

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Associations Act (Official Gazette No. 74/14, 70/17 and 98/19), Article 47 of the Sports Act (Official Gazette No. 71/06, 150/08, 124/10, 124/11, 86/12, 94/13, 85/1519/16) and Article 39 of the Croatian Football Federation Statutes, the Assembly of the Croatian Football Federation adopted at its meeting held on 2 June 2021 the following

STATUTES OF THE CROATIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

I. PRINCIPAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

1) The Croatian Football Federation (hereinafter referred to as: Federation) is the only national sports federation which encourages, promotes and provides for the Croatian football and national football teams and represents them at international level.

2) In these Statutes, football means football, futsal and beach football.

3) Unless otherwise defined herein, the terms “player” and “footballer” when used in these Statutes, equally refer to both genders.

Article 2

The Croatian Football Federation was founded in 1912 in Zagreb, when it operated within the framework of the Croatian Sports Federation.

Article 3

The Croatian Football Federation (hereinafter referred to as: Federation) is a non-profit legal entity, registered with the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia maintained by the competent city office of the City of Zagreb, the Register of Sports Activities maintained by the competent city office of the City of Zagreb, and the Register of Non-Profit Organizations maintained by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia.

Article 4

The Statutes are the fundamental by-law of the Federation.

Article 5

1) The Federation operates within the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

2) The headquarters of the Federation is in Zagreb, Ulica grada Vukovara 269 a.

Article 6

1) The full name of the Federation is: Hrvatski nogometni savez.

2) The abbreviated name of the Federation is: HNS.

3) In addition to the name in Croatian, the Federation may also use the name in English, reading: Croatian Football Federation.

Article 7

1) The Federation is represented by its President, Executive Director and Federation's Secretary.

2) By way of exception, the Executive Committee may on a proposal by the Federation's President authorise also other persons to represent the Federation.

Article 8

The seal of the Federation is round, with a 3 cm diameter, with the Federation's logo in the centre and surrounding inscription: "HRVATSKI NOGOMETNI SAVEZ – ZAGREB".

Article 9

1) The Federation has a flag and logo.

2) The flag of the Federation is white and in the middle there is the logo of the Federation.

3) The logo of the Federation is an elongated isosceles shield with protuberant longitudinal sides. The base of the logo is made of elements of the historical coat of arms of Croatia i.e. horizontally and vertically divided red and white (gold) fields. In the middle of the logo, across red and white (gold) fields, there is a blue field which spreads from the narrower side of the shield up and at the top of the shield down. In the lower portion of the logo, at the top of the shield, there is a gold football which is also the colour of all the frames of the logo and frames separating one colour from another.

Article 10

1) The Federation is the founder and full member of the Croatian Olympic Committee (HOO).

2) The representative of the Federation in the Croatian Olympic Committee, who is to carry out a certain function in the Federation, shall be appointed by the Federation's Executive Committee.

Article 11

1) The Federation has been affiliated to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

2) The Federation, its bodies and official persons, members of the Federation, league, clubs, players, coaches, referees, official persons, licensed match agents, licensed players' agents and other stakeholders in football shall:

a) comply with the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Football Association BOARD (IFAB);

b) observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship as an expression of fair play;

c) respect at all times the Statutes, regulations and decisions of FIFA and UEFA;

d) recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne (Switzerland), as specified in the relevant provisions of the FIFA and UEFA Statutes;

e) recognize the jurisdiction of the Federation's Court of Arbitration and accordingly refer in the last instance any dispute of national dimension arising from or related to the application of the HNS Statutes or regulations only to these arbitrations which will settle all disputes to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the legislation in force in the Republic of Croatia.

The Federation shall ensure that these obligations are recognized, accepted and implemented by its members.

3) The Federation undertakes to participate in competitions organized by FIFA and UEFA and shall pay membership fee as a member of FIFA and UEFA.

II. OBJECTIVES, FIELD OF OPERATIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERATION

Article 12

- 1) The objectives of the Federation are to encourage and promote football in the Republic of Croatia, and to represent the Croatian football abroad.
- 2) The Federation operates in compliance with its objectives in the field of sport.
- 3) The activities through which the Federation accomplishes its objectives are:
 - a) organizing and implementing competitions' system,
 - b) making arrangements concerning the registration of players and clubs, status of football players and other official persons, disciplinary accountability of players and other football officials,
 - c) determining conditions which football clubs should fulfil for conducting football activities,
 - d) fostering professional work and training professional staff, fostering sport achievements and taking care of top sportsmen,
 - e) organizing football matches for national teams of the Republic of Croatia,
 - f) continuously improving football and promoting it in conformity with the principles of Fair Play,
 - g) maintaining international sporting relations associated with football in all its aspects,
 - h) providing sources of funds for financing of football,
 - i) performing tasks from the National sports programme and participating in planning and implementation of the Annual programme of the implementation thereof,
 - j) participating in planning and implementing of annual programmes of public necessities in sports,
 - k) developing grassroots football and coordinating all activities and subjects related to the football program,
 - l) promoting and enforcing anti-doping control and activities related to prevention of doping and substances abuse, and prohibited procedures in sports activities and competitions of the Federation, in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code,
 - m) managing sports facilities,
 - n) performing other jobs and activities stipulated by law, Statutes and regulations of the Federation.
- 4) In order to accomplish the objectives stated herein, the Federation co-operates with national administrative bodies, regional and local self-government bodies, higher education institutions, schools and other educational institutions, and with corresponding scientific institutions.

Article 13

The Federation fulfils the objectives and tasks specified in Article 12 hereof through direct and joint operation of all members of the Federation.

Article 14

- 1) The Federation is neutral in respect of political and religious issues.
- 2) Discrimination of any kind in respect of countries, persons or groups of persons based on their race, nationality, religion, sex, language, political orientation or anything else is prohibited and shall lead to suspension or exclusion from the Federation.

Article 15

- 1) The Federation shall encourage friendly relations among its members, clubs, players, coaches, referees and other members of football.
- 2) Each person and organization involved in football is obliged to respect these Statutes, regulations and principles of Fair Play.

Article 16

- 1) The Federation shall not operate for the purpose of gaining profit.
- 2) If the Federation gains profit through its operation, such profit shall be used exclusively for the implementation and improvement of activities through which the Federation fulfils objectives, as defined herein, in compliance with the law.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Article 17

- 1) Members of the Federation are: 20 football associations in counties, the Zagreb Football Association, football associations of cities and football clubs.
- 2) Members of the Federation may be football-related professional workers' associations and the associations to which football-sports athletes are affiliated.
- 3) Football clubs and football associations of cities are indirect members of the Federation through membership in county football associations and the Zagreb Football Association.
- 4) County football associations and the Zagreb Football Association are direct members of the Federation.
- 5) Unless otherwise defined herein, the provisions on membership shall refer to the direct members only.

Article 18

Football clubs and other legal entities, players, coaches, referees and other football officials act in county football associations according to their registered domicile or residence.

Article 19

- 1) For the purpose of admission into membership, the following shall be submitted to a county football association/the Zagreb Football Association (hereinafter referred to as: *ŽNS*) or the Federation:
 - decision of the responsible body to join the membership of the Federation,
 - minutes kept at the constitutive Assembly or a formation document,
 - copy of the Statutes,
 - copy of registration certificate or extract from the relevant register,
 - extract from the Register of Sports Activities,
 - basic information showing structure and activities,
 - basic information regarding membership, president and secretary.
- 2) The Statutes of the Federation's member must obligatorily contain the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 11, Article 62 and Article 63 of these Statutes.

Article 20

1) A decision on admission into membership of the Federation is taken by the Assembly of the Federation; between two meetings of the Assembly, a decision on admission into membership on a provisional basis is taken by the Executive Committee.

2) A member of the Federation admitted on a provisional basis has all the rights and obligations as a member of the Federation, but its representative shall not have the right to vote in the Assembly.

3) Indirect members become the members of the Federation through the admission to a county football association/the Zagreb Football Association.

4) A decision on full membership is taken at the first meeting of the Assembly immediately following the meeting of the Executive Committee at which the decision on admission into membership on a provisional basis has been taken.

Article 21

Unless otherwise provided by law or these Statutes, members have equal rights, obligations and responsibilities within the Federation and they exercise them through their representatives in the Assembly and the bodies of the Federation in compliance with these Statutes.

