



GUIDELINES AND RULES

FOR THE

**NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ELECTIONS, 2026-2030**



NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Football House, Package B,
Moshood Abiola National Stadium,
Abuja, Nigeria.

GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (NFF) ELECTIONS, 2026-2030

Issued pursuant to the Statutes of Nigeria Football Federation, March, 2026 Edition, Electoral Code of the Nigeria Football Federation, 2026, Standing Orders of the Congress of the Nigeria Football Federation, 2026 and the Statutes, Regulations, Directives and Decisions of FIFA.

1.0 AUTHORITY & APPLICATION

- 1.1 These Guidelines and Rules shall govern the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Executive Committee Elections scheduled for 27th September, 2026.
- 1.2 The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Electoral Committee shall be exclusively responsible for the conduct of the elections.

2.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 2.1 Delegates must belong to the Member that they represent and be appointed or elected by the appropriate body of that Member. They must also be able to produce evidence of membership upon request. See Article 27 paragraph 2 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.2 The number of Delegates for the election and votes is as indicated in Article 27, paragraph 1 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026. Only the delegates who are physically present shall be entitled to vote. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted. See Article 27, paragraph 3 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.3 The members of the Executive Committee and the General Secretary shall take part in the Congress without voting rights

18.0 NFF ELECTIVE CONGRESS 2026 – ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DATE
1.	Publication of Rules and Guidelines and Commencement of Sale of Forms	1 st August, 2026
2.	Deadline for Submission of Nomination Forms	12 th August, 2026
3.	Notification to candidates of any irregularity in document submitted to the Committee	13 th – 19 th August, 2026
4.	Candidates' regularization (where necessary)	20 th – 27 th August, 2026
5.	Screening of Candidates	28 th – 30 th August, 2026
6.	Publication of Cleared Candidates	31 st August, 2026
7.	Submission of Appeals in respect of Disqualification (if any)	1 st – 3 rd September, 2026
8.	Determination of Appeals in respect of Disqualification	4 th - 10 th September, 2026.
9.	Publication of Final List of Cleared Candidates	11 th – 12 th September, 2026
10.	Publication of Delegates' List	13 th September, 2026
11.	Commencement of Campaigns	14 th – 24 th September, 2026
12.	Cessation of Campaigns	25 th September, 2026 at 11:59pm
13.	NFF Elective Congress / Election Day	27 th September, 2026.
14.	Deadline for Submission of Election Petitions	30 th September, 2026

Venue: Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Time: Accreditation of Delegates starts at 8:00 am.

Elective Congress: 10:00 am prompt.

Issued this 31st day of July, 2026

Chairman, Electoral Committee.

Secretary, Electoral Committee.

c) Ballot papers that are illegible or have been defaced.

d) Ballot papers that bear identifying marks.

15.2 The Chairman of the Electoral Committee shall write on the back of any invalid ballot paper, the reason(s) for its invalidity and confirm with a signature.

16.0 NOTARY PUBLIC (Article 22 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

16.1 A Notary Public or a person of equivalent legal status recognized by the Courts shall attend the Congress and draw up the minutes of the elections according to the provisions of the law. He shall be specifically responsible for verifying the identity of the delegates and ensuring compliance with the voting procedure.

17.0 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE ELECTORAL CODE OF THE NFF, 2026 (Article 23 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

17.1 All matters relating to the administrative and technical organization of the elective Congress that are not covered by the Electoral Code or Statutes and Regulations of the NFF shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Committee, whose decision shall be final.

