (4) The SFZ Chamber, Disciplinary Commission, Jury of Appeals and Licensing Authority are the the dispute resolution bodies.<sup>47</sup>
- (5) The SFZ Secretary-General, SFZ Administration, expert commissions, ad hoc commissions and working groups are the administrative authorities of the SFZ.
- (6) The Conference, Executive Committee, supervisory bodies, dispute resolution bodies, expert commissions and other SFZ bodies with decision-making powers stipulated in the SFZ Regulations are the SFZ bodies with a decision-making competence.
- (7) The responsibility of the SFZ bodies and elected officials is adjusted as follows:
  - a) The President, Executive Committee, Electoral Commission, Auditor, Review Board, Disciplinary Commission, President and Vice-President of the Chamber, Jury of Appeals, Licensing Authority shall report to the Conference,
  - b) The Secretary-General reports to the President and Executive Committee,
  - c) The chairmen and members of the expert commissions report to the Executive Committee,
  - d) Other commissions and the working groups report to the body that established them.
- (8) The exercise of the rights and responsibilities of the various SFZ bodies is governed by their respective regulations, statutes and other SFZ Regulations.

## **Article 36**

### **Actions and decision-making of the SFZ bodies and their members**

- (1) A natural person who meets the following criteria may be elected a member of the SFZ body or substitute member of the SFZ body under the SFZ Regulations:
  - a) Is an Individual Member,
  - b) Has full legal capacity to act,
  - c) Is impeccable,
  - d) Agrees with the candidacy,
  - e) Meets other conditions laid down by the Sports Act<sup>48</sup> or SFZ Regulations.
- (2) The member of the SFZ body shall be obliged to notify the Secretary-General without delay on any loss of capacity to perform its functions as a member of the SFZ body under Section (1) or conflict of interests under Article 38. The violation of this obligation is a serious disciplinary offense, and it may lead to the suspension of the member's function or membership in the SFZ.
- (3) The members of the SFZ bodies are obliged to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the SFZ laws, regulations, and decisions of its bodies with due professional care and in accordance with the SFZ and SFZ members' interests. They shall not prioritize their own interests, interests of a group of SFZ members, or interests of third parties, over the interests of the SFZ. To meet the requirement of due diligence, it is required that in the case of decisions of material nature, the SFZ official or body solicit an expert opinion of the Auditor, the relevant expert commission whose agenda relates to the decision, or consult it with the chairman of the relevant body. If these diverge from their views, they are required to justify their decision, and publish it together with the relevant opinion.
- (4) The members of the SFZ bodies shall avoid unjustified differences when deciding circumstantially and legally identical or similar cases.
- (5) If the statutory body or members of the SFZ bodies proceeded with due professional care and in good faith, and acted in the interest of the SFZ or within the meaning of the decision of the Conference, no disciplinary sanctions or measures for the breach of their duties can be brought against them.

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<sup>47</sup> Article 19 (1) (g) and Article 52 (2) of the Sports Act.

<sup>48</sup> E.g. Article 11 (1) and (2) of the Sports Act.

- (6) All members of the SFZ bodies have one vote only. If the voting process results in a draw, the vote of the chairman (president) of the relevant body takes precedence. A member of the SFZ may not represent another member of the same body when voting.
- To pass a decision in an SFZ body, a majority of all the eligible members of the SFZ body with the right to vote shall cast their ballots, if not provided otherwise in the SFZ Regulations. The rules of the quorum, the number of votes required for the adoption of a decision of the individual SFZ bodies and the number of votes required to reach a qualified majority shall be published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.
- (8) The decision of an SFZ body enters into force on its approval date, if the decision does not contain a later effective date.
- (9) The SFZ body, which decides an issue that directly affects only some members of the SFZ, can decide with a qualified majority that the matter be decided by voting only by those members of the SFZ body that represent the directly affected members of the SFZ.
- (10) The SFZ respects the autonomy and independence of factual examination and decision-making of its bodies in their scope of competence, which was entrusted to them through the SFZ Regulations.
- (11) In order to maintain the efficiency of SFZ activities, the personal meetings of the SFZ are convened especially if the case cannot be resolved based on the written statements of the members of the SFZ body due to its nature, or if the adoption of a decision through "per rollam" voting is inappropriate. The personal meetings of the SFZ bodies may also take place via a telephone conference or videoconference.
- (12) In order to streamline the activities of the SFZ, the members of the SFZ bodies shall pursue the use of modern forms of communication, as well as the introduction and further development of the ISSF.
- (13) If the facts or data that need to be demonstrated or certified with a signature, statement or declaration in accordance with SFZ Regulations, are kept in the ISSF, the Sports Information System or other public registry, and can be certified free of charge by remote access (via the Internet), the obligor does not have to certify or attest these facts or data, and only provides the relevant Internet address or link where the competent SFZ body or SFZ member can verify or determine the necessary data within its own competence; whereby an extract of data from the SFZ register eligible for legal purposes is issued solely by the trustee of the respective SFZ registry.
- (14) The minutes from the meetings of the SFZ body with a decision-making capacity, including the agenda, attendance roster and the decisions, shall be published in the usual manner on the SFZ website and in the ISSF; the minutes and attendance roster of the meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee shall be publicized not later than 15 days from the date of the meeting. The minutes shall also be sent to all the persons entitled to attend the meetings of the competent SFZ body within 20 days from the date of the meeting. The minutes of the meeting are registered in the Registry of minutes of the ISSF.
- (15) The minutes from the meetings of the SFZ body with a decision-making capacity shall include
- a) Approved agenda of the meeting
  - b) Attendance roster; and in the case of minutes from the Conference, minutes of the election or appointment of the delegates, their substitutes and written authorizations, if they were submitted, and verification of eligibility for natural persons to act as a delegate at the Conference,
  - c) List of documents to the individual items on the agenda and where to find them;
  - d) Important messages of the members of the SFZ body to the individual items on the agenda,
  - e) Decisions adopted to the items on the agenda, including the voting results and dissenting opinion of the members of the SFZ body who disagreed with the decision or its justification, if requested,
  - f) Name, surname and signature of the Chairman and the Registrar.
- (16) The minutes from the Conference and the report by the Electoral Commission shall be archived for six years from the date of the Conference or the election.
- (17) The bodies with decision-making competence can also make decisions by "per rollam" voting whose rules are set out in a special SFZ regulation <sup>10</sup>.)
- (18) The decisions of the dispute resolution bodies are published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.



- (19) If the SFZ regulations stipulate that the decision of the dispute resolution body is issued by its member alone (the body does not decide in the senate or plenary session), it also regulates the professional prerequisites for the performance of the function of such a member of the dispute resolution body and the method of their verification.

### **Article 37**

#### **Term of office of the elected SFZ officials**

- (1) The term of office of the members of the SFZ bodies is four years; this does not apply in the case of supplementary election for the remaining term of office pursuant to Section 8 and 9. The term of office of the Auditor and substitute Auditor, President, Vice-President and other members of the Chamber is five years. The age limit for persons elected and appointed to the SFZ bodies is 70 years of age. A person who has reached the age of 70 at the time of election or appointment may not stand as a candidate for elected or appointed function in SFZ.
- (2) The term of office of the members of the SFZ bodies elected by the Conference ends by the election of the new members of these bodies at the electoral conference, which is held usually during the last two months of their respective term of office, but no later than the last day of the last month of the fourth year in the respective body or function; this does not apply in the case of the Auditor, Chairman, Vice-Chairman or another member of the Chamber or the Electoral Commission.
- (3) In order to ensure the effective transition of the SFZ management and the continuity of management of SFZ operations, the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee ends with the term of office of the President. This also applies to the chairmen and members of the elected bodies and committees of the SFZ except for the Auditor and substitute Auditor, Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other member of the Chamber, and the Electoral Commission.
- (4) Any extension of the term of office of the members of the Executive Committee, which is based on the decision of the Executive Committee, is inadmissible.
- (5) In order to ensure the continuity of the ongoing processes within the SFZ activities, the chairman, vice-chairman or any other members of the SFZ bodies whose term of office has ended are entitled to carry out the necessary actions and activities in the relevant SFZ bodies in which they performed their function until missing member of the SFZ bodies are elected or appointed or until temporary appointment referred in Section 9.
- (6) The function of the President or another member of the SFZ body expires
- By expiry of the term of office,
  - By resignation,
  - By removal from office by the competent body,
  - By passivity/inactivity of member of SFZ body for more than 3 months with prior written notice from the Auditor, Chairman or Vice-Chairman of competent SFZ body,
  - By a court decision on the limitation or deprivation of legal capacity,
  - By conviction for an intentional crime committed in connection with the performance of the function or in connection with the activities of the SFZ,
  - By conviction for sports corruption, graft (solicitation of bribe, bribery, indirect corruption) or crime, even if these were not committed in connection with the performance of the function, or in connection with the activities of the SFZ,
  - By death.
- (7) Resignation becomes effective upon the delivery of a written notice to the President or Secretary- General.
- (8) The Auditor shall notify the member of SFZ body, the Chairman of SFZ body where the member carried out his/her function and the SFZ body appointed the member concerned, date of the termination of the office due to his/her passivity/inactivity referred in Section 6 (d).
- (9) If the function of SFZ Chairman, Vice-Chairman or other elected or otherwise appointed member of an SFZ body ceases, it is possible for the Executive Committee or Conference, at the request of the President or other members of the SFZ bodies, or at the request of a Conference delegate, to appoint another person to perform this function instead of the original body member until the next meeting of a body authorized to elect or appoint the said missing member of the body, unless the SFZ regulations provide otherwise. At the next meeting, the relevant SFZ body shall elect or otherwise appoint the missing member of the affected SFZ body if the function in the SFZ body

ceased before the expiry of the term of office, and the new body member shall be elected or otherwise appointed for the remainder of the term of office. If at this meeting the missing SFZ body member is not elected or otherwise appointed, the appointed person shall continue to perform the functions until the standard election or appointment of the missing SFZ body member. The maximum term of office of appointed persons is two years and repeated appointments are possible. (10) If the function of the President expires before the expiry of his/her term of office, the first Vice President shall carry out the presidential powers temporarily until the Conference elects the new

President. If the first Vice President is not elected or is unable to perform his/her function, the powers of the President are passed onto the Executive Committee which decides about the person who will exercise the powers of the President.