Article 22

Members are entitled to:

a) take part through their representatives in the Federation's Assembly, in such manner as set out in these Statutes,

b) propose, elect and be elected to the Federation's bodies, in such manner as set out in these Statutes,

c) propose measures and activities for the purpose of more successful implementation of objectives and activities of the Federation,

d) be advised of the Federation's activities,

e) take part in the Federation's competitions,

f) exercise all other rights arising from these Statutes and other regulations of the Federation.

Article 23

Members have also the following obligations and responsibilities, in addition to those stated in paragraph 2 of Article 11:

a) to apply decisions and conclusions taken by the Federation's bodies and bear responsibilities therefor,

b) to ensure that their statutes and other by-laws comply with the laws, these Statutes and other by-laws of the Federation, and with the Statutes and other regulations of FIFA and UEFA,

c) to submit to the Federation for approval (the indirect members to their county football associations/the Zagreb Football Association) their statutes and any amendment to such statutes, or decisions taken by responsible bodies ratifying and attesting them,

d) to take part in competitions,

e) to pay their membership subscriptions (only direct members),

- f) to communicate to a county football association or the Federation any changes in persons authorized to represent members, or decisions taken by responsible bodies approving the registrations of changes with relevant registers,
- g) to keep a list of members,
- h) to comply with other obligations arising from these Statutes and by-laws of the Federation, and FIFA and UEFA.

Article 24

1) The bodies of a member (direct and indirect) are elected or appointed by such member. Member's statutes shall provide for a procedure guaranteeing that such bodies are elected or appointed in a completely independent way.

2) A body or decision from a body that has not been elected or appointed in compliance with the procedure referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be recognized by the Federation.

Article 25

1) When a member fails to duly achieve and perform, through its operation, determined objectives and activities for which it has been established, the Executive Committee of the Federation shall notify such member of failures in such member's operation and propose to convene its extraordinary assembly.

2) If such a member, despite the abovementioned notice, continues to act contrary to the provisions of the law, these Statutes and its own Statutes or FIFA and UEFA Statutes, the Executive Committee may suspend the membership of such a member.

3) A member's membership may also be suspended in a case in which it is not possible to determine who a member's authorized representative is.

4) By such suspension, a member shall temporarily lose its membership rights. Suspension shall be lifted when the Executive Committee determines that a suspended member has started to act according to the law, these Statutes and its Statutes and FIFA and UEFA Statutes, or when it is determined who is authorized to represent a member. A special decision shall be taken in this respect.

5) If a member continues to act contrary to the statutes even upon its suspension, its membership in the Federation shall terminate on a permanent basis by a decision made by the Assembly.

Article 26

1) The membership in the Federation of the direct and indirect members is terminated:

- a) by removal from the membership,
- b) if it has been established that a member has been dissolved or has failed to convene its assembly for at least two years,
- c) if the number of members of the association has been reduced below the number prescribed for the establishment of such association,
- d) by decision of the Federation's Assembly or a county football association on exclusion, if a member's performance considerably impedes the achievement of the objectives and activities of the Federation,
- e) upon personal request, followed by an explanation,
- f) following cessation of member's existence.

2) A decision on termination of membership is made by the Federation's Assembly or a county football association.

3) Financial obligations of a former member, due and outstanding to the Federation prior to a termination of membership shall survive such termination.

County Football Association

Article 27

1) County football associations (*ŽNS*) and the Zagreb Football Association (*ZNS*) are basic football organizations, established by football clubs on the territory of a respective county. County football associations and the Zagreb Football Association are established for the territory which is equivalent to the territory of a respective county as a local and regional self-administration unit, and the area of the City of Zagreb, in accordance with the Act on Counties, Cities and Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia.

Article 28

1) *ŽNS/ZNS* statutes may provide that football centres (hereinafter referred as *NS*) may be established for one or several cities or municipalities in a county or the City of Zagreb.

2) *NS* are established for the purpose of achieving objectives and performing activities referred to in Article 12 hereof and the statutes and work programme of football organization from the territory of a *ŽNS/ZNS* and from cities or municipalities where they operate.

3) With the consent of the Federation and upon the proposition of *ŽNS/ZNS*, *NS* may carry out the process of registration of clubs and players.

4) FC's activities, operation and competence shall be in conformity with the *NS* regulations or by-laws to be approved (confirmed) by *ŽNS/ZNS*.

Article 29

County football associations/the Zagreb Football Association, within their scope of competence in a county or the City of Zagreb, carry out the activities and operate for the purpose of achieving the objectives and performing the activities referred to in Article 12 hereof.

Article 30

For the area of one county or for the City of Zagreb only one county football association/football association of the City of Zagreb may be established.

Article 31

1) Clubs, futsal and women's football clubs may establish their associations or plenums to organise and conduct their competitions, propose their calendars, commissioner for competitions and disciplinary judge.

2) The associations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, with legal personality, may be established with the Federation's consent. With the Federation's consent and on the basis of a special agreement, a club association with legal personality may also be established.

Article 32

The Federation shall ensure that neither legal entity nor a natural person exercises control over more than one club in a competition organised at the same level, or in the Federation's bodies to have predominant influence on the decision making.

Article 33

- 1) The Federation shall maintain an electronic list of members.
- 2) The list shall include for each member the following information:
 - name of a member,
 - personal identification number of a member,
 - membership category,
 - date of admission to the Federation,
 - date of termination of membership.
- 3) The list of members shall be made available upon request for inspection by the members and competent bodies.

IV. CONSTITUTION

Article 34

- 1) The bodies of the Federation are: Assembly, Executive Committee, President and legal bodies.
- 2) The Federation's Assembly (hereinafter referred to as: Assembly) is the supreme controlling body of the Federation; the Assembly passes the Federation's Statutes and other by-laws within its power in compliance with these Statutes.
- 3) The Executive Committee is the Federation's supreme executive body.
- 4) The President of the Federation represents the Federation and chairs the Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5) The legal bodies are: Appeals Committee, Disciplinary Committee, Committee for Verification of Clubs and Players Registration, Licensing Committee and Licensing Appeals Body.
- 6) The Executive Director is responsible for areas of operational management of the Federation and other activities of the Federation which do not fall within the powers of any other Federation's body.
- 7) Standing and ad-hoc committees are the Executive Committee's working bodies advising and giving suggestions to the Executive Committee in performing its duties. The rules of procedure of the Executive Committee and its bodies lay down the responsibilities of individual committees, the number of members and their decision making processes.
- 8) The Federation's Office is a professional service responsible for the Federation's administrative, professional and supporting affairs. The Federation's Office is headed by the Federation's Secretary.
- 9) The Federation's bodies and persons elected to offices referred to in this Article are elected or appointed by the Federation itself, without external influences, and in compliance with the procedures described in these Statutes and implementing regulations.

A. Assembly

Article 35

- 1) The Assembly conducts its businesses in the meetings attended by the representatives, appointed in accordance with the Statutes.
- 2) An ordinary meeting of the Assembly shall be held at least once a year.
- 3) Every four years, the electoral meeting is held.
- 4) The Assembly's meetings are convened by the President of the Federation. In the year in which the term of office of the President and/or Executive Committee expires, the electoral meeting may be convened by the Executive Committee, if so has been decided by more than half of its members. The procedure for convening the electoral meeting is stipulated in detail by the Assembly's rules of procedures.

5) The Assembly's extraordinary meeting shall be convened at the request of the Federation's Executive Committee or of at least one half of the Federation's direct members by the President of the Federation with the agenda proposed by the party making such request. If the convening of the meeting is proposed by the direct members of the Federation, a decision on the request for convening an extraordinary meeting of the Assembly shall be made by the executive committees of the respective affiliated members of the Federation, and the minutes of these meetings shall be submitted to the Federation's Office together with the request for convening and with the agenda of the extraordinary meeting. In case that a request and accompanied documentation are valid, what shall be determined by the Federation's Office, the President of the Federation shall be obliged to convene the meeting of the Assembly within 30 days upon the receipt of the request and accompanied documentation. The meeting shall take place within 60 days upon the receipt of the request. If the President of the Federation fails to convene the meeting of the Assembly in accordance with these provisions, after the expiration of the stipulated deadline the applicants shall themselves convene the meeting, which shall take place within no less than 15 days since it was convened. The convener of a meeting of the Assembly convened in this manner is obliged to notify FIFA and UEFA.