17.2 All matters relating to the running of the elections that are not covered by the Electoral Code or Statutes and Regulations of the NFF shall be ruled upon by the Electoral Committee, whose decision shall be final.

and may not be appointed as delegates to the Congress. See Article 27, paragraph 4 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.4 The Congress shall appoint scrutineers to count the votes cast at the election and to assist the General Secretary in distributing the ballot papers issued for the elections. See Article 28 (e) of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.5 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. See Article 31, paragraph 1 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.6 The election for the positions within the Executive Committee shall take place by position. At least one position shall be reserved for a female candidate. Every candidate in the election for the positions of President, First-Vice President or Third Vice-President within the Executive Committee shall be proposed by at least one member from each of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria (a total of 6 support letters). Every candidate for the other positions shall be proposed by at least 3 Members from 3 different geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Each Member shall support one candidate for each given position only. If a Member supports more than one candidate, none of its expressions of support shall be considered valid. See Article 31, paragraph 3 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.7 A majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast are necessary for the election of the President and Vice President(s) of the NFF. If there are more than two candidates

- for the office of President or any of the offices of Vice President(s), whoever obtains the lowest number of votes is eliminated after each ballot until only two candidates are left. See Article 31, paragraph 4 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.8 For the election of the other Members of the Executive Committee, the candidate(s) who receive(s) the most votes in respect of the contested seat(s) shall be declared as elected. See Article 31, paragraph 5 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.9 In case of a tied vote in any elections of any contested position, two new ballots shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 31 of the Statutes of NFF. If the tied vote remains, the relevant position shall remain vacant until a new elective Congress convenes to proceed with new elections according to the extant Statutes of NFF. See Article 31, paragraph 7 of Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.10 Blank ballot papers, invalid votes or electronic votes manipulated in any way, as well as abstentions, shall be disregarded when calculating the majority. See Article 31, paragraph 8 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.
- 2.11 Candidatures for any of the positions of the Executive Committee shall be sent to the General Secretariat at least 45 days before the relevant elective Congress. The official list of candidates must be passed to the Members of the NFF at least 10 days before the Congress at which the Executive Committee shall be elected. See Article 31, paragraph 9 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

13.0 CASTING OF BALLOTS (Article 16 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

- 13.1 The Chairman of the Electoral Committee shall explain in detail, the electoral procedure and refer to the relevant statutory provisions before the delegates are requested to cast their votes.

14.0 FINALITY OF THE DECISION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE REGARDING THE DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF THE ELECTION (Article 17 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

- 14.1 Only members of the Electoral Committee shall take part in the count of the ballot papers.
All operations shall be carried out in a transparent manner.
- 14.2 In the event of a dispute regarding the validity or invalidity of a ballot paper or of a vote, the drafting of the minutes, the declaration of the results or any other matter relating to the counting procedure, the decision of the Electoral Committee shall be final.

15.0 INVALID BALLOT PAPERS (Article 18 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

- 15.1 The following ballot papers are considered invalid:
- a) Ballot papers that do not bear the official distinctive marks defined by the Electoral Committee.
 - b) Ballot papers that contain any words other than the names of the candidates.

10.4 Appeals shall either be upheld, dismissed or declared inadmissible by the Election Appeal Committee. In case the Appeal is upheld, the Election Appeal Committee shall make a decision on the merits replacing the decision of the Electoral Committee.

10.5. The decision of the Election Appeal Committee may only be referred to an independent and duly constituted arbitration tribunal within the provisions of the statutes of the NFF.

11.0 BALLOT PAPERS FOR THE ELECTIONS (Article 14 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

11.1 The General Secretariat shall produce the ballot papers under the supervision of the Electoral Committee. The ballot papers shall be printed clearly and legibly, with special serial numbers.

11.2 The ballot papers shall be of a different colour for each round of the election.

12.0 BALLOT BOX (Article 15 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

12.1 Before the start of voting, the ballot box which shall be transparent, if possible, shall be opened and presented to the delegates of the Congress. The ballot box shall then be closed and placed in a visible spot close to the members of the Electoral Committee.

12.2 During the entire voting process, the ballot box shall be monitored by one of the members of the Electoral Committee.

2.12 Candidates vying for positions on the Executive Committee in the elections shall undergo checks regarding the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria, independence and integrity requirements stipulated in the Statutes of the NFF, 2026. See Article 5, paragraph (j) of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026.

