DECISION ON THE VOTING STATUS OF, AND OBJECTION CONCERNING, THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (AIFF EC ELECTION, 20.12.2026)

Ref No:

ORDER

(24.11.2026)

The Draft Electoral College for the election to the Executive Committee of the All India Football Federation ("**AIFF**") was published on the website on 15.11.2026, and a window of 7 days was provided for sending claims and objections till 3:00 PM on 21.11.2026. The Draft Electoral College lists the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Football Association ("**DNHDDFA**") among the Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided by the undersigned under Article 4.1 of Schedule III of the Constitution. This Order decides that question, together with the objection received in respect of DNHDDFA.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS

The provisions of the Constitution of AIFF ("**the Constitution**"), the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 ("**the NSBR**") and the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 ("**the Act**"), governing the preparation of the Electoral College are, to the extent material, as follows:

- Under Rule 10(3)(b) and 10(4) of the NSBR, every State level affiliate unit has a maximum of two votes, to be exercised by separate individual representatives, and the electoral roll consists of only such members or their representatives that have voting rights and are not otherwise disqualified. Under the proviso to Rule 10(5), the decision of the Electoral Officer on the inclusion or non-inclusion of any person on the electoral roll is final and binding.
- Under Article 13.3(a) of the Constitution and Article 4.1 of Schedule III, each State Association which is a Full Member has up to 2 votes, each to be cast by a separate individual eligible to represent it, who may be its representative in the General Body or any other individual nominated as its delegate.
- Article 4.2 of Schedule III provides:

  "4.2. Each Full Member shall intimate the names of their 2 (two) representatives / delegates for inclusion in the Electoral College (whether it is their representative in the General Body or a different individual) to the Electoral Officer on their letter head duly signed by its President / Secretary, as per timelines prescribed by the Electoral Officer. Any change in the name of the representatives / delegates after the last date specified herein or any intimation received thereafter shall be permitted only with the approval of the Electoral Officer. Such representatives that are nominated to represent the Full Members shall not be subject to any Disqualification Event."

- By Circular No. 1 (Ref. No. 2/EC/Election/2026/1) dated 06.11.2026, the last date for intimation was fixed as 6:00 PM on 13.11.2026, each nomination was to be

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accompanied by a passport size photograph and a copy of a Government-issued photo identity document of each delegate, and it was clarified that where separate or conflicting nominations are received from the same Member Association, the names nominated by its President shall prevail.

- A Full Member loses its voting right only on suspension or expulsion in accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of the Constitution, or by an operative order of a competent court. Disqualification Events under Article 1.17 of the Constitution and Rule 11 of the NSBR, which include attainment of the age of 70 years (Article 1.17(b)), attach to individual representatives and not to the Member Association.
- The Legal Department of AIFF, by its comments on belated intimations of delegates, has stated that the date of 13.11.2026 is not an absolute bar, and that AIFF has no objection to the Electoral Officer accepting a belated intimation that is on the letterhead of the Full Member signed by its President or Secretary, is accompanied by the identity documents, and names delegates who are not subject to any Disqualification Event. The power, however, is that of the undersigned and is exercised on the facts of each case.
- Article 15.7 of the Constitution provides that the governing bodies of a Member Association shall be elected by a democratic procedure in consonance with Schedule III, and that bodies not elected or appointed in compliance with it "shall not be recognised by the AIFF".
- Article 51.6 of the Constitution provides that any dispute arising on account of claims by two different executive or managing committees, or of two different groups claiming to constitute the official Member Association of a State, shall be referred by AIFF in the first instance to the National Dispute Resolution Chamber ("NDRC") and, until the NDRC is constituted, to a sub-committee of the Executive Committee.
- The task of the Electoral Officer under Rule 10 of the NSBR and Article 4 of Schedule III is confined to preparing the Electoral College and deciding claims and objections to it. It does not extend to adjudicating the validity of the elections of a Member Association, its internal governance or disputes between rival groups.

FACTS

- At Sl. No. 1 of the list of Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided, the Draft Electoral College shows Mr. Altamash Shaikh (Elector No. 59) and Mr. Walter Edward Pereira (Elector No. 60) against DNHDDFA, with the remarks that its elections were pending until the cut-off date and were scheduled on 14.11.2026, and that new names were submitted on 14.11.2026 after the elections were conducted.
- AIFF has, by its comments on the objection, stated that it has recognised DNHDDFA and its current Executive Committee as the valid Member Association. No suspension or expulsion of DNHDDFA has been placed on record.

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Objection dt. 20.11.2026 from Mr. Nevelle Quintall, Secretary, Football Association of Dadra & Nagar Haveli (Obj/21):

- The objector states that the Football Association of Dadra & Nagar Haveli ("**FA of DNH**") has functioned in the Union Territory for about two decades and was granted affiliation by AIFF by letter dated 08.08.2018, that after the merger of the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, a joint association was formed without consulting or informing FA of DNH, that at an AIFF General Body meeting, the then President of AIFF had stated that the two associations would continue separately for two years and then form one merged association with equal membership, which has not been done, and that the Executive Committee of the merged association has been elected with only 12 members without informing FA of DNH. The objector seeks that the election of that Executive Committee be treated as null and void.