6) The agenda of an extraordinary meeting shall include items proposed by a party requesting an extraordinary meeting. If the Federation's members have requested such meeting, the Federation's Executive Committee may also state the items to be placed on the agenda. During the Assembly's meeting convened in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of this Article, the agenda may no longer be modified.

7) The Assembly's meetings shall be chaired by the Federation's President in compliance with these Statutes and the Assembly's rules of procedures.

8) If the terms of office of the Federation's bodies have ended, the meeting of the Assembly shall be convened by the most recent President of the Federation who is recorded in the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia, or other person who is last registered as authorised to represent the Federation in the Register of Associations of the Republic of Croatia. If these persons fail to convene the meetings, they shall be convened by one third of the Federation's direct members.

Article 36

1) The Assembly shall consist of:

- two (2) representatives of each county football associations/ZFA,
- one (1) representative of each club participating in the first level of football competition in which all the clubs have professional status,
- three (3) representatives of the clubs of the second level of football competition, who shall represent all clubs of the second level of football,
- one (1) representative of the clubs per each group of the third level of competition, who shall represent all clubs of the third level of competition,
- fifteen (15) representatives of the clubs participating in the competition levels lower than the third level, while ensuring the regional representation,
- one (1) representative of women's football,
- one (1) representative of futsal and beach football clubs;
- one (1) representative of the union of players registered with the clubs of the highest competition level,
- one (1) representative of the union of coaches engaged by the clubs of the highest competition level.

2) The representatives of the clubs of the second level of competition shall be elected at the plenum of the clubs of the second level of competition. The decision on election shall be made by the majority of votes of all clubs, while each club shall have one vote. The professional clubs with their second teams participating in the second level of competition may not have their representative, nor participate in the elections of representatives of the

second level of competition, and those clubs shall not be counted in the quorum required for decision making.

3) The representatives of the clubs of the third level shall be elected at the clubs' plenums of each group of the third level. The decision on election shall be made by the majority of votes of all clubs belonging to each group, while each club shall have one vote. The professional clubs with their second teams participating in the third level may not have their representative, nor participate in the elections of representatives of the clubs of the third level, and those clubs shall not be counted in the quorum required for decision making.

4) The representatives of the clubs participating in the competitions lower than the third level are appointed at the meetings of the representatives of the county football associations following the principle of the regional representation as follows:

- three (3) representatives of the clubs located at the territory of the county football associations of Bjelovar-Bilogora, Koprivnica-Križevci, Međimurje, Varaždin and Virovitica-Podravina,

- three (3) representatives of the clubs located at the territory of the county football associations of Karlovac, Krapina-Zagorje, Sisak-Moslavina, Zagreb and the Zagreb Football Association,

- three (3) representatives of the clubs located at the territory of the county football associations of Istria, Lika-Senj and Primorje-Gorski Kotar,

- three (3) representatives of the clubs located at the territory of the county football associations of Dubrovnik-Neretva, Split-Dalmatia, Šibenik-Knin and Zadar,

- three (3) representatives of the clubs located at the territory of the county football associations of Brod-Posavina, Požega-Slavonija, Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem.

At the meetings at which the representatives of the clubs participating at the lower competition levels are elected, each ŽNS/ZNS shall have one vote. The decisions are made by an absolute majority of the votes.

5) Each member proposed as representative by ŽNSs and clubs participating in the competitions lower than the third level, shall be proposed based on the decision taken by the executive committee of the county association from which he comes from.

6) The representative of footballers shall be appointed by the players' union that is recognized by the World Players' Union (FIFPro) as the representative of the professional players. If such union does not exist, the representative shall be appointed by the senior team captains of the clubs participating at the first competition level in which all clubs have professional status, by an absolute majority of votes.

7) The representative of coaches shall be appointed and selected by the Football Coaches Committee of the Federation.

8) The representative of women's football shall be appointed and selected by the Women's Football Committee.

9) The representative of futsal shall be appointed and selected by the Futsal and Beach Football Committee.

10) The list of representatives, as well as the list of their deputies in the event of unscheduled absence, should be delivered to the Federation's Office not later than 10 days before the date of the Assembly. The selected representatives and their deputies cannot be changed after the delivery of the list to the Federation's Office. Every representative or deputy should bring a power of attorney to the Assembly's meeting, such power of attorney to be signed by an authorized person representing the Federation's member represented by the respective representative or deputy. A member that fails to act in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph shall not have its representative at the Assembly's meeting.

Article 37

1) A representative in the Assembly may be a person who:

- a) is a national of the Republic of Croatia,
- b) is 18 years old and has legal capacity,

- c) is a respectable football employee or sportsman engaged in football,
- d) is active in the work of the Federation's member which he represents,
- e) if representing a ŽNS/ZNS, has residence on the territory of that ŽNS or ZNS for at least twelve months before electoral meeting of the Assembly of the Federation is convened,
- f) accepts these Statutes.

2) The clubs' representatives may be only the persons who are authorized to represent the club and are recorded as such in the Register of Associations or in the Court Register.

3) A representatives in the Assembly may not be:

- a) a member of the Federation's Executive Committee,
- b) an Executive Director of the Federation,
- c) a Secretary of the Federation,
- d) a member of the Federation's legal body,
- e) an active football referee or a person holding such position in the last three years,
- f) persons prevented by the provisions of the Sports Act from acting as members of a national sports association's assembly,
- g) persons subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 84 of these Statutes,
- h) a member of the Electoral and Electoral Appeals Committee.

Article 38

1) Matters falling within the power of Assembly shall be:

- a) adoption and amendments to the Statutes,
- b) adoption of the Assembly's rules of procedure,
- c) decisions on a member's admission to, or exclusion, from the Federation,
- d) adoption of regulations: Disciplinary Regulations, Regulations on Public Tributes and Honorary Titles, and other regulations proposed by the HNS Executive Committee to the Assembly for adoption,
- e) approval of an annual business plan and a financial plan for the following calendar year, approval of a report for the preceding calendar year, and approval of annual accounts and financial statements,
- f) taking of decisions on applications and appeals falling within the power of Assembly under these Statutes and regulations,
- g) election of the President of the Federation, upon proposal of a direct member of the Federation, and his dismissal,
- h) election and dismissal of the members of the Executive Committee,
- i) appointment and dismissal of up to five vice-presidents of the Executive Committee,
- j) upon proposal of the Executive Committee, appointment of the Federation's independent auditor, and consideration of and decision on the Federation's auditor's report,
- k) definition of a program of development and promotion of football and a program of work for its term of office,
- l) appointment of the Electoral Committee and the Electoral Appeals Committee,
- m) consideration of, and decisions on acknowledgment or rejection of the report on the Federation's work,
- n) decisions on membership subscriptions for the direct members of the Federation,
- o) decisions on changes in objectives and activities, and economic activities,
- p) decisions on dissolution and distribution of the remaining assets of the Federation in case of the Federation's dissolution,
- r) decisions on joining confederations and other forms of associations, and decisions on changes in status,
- s) powers of the Executive Committee to enact individual normative acts,
- t) decision on the Federation's dissolution.

2) The Assembly may authorize the Executive Committee to include in the implementing acts falling within powers of the Assembly, amendments, if any, to reflect any amendment to the rules made by FIFA and UEFA.

Article 39

- 1) The term of office of a representative in the Assembly shall be four years.
- 2) Such term of office of a representative may be ended at an earlier date, in case of:
 - a) change or loss of nationality,
 - b) dismissal or release by a member,
 - c) notice of resignation or resignation recorded in the minutes,
 - d) events due to which a representative may not further hold the office or in case of noncompliance with requirements referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 37 of these Statutes, or in case of events referred to in paragraph 2 of the same Article,
 - e) if a club that he represents does not participate any more at the respective level of competition or or if such representative does not represent the club any more.

The term of office of a representative of a ŽNS/ZNS shall be ended also at a date of deregistration of permanent residence on the territory of the ŽNS which he represents.

3) A representative of a ŽNS/ZNS or of a club which has right to have representatives may be removed from office by applying the procedure set for his election.

4) If a representative in the Assembly of the Federation is elected to the position of president, member of the Executive Committee or of the legal body of the Federation, his term of office shall become inactive and a ŽNS/ZNS or other member of the Federation entitled to a representative may, at the same meeting, propose a substitute representative. After the end of the incompatibility of duties, a representative shall continue to hold his office as a representative according to the termination of inactivity of his term of office in the Assembly, if he submits a written request to the President of the Assembly within 15 days from the day of termination of the incompatibility of duties. A representative may request to continue to hold his office on the basis of the inactivity of his term of office only once during his term of office.

