DECISION ON THE REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KARNATAKA STATE 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 Karnataka State Football Association ("**KSFA**") has requested approval of a change in one of its representatives in the Electoral College after the last date fixed for intimation of names. The request is dealt with through this Order.

RELEVANT PROVISIONS

The provisions of the Constitution of AIFF ("**the Constitution**"), National Sports Governance Act, 2025 ("**the Act**"), the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 ("**the NSBR**") and the 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 accompanied by a passport size photograph and a copy of a Government-issued photo

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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 (Article 17.4). 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.

FACTS

- At Sl. No. 15 of the Draft Electoral College dated 15.11.2026, Mr. N.A. Haris (Elector No. 29) and Mr. Hanif Mohammed Marakkarachayil (Elector No. 30) are shown as the representatives of KSFA.
- By e-mail dated 18.11.2026 (1:58 PM) from the official e-mail account of KSFA, Mr. N.A. Haris, President, KSFA forwarded a letter dated 18.11.2026 on the letterhead of KSFA signed by him, requesting approval under Article 4.2 of Schedule III for the nomination of Mr. N.A. Haris and Mr. Kalyan Chaubey as the representatives of KSFA. The e-mail enclosed a passport size photograph and Aadhaar card of each of them, and a letter dated 16.11.2026 from Mr. Hanif Mohammed, Deputy General Secretary, KSFA, addressed to the Honorary General Secretary of KSFA, requesting that his name be withdrawn from the AIFF Electoral College on medical advice to avoid physical and mental stress and long-distance travel.
- By e-mail dated 18.11.2026 (4:27 PM), the office of the undersigned asked KSFA to furnish the medical certificate in support of the withdrawal. By e-mail dated 19.11.2026 (1:47 PM), KSFA furnished a certificate dated 14.11.2026 of Dr. Pankaj Singhai, Consultant Physician, Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, stating that Mr. Hanif Mohammed Marakkarachayil has been advised to avoid long-distance travel and stress, and has been advised rest.
- No objection to the inclusion of KSFA or its representatives was received within the time fixed. AIFF has not furnished comments specific to this request but its general comments on belated intimations are noted above.

DECISION

- KSFA is a Full Member entitled to 2 votes. The request has been made on the letterhead of KSFA and signed by its President, and the identity documents and photographs have

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been furnished. The requirements as to form under Article 4.2 of Schedule III and Circular No. 1 are therefore met.

- Mr. Hanif Mohammed has himself, in writing, asked to be withdrawn. A person cannot be compelled to act as the representative of a Full Member against his wish, and his withdrawal is accepted.
- On the withdrawal, KSFA would otherwise be left with one representative although it is entitled to two. The request was received on 18.11.2026, within the period for claims and objections and before the Final Electoral College has been published. Article 4.1 of Schedule III expressly permits a Full Member to nominate as its delegate an individual other than its representative in the General Body. The same standard is applied to every Full Member seeking a change.
- The withdrawal is accepted because it is the voluntary and written decision of the representative himself, communicated through the Full Member, and because there is a medical reason for the same.
- Accordingly, the request of KSFA is **allowed**. The withdrawal of Mr. Hanif Mohammed Marakkarachayil is accepted, and Mr. Kalyan Chaubey shall be shown at Elector No. 30 as a representative of KSFA in place of Mr. Hanif Mohammed Marakkarachayil, subject to the above. Mr. N.A. Haris continues at Elector No. 29.

Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation

24/11/2026

Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.11.2026

Electoral Officer
All India Football Federation