- (11) If an action is to be taken or decision is to be made by a SFZ body, which does not have the necessary quorum because of a premature termination/expiry of membership in the SFZ body, or it does not have an elected representatives in urgent matters, the Secretary-General is authorized to act and ensure the necessary steps for the election or appointment of the members in the relevant body. If the election must be done at the Conference, all the necessary steps are taken in collaboration with the Electoral Commission.
- (12) The composition, term of office, manner and methods to nominate the candidates into the elected functions and elections into the elected bodies are published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.
- (13) The candidates for the SFZ members and the persons nominating them shall be published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF at least three days before the election.<sup>49</sup>

### **Article 38**

#### **Conflict of interests and incompatibility of functions**

- (1) The members of the SFZ at all levels of management of football shall maintain impartiality in all matters pertaining to their affiliation to particular clubs or associations.
- (2) In the SFZ, the principle of incompatibility of functions applies:
  - a) BETWEEN the supervisory body AND the function of a delegate at the Conference, in the Executive Committee or in another body elected or appointed by the Conference or the Executive Committee,
  - b) BETWEEN the President, member of the Executive Committee, statutory body of an SFZ member or a function in the executive body of the SFZ member AND the function in the statutory or executive body of a supplier of goods or services for the SFZ or a SFZ member; this does not apply to legal persons in which the SFZ acts as a founder, establishing authority or shareholder,
  - c) in the dispute resolution body
    1. with the duties in other SFZ bodies elected by the Conference or Executive Committee,
    2. representing a party in the proceedings before the dispute resolution bodies,
    3. representing an interest organization of players, coaches, referees and clubs,
    4. with an ownership share in the legal person representing a party in the proceedings before the dispute resolution body,
    5. with membership in the executive, statutory, management, control or supervisory body of the legal person representing a party in the proceedings before the dispute resolution bodies, or
    6. with participation in the associations formed for the purpose of joint legal profession under an association contract in accordance with the Civil Code in which a person under the second or third point is a valid member,
  - d) BETWEEN the position of a SFZ administration employee AND an elected function on the same level of management of football.
- (3) The members of the SFZ bodies elected by the Conference shall not be elected or otherwise appointed as the Conference delegates for the duration of their duties.

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<sup>49</sup> Article 17 (1) (h) of the Sports Act.

- (4) The performance of functions in the Executive Committee, supervisory body, dispute resolution body or expert commission is incompatible with the function of an arbitrator on the same level of management of football.
- (5) An official of the club participating in the competition managed by the SFZ or SFZ members, in which the relevant body operates, shall not have the position of a chairman, deputy chairman or another member of the supervisory body, disciplinary authority, licensing authority and arbitration body.
- (6) A member of the licensing authority shall not exercise a function in any of the bodies of the license applicant. A member of the jury of appeals in the licensing proceedings shall not be simultaneously a member of any other SFZ or ULC body or the employee or member of the SFZ administration, which handles the licensing proceedings.
- (7) If there exists an impeding conflict of interest in a particular case of a member of the SFZ body or SFZ member's body, such a member may not participate in the discussions and decisions regarding the case. If there is doubt as to the existence or possibility of conflict of interest, the decision shall be made by the chairman of the body whose member is thereby affected; and in the case of the chairman, the existence or possibility of conflict of interests is decided upon by other members of the body in a secret ballot. In the case of a conflict of interest of the member of the senate of the dispute resolution body, this member shall be substituted by a substitute member, otherwise, it shall be replaced by another member of the dispute resolution body determined by random selection.
- (8) The member of the SFZ body or SFZ member's body, who heard the case at any of the stages, is excluded from the decision-making process in the same matter at the body, which decides at a different stage, or carries out a review of the procedures regarding the decision of the SFZ body or SFZ member's body.
- (9) No natural or a legal person (including the holding companies, subsidiaries and their organizational units) may have control or influence in two or more clubs, whose teams are active in the same competition, more particularly, it must not be a shareholder, perform a function in the relevant bodies, or have a share of the voting rights in the bodies of such clubs, not even through a controlled or controlling person, or through a holding company or a related person under the special regulations.<sup>50</sup> A violation of this prohibition constitutes a serious disciplinary offense, and can lead to the suspension of membership in the SFZ or performance of his/her functions or activities in the SFZ.

#### **Article 38a**

#### **Procedure for the investigation of conflicts of interests and incompatibility of functions**

- (1) The members of the SFZ bodies, including their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen, are obliged to perform their duties for the term of office in the relevant SFZ body in a way to prevent any possible conflicts of interests or incompatibility in the performance of their functions according to Article 38 or other SFZ regulations.
- (2) The compliance in the exercise of functions of SFZ body members with the requirements according to paragraph 1 is reviewed and assessed by the Legislative and Legal Committee for the duration of their function in the relevant SFZ body.
- (3) The Legislative and Legal Committee shall initiate the proceedings according to paragraph 2
  - a) on its own initiative should its findings indicate that the SFZ body member:
    1. provided incomplete or false information in the declaration pursuant to Article 2 (5) (h) of the Electoral Procedure,
    2. acted in violation of Article 38 or another SFZ regulation regulating the conflicts of interests or incompatibility of functions, or
  - b) it shall act on the basis of a submission filed by a SFZ member regarding a conflict of interests or incompatibility of functions, which clearly states who submitted it, which member of the SFZ body it concerns and what is objected to.
- (4) The Legislative and Legal Committee shall allow the affected member of the SFZ body against whom the proceedings are conducted pursuant to paragraph 2 to comment on the subject matter of the proceedings; and if necessary, the Committee shall also collect further evidence.
- (5) If it is established through the procedure under paragraph 2 to 4 that the SFZ body member has committed any of the acts in paragraph 3, the decision of the Legislative and Legal Committee shall contain a statement on the application of a procedure according to Article 39, which must state the inconsistency of actions or omissions of the relevant SFZ body member with the Statutes or other SFZ regulations; otherwise the Legislative and Legal Committee stops the proceedings.
- (6) The Legislative and Legal Committee shall issue a decision pursuant to paragraph 5 on the application of the procedure pursuant to Article 39 in a way that:
  - a) a proposal is submitted for the suspension of function or activity of the relevant SFZ body member to the Executive Committee, and/or
  - b) a motion for dismissal from office is submitted
    1. to the Conference if the person is a member of the SFZ dispute resolution body or controlling body, or

2. to the relevant SFZ body that elected or otherwise appointed the concerned member of the SFZ body to his/her position.
- (7) The Legislative and Legal Committee may use the procedure according to paragraph 6 (a) and (b) simultaneously in its decision.
- (8) For the Legislative and Legal Committee to pass a decision pursuant to paragraph 6 or paragraph 7, an approval by the qualified majority of all its members is required.
- (9) An appeal against the decision of the Legislative and Legal Committee according to paragraphs 6 and 7 is permissible, and will be decided by the Jury of Appeals. A lodged appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

### **Article 39**

#### **Dismissal from the function and suspension of function or activity**

- (1) The dismissal of a member of the dispute resolution body or supervisory body shall be decided by the Conference. The dismissal of a member of another SFZ body shall be decided by the SFZ body that elected or otherwise appointed the person concerned to perform the function.
- (2) According to paragraph 1, the SFZ body shall remove the SFZ body member from office if he/she has lost the integrity required by law (for example, Article 7 (2) and (3) of the Sports Act and Article 13 (2) and (3) and Article 13a (6) of Act no. 1/2014 Coll. on Public sports events and amendments to other legislation) to act as a sports expert.
- (3) The Conference may only remove a member of the dispute resolution body from office if his/her behavior and manner of exercising the function or activity as a SFZ member is in a fundamental conflict with the legal order and regulations, especially when said member infringed the principle of incompatibility of functions in the dispute resolution body in accordance with Article 38 (2) (c), requirements for exercising the function in accordance with Article 38 (10), or committed a criminal offense, serious disciplinary offense or other illegal or grossly immoral act incompatible with the status of a member of the dispute resolution body.
- (4) The proposal for removal of an elected member of the SFZ body from his/her function shall be made in writing, it must be justified, and it shall be sent to the member of the SFZ body who decides about the dismissal, to the Auditor, and to the affected person who has the right to a public defense before the competent SFZ bodies if so requested.
- (5) The Executive Committee may decide to suspend the performance of the function and/or activity of the SFZ body member with effect until the decision on his/her dismissal according to paragraph 1. The proposal to suspend the performance of function or activity must be written, justified and sent to the Auditor and the person concerned who has the right to submit a written counter-statement in his/her defense.
- (6) The Executive Committee may decide to suspend the performance of functions and/or activities also based on the initiation of disciplinary proceedings for gross disciplinary misconduct, effective until a due completion of the disciplinary proceedings.
- (7) The decision on the suspension of function and/or activity of the person concerned in the SFZ shall have an immediate effect.
- (8) If the person performing the function or activity within the SFZ is charged with a crime, corruption in sports or a deliberate crime committed in connection with the function or activity in the SFZ, the Executive Committee shall decide on the suspension of function or activity of this person until the final decision in the criminal case against that person is reached.
- (9) The proposal for dismissal from or suspension of the function and/or activity may be submitted by a delegate at the Conference, member of the Executive Committee, Auditor, Secretary-General or Chairman of the disciplinary or other body in which the person concerned performs the function. The proposal for dismissal from or suspension of the function and/or activity can also be submitted by the Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Committee in accordance with the procedure according to Article 38a.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **The Conference (Article 40-47)**

#### **Article 40**

##### **The Conference**

- (1) The Conference is the highest authority in the SFZ, and it makes the most serious decisions in Slovak football.
- (2) The Conference may be ordinary, extraordinary or electoral.

- (3) Ordinary Conference is held usually twice per calendar year.
- (4) Extraordinary Conference shall be convened subject to the conditions referred to in Article 47.
- (5) The Electoral Conference is held generally every four years with the aim to hold the election of the President, other members of the Executive Committee, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Jury of Appeals, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the regional Licensing Authority, and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Jury of Appeals within the Licensing Authority.
- (6) The Conference, whose aim is to hold supplementary elections, is not considered an Electoral Conference.
- (7) The session of the Conference is chaired by the chairman, i.e. the President, or his/her representative, usually a member of the Executive Committee, or the Secretary-General.
- (8) The preparation and agenda of the Conference is governed by the Rules of Procedure of the SFZ Conference (hereinafter referred to as the "Rules of Procedure of the Conference") and the Electoral Procedure.

