DECISION ON THE VOTING STATUS OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR 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 Jammu and Kashmir Football Association ("**JKFA**") among the Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided by the undersigned under Article 4.1 of Schedule III of the Constitution. An order dated 23.11.2026 of the Court of the Additional District Judge, Srinagar concerning the election of JKFA, and a communication of AIFF dated 24.11.2026 on the status of JKFA together with the documents enclosed with it, have since been placed before the undersigned. This Order decides the voting status of JKFA.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS

The provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 ("**the Act**"), the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 ("**the NSBR**") and the Constitution of AIFF ("**the Constitution**") 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."

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- 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 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 on suspension or expulsion in accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of the Constitution, or by an operative order of a competent court (Article 17.4).
- Under Articles 51.8 to 51.11 of the Constitution, the Executive Committee of AIFF may appoint an ad hoc committee to oversee the footballing affairs of a Member Association for a period not exceeding 6 (six) months, within which the new highest decision-making body of that Member Association is required to be elected. Till then, the ad hoc committee selects and fields the teams of that Member Association in Competitions and generally manages its sporting affairs.
- 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.

FACTS

- At Sl. No. 5 of the list of Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided, the Draft Electoral College shows JKFA with the remarks "Elections pending (Scheduled on 26.11.2026)", and the names of its representatives as "NIL". No names of representatives have been intimated on behalf of JKFA, either by 13.11.2026 or thereafter.
- By letter dated 10.06.2024, AIFF, on a request of Mr. Nazir Ahmad Andrabi, described as Chairman, JKFA, authorised Mr. B.A. Shah and Mr. Nazir Ahmad Andrabi to make the arrangements for a democratic election process in JKFA.
- By letter dated 07.07.2025, AIFF informed the Secretary, J&K Sports Council that its Executive Committee, at its meeting held on 02.07.2025, had resolved to constitute an Ad-hoc Committee chaired by Justice (Retd.) Kailash Gambhir to manage the affairs of JKFA, with a view to the conduct of expedited elections not later than six months from that date, and to oversee the day-to-day functioning of JKFA until the election of its new highest decision-making body.
- By letter dated 22.10.2026 to the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, AIFF, referring to the prolonged absence of a duly elected body of JKFA, conveyed the decision of its Executive Committee that the election of JKFA shall be conducted directly under the supervision of AIFF on or before 04.11.2026, constituted a three-member Election

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Committee chaired by Mr. Sunil Arora, Retd. IAS, as the sole authorised body for the election of JKFA, and stated that its earlier communications regarding the affairs of JKFA may be treated as null and void and kept in abeyance.

- By order dated 27.10.2026 in O.S. No. 1436/2023 (Fayaz Ahmad Sofi & Ors. v. JK Football Association & Ors.), the learned 4th Additional District Judge, Srinagar observed that JKFA can be brought into conformity with the revised Constitution of AIFF and the Act only by its executive body, directed that the election of its executive body be conducted under the existing constitution of JKFA, the Model Election Guidelines and the National Sports Code, and directed the Secretary, J&K Sports Council to appoint a Returning Officer to conduct the election within three weeks. The matter was listed on 26.11.2026.
- The election was accordingly scheduled on 25.11.2026. By order dated 23.11.2026 in Summary Suit No. 9465/2026 (Firdous Ahmad Dar & Ors. v. Secretary, J&K Sports Council & Ors.), filed by persons describing themselves as the Vice-President, Treasurer, Vice-President (Women) and Executive Members of JKFA, the learned Additional District Judge, Srinagar directed the parties to maintain status quo as on that date with respect to the election of JKFA scheduled on 25.11.2026, till the next date of hearing, which is 28.12.2026.
- By its communication dated 24.11.2026 addressed to the undersigned, AIFF has stated that no duly elected executive body is in place in JKFA and that its electoral process is sub judice; that, according to AIFF, a Member Association under ad hoc administration without a duly elected executive body does not exercise voting rights; and that JKFA has not been invited to any Special General Meeting, Annual General Meeting or other meeting of Full Members, the attendance records of which reflect that it does not possess voting powers. The copy placed before the undersigned does not bear a signature, but it encloses the letters and court orders referred to above, on which the undersigned relies.

DECISION

- The question is whether JKFA can be represented in the Electoral College for the election of 20.12.2026. AIFF has not pointed to any provision of the Constitution which states, in terms, that a Member Association under ad hoc administration loses its vote, and no decision suspending or expelling JKFA under Article 17 or 18 has been placed on record. The undersigned therefore does not rest this decision on the assertion that JKFA has no voting right as such.
- The decisive circumstance is a different one. Under Article 4.2 of Schedule III, the representatives of a Full Member can be intimated only by the Full Member itself, on its letterhead signed by its President or Secretary. On the record, JKFA has had no duly elected executive body, and hence no President or Secretary, for a considerable period. This is stated by AIFF and is evident from AIFF's letters of 2024, 2025 and 2026 and from the order dated 27.10.2026, which directed an election precisely because no elected body exists. The persons who filed Summary Suit No. 9465/2026 describe



themselves as office-bearers and members of JKFA, but they have neither claimed to be its President or Secretary nor intimated any names.

- Nor can names be intimated by the Ad-hoc Committee or the Election Committee constituted by AIFF. Under Articles 51.10 and 51.11, an ad hoc committee is appointed for a maximum of six months to manage the sporting affairs of the Member Association and facilitate the election of its body; the Ad-hoc Committee constituted on 07.07.2025 has exceeded that period, and AIFF's letter dated 22.10.2026 has placed its earlier communications in abeyance. The Election Committee constituted on 22.10.2026 is confined to the conduct of the election of JKFA. In any event, representatives nominated by a body appointed by AIFF would not be representatives chosen by the Member Association, and permitting such a body to nominate electors for the election of the Executive Committee of AIFF itself would be inconsistent with the fairness and independence of that election.

- The only course by which JKFA could come to have a President or Secretary competent to intimate names is the election of its executive body. That election has been stayed by the order dated 23.11.2026 and the next hearing being on 28.12.2026, which is after the date of the AIFF election, and the undersigned cannot proceed on the assumption that the order will be varied. The undersigned had considered permitting JKFA a further period to intimate names, but on the record now available there is no person competent to make such an intimation, and a period for intimation would serve no purpose.

- The undersigned is conscious that, as a result, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will not be represented in the election. That consequence, however, flows from the absence of an elected body in JKFA and from the pendency of the litigation concerning its election, and not from any decision on the merits of the rights of JKFA, which remain unaffected.

- Accordingly, JKFA shall not be represented in the Electoral College for the election of 20.12.2026. If, before the Final Electoral College is published, the order dated 23.11.2026 is vacated or modified and an executive body of JKFA is duly elected, its President or Secretary may apply to the undersigned under Article 4.2 of Schedule III, and the application shall be considered on its merits. This decision is subject to any order that may be passed in O.S. No. 1436/2023, Summary Suit No. 9465/2026 or by any other competent court or forum.

Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation

Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.11.2026

24/11/2026
Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation