DECISION ON THE VOTING STATUS OF THE PONDICHERRY 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 Pondicherry Football Association ("**PFA**") among the Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided by the undersigned under Article 4.1 of Schedule III of the Constitution. No claim or objection has been received in respect of PFA. This Order decides its voting status.

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."

- 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 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,

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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. 3 of the list of Member Associations whose voting status is to be decided, the Draft Electoral College shows Mr. S. Dhanasegar (Elector No. 63) and Mr. D. Ramalingam (Elector No. 64) against PFA, with the remarks "*Elections pending (Scheduled on 27.11.2026)*". In the list of the election status of all Member Associations which AIFF furnished with its comments dated 21.11.2026 (submitted in the matter concerning the Indian Football Association, West Bengal), AIFF has also stated that the election of PFA is scheduled on 27.11.2026.
- No suspension or expulsion of PFA, and no claim or objection concerning it, has been placed on record.

DECISION

- PFA is a Full Member and no suspension or expulsion has been shown. Neither the Constitution, the Act nor the NSBR provides that a Full Member whose election is due or yet to be completed ceases to be entitled to vote. PFA is therefore entitled to 2 votes, and the persons at Elector Nos. 63 and 64, against whom no objection or Disqualification Event has been raised, shall be included in the Electoral College, subject to scrutiny under Article 4.3 of Schedule III.
- The voting status of PFA is decided in the above terms. This decision is subject to any order that may be passed by a 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