5) The term of office of subsequently elected representative or replacement representative shall last until the end of the Assembly's term of office or until the start of the term of office of a representative whom he replaces.

Article 40

1) Decisions of the Assembly are reached by a majority of votes of all representatives in the Assembly, unless otherwise prescribed by these Statutes, and the meeting may start if the majority of all representatives are present.

2) If a meeting does not have a quorum, it shall be postponed to a certain time on the same day or to another day and time. A decision on such postponement shall be made at Assembly by a majority of votes of all members present. If the Assembly convened in such a way does not have a quorum, the new meeting shall be convened in the manner prescribed by paragraph 4 of Article 35 of these Statutes.

If during the meeting due to the departure of representatives it does not have a quorum any more, the meeting shall be adjourned and postponed.

3) The Assembly makes decisions at meetings, by votes of present representatives. Voting at the Assembly's meeting by proxy, letter or phone is not allowed.

4) In exceptional cases when due to the extraordinary circumstances (epidemic, pandemic, or force majeure and similar) the Assembly's meeting cannot take place by physical gathering of the representatives, the Assembly may take decision by voting of the Assembly members without physical presence of the Assembly members at the meeting, and by expressing their view on the decision's proposal by email, or by holding the electronical meeting via video link. For making decision by email, the decision proposal shall be delivered

to each representative with a possibility to express himself on the proposal either “in favour”, “against” or “sustained”. On such decision making, the Federation’s Secretary shall draft the minutes, which shall be verified at the next Assembly’s meeting.

5) Representatives of the suspended members of the Federation cannot attend and participate in the work of the Assembly.

6) Minutes shall be taken at the Assembly’s meeting, and two verifiers of the minutes shall be elected. The minutes taken at the previous meeting shall be adopted at the first following meeting. Taking of the minutes shall be organized by the Federation’s Secretary. If the minutes are taken by a notary public, it is not necessary to elect the verifiers of the minutes.

Article 41

The rules of procedure of the Assembly lay down a method of operation, rights and obligations of representatives, and terms and conditions of conducting businesses of the Assembly, and other matters relevant for the operation of the Assembly in compliance with these Statutes.

B. Executive Committee

Article 42

1) The Executive Committee shall consist of 17 members.

2) The Executive Committee shall include, as a rule, only one member from an individual direct member of the Federation. The Federation’s direct member whose candidate has been elected the President of the Federation may have two members in the Executive Committee, including the President.

3) A candidate for a member of the Executive Committee is proposed by the Executive Committee of a direct member of the Federation.

4) The President, the Vice-President and the members of the Executive Committee are proposed, elected and removed as set forth in the Assembly’s rules of procedure. Elections shall be free and secret. By way of exception, if the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, the elections may be also public.

5) The term of office of members of the Executive Board shall be four years.

6) A member of the Executive Committee cannot be:

a) a representative in the Federation’s Assembly,

b) an Executive Director of the Federation,

c) a member of the Internal Audit Committee,

d) a secretary of the Federation,

e) a member of a legal body of the Federation,

f) an arbitrator of the Court of Arbitration of the Federation,

g) an active football referee, or person holding such position in the last three years,

h) persons prevented by the provisions of the Sports Act to hold the office of a member of a national sports association’s executive body,

i) persons subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 84 of these Statutes,

j) a member of the Electoral and Electoral Appeals Committee.

7) The term of office of a member of the Executive Committee may be ended at an earlier date, in case of:

a) change or loss of nationality,

b) release,

c) notice of resignation or resignation recorded in the minutes,

d) loss of legal capacity,

e) events due to which a member may not further hold the office and he has not requested inactivity of his term of office.

8) During his term of office, a member of the Executive Committee may request inactivity of his term of office only once. The terms of office of up to ½ of the members of the

Executive Committee may be inactive at the same time. The term of office may be activated upon the written notice to the Executive Committee. During inactivity of term of office, that person shall not be considered a member of the Executive Committee.

9) In case the term of office of any member of the Executive Committee ends earlier, new member or members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the next Assembly's meeting. Such member's term of office shall last until the end of the Executive Committee's term of office.

Article 43

The Executive Committee manages the Federation's businesses in the period between two meetings of the Assembly, and performs the following:

- 1) convenes extraordinary Assembly,
- 2) proposes amendments to the Statutes, regulations and rules of procedure of the Assembly and its bodies and committees, and sets out the draft of the Statutes, and its amendments respectively,
- 3) makes decision on the suspension of members of the Federation,
- 4) produces also the program of the Executive Committee and its working bodies,
- 5) adopts the proposal of the annual business plan, financial budget, annual final accounts and financial statements and passes them on to the Assembly for adoption,
- 6) passes the Regulations of the Status and Registration of Players, Regulations of Football Competitions, Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, National Football Teams Regulations, Referees, Refereeing and Referees' Instructors Regulations, HNS Junior Trophy Regulations, rules of procedure of the HNS Executive Committee, its bodies and legal bodies, rules of procedure of the Court of Arbitration, Club Licensing Regulations, Regulations of the Status of Football Clubs, Regulations of the Use of the Federation's Sports Equipment and Attire, Regulations Governing the Use of Media Rights and Promotional Rights and Code of Conduct for the Croatian National Football Teams, calendars and rules of competitions falling within the powers of the Federation, regulations governing the responsibility of the HNS Office, document providing for the work posts scheme (establishment plan) applied to the HNS Office, and other normative acts outside the scope of the Assembly's powers,
- 7) makes the decision on the permanent competitions system managed by the Federation,
- 8) passes the Code of Conduct for Official Persons,
- 9) identifies rules for the organization of final-matches and matches of the finals of the competitions organized by the Federation,
- 10) appoints and removes presidents and members of the legal bodies of the Federation,
- 11) appoints and removes presidents and members of its standing and interim committees,
- 12) on a proposal of the Federation's President, appoints and removes Executive Director,
- 13) suspends implementation of illegal acts of its bodies,
- 14) verifies the list of delegates, referee observers and referees for the competitions of the First Division of the Croatian Football League and for other competitions falling within the Federation's direct powers, appoints officials responsible for the management of competitions,
- 15) submits to the Assembly reports on its work,
- 16) proposes decisions referring to awards, tributes and commendations to be decided by the Assembly,
- 17) makes decision on the Federation's Office responsibility to issue consent for a player's transfer abroad,
- 18) appoints and removes the President and arbiters of the Court of Arbitration in compliance with the Rules of Court of Arbitration of the Federation,
- 19) proposes to the Assembly the appointment of the Federation's auditor,

- 20) makes decision on national teams, colours of national team's equipment, appoints persons responsible for the national team,
- 21) verifies sponsor's agreements with domestic and international partners,
- 22) makes arrangements for the matches of the Federation's national teams and identifies places where the matches shall be played in the Republic of Croatia,
- 23) establishes, upon the proposal of the Referees' Committee, the list of referees and referee observers for the purposes of FIFA and UEFA,
- 24) establishes, upon the proposal of the Competitions Committee, the list of delegates for the purposes of FIFA and UEFA,
- 25) provides for the statutory interpretation of regulations passed by it, makes decisions governing the application of the Laws of the Game within the authority of the International Board and specific instructions for their application,
- 26) makes decision governing publication of the official text of the Laws of the Game and Laws of the Game for Futsal with the Federation's decisions governing the application of the Laws of the Game,
- 27) makes decision on template agreements between a club and a player,
- 28) makes decision on the publication of the HNS official journal, other publications and professional literature,
- 29) determines all kinds of fees for all permanent competitions within its competence, and makes decision on fees for certificates of deletion when players are transferred to the territory of another ŽNS or abroad,
- 30) makes decisions on final competitions for youth categories, women's football and futsal,
- 31) establishes standard specifications for professional and pedagogical work of the clubs in competitions under its direct competence and in which the club licensing procedure does not apply,
- 32) makes decisions on the contents, appearance and form of symbols, logos and badges for official and occasional requirements of HNS, establishes the contents of the official minutes taken at the matches of all stages of competitions organized by the Federation, sports cards for players, referees and coaches, documentation for players and clubs registration, contracts between clubs and players and all other forms referring to the activities of the clubs and associations within the sphere of the Federation's operation,
- 33) decides on a conflict of interest in the Federation in cases where a decision making process for a conflict of interest has not been prescribed by these Statutes or other general acts of the Federation,
- 34) appoints a Secretary of the Federation,
- 35) appoints a Federation's representative in the Assembly of the Croatian Olympic Committee,
- 36) appoints and removes a liquidator,
- 37) appoints the ambassadors of the Croatian Football Federation,
- 38) adopts general acts governing the financial business of the Federation, except the annual financial budget and annual financial statements,
- 39) appoints a person to replace the executive director in case of his absence longer than 30 days,
- 40) makes other decisions subject to its powers under other regulations of the Federation,
- 41) on a proposal of the Federation's President, makes decision on the authorisation to represent from Article 7(2) of the Statutes.
- 42) grants authorisation to the persons authorised to represent the Federation for the to allocate donation and financial aid respectively, to members, clubs and associations up to the amount, which shall be fixed by the separate Executive Committee's decision.