#### **Article 41**

##### **Delegates and other participants at the Conference**

- (1) The Conference may be attended by 87 delegates with the right to vote,
  - a) 38 delegates for district associations,
  - b) 20 delegates for regional associations,
  - c) 24 delegates for professional football,
  - d) 1 delegate for women's football,
  - e) 1 delegate for futsal,
  - f) 1 delegate for the coach association,
  - g) 1 delegate for the referee association,
  - h) 1 delegate for the player association.
- (2) The delegates referred to in Section 1
  - a) (a) are the chairmen of the district associations elected at the conference of the district association by the representatives of the clubs involved in the competitions in the relevant territory, who shall demonstrate their rights to be delegates with the right to vote before the beginning of the conference,
  - b) (b) are the representatives of regional associations in the numbers depending on the regional principle, are elected at the conference of the regional association by the representatives of the clubs involved in the competitions held by the relevant regional association and clubs, whose teams are active in higher competitions than the regional ones, and have their home pitch in the said region, if they are not members of the ULC, who shall demonstrate their rights to be delegates with the right to vote before the beginning of the conference,
  - c) (C) are the

1. 12 representatives of the football clubs competing in the highest league, which shall be appointed by a unilateral written legal act by the statutory body of the club, if the delegate is not the statutory body of the club,
  2. 12 representatives of the football clubs competing in the second highest league, elected by the Assembly of clubs of the second highest league always before the beginning of the championship in the upcoming competition year,
- d) (d) is elected and dismissed by the representatives of women's football clubs,
  - e) (e) is elected and dismissed by the Conference of Slovak Futsal
  - f) (f) to (h) is elected by the members of the associations with associate membership to SFZ, which the delegate represents.
- (3) If the delegate referred to in Section 1 (f) to (h) represents one association, he/she shall demonstrate the capacity to act as a delegate with a decision of the relevant body in the association, which he/she represents, or through a written statement of the statutory body of the association.
  - (4) If the delegate referred to in Section 1 (f) to (h) represents two or more associations, the joint delegate is elected by all the members of the association, which he/she represents, if no other agreement is reached between the said associations. The delegate shall demonstrate his/her capacity to act as a delegate with voting rights by producing the minutes from his/her election, or a written statement signed by the statutory bodies of all the respective associations.
  - (5) A member of the SFZ body shall not act as a Conference delegate with the right to vote just based on his/her function in the SFZ body.
  - (6) Each delegate shall have one vote only, and all votes of the delegates are equal. The right to vote is vested exclusively to the delegates present at the meeting, if no "per rollam" principle is used. A delegate can be represented at the Conference by a substitute who is appointed in the same way as the delegate. It is not allowed to vote through the nominated representative based on a written statement from the Conference delegate or his substitute.
  - (7) Each delegate under Section 2 (a), (c) to (h)) can have up to two substitutes. The delegates under Section 2 (b) may have no more than six substitutes elected for each regional association who are not bound to represent a specific delegate. The elected substitutes are registered in the order determined by the number of votes, by which they were elected. The order of the substitutes is decisive for the representation and substitution of a delegate whose delegation authority lapsed.
  - (8) The right to act as a delegate at the Conference with the right to vote shall be verified and recorded by a standalone employee of the SFZ administration before the beginning of the Conference.
  - (9) The Ordinary Members, associations of players and sports experts who participate in the Conference through their delegates, shall ensure their election or appointment and announce to the SFZ the delegates and their substitutes and their identification and contact details at least 14 days prior to the Conference. In justified cases the Electoral Commission may even accept information about the Conference and their substitutes provided at a later date.
  - (10) The registration of the delegates and substitute delegates elected for the entire election period, including the order of the substitute delegates, is made and updated by the SFZ in the ISSF on the basis of written materials, which shall be delivered to the SFZ by Ordinary Members immediately.
  - (11) The list of delegates and their substitutes containing the name, surname, place of residence or similar, and in the case of substitutes, the person they substitute at the Conference, is published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.
  - (12) The members of the Executive Committee, Electoral Commission, Auditor, Secretary-General, Chairman of the SFZ body, Honorary President, representatives of the Associated Members and other guests invited by the President or Secretary-General may participate at the Conference without the right to vote. The participation of other persons and guests shall be subject to the President's or Chairman's approval or invitation.

## **Article 42**

### **Scope of the Conference**

- (1) The Conference has a legislative, founding, controlling and decision-making role in the SFZ.
- (2) The following activities fall within the exclusive scope of the Conference, whereby the Conference approves the relevant decisions by a qualified majority of all the delegates (61):

- a) Approval of the Statutes and amendments thereto,
  - b) Approval of the reorganization of competitions held by the SFZ, approve the conclusion of contractual relations with commitments in excess of 2 million euro, and approve the conclusion of contractual relations with performance in favor of the SFZ in excess of 4 million euro, with the exception of contractual relations relating to the management of earmarked public funds or other special purpose funds if the approval scope of the Conference is not subject to special regulations,
  - c) Approval of the establishment of companies where the SFZ acts as a shareholder,
  - d) Approval of the transfer of a business share or shares in the companies where the SFZ acts as a shareholder,
  - e) Approval of accession of the SFZ into an existing company or withdrawal from it,
  - f) Dismissal of the Auditor and his/her substitute,
  - g) Dismissal of the President and other members of the Executive Committee,
  - h) Delegation of some of the responsibilities to the Executive Committee under Section 5.
- (3) The exclusive competence of the Conference also includes:
- a) Election of the President and the other members of the Executive Committee,
  - b) Election of the Auditor and his/her substitute,
  - c) Election and dismissal of:
    1. chairmen and vice chairmen of the supervisory and dispute resolution bodies, including the licensing authority,
    2. members of the Jury of Appeals.
  - d) Election and dismissal of the chairman, members and substitutes of the Electoral Commission,
  - e) Dismissal of the members of the dispute resolution bodies and the Review Board,
  - f) Appointment and dismissal of independent auditors, and take note of the Auditor's report on the SFZ Annual Report, which also includes the annual accounts,
  - g) Approval of the Electoral Procedure and Rules of Procedure of the Conference and their amendments,
  - h) Approval of the SFZ's Strategic Plan,
  - i) Approval of the amount of the membership fee for the individual types of membership in the SFZ and categories of SFZ members and the maturity of the membership fee,
  - j) Approval of the intended use of the Youth Football Support Fund,
  - k) Approval of the SFZ budget and budgets of legal entities where the SFZ acts as a founder, establishing authority or sole shareholder,
  - l) Approval of the SFZ Annual Report, including the financial statements of the SFZ and accounts of legal entities where the SFZ acts as a founder, establishing authority or sole shareholder,
  - m) Approval of the Annual Report on Auditor's Activities,
  - n) Approval of reimbursement for the loss of time and remuneration of the Auditor,
  - o) Approval of the contract between the SFZ and ULC on mutual assistance in the management of professional football,
  - p) Approval of the nomination of candidates for the UEFA or FIFA Executive Committee,
  - q) Approval of the SFZ becoming a member in a union of sporting associations or another sports organization and withdrawal of the SFZ from such organization,
  - s) Decision on admittance or dismissal of an Ordinary Member or Associated Member and their exclusion from the SFZ,
  - t) Decision on granting or canceling honorary membership in the SFZ and the title Honorary President,
  - u) Decision on serious matters relating to property management and economic management in the SFZ,
  - v) Decision on the dissolution of the SFZ on a voluntary basis and matters relating to the dissolution of the SFZ,
  - w) Decision on other matters provided for in the approved Conference agenda.
- (4) The Conference may reserve the right to decide on other matters that fall within the scope of other SFZ authorities.
- (5) The Conference may decide to delegate one or more responsibilities referred to in Section 3 to the Executive Committee and in its decision it shall state the scope, conditions and duration of the delegated responsibility.

### **Article 43**

### **Conference quorum**

- (1) The Conference is deemed to be sufficient in numbers when the qualified majority of all delegates with the right to vote (61) is present at the meeting.
- (2) If the Conference is insufficient in numbers at the beginning of the session, the Chairman of the Conference shall postpone the beginning of the Conference for one hour. If the Conference is insufficient in numbers after one hour, the Chairman shall order a repeated meeting of the Conference to be held no later than 30 days and with the same agenda.
- (3) If during the Conference the number of the delegates present drops below the quorum (61), the President shall interrupt the Conference for a maximum of one hour. If the Conference is insufficient in numbers after one hour, the Chairman shall order a repeated meeting of the Conference to be held no later than within 30 days and with the agenda that has not been discussed yet.
- (4) The Conference is deemed to be sufficient in numbers at the repeated meeting when the absolute majority of all the delegates with the right to vote (44) is present at the meeting. The extension of the repeated Conference agenda is governed by Article 45 (2). If the Conference is insufficient in numbers even at the repeated meeting, the Chairman shall order another repeated meeting of the Conference to be held no later than within 30 days and with the same agenda.

### **Article 44**

#### **Decisions passed by the Conference**

- (1) The Conference makes decisions on a sequential basis after the relevant item is discussed in the agenda.
- (2) Subject to the quorum requirement pursuant to Article 43 (1), the Conference shall pass its decisions by an absolute majority vote of all the delegates with the right to vote (44); this does not apply if pursuant to Article 42 (2) a qualified majority of all the delegates with the right to vote (61) is required, or when the simple majority of the delegates present with the right to vote is sufficient in accordance with the Statutes, Electoral Procedure or Rules of Procedure of the Conference.
- (3) The adoption of a decision of the Conference, which directly governs the highest league or the rights and obligations of the clubs in the highest league and in connection with this competition, requires an absolute majority of votes of all the representatives of clubs in the highest league (7). The decision, which relates directly to the highest league or the activities of the clubs in the highest league, cannot be adopted if a qualified majority of the representatives of the clubs from the highest league (9) voted against it; this requirement shall not apply if the issue is an election, appointment or withdrawal of a member of the SFZ body.
- (4) Compliance with the conditions under Article 3 shall be required for the adoption of a decision at the Conference under Article 43 (4). With other decisions, it is sufficient to pass them by a simple majority vote at the repeated meeting of the Conference.
- (5) The voting at the Conference, bodies of the Conference and other issues during the actual session of the Conference not governed by the Statutes are governed by the Electoral Procedure and the Rules of Procedure.
- (6) In justified cases, and on the basis of the decisions by the Conference or on a proposal of the President of the Conference, the Conference may pass a decision by "per rollam" voting.

### **Article 45**

#### **Agenda of an Ordinary Conference**

- (1) The Secretary-General shall draw up the agenda of the Conference based on the proposals of the Executive Committee, delegates, Auditor, members of the SFZ bodies, Ordinary Members and Associated Members.
- (2) On the proposal of the President, delegate or Auditor, the Conference agenda may be altered or amended at the beginning of the Conference before approving the agenda, if an absolute majority of all the delegates with the right to vote (44) agrees with such changes.
- (3) The Conference shall not decide on an issue that is not explicitly stated in the agenda, which is approved by the delegates at the beginning of the Conference. Within the framework of "Miscellaneous" or "Discussion", the Conference may only adopt recommendations and opinions.
- (4) The Conference has a number of mandatory steps:



- a) A statement that the Conference has been convened in accordance with the Statutes,
  - b) A declaration of the Conference quorum,
  - c) A decision on the amendments of the proposed agenda, if any,
  - d) Approval of the agenda,
  - e) Implementation of the approved agenda,
  - f) Approval of the working committees of the Conference,
  - g) public speech/address of the President or an authorized person on compliance with the plan for strategic development of football or SFZ activities, and especially when the Conference approves the SFZ Annual Report;
  - h) Approval of the resolutions.
- (5) The information on the meeting of the Conference shall be published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF at least 15 days before the date of the Conference.
- (6) The invitation to the Conference, the draft agenda of the Conference and the basis for the Conference meeting shall be sent to the delegates at least seven days before the Conference date. The invitation and draft agenda of the Conference shall be published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF at least seven days before the date of the Conference.