- The letter dated 08.08.2018 relied upon by the objector records that the Executive Committee of AIFF, at its meeting held on 22.07.2018, recommended affiliation of the Football Association of UT Dadra and Nagar Haveli, subject to ratification at the next Annual General Meeting of AIFF, and forwards a provisional affiliation certificate.

- The objection was forwarded to AIFF for comments under Ref. No. 2/EC/Election/2026/Obj/21. By its comments dated 22.11.2026, signed by its Deputy Secretary General, AIFF has stated as follows:

  "1. Internal Matter of the Member Association: The objection concerns the merger of the football associations of the Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, the composition of the office-bearers and Executive Committee of DNHDD FA, and the arrangement said to have been envisaged between the two associations. These are internal matters of DNHDD FA, governed by its own constitution and bye-laws, and are not for determination by AIFF. The objection does not identify any provision of the AIFF Constitution, the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 or the rules thereunder said to have been contravened, and does not place on record any resolution of the General Body of AIFF, or any order of any court or authority, in support of the statement attributed to a former President of AIFF or of its request that the election of the Executive Committee be treated as null and void.

  2. Recognition of DNHDD FA by AIFF: While no Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit were elected as part of the elections to the executive committee of the DNHDD FA, AIFF has recognised DNHDD FA, and its current Executive Committee, as the valid Member Association based on the reports of the Electoral Officer appointed to supervise the process of such election, and the AIFF Observer. In the absence of any order of a competent court or authority, or any decision under the AIFF Constitution, AIFF cannot treat the election of its Executive Committee as null and void or withhold its voting rights.

  AIFF notes that the authority of the person nominating delegates on behalf of each Member Association, and the eligibility and credentials of such delegates, are

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subject to scrutiny by the Hon'ble Electoral Officer in accordance with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and the AIFF Constitution."

DECISION

- The objection, in substance, challenges the validity of the election of the Executive Committee of DNHDDFA and the manner in which the merged association was constituted. AIFF has also described these as internal matters of DNHDDFA, governed by its own constitution and bye-laws. The task of the undersigned under Rule 10 of the NSBR and Article 4 of Schedule III is confined to preparing the Electoral College and deciding claims and objections to it, the undersigned does not adjudicate the validity of the elections or the internal constitution of a Member Association. To the extent the objector claims that FA of DNH, and not (or not only) DNHDDFA, represents football in the Union Territory, the dispute is one between two groups claiming to constitute the official Member Association of a State, which under Article 51.6 of the Constitution is to be referred by AIFF to the NDRC or, until it is constituted, to a sub-committee of its Executive Committee.

- The objector has not shown that FA of DNH continues to be a separate Full Member of AIFF after the merger of the two Union Territories. The letter of 2018 grants only provisional affiliation subject to ratification, no ratification has been placed on record, the Draft Electoral College lists only the merged association, and the objector's own case is that a merged association has been formed. The objector has also not intimated any names on behalf of FA of DNH, nor pointed out any Disqualification Event in respect of the persons at Elector Nos. 59 and 60.

- AIFF has informed the undersigned that it has recognised DNHDDFA and its current Executive Committee as the valid Member Association on the basis of the reports of the Electoral Officer and the AIFF Observer who supervised its election. No order of any court or authority, and no decision under the Constitution, setting aside that election or withholding the voting rights of DNHDDFA has been placed on record.

- Under Article 15.7 of the Constitution, whether the governing body of a Member Association has been constituted in compliance with Article 15.7 of the Constitution, and is to be recognised, is a matter of recognition by AIFF and not one for the undersigned while preparing the roll. Neither the Constitution, the Act nor the NSBR provides that a Full Member loses its vote on this account, and AIFF has, with knowledge of the position, recognised the Executive Committee. The undersigned therefore does not deem it expedient to exclude DNHDDFA on this ground.

- As to the voting status of DNHDDFA, it is a Full Member against which no suspension or expulsion has been shown. Neither the Constitution, the Act nor the NSBR provides that a Full Member whose election was delayed, or held after the date fixed by AIFF, ceases to be entitled to vote.

- The names at Elector Nos. 59 and 60 were submitted on 14.11.2026, one day after the last date fixed by Circular No. 1, because the election of DNHDDFA was itself held on

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14.11.2026. The delay is of one day, is explained, and occurred before publication of the Draft Electoral College, so that the names were open to objection. The undersigned therefore approves the intimation under Article 4.2 of Schedule III, subject to the intimation being on the letterhead of DNHDDFA signed by its President / Secretary, and to scrutiny of the identity documents under Article 4.3 of Schedule III.

- Accordingly, DNHDDFA is held entitled to 2 votes, and Mr. Altamash Shaikh and Mr. Walter Edward Pereira shall be included in the Electoral College as its representatives. The objection of Mr. Nevelle Quintall stands disposed off as **rejected**.

Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation

24/11/2026

Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation

Place: New Delhi

Date: 24.11.2026