Article 44

- 1) The Executive Committee conducts its businesses at the meetings.
- 2) The meetings of the Executive Committee are convened as necessary, and they are convened by the Federation's President. Exceptionally, the meeting may be convened by a simple majority of the Executive Committee's members.
- 3) The Executive Committee makes valid decisions if its meeting is attended by more than a half of the total number of its members; its decisions are rendered by a majority of votes of all those members who are present at the meeting.
- 4) Exceptionally, the Executive Committee makes valid decisions by a majority of votes of all its members in the following situations:
 - a) when it convenes the Assembly's extraordinary meeting,
 - b) when it makes decisions on the competition system,
 - c) when it renders regulations being under its competence,
 - d) when it makes decision on a Federation's member suspension,
 - e) when it appoints or dismisses the Federation's Executive Director or the Federation's Secretary.
- 5) The meetings of the Executive Committee are chaired by the President and, if the President is absent or prevented, by the Executive Director.
- 6) Exceptionally, for the purpose of increasing operational efficiency, the decisions, excluding those referred to in paragraph 4 above, may be made also by telephone, e-mail or telefax. The minutes recording the decisions made at the meeting held in such a manner shall be verified at the first subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7) Decisions are made by open voting or if so decided by secret voting.
- 8) Rules of procedure of the Executive Committee and its bodies prescribe in more details the working methods at its meetings, powers and methods of operation of its standing and interim bodies.

Article 45

The Executive Committee is responsible for its work to the Assembly.

Emergency Committee

Article 46

- 1) Emergency Committee consists of the Federation's Executive Committee's President, all Vice-Presidents of the Federation, and Executive Director.
- 2) The Federation's Secretary participates in the work of the Emergency Committee but has no right to make decisions. Other persons responsible for a particular field of the Federation's activities may also participate in the work of the Emergency Committee.
- 3) The Emergency Committee may make decisions if more than half of its members are attending the meeting and the decisions are made by the majority votes of all members. In the event of a tie, the President of the Executive Committee shall have the casting vote.
- 4) The Emergency Committee convenes meetings and makes decisions between two meetings of the Executive Committee and deals with all matters falling within the powers of the Executive Committee, with the exception of those specified in paragraph 4 of Article 44 of the Statutes. By way of exception, if necessary, the Emergency Committee may amend regulations falling within the powers of the Executive Committee,
- 5) The decisions made by the Emergency Committee shall be ratified by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Working bodies of the Executive Committee

Article 47

- 1) The Executive Committee may establish standing and interim working bodies.
- 2) The Executive Committee may establish bodies that will operate in the area of several ŽNS. The decision establishing working bodies for several ŽNS prescribes their tasks and place of operation.

Article 48

- 1) The standing working bodies of the Executive Committee are:
 - Experts Committee,
 - Competitions Committee,
 - Finance Committee,
 - Internal Audit Committee
 - Marketing Committee,
 - International Committee,
 - Youth Committee,
 - Futsal and Beach Football Committee,
 - Publishing Committee,
 - Medical Committee,
 - Women's Football Committee,
 - Football Infrastructure Committee,
 - Regulations Committee,
 - Football Referees Committee,
 - Football Coaches Committee,
 - Veterans' Football Committee,
 - Committee for Fair Play,
 - Committee for Professional Football,
 - Amateur Football and Grassroots Committee,
 - Security Committee.
- 2) The presidents and members of standing working bodies shall be nominated by the Executive Committee, taking care of professional skills of the candidates and equal and even presence of the representatives of all members of the Federation. Members of the Executive Committee may not be members of Internal Audit Committee.
- 3) The Council of the Federation's Executive Committee is a standing working body of the Executive Committee, in charge of dealing with the football strategy matters in Croatia, it takes part in drafting programs, considers the situation in various parts of the football organization and makes proposals for their improvement, gives suggestions and opinions to the Federation's bodies.
- 4) The standing working bodies are elected for a period of four years. If the term of office of the Executive Committee ends at an earlier date, so ends the term of office of the standing working bodies. In such a case, standing working bodies will continue to act until new members are elected. The standing working bodies may make decisions if more than half of its members are present; the decisions are made by the majority votes of all members.

President and Vice-Presidents of the Federation

Article 49

- 1) The Federation has the President and up to five Vice-Presidents.
- 2) The President of the Federation is in line of duty the President of the Assembly and the Executive Committee. The Vice-Presidents of the Federation are in line of duty the Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee.
- 3) The President, who at the time of elections has to be a representative, is elected by the Assembly directly by secret ballot, upon proposal in writing of at least one direct member of the Federation. At least 12 months before the meeting of the electoral Assembly is summoned, such candidate should have his permanent residence at the territory of the direct member of the Federation which has proposed him. Such candidate may be elected at the Assembly if six other direct members of the Federation support his candidature. Such support of the candidature should be sent in writing to the Federation's Office no later than fifteen days prior to the electoral Assembly. Late proposals shall be invalid.
- 4) The term of office of the President shall commence upon the electoral meeting of the Assembly and shall terminate after the next electoral meeting of the Assembly within the term of office. By way of derogation from Article 37, paragraph 2, item a) and Article 42, paragraph 6, item a) of the Statutes, the President of the Federation may be a representative at the electoral meeting of the Assembly after which his current term of office shall end.
- 5) The President is elected by a majority of votes of all representatives entitled to vote at the Assembly. The President is elected for a period of four years.
- 6) By way of exception from the provision of paragraph 3 of this Article, the President may be elected by a public voting if there is only one candidate for presidency.
- 7) The Vice-Presidents are elected by the Assembly, upon proposal of the President.
- 8) The term of office of the Vice-Presidents is four years. Every four years up to five Vice-Presidents, of whom one is First Vice-President, are elected among the members of the Executive Committee and they may be re-elected.
- 9) The process of proposing and electing the President and Vice-Presidents shall be governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Article 50

- 1) President:
 - a) represents and acts on behalf of the Federation,
 - b) convenes and chairs the meetings of the Assembly and Executive Committee,
 - c) executes by-laws adopted by the Assembly or Executive Committee,
 - d) submits annual financial plan and closing accounts to the Federation's Assembly,
 - e) takes due care of the implementation of decisions and conclusions made by the Assembly and the Executive Committee,
 - f) enters into agreements and takes legal actions in the name and for the account of the Federation,
 - g) orders the implementation of the Federation's budget,
 - h) takes also other actions established by these Statutes and other general acts of the Federation or which are in connection with the President's functions.
- 2) If the absence or prevention of the President lasts for a period longer than two months, the President shall be replaced by the First Vice-President.
- 3) The President and Vice-Presidents are responsible for their work to the Assembly.

Removal of members of managing bodies

Article 51

1) A representative in the Assembly and a member of the Executive Committee shall be removed:

- a) if he loses Croatian nationality,
- b) if after a disciplinary proceeding he is by final decision excluded from the football organization.

2) A representative in the Assembly and a member of the Executive Committee may be removed:

- a) if he is validly and finally convicted for criminal offence prosecuted in line of duty,
- b) if he does not, without justified reason, participate in the work of the body to which he is elected.

3) A representative in the Assembly, in addition to cases from paragraphs 1 and 2 hereof, may also be removed if the assembly of a ŽNS/ZNS or a club he represents does so.

Executive Director

Article 52

1) The Executive Director is appointed for a period of four years and removed by the Federation's Executive Committee on a proposal of the Federation's President.