## **Article 46**

### **Regular elections, supplementary elections and the Electoral Conference**

- (1) The regular elections into the SFZ bodies, which require an election by the Conference, are held at the Electoral Conference every four years; this does not apply in respect of the election of the members of the Electoral Commission, the Auditor and his/her substitute, and the Chairman, Vice- Chairman and other members of the Chamber.
- (2) The Electoral Conference is governed by the provisions governing the Ordinary Conference.
- (3) Regular elections to the SFZ bodies at the Electoral Conference are announced by the Electoral Commission and are held not later than 30 days after the expiry of the four year period from the date of the last Regular elections; this shall not apply to the election of the members of the Electoral Commission, Chamber, the Auditor and his/her substitute.
- (4) The nominations of the candidates to be elected into the SFZ bodies shall be submitted in writing to the SFZ at least five days prior to the date of the Electoral Conference. One person may be nominated into one elected function only at one and the same Conference.
- (5) Supplementary Elections are elections into the SFZ bodies elected by the Conference for the remainder of the term of office if the member of a SFZ elected body was prematurely dismissed, or if the elected function in the SFZ is not populated for other reasons. The Supplementary Elections under Article 42 (3) (a) to (d) shall be usually carried out within the framework of the upcoming Conference.
- (6) The elections into the SFZ bodies may also be performed electronically through the ISSF or the Sports Information System in accordance with SFZ Regulations.<sup>52</sup>
- (7) At the request of the Conference delegate or another member of the SFZ, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic shall appoint an independent observer who is eligible to participate in the elections and meetings of the Electoral Commission, including the counting of the votes.<sup>53</sup>
- (8) The report of the Electoral Commission is published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF within 15 days of the elections.

## **Article 47**

### **Extraordinary Conference**

- (1) The Executive Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Conference, if decided by an absolute majority of all its members (8). If the Executive Committee has less than eight members or if it is insufficient in numbers for two consecutive months, the Extraordinary Conference may be convened by a member of the Executive Committee, the Electoral Commission or the Auditor.
- (2) In justified cases, the Extraordinary Conference may also be convened by the President or Auditor.

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<sup>52</sup> Article 19 (4) of the Sports Act, Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the SFZ Conference and Article 6 of the SFZ Electoral Procedure.

<sup>53</sup> Article 23 (2) to (4) of the Sports Act.

- (3) The Executive Committee is obliged to convene an Extraordinary Conference if proposed by
  - a) Absolute majority of all district associations in the form of a petition signed by the statutory bodies of the various district associations, or
  - b) 500 clubs in the form of a petition signed by the statutory bodies of the individual clubs.
- (4) If the term of office of the SFZ bodies authorized to convene an Extraordinary Conference expired and the new members of these bodies for another term have not been elected yet, the Extraordinary Conference may be convened by any member of the SFZ.<sup>54</sup>
- (5) The proposal for convening the Extraordinary Conference shall indicate the items to be incorporated into the agenda of the Extraordinary Conference.
- (6) The Extraordinary Conference shall be held within 60 days from the date when the legal action was made (decision of the President, Executive Committee, Electoral Commission, service of the petition or proposal), which is crucial for its implementation.
- (7) The Extraordinary Conference is governed accordingly by the provisions governing the Regular Conference.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Executive Committee (Article 48 - 52)**

#### **Article 48**

#### **Composition of the Executive Committee**

- (1) The Executive Committee is the highest executive body of the SFZ for the management of football.
- (2) The Executive Committee consists of the President and 13 other members (a total of 14 members) in the following extent:
  - a) Vice President for national representation and international relations,
  - b) Four members for amateur football, one of which is the Vice President for amateur football,
  - c) Four members for professional football, one of which is the Vice President for professional football,
  - d) One member for legal and legislative issues,
  - e) One member - representative of the coaches,
  - f) One member - representative of the players,
  - g) One member - representative of the referees, who is also the Chairman of the Referee Commission,
  - h) One member – marketing and strategic planning representative.
- (3) The President and the members of the Executive Committee under Section 2 (a), (d) to (g)) are elected by all the delegates with the right to vote. The members of the Executive Committee under
  - a) Section 2 (b) are elected by the delegates in accordance with Article 41 (1) (a) and (b)
  - b) Section 2 (c) are elected by the delegates in accordance with Article 41 (1) (c)
- (4) In the election of the four members of the Executive Committee for amateur football, the regional principle shall be followed. For compliance with the regional principle it is crucial that the candidate be proposed by the conference of a regional association which the candidate represents in the Executive Committee. In each region, one member of the Executive Committee shall be elected for amateur football. All the members of the Executive Committee for amateur football shall alternate in the function of Vice President for amateur football on a rotational basis at regular yearly intervals.
- (5) When electing a members of the Executive Committee pursuant to Article 48, paragraph 2, point f), the candidate shall be nominated
  - a. by an association of players, which is a member of the SFZ or
  - b. by at least 50 players who are members of the SFZ.<sup>55</sup>
- (6) When appointing the members of the Executive Committee under Article 48 (2), it shall be required that at least one member of the Executive Committee be a woman. If there are no women among the members of the Executive Committee during the election to the last position in the Executive Committee, the election shall not take place and the election commission shall call supplementary elections within 48 hours to fill the vacant position and determine the election date. The procedure

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<sup>54</sup> Article 21 (1) (f) of the Sports Act.

<sup>55</sup> Article 19 (1) (e) the Sports Act.

under the previous sentence shall also apply mutatis mutandis in the case of the procedure referred to in Article 37 (9).

- (7) At the first meeting of the Executive Committee, the members of the Executive Committee shall elect the first Vice President from among the members of the Executive Committee.
- (8) Several persons with an identical club affiliation cannot be members of the Executive Committee.

#### **Article 49**

##### **Rights and obligations of the members of the Executive Committee**

- (1) A member of the Executive Committee has the right to
  - a) Submit a proposal into the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting or other SFZ body,
  - b) Vote on all the matters to be decided by the Executive Committee,
  - c) Comment on points within the agenda and underlying documents to be discussed by the Executive Committee,
  - d) Require the SFZ administration staff to submit the documents (contracts, financial documents, reports and other documents) and provide explanations and information on the activities of the SFZ and legal entities where the SFZ acts as a founder, establishing authority or sole shareholder,
  - e) Propose a "per rollam" voting of the Executive Committee in matters that do not require an in camera hearing and decision at the meeting of the Executive Committee,
  - f) Participate in the meetings of the SFZ bodies, present proposals and opinions in accordance with the SFZ Regulations and decisions of the Conference and the Executive Committee,
  - g) In justified cases, propose the convening of an extraordinary session of the Executive Committee, or request the convening of a meeting of another SFZ body, especially when the matter is urgent,
  - h) Publicly express their views on the issues of football in compliance with Section 2 (b) to (f).
- (2) A member of the Executive Committee is obliged to
  - a) Participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee in person; his/her participation is indispensable,
  - b) Not disclose the underlying documents for the meeting of the Executive Committee to third parties before the meeting of the Executive Committee and after the meeting of the Executive Committee without the consent of the Executive Committee or the President,
  - c) Respect and implement the decisions made by the Executive Committee in accordance with the SFZ Regulations, regardless of how he/she voted,
  - d) Carry out the function selflessly for the benefit of football in accordance with the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA,
  - e) Oversee the efficient use of the funds of the SFZ and funds the SFZ decides about,
  - f) Oversee the interests of football and, through his/her public actions and behavior, promote the reputation of Slovak football, the SFZ, SFZ members, UEFA and FIFA,
  - g) Refrain from actions that might unfairly harm or jeopardize the reputation or legitimate interests of Slovak football, the SFZ, members or partners of the SFZ, or partners of the members of the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA.
- (3) In the case of actions that are incompatible with the observance of the duties of a member of the Executive Committee in accordance with Section 2, or if a member of the Executive Committee fails to participate in its activities without a reasonable excuse or repeatedly over a period of 6 months, such a member may be removed from office or suspended from the performance of his/her duties by the decision of the Disciplinary Commission on the proposal of the President, the Executive Committee or the Auditor.

#### **Article 50**

##### **Meetings of the Executive Committee**

- (1) The Executive Committee shall meet as needed, usually at least once per calendar month.
- (2) The meetings of the Executive Committee are convened and hosted by the President.
- (3) If an absolute majority of all the members of the Executive Committee request a meeting under Article 52 (2) in writing, or if matters are to be discussed that fall within the competence of the Conference and the situation requires an immediate action, the President is obliged to convene an

extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee within 7 days of receipt of the request or of the emergence of reasons for convening the extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee.

- (4) The inclusion of a particular item on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee may be proposed by a member of the Executive Committee or by the Secretary-General. The items on the agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee are proposed by the members of the Executive Committee to the Secretary-General at least 10 days before the date of the meeting.
- (5) The agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee is drawn up by the President in cooperation with the Secretary-General.
- (6) The agenda of the meeting of the Executive Committee is sent to the members of the Executive Committee together with the invitation and discussion materials at least 7 days prior to the meeting.
- (7) The meetings of the Executive Committee are attended by the Auditor, Secretary-General, and the person responsible for the minutes of the meeting, who have no right to vote.
- (8) The meetings of the Executive Committee are not public.
- (9) The Executive Committee may invite third parties to any of the negotiated items in the agenda to give their expert opinion, provide additional information to the Executive Committee or answer the questions relating to the issues in the agenda. The invited third parties do not have the right to vote.

