

30 April 2026

To
General Secretaries,
Member Associations,
South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)

Subject: Notice of the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026 and Call for Elections

Dear Sirs,

Greetings from the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).

The Executive Committee of SAFF has decided to convene the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026 on **1 August 2026 in Thimphu, Bhutan**, in accordance with Article 25.1 of the SAFF Statutes – Edition January 2026 (the “SAFF Statutes”).

The Congress shall constitute the supreme and legislative authority of SAFF pursuant to Article 19.1 of the SAFF Statutes and shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Congress of SAFF (the “Standing Orders”).

1. Call for Elections

In accordance with Articles 21(d) and 24 of the SAFF Statutes, elections for members of the SAFF Executive Committee for the term 2026-2030 shall be conducted at the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026.

Pursuant to Article 31.1 of the SAFF Statutes, the following positions shall be subject to election, in the order specified therein:

- President;
- Two (2) Vice-Presidents;
- Three (3) Executive Committee Members; and
- One (1) Female Executive Committee Member.

For the avoidance of doubt, the position of **one (1) AFC Executive Committee member representing SAFF** shall not be subject to election at this SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026, as the current mandate remains valid for the AFC term 2023–2027.

All elections shall be conducted in accordance with Article 24 of the SAFF Statutes, the SAFF Electoral Code – Edition January 2026 (the “SAFF Electoral Code”), and Article 7 of the Standing Orders.

2. Governing Electoral Framework

Pursuant to Article 1 of the SAFF Electoral Code, the Code applies to all elections of the SAFF Executive Committee.

In accordance with Article 2 of the SAFF Electoral Code, the electoral process shall be conducted in full compliance with the principles of:

- transparency;

- separation of powers; and
- independence from third-party influence.

The SAFF Electoral Committee shall organise, supervise, and administer the elections in accordance with Article 4 of the SAFF Electoral Code.

The conduct of the Congress, including the management of proceedings, maintenance of order, and regulation of debates, shall be governed by Article 1 of the Standing Orders under the authority of the Chairperson.

3. Submission of Nominations

In accordance with Article 31.6 of the SAFF Statutes and Article 8.1 of the SAFF Electoral Code, Member Associations are invited to submit nominations using the prescribed Nomination Forms enclosed herewith.

All nominations must:

- be submitted by the relevant Member Association;
- be completed using the prescribed forms; and
- be received by the SAFF General Secretariat no later than **23:59 hours (Bangladesh time) on 30 May 2026.**

Submissions may be made by registered post or electronically in accordance with Article 8.1 of the SAFF Electoral Code.

In accordance with Articles 31.7 and 31.8 of the SAFF Statutes:

- each Member Association may propose only one (1) candidate per position (excluding the position of President);
- no Member Association may be represented by more than one (1) member on the Executive Committee at any given time (excluding the position of President); and
- any nomination submitted in violation of these provisions shall be declared invalid.

Candidates for the position of the SAFF President must comply with Article 36 of the SAFF Statutes, including the requirement of nomination by at least two (2) Member Associations.

4. Eligibility and Integrity Checks

Pursuant to Article 9 of the SAFF Electoral Code, all candidatures shall be examined and an integrity check shall be conducted by the SAFF Electoral Committee.

The SAFF Electoral Committee shall decide on the eligibility and integrity of each candidate and inform them accordingly.

Each candidate is required to complete and submit the enclosed **Declaration of Integrity Form** together with their Nomination Form within the prescribed deadline.

5. Publication of Candidates

In accordance with Article 31.10 of the SAFF Statutes and Article 9.3 of the SAFF Electoral Code, the official list of candidates shall be communicated to all Member Associations and published on the SAFF website at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Congress.

6. Delegates and Voting

In accordance with Article 20 of the SAFF Statutes:

- each Member Association is entitled to one (1) vote;
- each Member Association may be represented by a maximum of two (2) delegates; and
- one (1) designated delegate shall exercise the right to vote.

The names of the delegates, including the designated voting delegate, must be submitted to the SAFF General Secretariat no later than **23:59 hours (Bangladesh time) on 30 June 2026**.

Voting shall be conducted in accordance with Article 24 of the SAFF Statutes and Articles 14 to 17 of the SAFF Electoral Code, including secret ballot procedures where applicable.

In accordance with Article 6 of the Standing Orders, no voting by proxy or correspondence shall be permitted, and all voting procedures shall be conducted under the authority of the Chairperson.

7. Conduct of the Election

The SAFF Electoral Committee shall oversee the entire electoral process, including:

- verification of voters (Article 19 of the SAFF Electoral Code);
- conduct of voting procedures (Articles 14–15);
- determination of valid and invalid ballots (Article 16); and
- declaration of results (Article 17).

The Chairperson of the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026 shall be responsible for maintaining order and ensuring the proper conduct of proceedings in accordance with Article 1 of the Standing Orders.

Where multiple rounds of voting are required, such rounds shall be conducted in accordance with Article 24 of the SAFF Statutes and Article 17.2 of the SAFF Electoral Code.

8. Complaints and Appeals

In accordance with Article 21 of the SAFF Electoral Code, any complaint relating to the conduct of the elections must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the SAFF Electoral Committee within twenty-one (21) days of the relevant election.

Appeals against decisions may be lodged exclusively with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with Article 22 of the SAFF Electoral Code and the SAFF Statutes.

9. Proposals and Congress Documentation

In accordance with Article 26.2 of the SAFF Statutes, any proposal that a Member Association wishes to submit to the Congress must be received by the SAFF General Secretariat at least six (6) weeks prior to the Congress.

In accordance with Article 25.3 of the SAFF Statutes, the agenda and all relevant documentation shall be circulated no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026.

10. Further Information

Further details regarding accommodation, transport, official functions, visa requirements and travel arrangements will be communicated in due course.

Should you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the SAFF General Secretariat.

We look forward to welcoming your Member Association to the SAFF Ordinary Congress 2026.

Yours sincerely,

South Asian Football Federation



Purushottam Kattel
General Secretary

Copy to:

- i. President and Executive Committee Members, SAFF
- ii. Asian Football Confederation

Enclosures:

- i. Nomination Forms
- ii. Declaration of Integrity Form
- iii. Delegate Form