2) The Executive Director:

- is responsible for the Federation's compliance,
- is, along with the President, order-issuing authority for the implementation of the Federation's budget,
- participates in the work of the Assembly and the Executive Committee, but without the right to vote,
- signs the acts issued at the meetings of the Executive Committee chaired by him,
- organizes the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly, Executive Committee and the President, and is responsible for their implementation,
- together with the President, supervises all activities related to the appearances of the national teams and is responsible for their implementation,
- coordinates the work of the Assembly, Executive Committee and the President,
- is responsible for the cooperation between the Federation and its members,
- supervises the work of the Federation's Office,
- makes arrangements for advising the public of the Federation's operation,
- submits to the Assembly and the Executive Committee the report on his work.

3) The Executive Director is responsible for his work to the Executive Committee and to the President.

4) Individual rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Executive Director are defined by his employment contract.

5) In case of the Executive Director's prevention from executing his duties for more than 30 days, the Executive Committee may appoint a person who shall replace him during his prevention.

Article 53

1) To the office of Executive Director a person may be appointed if such person:

- has completed secondary education/holds undergraduate or graduate degree,
- has at least five years of experience in managerial positions related to football,
- knows one of the official languages of UEFA

2) To the office of Executive Director a person may not be appointed if such person:

- a) is an active football referee, or person who was a referee in the past three years,
- b) is a member of a legal entity engaged in organisation of sports betting activities, as well as a person who acted in such capacity in the past three years,
- c) is a member of the bodies of a legal entity engaged in organisation of sports betting activities, as well as a person who acted in such capacity in the past three years,
- d) is a sports manager, or an agent for transfers of players or contracting games, as well as a person who performed these activities in the past year.

Secretary of the Federation

Article 54

1) The Secretary of the Federation:

- manages the Federation's Office and is responsible for its operation,
- makes general and individual decisions within the scope of the employment relationships for the employees of the Federation's Office, except for the decisions on commencement and end of employment,
- assists the Executive Director in the implementation of conclusions falling within the powers of the HNS Assembly and Executive Committee,
- coordinates the work of the Federation's bodies,
- takes measures to ensure efficiency of work in the Office and coordinates the work of the internal structural units of the Office,
- follows the compliance with the regulations, and proposes, in cooperation with the Executive Director, adoption or amendment to the Federation's regulations,
- submits to the Executive Committee reports on the Office's work,
- attends the meetings of the Assembly and Executive Committee, and participates in discussions but without the right to make decisions,
- is responsible for the production of materials for the meetings of the Federation's bodies,
- gives proposals concerning the internal structure of the Office, with the consent of the President and the Executive Director,
- maintains the list of the Federation's members,
- within the scope of his powers, makes general and individual decisions,
- performs also other duties assigned to him by the Executive Committee, President and Executive Director of the Federation.

2) The Federation's Secretary is responsible for his work to the Executive Director, President and Executive Committee of the Federation.

3) The individual rights, obligations and responsibilities of the Federation's Secretary are defined by his employment contract.

Article 55

1) The Secretary is appointed by the Executive Committee upon proposal of the Executive Director.

2) To the office of Secretary of the Federation a person may be appointed if such person meets the following requirements:

- holds a social science university degree at the minimum
- has at least five years of experience in similar positions in a football organization
- has knowledge of one of the official languages of UEFA.

3) To the office of Secretary of the Federation a person may not be appointed if such person:

- a) is an active football referee, or a person who was a referee in the past three years,

b) is a member of a legal entity engaged in sports betting activities, as well as a person who acted in such capacity in the past three years,

c) is a member of the bodies of a legal entity engaged in organisation of sports betting activities, as well as a person who acted in such capacity in the past three years,

d) is a sports manager, or an agent for transfers of players or contracting games, as well as a person who performed these activities in the past year.

Legal bodies

Article 56

1) Legal bodies of the Federation are the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeals Committee, the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations, the Licensing Committee and the Licensing Appeals Body.

2) The members of the legal bodies are appointed by the Executive Committee for a term of office of four years. They may not be members of any other body of the Federation.

3) The President and at least one member of the Appeals Committee and the Disciplinary Committee should have a Bachelor of Laws degree.

4) Legal bodies make decisions by a majority of votes of all their members, unless otherwise defined in these Statutes.

Article 57

1) The Appeals Committee is the appellate body of the second instance deciding on the appeals made in disciplinary proceedings, procedure of match registration and procedure of club and player registration verification process.

2) The jurisdiction of the Appeals Committee is stipulated in more details by Disciplinary Regulations, Regulations of Football Competitions, Regulations of Clubs and Players Registrations and rules of a certain competition. The working methods of the Committee are prescribed in details by the Rules of Procedure of the HNS Executive Committee, its bodies and legal bodies.

3) The Appeals Committee consists of one President and four members.

Article 58

1) The Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations is the body which verifies registrations of clubs, players and contracts, made by ŽNS/ZNS, publishes verified registrations and contracts, and decides in the first instance on all objections made to the registrations.

2) The powers and the method of operation of the Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations are governed by the Regulations for the Status of Players and Registrations and the Rules of Procedure of the HNS Executive Committee, its bodies and legal bodies.

3) The Committee for Verification of the Clubs and Players Registrations consists of a President and two members.

Article 59

1) The Disciplinary Committee and other competent disciplinary bodies of a football organization may impose the following disciplinary measures:

- on players

a) warning

b) reprimand

c) fine for players under contract with a club

- d) suspension for a specified number of matches
- e) stadium ban
- f) suspension for a specified period
- g) exclusion from a club
- h) exclusion from a football organization

- on clubs

- a) warning
- b) reprimand
- c) fine
- d) suspension from playing matches at a certain playing field or at all playing fields of a specified area
- e) suspension from playing matches abroad
- f) playing of matches at its own playing field behind closed doors or partial stadium closure
- g) prohibition on registering (transfers) players
- h) deduction of points or award of negative points
- i) relegation to a lower level of competition

- on referees, referee instructors and observers and delegates at matches

- a) warning
- b) reprimand
- c) fine
- d) suspension for a specified time or specified number of matches from exercising functions of referees, instructors, observers or delegates
- e) deletion from the list of referees, referee observers or delegates
- f) exclusion from a football organization

- on other football professionals

- a) warning
- b) reprimand
- c) fine, if they receive any compensation for their work in football
- d) suspension from exercising their functions for a specified number of matches
- e) stadium ban
- f) suspension from exercising their functions for a specified period
- g) exclusion from a football organization

2) The offences, types of offences, disciplinary measures by types of offences, and rules governing disciplinary proceedings are governed by the Disciplinary Regulations of the Federation.

3) In addition to a disciplinary measure, a withdrawal of an award (financial awards, medal, cup) may be imposed on parties committing offences if it has been established that such award has been won by committing an offence.

Article 60

1) The powers and working methods of the Disciplinary Committee shall be prescribed in the Federation's Disciplinary Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, its bodies and HNS legal bodies.

2) The Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of the Chairman and four members, while the Chairman and one of the members are to be Masters of Laws.

3) The Disciplinary Committee makes decisions at the meetings and takes decisions by a majority of votes of all members.

4) The Disciplinary Committee may take decisions also by means of written observations presented by the members, with the proposal of decision drafted by the Chairman when dealing with the offences for which the following measures may be imposed:

- a) warning or reprimand
- b) fine
- c) suspension from playing matches or exercising functions for up to five matches
- d) suspension from playing matches or exercising functions for up to three months, and when dealing with an objection to the suspension imposed to a club.

5) If the Disciplinary Committee has made a decision by means of written observations presented by its members, in the appeal proceedings against such first instance decision, the Appeals Committee may also take a decision by means of written observations presented by its members.

DISPUTE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESOLUTION

Article 61

1) The Court of Arbitration of the Federation is an independent and permanent court having jurisdiction in:

- resolving conflicts of interests and deciding on matters referring to statuses of coaches and players and property disputes arising in that respect among individual entities of the Federation,
- resolving disputes arising between individual members of the Federation, players, coaches and other members of a football organization arising in connection with football on the territory of the Republic of Croatia,
- assessing the legality of final decisions referring to the rights, obligations and responsibilities arising in connection with the relations established within the Federation and football on the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

The Court of Arbitration cannot decide on the disputes in which all legal expedients within the Federation have not been applied.