## **Article 51**

### **Scope of competence of the Executive Committee**

- (1) The Executive Committee shall decide on all the matters which are not within the scope of competence of the Conference or other SFZ body as stipulated in the SFZ Regulations.
- (2) The Executive Committee:
  - a) Approves the SFZ Regulations pursuant to Article 7(3) (a) to (c) and their amendments,
  - b) Approves the draft SFZ Strategic Plan for the relevant election term and submits it for approval at the Conference,
  - c) Approves the projects and tasks arising from the implementation of the SFZ Strategic Plan, discusses the reports dealing with their implementation and informs the Conference about their implementation in the SFZ Annual Report,
  - d) Approves the Preparation Plan and Schedule of Events of the representation teams, including the women's football and futsal, and creates conditions for the representation teams,
  - e) Approves the proposal for acceptance of the representatives and talented sportsmen in the sports centers,
  - f) Approves the rules and performance criteria for the inclusion of players on the SFZ list of talented sportsmen,
  - g) Approves the acceptance of Ordinary Members after the submission of documents referred to in Article 27 (4),
  - h) Approves the President's proposal for the appointment and dismissal of the Secretary- General,
  - i) Approves the draft agenda and convenes the meeting of the Electoral Conference, Regular Conference and Extraordinary Conference,
  - j) Approves and submits to the Conference the draft SFZ budget, draft Annual Report and draft proposals regarding the key issues of economic management of the SFZ,
  - k) Approves the contracts between the SFZ and
    1. regional associations, on mutual cooperation in the management of amateur football,
    2. Slovak Futsal, on mutual cooperation in the management of futsal,
  - l) Approves the nomination of
    1. Candidates for elections to the bodies of Slovak Olympic Committee and other sports organizations where the SFZ acts as a member,
    2. Candidates for elections to the bodies of the UEFA and FIFA, with the exception of the candidates for members of the Executive Committee of UEFA and FIFA,
  - m) Approves the nomination of referees and delegates into the competitions managed by the SFZ and proposes the referees and delegates to the UEFA and FIFA lists,
  - n) Elects and removes the first Vice President of the SFZ from among the members of the Executive Committee,

- o) Elects the members of the Review Board, members of the dispute resolution bodies and their substitutes if these are not elected otherwise,
  - p) Appoints and removes the coaches and other staff members of the representation teams,
  - q) Appoints the SFZ representative into the Review Board of Slovak Futsal,
  - r) Appoints and removes the chairmen and members of the expert commissions, taking into account the opinion of the chairman of the relevant expert commission,
  - s) Establishes and cancels expert commissions and defines their scope of competence in the Statutes,
  - t) Steers the activities of the expert commissions usually through the member of the Executive Committee (guarantor) in collaboration with the relevant chairman of the commission and Secretary- General, and prepares and establishes the ad hoc commissions or working groups,
  - u) Decides on the objections of member of the national representation team against the content of the Statutes of Member of the National Representation Team,
  - v) Decides on the schedule of events,
  - w) Decides on the changes in the competitions managed by the SFZ and ULC,
  - x) Decides on the material issues related to the organization and management of the cup competitions,
  - y) Decides on the questions of economic management of the SFZ of serious nature,
  - z) Decides on the granting, and conditions thereof, of licenses for the use of the rights referred to in Article 68 (1) or (2) or any part thereof, for a specific period to a particular member of the
- aa) Decides on the delegation of tasks within the competence of the Executive Committee to the other SFZ bodies or to third parties,
  - ab) Decides on the use and allocation of funds within the Youth Football Support Fund in accordance with the purpose of use approved by the Conference pursuant to Article 42 (3) (k).
  - ac) Decides on the proposal to appoint and remove members of the Sports Support Fund supervisory board.

## **Article 52**

### **Decisions of the Executive Committee**

- (1) The Executive Committee has reached the necessary quorum if at least eight members of the Executive Committee are present in the meeting, including the President or first Vice President; this does not apply if the procedure referred to in Article 53 (6) second sentence is applied.
- (2) The Executive Committee shall pass its decisions by an absolute majority of all of its members. If some of the member places in the Executive Committee referred to in Article 48 (2) are not populated at the time of the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee shall take its decisions by an absolute majority vote of all the existing members of the Executive Committee who are elected as members of the Executive Committee at the time of the meetings of the Executive Committee and perform the function of a member of the Executive Committee, however, the number of votes shall never be lower than 5.
- (3) Each member of the Executive Committee shall vote in person. The voting of the member of the Executive Committee through a representative or on the basis of a written power of attorney is not allowed.
- (4) The decisions adopted by the Executive Committee shall take immediate effect, if the Executive Committee does not decide otherwise.
- (5) No judicial remedy can be used against the decision of the Executive Committee, if SFZ Regulations do not determine otherwise.
- (6) The decision of the Executive Committee, against which there is no judicial remedy, may only be revoked or amended by the Conference or the Executive Committee, at the initiative of the Auditor or other SFZ body, or without such an initiative.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **SFZ President (Article 53 - 54)**

#### **Article 53**

##### **Position of the President**

- (1) The President is a statutory body empowered to act on behalf of the SFZ.

- (2) The President is the supreme representative of the SFZ in international relations, in relation to international sports organizations and other national football associations.
- (3) The President may empower the first Vice President, Vice President, another member of the Executive Committee, Secretary-General, or a SFZ Administration employee to represent the SFZ externally, this also applies to third persons with the approval of the Executive Committee.
- (4) The President is acting on behalf of the SFZ in legal, administrative and organizational relations and shall sign all significant legal documents on behalf of the SFZ unless the signing of such documents is delegated in writing to the Secretary-General or another employee of the SFZ Administration.
- (5) The President shall chair the meetings of the Conference, the Executive Committee and the working groups, in which he/she was appointed as chairman. The President is entitled to participate without the right to vote at the meetings of all the SFZ bodies, as well as all members of the SFZ bodies.
- (6) In the case of inability to perform the functions of the President, the President is represented by the first Vice President. If this is not possible, the powers of the President until the next Conference are assumed by a member of the Executive Committee with authority based on the decision of the Executive Committee in the specified range.

#### **Article 54**

##### **Scope of competence of the President**

- (1) The most important tasks of the President are to
  - a) Act on behalf of the SFZ and represent its interests in the negotiations with the state authorities, local government, businesses and other entities,
  - b) Coordinate the relations between the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA and the relations of the SFZ with other national sports federations, national sports organizations and other sports organizations.
  - c) Initiate, implement and support the cooperation of the SFZ with state authorities, local government and other public institutions in the Slovak Republic,
  - d) Ensure the efficient operation of the SFZ bodies in order to fulfill the mission and objectives of the SFZ,
  - e) Implement the decisions made by the Conference and the Executive Committee through the Secretary-General and SFZ Administration,
  - f) Submit a proposal to the Executive Committee for the appointment of Secretary-General,
  - g) Supervise the activities of the Secretary-General and the SFZ Administration.
- (2) The President is also entitled to transfer assets, set up a security, lien or easement on property owned by the SFZ, issue a promissory note, conclude a loan contract, take over a debt or liability, or recognize questionable SFZ liabilities only with the prior approval of the Conference and after soliciting and considering the statement and recommendations of the Legislative-Legal Committee and the Auditor.
- (3) The President is authorized to enter into contractual relations on behalf of SFZ. The contractual relations with commitments in excess of 100,000 euro (even as an aggregate amount) and the contractual relations with performance in favor of SFZ in excess of 500,000 euro (even as an aggregate amount) may only be concluded by the President after a prior approval and authorization of the SFZ Executive Committee or SFZ Conference. The prior approval of the Executive Committee or the Conference under the preceding sentence shall not be required in the case of contractual relations relating to the earmarked public funds or use of other special purpose funds if the scope of the Executive Committee or the Conference is not established by a special regulation.
- (4) The President is obliged to discuss his/her decisions on the matters of serious nature in the Executive Committee, which shall decide that the most serious matters must be discussed and decided by the Conference.

#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

##### **SFZ supervisory bodies (Article 55 - 56)**

##### **Article 55**

##### **Auditor**

- (1) The Auditor is the supreme supervisory body of the SFZ. He/she exercises and maintains independent internal control of the SFZ and SFZ members. Substitute Auditor is also Vice- Chairman of the Review Board for whom following sections 2 and 3 apply equally.
- (2) The Auditor can be a natural person who
  - a) Has full legal capacity to act,
  - b) Is impeccable,
  - c) Meets the qualification criteria, which include:
    1. Four years of experience in the organization, management or conduct of sports.
    2. At least secondary general education or secondary vocational education, and at least two years of experience in the organization, management or conduct of sports.
    3. At least a Bachelor's degree in economics, management or law, or
    4. At least a Master's degree in another field of study as the one stated in the third Section, and at least one year of experience in the organization, management or conduct of sports.
- (3) The Function of the Auditor expires by
  - a) Loss of eligibility under Section 2
  - b) Removal from office,
  - c) Decision of the Disciplinary Commission as a result of a serious breach of the Auditor's duties,
  - d) Resignation,
  - e) As a result of failure to obtain or loss of professional competence as an auditor for a national sporting association under the Sports Act.
- (4) In the exercise of his/her function, the Auditor seeks to prevent a serious breach of obligation under the laws, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA, and the relevant sanctions imposed, measures taken or other negative consequences for the SFZ and persons with affiliation to the SFZ. For this purpose, the Auditor shall provide consulting services to the SFZ bodies, working groups and members.
- (5) The Auditor shall continuously carry out particularly the auditing of:
  - a) Economy, efficiency, effectiveness and purposefulness of use of the public funds,
  - b) Use and reporting of sponsorship,
  - c) Compliance with the relevant legislation, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA.
- (6) The Auditor also:
  - a) Performs continuous auditing of the minutes from the meetings of the Conference and their proper publication,
  - b) Alerts the President and the Executive Committee on any non-compliance in the mandatory disclosed data and information on the SFZ website, in the ISSF and in the Sports Information System,
  - c) Alerts the President, Conference and the Executive Committee on any deficiencies and recommends steps in accordance with the laws and regulations of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA; and upon discovering a serious deficiency, proposes preventive and corrective measures and sets a deadline for their removal.
  - d) Methodically manages and directs the auditors of the SFZ members,
  - e) Assesses the compliance of the sessions, practices and decisions of the SFZ with the law, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA.
  - f) Participates in the meetings of the Conference, Executive Committee, supervisory bodies, and if necessary, meetings of other SFZ bodies,
  - g) Oversees the preparation and orderly conduct of the elections of the SFZ members and participates in the meetings of the Electoral Commission, including the counting of votes,
  - h) Carries out the roles of the Electoral Commission in the case of election of members of the Electoral Commission, or elections at the meeting of the Executive Committee,
  - i) In conjunction with the Review Board, draws up an annual report on the activities of the Auditor, which is submitted to the Conference.

- (7) The Auditor is authorized to carry out the duties pursuant to Section 6 (e) to (g) even in relation to the SFZ members.<sup>56</sup>
- (8) The Auditor may appeal any decision of any of the SFZ bodies or bodies of the SFZ members, which may be appealed, if it deems the contested decision to be non-compliant and incompatible with the laws or regulations of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA.
- (9) When auditing, the Auditor shall take steps pursuant to Article 14 of the Sports Act. The persons affiliated to the SFZ are obliged to provide the Auditor with the necessary synergy in the performance of his/her duties.
- (10) The Auditor has the right to reimbursement of expenses, which were effectively and demonstrably incurred in connection with the duties of the Auditor. The Auditor may receive compensation payments for lost time and a remuneration determined by the Conference.

#### **Article 56**

##### **SFZ Review Board**

- (1) The function of chairman of the Review Board is performed by the Auditor. If the function of the Auditor expires before the expiry of his/her term of office (Article 37 Section 6), the Vice-Chairman of the Review Board/substitute Auditor shall carry out the Auditor powers temporarily until the election of the new Auditor. The other members of the Review Board are elected by the Executive Committee in a way that the Review Board has four members nominated for the various regional associations and one member for the ULC.
- (2) The Review Board may not interfere with the fulfillment of obligations of the Auditor. The Review Board performs its duties as an auxiliary and advisory body of the Auditor and provides him/her with the necessary synergy in the performance of his/her duties.
- (3) The Review Board provides assistance to the Auditor in the preparation, organization, management and control of the elections of the members of the Electoral Commission.
- (4) To perform its duties effectively, the Review Board is authorized to request information, opinions, reports and statements from the SFZ bodies, bodies of the SFZ members and other persons with affiliation to the SFZ.
- (5) Upon request, the employees of the SFZ Administration shall allow the members of the Review Board to inspect the accounting documents, contracts and other documents on the basis of which the SFZ assumed the rights and obligations, and provide them with the minutes, resolutions and any other materials from the meetings of the SFZ bodies, and allow them to make copies of these documents to be able to carry out the duties of the Review Board.
- (6) The details on the scope, duties and activities of the Review Board are contained in the SFZ Review Procedure.