2) The Court of Arbitration cannot decide on the disputes arising under or in connection with relations among entities within football organization referring to the application of the Laws of the Game and other discretionary powers deriving from the nature of football, on disputes referring to competitions (disputes deriving from the application of Competitions Regulations), nor on the deliberations of the Federation's Assembly, the Election Appeals Committee and the decisions rendered in the clubs licensing procedures.

3) The President and arbiters of the Court of Arbitration are appointed by the Executive Committee of the Federation and only a person with a Master of Laws degree can be appointed President.

4) The election, composition, procedure and decision-making process, and detailed powers of the Court of Arbitration are governed by the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Arbitration to be enacted by the Executive Committee.

Article 62

1) The Federation, its bodies and officials, members of the Federation, leagues, players, coaches, football referees, officials, and other members of football recognize the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sports (hereinafter referred to as: CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes of FIFA and UEFA, the Federation's Arbitration and the Court of Arbitration, confirming this by joining a football organisation.

2) In case of any dispute under the jurisdiction of judicial bodies of FIFA, UEFA, CAS and the Court of Arbitration of the Federation or legal bodies of the Federation, the parties from paragraph 1 of this Article undertake not to take any dispute to ordinary courts.

3) The Federation and its members agree to fully respect all final decisions of competent bodies of FIFA and UEFA and CAS. The Federation shall ensure that all these obligations are fully met.

Article 63

1) Disputes at the national level arising under or in respect of the application of the Statutes, by-laws and other regulations of the Federation shall be submitted at the last resort to independent and impartial court of arbitration, to the exclusion of any ordinary court.

2) The Federation shall ensure necessary institutional means for settlement of disputes arising among members, clubs, players and coaches and for that purpose it establishes the Court of Arbitration of the Croatian Football Federation.

COMPETITIONS AND RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS ARISING UNDER COMPETITIONS

Article 64

1) The Federation organizes and coordinates the following official competitions:

- Croatian Football Championship,
- Croatian National Cup,
- Croatian National Super Cup,
- Croatian Football Championship for Juniors,
- Croatian Football Championship for Juniors-Amateurs,
- Croatian National Cup for Juniors,
- Croatian Football Championship for Cadets,
- Croatian Football Championship for Cadets-Amateurs,
- Croatian National Cup for Cadets,
- Croatian Football Championship for Pioneers;
- Croatian Football Championship for Pioneers-Amateurs,
- Croatian National Cup for Pioneers,
- Competitions for younger Pioneers at the levels of the football centres;
- Pre-competition age matches,
- Croatian Football Championship for Women,
- Croatian National Cup for Women,
- Croatian National Youth Championship - Women
- Croatian National Youth Cup - Women,
- Croatian Futsal Championship,
- Youth Futsal Competitions,
- Croatian National Futsal Cup,
- Croatian National Futsal Super Cup,
- Croatian National Futsal Championship – Women,
- Veterans' Competitions,
- Beach Football Competitions.

2) The decision made by the Assembly of the Federation, determines the level of direct responsibility of the Federation regarding permanent competitions.

3) The decision on the permanent competitions system contains:

- a) competition method: point system or cup system,
- b) competition level,
- c) competition leagues – groups within the same level of competition,
- d) number of clubs within certain competition system and competition groups,

- e) method of acquiring rights to compete at appropriate level of competition and group,
- f) terms and conditions to be met by clubs (competition groups) in certain competition.

Decision on a change in a competition system shall be made not later than one year prior to the beginning of a competition.

4) The Executive Committee may authorize individual sports association or organisation to organize individual competitions. The Federation reserves the right of supervision of the organization of such competitions.

Article 65

1) The participation of clubs in a competition organised at national level or in a UEFA club competition is subject to a license granted by the club licensing bodies of the Federation – Licensing Committee and Appeals Body for Licensing.

2) The set of criteria to be fulfilled by a club, as well as the licensing process are described in specific regulations laid down by the Executive Committee and accredited by UEFA.

Article 66

1) The Federation is sole and original owner and holder of all and any rights arising from competitions and/or are connected, and/or related to competitions, matches and other events organized, held or approved by the Federation, with no restriction in terms of the contents, time and place. These rights comprise, among others, all types of financial rights, rights in audio-visual and radio recordings on all present and future platforms and media, rights in production, reproduction and broadcasting and distribution, multimedia rights, marketing and promotion, and any other commercial rights, and nonmaterial rights such as coats of arms and rights deriving from copyright law, as well as any other related or similar rights, irrespectively whether they exist or they are about to arise.

2) The Executive Committee shall decide how and to which degree such rights will be used (including granting rights for broadcasting and distribution as stipulated by Article 68 of these Statues), and shall adopt for that purpose any type of use of such rights (sale, grant of licence, copying, reproduction, transmission of any type and through any system of transmission, exposure, distribution, streaming, publishing and/or any other type of exploitation, use and/or granting authorisation to another person for the same), which shall be stipulated by special by-laws, which, among others, may specify these rights in detail. The Executive Committee shall decide alone whether such rights will be used exclusively, together with a third party or fully through a third party.

Article 67

1) The Federation is exclusively authorised to grant rights on transmission and distribution of all and any audio, visual, sound visual materials, recordings of matches (including time before, during half-time and/or after the end of matches), and other material which might be created, broadcasted, recorded and produced, as well as any data related to match or any other data related or in regards to/or any match or competition organized, held or approved by the Federation, regardless of broadcasting format, and without any restriction in terms of the contents, time, place and technical and legal aspects. Transmission and distribution rights, among others, include all types of presentation, distribution, broadcasting or other public communication of any type and through any means of transmission, either by television, radio technology, satellite, cable, internet, including IPTV, mobile technology, mobile applications including OTT), or any other digital system and any other type of transmission, regardless whether it already exists or it is about to arise.

2) Any player and any other person who appears in matches, competitions and other events organized, held or approved by the Federation, grant the rights to use their names, photographs, voice and image and/or likeness to the Federation (including for any commercial purpose and for any type of exploitation and/or use, without any restriction in terms of the contents, time and place), and for the purpose of exploitation and/or use the rights from Article 67 of these Statutes by any manner, and such grant of rights relates to all existing and future media and institutions, regardless of technology, including the multimedia, and such grant of rights does not cease by termination of the contractual relationship with the Federation and/or by termination of participation and/or appearance in the matches, competitions or other events organized, held or approved by the Federation (in terms of period up to the date of termination).

International matches and competitions

Article 68

1) FIFA shall have the sole jurisdiction to organise international matches and competitions in which the teams of the Federation and the teams of the leagues and/or clubs participate. No match or competition shall be staged without prior consent of FIFA's Executive Committee. In addition to that, it may also be required UEFA's consent or consent of other continental confederation, in accordance with FIFA regulations.

2) The Federation shall respect international match calendar made by FIFA.

Article 69

The Federation and its members shall not, without prior approval of FIFA and/or UEFA, play matches or establish sporting contacts with associations which are not FIFA or UEFA members.

Article 70

Clubs, associations or unions of clubs or any other group of clubs from the territory of the Federation, shall not be affiliated to any other national football federation or participate in competitions on the territory of any other national federation without the approval of such another federation and FIFA and UEFA, except in exceptional circumstances.

PLAYERS' CATEGORIES AND STATUS

Article 71

1) The competitions of football clubs on the territory of the Republic of Croatia are carried out in the following categories of players:

1. adults – male and female seniors
2. youth:
 - a) juniors,
 - b) cadets,
 - c) pioneers (younger and older),
 - d) beginners.

2) The competitions at the county football associations/Zagreb Football Association level and national level may be organized also in the category of veterans.

3) Players may have non-amateur status under the terms and conditions set by legal regulations and regulations of the Federation.

- 4) Players who do not have non-amateur status are amateur players.
- 5) Player's status is determined by the Regulations for Status and Registration of Players of the Federation, in accordance with FIFA Regulations for Status and Transfer of Players.

NATIONAL TEAMS

Article 72

- 1) For the purpose of promoting football and achieving the highest accomplishments in football, the Federation establishes national football species - national teams (hereinafter referred to as: national teams).
- 2) National teams of the Republic of Croatia, clubs and officials represent football in Croatia and abroad.
- 3) National teams consist of the best male and female players and other participants who represent the Croatian football.
- 4) Each national team consists of male/female players, professional management and management of the national team.
- 5) Technical director manages and coordinates the immediate and operational activities and programs of national teams.
- 6) The composition of a national team is determined by head coach of that national team. Head coach is responsible also for the implementation of goals and duties of such national team.
- 7) The structure of national teams, types according to the age, and everything else regarding activities of all national teams is determined by the Regulations for National Teams.
- 8) Participation in national teams is the ultimate honour and responsibility of each member of a national team.
- 9) Each member is obliged to accept the invitation of a national team.
- 10) Each player of a national team and any other person who appears in the matches, competitions or other events organized, held or approved by the Federation (which particularly includes a head coach and coaching staff) transfers the rights of use of his name, photographs, voice, image and/or physical likeness for the use by the Federation (including any other commercial purpose and any other type of exploitation and/or use, without any restriction in terms of the contents, time and place), in any manner, and such transfer of rights refers to all present and future media and institutions, regardless of technology, including also multimedia. In addition, such transfer of rights does not cease by the termination of the contractual relationship with the Federation, and/or by termination of the participation and/or appearance in the matches, competitions or other events organized, held or approved by the Federation.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article 73

- 1) Professional organizations of football coaches and football referees - corps of football coaches or football referees are established at the level of ŽNS/ZNS.
- 2) Corps encompasses all football coaches and referees from the territory of certain ŽNS/ZNS, and their structure and procedure of operation are determined by a by-law of a ŽNS/ZNS.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Article 74

1) The Federation earns income from its own activities, from the funds allocated by the Republic of Croatia in its national budget and remitted to the Federation through the Croatian Olympic Committee, from membership subscriptions and fees, sponsor's contracts, fines imposed by competent bodies of the Federation, donations and gifts, and from other sources in accordance with the law.

2) The Federation bears costs anticipated by annual financial plan, other costs approved by the Assembly and costs approved by the Executive Committee falling within its powers, and all other costs arising for the purpose of achieving the objectives and performing the activities of the Federation.

Article 75

Budgetary funds of the Federation are strictly specified-purpose funds and shall be used only in compliance with annual financial plan, adopted by the Assembly.

Article 76

Funds earned by the Federation through its own activities shall be at the Federation's disposal, and decisions governing application of such funds shall be made by the Executive Committee.

Article 77

1) Distribution of all funds shall be made according to the financial plan of the Federation in conformity with the annual program.

2) Financial (accounting) period lasts one year and begins on each 1st January and expires on each 31st December.

3) The President and the Executive Director of the Federation shall be the order-issuing authorities for the implementation of the financial plan.

Article 78

Financial management of the Federation complies with laws and subordinate legislation.

Article 79

1) The Federation may perform economic activities.

2) The economic activities of the Federation are:

- publishing activities,
- trade in compliance with laws,
- business premises leases.

Article 80

1) The Federation may acquire movable and immovable property.

2) The Executive Committee takes decisions on acquisition, sale and transfer to another legal person or lease of immovable and movable property.

3) The Federation may for the purpose of achieving the objectives under these Statutes establish a company.

4) Any decision to establish a company is taken by the Executive Committee.

5) The relationships between the Federation and any such company shall be regulated in a document establishing a company or in a special agreement.

Article 81

1) Independent auditors appointed by the Assembly shall make audits of financial affairs of the Federation in accordance with the International Standards of Audits (ISA) and shall submit their reports to the Assembly. Such auditors are appointed for a period of three years and they may be reappointed.

2) An auditor should meet terms and conditions prescribed by the Audit Act in order to be eligible for appointment.

Article 82

1) Membership subscriptions become due and payable on 1st April of the current year. Annual membership subscriptions for new members for the current year shall be paid within 30 days following the meeting of the Assembly where such members have been admitted to membership.

2) The Assembly shall determine the rate of annual membership subscription every two years, upon proposition of the Executive Committee. Membership subscription is identical for all members.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Disciplinary liability

Article 83

The members of the Federation, players, coaches, referees and other members of staff of a football organization may be sanctioned for breach of the Statutes, rules and other regulations of the Federation in accordance with the provisions of the Federation's Disciplinary Regulations establishing offences, types and rates of fines and other disciplinary sanctions.

Legal consequences of final conviction and criminal procedure

Article 84

1) A person convicted and sentenced to at least six months in prison for any intent crime, with no conditional sentence being awarded, may not participate in football competitions, organise and conduct football competitions, occupy professional positions in sports, participate in the work of the Assembly or governing bodies of the Federation and assemblies or bodies managing any other associations and sports companies engaged in football activities, and may not be authorised to represent such legal entities.

2) A person being subject to a criminal procedure for a crime committed against a child, or any minor person, shall be removed from any activity in football involving contacts with children, or minor persons, until a sentence has become final or absolute or acquittal of such person.

Right to appeal

Article 85

Appeals can be lodged against all decisions rendered in connection with the activities and operations referring to football, unless it is expressly specified, in individual cases, that no appeal is permitted.

Exception

Article 86

1) In proceedings before the Federation's bodies and member associations, and when decisions are made by them, persons – members of such bodies cannot participate if they are direct interested parties in such cases. A member of such body, when a decision is to be taken on an offence of a club or a member of a club where such member of a body is also member, shall be excluded from discussion and decision making process.

2) Persons who have participated in the first-instance procedure or decision making process shall not participate in the second-instance proceedings.

Federation's Office

Article 87

For the purpose of attending to professional, administrative, technical and supporting activities of the Federation, the Federation's Office is established, and managed by the Federation's Secretary.

Article 88

The structure and working methods of the Federation's Office are governed by by-laws adopted by the Executive Committee.

Public Nature of Operation

Article 89

- 1) The operation of the Federation is public.
- 2) Such operation is effectuated through:
 - a) timely communicating materials for the discussions to the members of the Federation's bodies and other invited and interested persons,
 - b) informing press and other mass media regarding meetings,
 - c) informing citizens regarding the work and operation of the Federation by mass media, Federation's web sites and on press conferences,
 - d) publishing the Statutes and other documents in the official journal and on web sites,
 - e) in other manners.
- 3) The Federation publishes its official journal:
- "HNS Glasnik" ("*HNS Official Journal*").

Honours and awards

Article 90

1) The Federation bestows honours and awards in recognition of and to honour special contributions made to the development of football, on the basis of decisions made by the Federation's Assembly.

2) Regulations for awards and honours bestowal laid down by the Executive Committee, govern the procedure, terms and conditions of selection of candidates and types of awards and honours.

Dissolution of the Federation

Article 91

1) The Federation may be dissolved in accordance with the provisions of law or if decided so by the Assembly.

2) Any decision on dissolution of the Federation shall require a two-thirds majority of votes of all representatives in the Assembly.

Article 92

1) In case of dissolution of the Federation, the assets of the Federation shall be transferred to the sports organization that shall continue to carry out the activities for the purpose of promoting and developing football on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, which shall be decided by the Federation's Assembly.

2) If there will be no such sports organization, the assets of the Federation shall be taken over by the Republic of Croatia.

Liquidator

Article 93

1) A liquidator is a natural or legal person appointed and removed by the Federation's Executive Committee.

2) With the start of the liquidation proceedings of the Federation, the powers of the bodies and persons authorised to represent the Federation shall be no longer in effect.

3) A liquidator shall represent the Federation in the liquidation proceedings and with the opening of such proceedings he shall be registered with the Register of Associations as the person authorised to represent the Federation until the closure of the proceedings and the Federation being struck off the Register of Associations.

4) The liquidation proceedings are conducted by a liquidator in compliance with the provisions of the Associations Act.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 94

Amendments to these Statutes shall be made in the manner and following the procedure prescribed for the adoption of these Statutes.

Article 95

The Statutes are interpreted by the Assembly.

Article 96

1) All by-laws of the Federation shall be brought into line with the provisions of these Statutes within 90 days following the date these Statutes have been verified by the competent state administration office.

2) ŽNSs/ZNS are obliged to bring their statutes in line with the provisions of these Statutes within 90 days following the date these Statutes have been published in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

Article 97

These Statutes shall take effect on the day of their adoption.

Article 98

As of the effective date of these Statutes, the Statutes adopted at the meeting of the Assembly held on 6 April 2018 and as amended at the meetings of the Assembly held on 28 March 2019 and 19 December 2019 are no longer valid.

Zagreb, 2 June 2021

The President of the Assembly
Davor Šuker, *signature*