#### **Article 57**

##### **SFZ Electoral Commission**

- (1) The Electoral Commission prepares, organizes, directs and supervises the elections into the SFZ bodies at the Conference, announces the results and performs other duties in accordance with the SFZ Regulations. The elections of members of the Electoral Commission are governed by Article 56 (3).
- (2) The Electoral Commission decides on the objections and complaints related to the preparation and conduct of elections.
- (3) The Electoral Commission consists of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and three members. The Conference elects the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the three members of the Electoral Commission in a way that all three regional associations and the ULC have their respective representatives in the Electoral Commission. The Chairman of the Electoral Commission is the member of the Electoral Commission who received the highest number of votes, the Vice Chairman of the Electoral Commission is the member of the Electoral Commission who received the second highest number of votes if all the members of the Electoral Commission were elected in the same elections; otherwise the Chairman

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<sup>56</sup> Article 13 (5) of the Sports Act.



and Vice Chairman of the Election Committee is elected by the Conference from among all the elected members of the Electoral Commission.

- (5) If the function of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Electoral Commission expired before the end of their respective term of office, the Conference shall hold supplementary elections to elect the missing member of the Electoral Commission as well as decide which member of the Electoral Commission shall perform the functions that expired prematurely.
- (6) The term of office of the members of the Electoral Commission begins at the Conference, which immediately precedes the Electoral Conference to elect the members of the Electoral Commission. If the Electoral Commission has not been elected, or if it lost the ability to perform its duties, the Auditor shall perform the role of the Electoral Commission until it is properly elected, otherwise, the Executive Committee shall establish a temporary Electoral Commission in accordance with Section 3.
- (7) The details on the scope, duties and activities of the Electoral Commission are contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SFZ dispute resolution bodies (Articles 58-61)**

#### **Article 58**

##### **SFZ Disciplinary Commission**

- (1) The Disciplinary Commission is the first instance authority to settle the disputes, it decides about the infringement of duties arising from the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, and it imposes disciplinary sanctions and defines protective measures for such breaches.
- (2) Only a candidate with a Master's degree awarded by a Faculty of Law at one of the Slovak universities, or a recognized law degree awarded by a foreign university and at least three years of professional practice and, if the university degree was awarded at the first and second level successively, both levels had to be awarded in the same field, can be elected Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission.
- (3) The Disciplinary Commission decides in a plenary session or in the individual senate sessions. The matters specified in the Code of Conduct may also be decided by the Chairman or other designated member of the Disciplinary Commission alone.
- (4) The details on the scope, duties and activities of the Disciplinary Commission are detailed in the Code of Conduct, which is in accordance with the FIFA Code of Conduct.

#### **Article 59**

##### **SFZ Dispute Resolution Chamber**

- (1) The Chamber is a body to settle disputes, and has jurisdiction to hear and decide the disputes between the SFZ members arising from the contractual relationships and obligations imposed by the SFZ Regulations and decisions, if stipulated in other SFZ Regulations.<sup>57</sup>
- (2) The Chamber is a body to settle disputes, and has jurisdiction to hear and decide:
  - a) disputes between members with affiliation of SFZ, members with affiliation of SFZ and SFZ in connection with sporting activity arising from the pre-contractual and contractual relations,
  - b) disputes referred in Section 2 (a) with an international element,
  - c) the infringement of the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA regulations or binding decisions of the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA.
- (3) The Chamber is unable to commence proceedings in the matter, if proceedings have already been initiated by, are underway, or have legally completed in another SFZ body.
- (4) The Chamber is composed of the Chairman of the Chamber, Vice-Chairman of the Chamber and members, the number of which will be determined by a special regulation<sup>56a</sup>
- (5) The Chamber shall not accept more than one person with affiliation to the same club.
- (6) Only a candidate who has
  - a) second-level university education from a law faculty of a university in the Slovak Republic or a recognized diploma of second-level university legal education issued by a foreign university; and
  - b) at least five years of legal practice after completing the education according to letter a)can be elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman or member of the Chamber.

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<sup>57</sup> E.g. SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules, Rules of Procedure of the SFZ Dispute Resolution Chamber.

- (7) The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Chamber are elected by the Conference upon a proposal of SFZ members.
- (8) The details regarding the election of other members of the Chamber are provided in the Rules of Procedure of the SFZ Dispute Resolution Chamber (hereinafter referred to as "Rules of Procedure of the Chamber"), and in the Electoral Rules and Rules of Procedure of the Conference.
- (9) The Rules of Procedure of the Chamber shall determine which items may be decided by the members of the Chamber individually and separately, and which items require the decision of the Senate or Plenary Body.
- (10) If the first instance matter is discussed and decided by the Senate, it consists of three members,
  - a) the President or the Vice-President of Chamber, and two members of the Chamber, especially in matters referred to in Section 11; whereby the President or the Vice-President of the Chamber has the position of the Senate President,
  - b) three members of the Chamber appointed in accordance with the rules laid down in Rules of Procedure of the Chamber; the Chairman of the Senate is appointed by the President of the Chamber.
- (11) If the dispute involves SFZ members from the relevant interest groups determined in a special regulation<sup>56b</sup>), the first instance Senate shall be composed of one elected Chamber member from each of the respective interest groups of the disputing parties; the Board of Appeals shall be composed of two elected Chamber members from the respective interest groups of the disputing parties.
- (12) Failure to comply with the obligations imposed by the decision of the Chamber is a disciplinary offense.
- (13) An appeal may be filed against the decision of the Chamber, and it shall be decided by a five-member Board of Appeals. The decisions of the Chamber at first instance shall not be subject to review of the Jury of Appeal referred to Article 60 (8) (a).
- (14) The decision of Senate of Appeal cannot be appealed. The decisions of Senate of Appeal shall not be subject to review of SFZ Jury of Appeals referred to Article 60 (8).
- (15) The procedures governing the decision-making of the Chamber, dispute resolution under Section 1-3 and other details on the activities of the Chamber, such as its composition, scope, proceedings before the Chamber, fees and decision-making, are detailed in the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber.

## **Article 60**

### **SFZ Jury of Appeals**

- (1) The Jury of Appeals is a dispute resolution body with appellate and reviewing powers whose Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members are elected by the SFZ Conference.
- (2) The Jury of Appeals decides about the appeals filed in its Senate.
- (3) The Senate of the Jury of Appeals is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and three members
  - a) with second-level university education from a law faculty of a university in the Slovak Republic or a recognized diploma of second-level university legal education issued by a foreign university; and
  - b) five years of legal practice after completing the education according to letter a).
- (4) The Senate of the Jury of Appeals shall be sufficient in numbers if its meeting is attended by a majority of the members of the Senate. To approve the decisions of the Jury of Appeals, the consent of the absolute majority of all the members of the Senate is required.
- (5) The SFZ Conference shall also elect at least one substitute who shall be appointed by the President of the Jury of Appeals to represent the member of the Jury of Appeals who cannot or does not perform his/her function in the long term (more than three months).
- (6) The Jury of Appeals decides as a second instance body the on the appeals against the decisions of the Electoral Commission, Disciplinary Commission and the decisions of other SFZ bodies issued in the first instance, which can be appealed, if not hereinafter provided otherwise (Article 61 (2)).
- (7) Upon the initiative of a legitimate member of the SFZ, SFZ body or SFZ member, which demonstrates the urgency of the legal or sporting interest, the Jury of Appeals shall be entitled to review:
  - a) Consistency of the final decisions and procedures of the SFZ bodies or bodies of the SFZ members with the laws, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA; whereby the

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<sup>56a</sup> Rules of Procedure of the Dispute Resolution Chamber

<sup>56b</sup> Poriadok Komory pre riešenie sporov

- condition for the Jury of Appeals to act upon the initiative is exhaustion of ordinary remedies permitted by the SFZ Regulations or regulations of the SFZ members and compliance with Article 10 (4),
- b) Consistency of the non-final decisions and procedures of the bodies of the SFZ members of the first instance with the laws, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA if the matter is of a serious nature and it cannot be delayed mainly for sporting and technical reasons,
  - c) Initiatives in other matters if so determined by the SFZ Regulations.  
Decisions of SFZ bodies, which shall be not subject to review of SFZ Jury of Appeals under this Section shall be determined by the statutes or a special SFZ regulations.
- (9) The appeal or complaint is filed by the claimant at the body that issued the contested decision or whose procedure is appealed. Not later than seven days from receipt of the appeal or initiative meeting all the requirements, the Chairman of this body shall submit the appeal or initiative with the necessary supporting documents to the Jury of Appeals if the body that issued the contested decision or whose procedure is appealed has not settled the appeal or initiative in its entirety within the same period. If the proceedings and decision on matter fall within the competence of another body, the appeal or initiative is referred to the relevant body within the same period and the claimant is notified thereof.
  - (10) If the body that issued the contested decision or whose procedure is appealed, alone settles the appeal or complaint in its entirety, the chairman of such body shall not submit the matter to the Jury of Appeals, and inform the claimant thereof.
  - (11) If the appeal or complaint does not meet all the requirements, the body, which accepted them, shall take appropriate measures to correct the identified deficiencies and the claimant shall provide the necessary synergy; otherwise the proceedings are stopped.
  - (12) The appeals procedure or review procedure shall be initiated upon the due delivery of the claimant's appeal to the chairman of the body whose decision or procedure is appealed. The appeal or complaint shall be decided by the Jury of Appeals in not later than 30 days, and if the matter is urgent, not later than 14 days from the receipt of a proper notice or motion of appeal.
  - (13) The payment of a specified fee is a condition for the initiation of proceedings in the appeals procedure or review procedure, unless proceedings are provided without a payment. The condition of payment of the fee referred to in the preceding sentence shall be deemed met for the purposes of initiating the proceeding even if the fee for the appeal is added to the monthly invoice of an Ordinary Member that lodged the appeal.
  - (14) The Jury of Appeals may decide the matter by:
    - a) Suspending the proceedings if the conditions for the proceedings and decision are not met, or if the proceedings appear to be futile in light of the circumstances,
    - b) Dismissing the appeal or initiative if the contested decision was made in accordance with the laws, regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA and FIFA,
    - c) Changing the decision of the first instance body if the contested decision of the first instance body was not issued in accordance with the regulations and decisions of the SFZ, UEFA or FIFA, or it contradicts the law and it was possible to decide the matter based on the available facts, or
    - d) Annuling the contested decision and returning the case accompanied by its ruling to the body whose decision was annulled on the basis of the appeal or complaint for re-initiation of proceedings and a new decision.
  - (15) The review procedure may result in a decision, ruling, recommendation or impetus for another SFZ body or body of the SFZ member, or an initiative to change the SFZ Regulations or SFZ member's regulations.
  - (16) The proceedings before the Jury of Appeals and the decision of the Jury of Appeals does not affect the current or subsequent decisions of the Chamber on the damages or other related claims. The initiation of proceedings before the Chamber is not an obstacle for the decision of the Jury of Appeals in the same or a related matter.
  - (17) The details of the proceedings before the Jury of Appeals, other powers of the Jury of Appeals and the fees for the appeals proceedings are provided in the Code of Conduct and other SFZ Regulations.

## **Article 61**

### **SFZ Licensing authorities**

- (1) The licensing authorities are the first instance licensing authority and the jury of appeals of the licensing authority.
- (2) The jury of appeals of the licensing authority decides exclusively on the appeals against the decisions of the first instance licensing authority.
- (3) The licensing authorities are independent of each other and proceed in accordance with the Statutes, SFZ Club Licensing System Directive, and UEFA and FIFA regulations governing the licensing system.
- (4) The first instance licensing authority is composed of a chairman and two members in a way that their composition corresponds to the requirements of the UEFA licensing system for clubs.
- (5) The appeals licensing authority is composed of a chairman and three members in a way that their composition corresponds to the requirements of the UEFA licensing system for clubs.
- (6) At least one member of each of the SFZ licensing authority shall be the statutory auditor registered on the list of SFZ statutory auditors at the Slovak Chamber of Auditors and at least one other member shall be an attorney and member of the Slovak Bar Association with at least three years of experience as an attorney.
- (7) The licensing authorities are entitled to make a decision if their meeting is attended by an absolute majority of all the members of the respective licensing authority.
- (8) The details on the scope, composition and rules of operation of the licensing authorities are set out in the SFZ Club Licensing System Directive.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **SFZ administrative bodies (Article 62 - 65)**

#### **Article 62**

##### **Secretary-General of the SFZ**

- (1) The Secretary-General manages the administration of the SFZ. He/she is the direct superior of all the SFZ employees and other SFZ administrative staff.
- (2) The Secretary-General shall perform his/her duties in an employment relationship with the SFZ.
- (3) The Secretary-General:
  - a) Prepares and develops a the SFZ Strategic Plan in conjunction with the Executive Committee and the relevant SFZ units in specific projects and tasks,
  - b) Ensures the implementation of projects and tasks arising from the SFZ Strategic Plan,
  - c) Coordinates the relations with the SFZ members, SFZ bodies, other national football associations and the UEFA and FIFA,
  - d) Organizes the work and activities of the SFZ Administration in carrying out its tasks and providing for the main activities of the SFZ,
  - e) Proposes the conclusion, change or termination of employment relations with the SFZ Administration employees; the relevant legal acts can only be carried out by the President,
  - f) Presents the proposals for the appointment of heads of administration units to the SFZ President,
  - g) Prepares and holds the meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, including the recording of their course and the approved decisions into the minutes,
  - h) Ensures the preparation of the minutes from the meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee, its distribution to the designated recipients and publication on the SFZ website and in the ISSF,
  - i) Ensures the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Conference and the Executive Committee according to the instructions of the President.
- (4) The Secretary-General shall perform the tasks arising from the employment relations and administrative-organizational relations. He/she is responsible for the observance of the work discipline and SFZ Work Rules by the SFZ Administration employees.
- (5) The Secretary-General shall participate in the meetings of the Conference and the Executive Committee without the right to vote.
- (6) The Secretary-General is entitled to participate in the meetings of all the SFZ bodies and bodies of the SFZ members in an advisory role and submit new proposals into the relevant agendas.

**Article 63**  
**SFZ Administration**

- (1) The SFZ Administration consists of SFZ departments and SFZ Administration employees who report directly to the Secretary-General or the heads of the individual SFZ departments according to the SFZ organizational structure on the basis of an employment contract or another contract.
- (2) An employee in the SFZ Administration is a person in a contractual relationship with the SFZ who performs work or tasks within the scope of the SFZ Administration that are entrusted to him/her in the organizational structure of the SFZ.
- (3) The employees of the SFZ Administration carry out the tasks entrusted to them with due professional care and according to their best knowledge and skill. They are bound by the SFZ Regulations, decisions of the SFZ bodies and instructions of the Secretary-General. If the employee of the SFZ Administration is not member of the SFZ, the obligation to comply with the SFZ Regulations and decisions of the SFZ bodies shall be included in the contract based on which the employee carries out activities for the SFZ.
- (4) The composition, scope and administration of the SFZ Administration is approved by the SFZ Executive Committee.

**Article 64**  
**SFZ Expert commissions**

- (1) For the operative professional management of the individual areas of activity and performance of tasks, the SFZ may establish expert commissions, which shall function as auxiliary and advisory bodies of the Executive Committee, and are entitled to make decisions in the matters defined in the SFZ Regulations.
- (2) An overview of the established expert boards and their members is published and continually updated on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.
- (3) The creation or dissolution of the expert commissions is the responsibility of the Executive Committee that can appoint a guarantor for the individual expert commissions from among the members of the Executive Committee who shall provide communication with the chairman of the expert commission and the coordination of activities of the expert commission according to the tasks and needs of the Executive Committee.  
The nomination of the chairman and member of the expert commission may be submitted by a member of the Executive Committee, Secretary-General or an Ordinary Member.
- (5) The definition of the competences of the individual commissions, assignment of tasks and monitoring of the activities of the expert commissions is the responsibility of the Executive Committee and the Secretary-General.
- (6) The status, jurisdiction, responsibilities and activities of each of the commissions shall be governed by the SFZ statutes and regulations. The statute of the expert commission defines the
  - a) Scope and tasks of the expert commission,
  - b) Composition of the expert commission,
  - c) Rules of procedure of the expert commission, if the rules of procedure of another SFZ body are not used in its sessions, which includes in particular:
    1. Methods to convene the sessions,
    2. Methods to chair the sessions,
    3. Methods to pass resolutions (resolutions, statements and recommendations),
  - d) Documentation of the activities and decisions of the expert commission.

**Article 65**  
**Ad hoc commissions, panel of experts and working groups**

- (1) The Executive Committee may, if necessary, create an ad hoc commission, a panel of experts or a working group that will be created for a specific time no longer than two years, or for a specified purpose.
- (2) The Executive Committee shall appoint a chairman and define the composition and objectives and tasks of the ad hoc commission, panel of experts or working group.

- (3) The established ad hoc commission, panel of experts or working group shall report directly to the Executive Committee or the designated member of the Executive Committee.
- (4) On the basis of the SFZ regulation, decision of the Conference or decision of the Executive Committee, the ad hoc commission, panel of experts or working group may also be established by another SFZ body.

## **TITLE FOUR**

### **SFZ economic management (Article 66 - 69)**

#### **Article 66**

##### **Basic rules of economic management**

- (1) The SFZ accounting period is one calendar year.<sup>58</sup>
- (2) The SFZ runs its operations on the basis of the SFZ budget for the respective calendar year, which shall be approved by the Conference. The revenue and expenditure of the SFZ is planned and coordinated in a way that they are balanced in the course of the accounting period. The drawing up of the SFZ budget, annual financial statements<sup>59</sup> and the SFZ Annual Report is the responsibility of Secretary-General. The Secretary General is also responsible for the implementation of the budget and budgetary changes carried out during the calendar year, especially if an expense must be paid, which has not been projected in the budget, or there is an unexpected shortfall in the budgeted revenues.
- (3) The actions and measures directly related to the management of property and financial affairs of the SFZ is the responsibility of the head of the SFZ Economic Department.
- (4) The SFZ Annual Report shall be drawn up in accordance with Article 9 (5) the Sports Act within six months from the end of the accounting period. The SFZ Annual Report also includes the annual financial statement<sup>60</sup> and the annual report of the business units, in which the SFZ is a shareholder.<sup>61</sup>
- (5) After being discussed, the SFZ Annual Report must be sent into the registry of final accounts under a specific regulation<sup>62</sup> not later than July 31 of the following calendar year after the end of the accounting period.<sup>63</sup> The SFZ budget and the SFZ Annual Report is published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF within 15 days after being discussed at the Conference.
- (6) The SFZ final accounts and SFZ Annual Report shall be verified by an independent auditor every year.
- (7) The Secretary-General submits the Audit Report together with the SFZ Annual Report and the SFZ final accounts to the Conference, which in turn sends it to UEFA and FIFA.
- (8) The SFZ bookkeeping is governed by the directives on the SFZ bookkeeping.

#### **Article 67**

##### **SFZ revenue and expenditures**

- (1) The SFZ revenue consists mainly of income from
  - a) Membership fees,
  - b) Paid dividends from the profits of the company, in which the SFZ acts as a shareholder,
  - c) Management of its own assets, in particular the interest or rent from the leasing of movable and immovable property and areas for advertising purposes,
  - d) Marketing activities and the sale of souvenirs,
  - e) Matches of the representation teams of the Slovak Republic,
  - f) Sale of tickets,
  - g) Television and radio rights for the coverage of the competitions and other events,
  - h) Intellectual property rights,
  - i) Own economic activity,
  - j) Contractual penalties,

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<sup>58</sup> Article 9 (3) of the Sports Act.

<sup>59</sup> Article 17 of Act no. 431/2002 Coll. On Accounting.

<sup>60</sup> Article 9 (5) (c) of the Sports Act.

<sup>61</sup> Article 9 (6) of the Sports Act.

<sup>62</sup> Article 23 of Act no. 431/2002 Coll. On Accounting, as amended.

<sup>63</sup> Article 9 (7) of the Sports Act.

- k) Fees for the transfer of players,
  - l) Fees for the registration of players,
  - m) Fees for the grant of licenses,
  - n) Fees for verifying the competence of sports experts,
  - o) Fees for the activities of expert commissions and other SFZ bodies,
  - p) Fees for the teams competing in the championships (basic deposit before the beginning of the competition year), whose amount is defined by the SFZ member in charge of the competition,
  - q) Contributions from international sports associations and other international organizations,
  - r) Fines and penalties for disciplinary offenses,
  - s) Contribution to a recognized sport,<sup>64</sup>
  - t) Contributions to the national sports project,<sup>65</sup>
  - u) Subsidies granted from the budget of the public administration<sup>66</sup> and grants,
  - v) Solidarity contribution according to the special SFZ regulation,<sup>67</sup>
  - w) Sponsorship,
  - x) Donations, contributions and other sources.
- (2) The SFZ revenue also includes the remuneration for representation, with the exception of the remuneration, which the organizer of the international sports competition gives directly to the members of the national representation team.<sup>68</sup>
- (3) The revenue from the sports representation may be used in accordance with the law<sup>69</sup> only for
- a) Organization of national football competitions for adult players and national competitions for the youth,
  - b) Selection and preparation of players for the sport representation teams and their participation in international competitions,
  - c) Care for talented sportsmen,
  - d) Payment of the solidarity contribution.<sup>70</sup>
- (4) The dividends paid from the earnings of a company established with the aim to do business in connection with the sports representation may be used by the SFZ only for:
- a) Organization of national football competitions for adult players and national competitions for the youth,
  - b) Selection and preparation of players for the sport representation teams and their participation in international competitions,
  - c) Care for talented sportsmen, or
  - d) Construction of sports infrastructure.<sup>71</sup>
- (5) The SFZ shall create a fund to support the youth football, whose revenue includes:
- a) Revenue from member contributions,
  - b) 5% of the remuneration for the sports representation, which is used to cover the solidarity contribution pursuant to the Sports Act<sup>72</sup>,
  - c) Solidarity contribution according to the special SFZ regulation,<sup>73</sup>
  - d) Revenue based on the decisions of the Conference or the Executive Committee,
  - e) Other revenue.
- (6) The SFZ expenditures are represented by the expenses to cover the cost of providing the basic SFZ activities according to the approved SFZ budget in accordance with the objectives and tasks according to the approved SFZ Strategic Plan for the respective period.
- (7) The SFZ expenditures, in particular, cover the costs incurred in the context of
- a) Covering for the activities of the sports representation teams,
  - b) by using the contribution to a recognized sport,

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<sup>64</sup> Article 68 of the Sports Act.

<sup>65</sup> Article 75 of the Sports Act.

<sup>66</sup> Article 70 of the Sports Act, Article 8a, Act no. 523/2004 Coll. on budgetary procedure in public government and amendments to other legislation, as amended by Act No. 383/2008 Coll.

<sup>67</sup> Article 38 (6) of the SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules.

<sup>68</sup> Article 30 (1) of the Sports Act.

<sup>69</sup> Article 30 (2) of the Sports Act.

<sup>70</sup> Article 30 (3) of the Sports Act.

<sup>71</sup> Article 18 (3) of the Sports Act.

<sup>72</sup> Article 30 (3) of the Sports Act.

<sup>73</sup> Article 38 (6) of the SFZ Registration and Transfer Rules.

- c) Development of youth football,
  - d) Care of football talents,
  - e) Sports activities (football) of children, pupils and students,
  - f) Organization of competitions and other football events,
  - g) Support for the activities of the regional associations and district associations,
  - h) Support for SFZ investment projects,
  - i) Construction, reconstruction and modernization of the infrastructure of special relevance to football, including the infrastructure in the area of information and communication technologies,
  - j) Education in sports and especially in football,
  - k) Prevention and control within the fight against doping, particularly in football, and manipulation of sports competitions,
  - l) Support for the care, protection, comfort and safety of the spectators and prevention of violence and misbehavior,
  - m) Remuneration paid to the players, coaches and other members of the sports representation teams,
  - n) Activities of the SFZ bodies,
  - o) Support for publication, museum and outreach activities in the field of sport and football in particular,
  - p) Awards, gifts and other contributions,
  - q) Revenue under Section 1.
- (8) The information regarding the use of the contribution to a recognized sport is published on the SFZ website and in the ISSF.

### **Article 68**

#### **SFZ Marketing rights**

- (1) The SFZ is the original and exclusive owner of all the rights arising from the competitions and other events that fall within its scope of competence without any restrictions and reservations in terms of content, time and place. These rights include in particular all kinds of intellectual property rights, proprietary rights, rights of capturing audio, video and audiovisual recordings, reproduction and transmission rights, retransmission rights, rights of dissemination via the Internet and other electronic networks, or through the use of data carriers, use of the data in the databases, dissemination of the data on data carriers, multimedia, marketing and promotion rights, merchandising rights, intangible rights and rights under the Copyright Act.
- (2) The SFZ has the exclusive right to grant permissions for the public distribution of video, audio and audiovisual recordings, cable retransmission, creation of original recordings of a broadcast, creation of copies of the recordings of a broadcast, public distribution of the original or copy of a broadcast over the Internet, mass media or data carriers from the football matches or other events organized or held by the SFZ.

## **FIFTH TITLE**

### **Common, transitional and final provisions (Article 69-74)**

#### **Article 69**

##### **Dissolution of SFZ**

- (1) The SFZ may be dissolved by
  - a) Voluntary dissolution or merger with other associations,
  - b) Final decision of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Interior") or the court about its dissolution.<sup>74</sup>
- (2) Property settlement is conducted upon the dissolution of the SFZ.
- (3) In the case of dissolution of the SFZ pursuant to Section 1 (a) without a legal successor, the liquidation of the SFZ assets under the provisions of the Commercial Code on liquidation and Article 13 of Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of citizens, shall be carried out by the liquidator appointed by the

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<sup>74</sup> Article 12 (1), Act no. 83/1990 Coll. On association of citizens.



Conference or the Auditor. If there is no body to carry out the property settlement, the property settlement shall be carried out by a liquidator appointed by the Ministry of Interior.

- (4) In the case of dissolution of the SFZ pursuant to Section 1 (a) with a legal successor, all property, assets, liabilities, accounts payable and accounts receivable from the legal relations shall be transferred on to the legal successor of the SFZ, unless the Conference decides otherwise.
- (5) Upon the dissolution of the SFZ pursuant to Section 1 (b) the property settlement shall be carried out by a liquidator appointed by the Ministry of Interior.<sup>75</sup>
- (6) The allocation of the liquidation balance shall be decided by the Conference.

## **Article 70**

### **Use of the SFZ Regulations in women's football, futsal and beach football**

- (1) All the provisions of the Statutes shall also apply to women's football, futsal and beach football.
- (2) When using their procedures and making decisions, including the SFZ budget, the SFZ bodies shall take into account the membership base, particularly of youth under 18 years of age, and the sport results of the women's football and futsal.
- (3) If so required by the specific nature of women's football or futsal, the SFZ Regulations may contain provisions or specific parts, which take into account this specific nature. A proposal to amend the SFZ Regulations is presented by the SFZ Administration or the SFZ member in charge of the administration of football.
- (4) In the case of acceptance of beach football as an Ordinary Member, Section 2 and 3 shall apply mutatis mutandis to beach football.

## **Article 71**

### **Common provisions**

- (1) The data pursuant to Article 80 to 82 of the Sports Act shall be published in the ISSF.
- (2) The entry of the data into the ISSF is deemed as their disclosure in the Sports Information System on the basis of synchronization of the data in the ISSF with the data in the Sports Information System.
- (3) The documents within the framework of the SFZ and members of the SFZ are served<sup>76</sup>
  - a) Into the electronic mailbox of the addressee for the service of documents in the ISSF or in the Sports Information System,
  - b) Using the procedure under a specific regulation<sup>77</sup> into the electronic mailbox, if the addressee has one,
  - c) By means of a mail service provider, or
  - d) Through public announcement in the official report of the SFZ, through the ISSF or Sports Information System.

## **Article 72**

### **Temporary dispositions**

- (1) The term of office of the elected and appointed members of the SFZ bodies who have a function in the SFZ bodies on the date of effectiveness of the SFZ Statutes, shall last until the expiry of their term of office.
- (2) The performance of the duties of the President, Vice President and the members of the Arbitration Tribunal shall expire on December 31, 2016.
- (3) The Arbitration Tribunal established under the current regulations expires on December 31, 2016.
- (4) The arbitration proceedings conducted before the Arbitration Tribunal, which have been initiated, but to which no result of arbitration has been served yet to the parties to the proceedings before January 1, 2017, shall stop on December 31, 2016. The effects of an active petition and all other actions of the parties to the arbitration proceeding shall be actively retained if a party to the proceedings submits a proposal to the Chamber within three months following the termination of the arbitration proceedings;

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<sup>75</sup> Article 13 (3), Act no. 83/1990 Coll. On association of citizens.

<sup>76</sup> Article 99 (4) of the Sports Act.

<sup>77</sup> Article 29 to 34, Act no. 305/2013 Coll. on electronic exercise of competence of the public authorities and amendments of prior legislation (eGovernment Act).

the expenses of the arbitration proceedings incurred to the parties to the proceedings shall be decided about by the Chamber according to the rules about incurred costs. The petition delivered to the Arbitration Tribunal starting on June 3, 2016 shall be considered a motion to initiate the proceedings before the Chamber. The Arbitration Tribunal shall forward such a petition immediately without a decision to the Chamber and notify the claimant thereof.

- (5) In the event of disputes within the football movement, which are linked to the sporting activities, especially in the organization, implementation, management and administration of sports affecting the competitions, clubs, players, sports experts, officials and other persons with affiliation to the SFZ, the SFZ members undertake not to resolve such disputes through the Arbitration Tribunal since the effective date of the Statutes.
- (6) All Ordinary Members, Associated Members, Individual Members and Honorary Members who have been members of the SFZ before the effective date of the Statutes shall be considered Ordinary Members, Associated Members, Individual Members and Honorary Members under the Statutes.
- (7) All Ordinary Members and Associated Members until September 30, 2016 shall harmonize their statutes with the Statutes and subsequently by October 15, 2016 shall publish their statutes in the ISSF.
- (8) For the first time after the expiration of the functions of the Chairman of the Review Board elected at the Electoral Conference held on February 21, 2014 in Poprad, the Auditor shall be elected for a five-year term of office and, subject to a confirmation as the chairman of the Review Board by the Conference, he/she shall carry out the function of the Auditor according to the Sports Act<sup>78 83</sup>) until the end of the original term of office of the Chairmen of the Review Board.
- (9) The Deputy Chairman of the Jury of Appeals, member of the Anti-Doping Senate of the Jury of Appeals and his substitute shall be elected in supplementary elections without delay after the Statutes enter into force.

#### **Article 72**

##### **Temporary dispositions to amendment from 25 February 2022**

- (1) The procedure referred to in Article 37 (9) may be applied mutatis mutandis to the filling of a function pursuant to Article 48 (2) (h).
- (2) Article 36 (19) shall not apply to members of the dispute settlement bodies elected before February 25, 2022."

#### **Article 73**

##### **Annulment**

The Statutes of the Slovak Football Association approved at the Conference held on September 28, 2012 as amended are hereby annulled.

#### **Article 74**

##### **Annulment of amendments effective from January 1, 2017**

The following shall be annulled:

1. The Statutes of the Arbitration Tribunal of the Slovak Football Association dated November 6, 2011 and amended on November 6, 2013 and Statutes dated June 6, 2014.
2. Rules of Procedure of the Arbitration Tribunal of the Slovak Football Association dated November 6, 2007 and amended on November 22, 2013.

#### **Article 75**

##### **Effectiveness**

These SFZ Statutes shall enter into force upon approval, with the exception of amendment 5 (addition of the age limit in Article 37 (1)), which shall enter into force on March 2, 2022.

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<sup>78</sup> Article 12 of the Sports Act.