2.13 Candidates are obligated to comply with the screening and self-disclosure process outlined in parts 2 and 3 of Annexure A of the Statutes of NFF, 2026. Prior to the screening process, every candidate shall give written consent to the process through a form to be provided for that purpose. If such written consent is not provided, the candidate shall be deemed to have failed the integrity check. See Annexure A, part 1, paragraph 2 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.14 The questionnaire to be completed by the candidate for the screening and self-disclosure/integrity check is contained in Annexure A, Part 3 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.15 The candidate shall be deemed not to have passed the integrity check, if he:

- a) Has been subject to criminal convictions or disciplinary sanctions by a Court of competent Jurisdiction in particular if the offence in question was a substantive issue and not a minor infraction or procedural misconduct;

- b) Has been found guilty and/or sentenced by the FIFA Ethics Committee or any other sporting body with a sanction that would seriously put into question the discharge of the office concerned.

See Annexure A, part 1, paragraph 4 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

2.16 At the beginning of the screening process, every candidate shall undergo an identification check by submitting valid copies of their passports. The identification check shall include verification/identification of;

- a) Name(s) and Surname(s);
- b) Address of Residence;
- c) Date and Place of Birth and;
- d) Nationality/Nationalities

See Annexure A, part 2, paragraph 1 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

3.0 POSITIONS BEING CONTESTED IN THE ELECTION (Article 38, paragraph 1 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026).

- a) President;
- b) First Vice-President;
- c) Third Vice-President (who shall be a woman);
- d) Chairman of Chairmen; and
- e) 10 Ordinary Members.

8.2 Campaigns must be issue-based and in line with the Code of Conduct.

8.3 All campaigns shall cease by 11:59 PM on Friday, the 25th day of September 2026.

9.0 OFFENCE(S) & SANCTION(S)

9.1 Vote buying, impersonation, forgery, violence, or breach of the Code of Conduct shall attract immediate disqualification and referral to the NFF Ethics Committee.

10.0 APPEALS (Article 9 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

10.1 Appeals against decisions of the Electoral Committee may be lodged only with the Election Appeal Committee, thereby precluding the possibility of appealing said decisions before any other body particularly a government body.

10.2 Any appeal shall be sent by registered post, or delivered physically to the General Secretariat within three (3) days of the decision of the Electoral Committee. Appeals received by the General Secretariat shall immediately be forwarded to the members of the Appeal Committee.

10.3 Appeals shall be considered by the Election Appeal Committee within seven (7) days of their receipt and the decision shall be communicated to the candidates within the same period.

6.6 Only accredited delegates with official tags shall be admitted into the election venue.

6.7 Any delegate found to have been fraudulently accredited shall be expelled and prosecuted.

7.0 DUTIES OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE DURING THE ELECTIVE CONGRESS (Article 13 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026). The Electoral Committee shall;

- a) Verify the identity of the voters (delegates);
- b) Monitor the electoral procedure during the congress;
- c) Count the ballot papers;
- d) Take decisions regarding the validity or invalidity of ballot papers;
- e) Pass a definitive decision on any matters relating to the electoral procedure during the electoral congress;
- f) Declare the official results; and
- g) Organize and hold a media conference where necessary.

8.0 CAMPAIGNS

8.1 Campaigns shall only commence after final clearance of candidates on Monday, the 14th day of September, 2026.

4.0. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES (Section 17 of the Nigeria Football Federation Act, 2017, Articles 24, 31, 38 and Annexure A, part 1, paragraph 4(b) of the Statutes of NFF, 2026).

4.1 A person shall be qualified for election to the Executive Committee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) if he:

- a) is a Nigerian citizen
- b) has attained the age of 35 years
- c) is educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent
- d) is not adjudged to be a lunatic or a person of unsound mind
- e) is not a member of a secret society or cult or an unlawful organization
- f) is not adjudged to be bankrupt
- g) has been active in football and/or football related activity for a minimum of 4 years preceding the election
- h) is not under any ban/sanction by FIFA, CAF, WAFU, or NFF
- i) has not been previously found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.

4.2 Candidates vying for the positions of President, First-Vice President or Third Vice-President on the Executive Committee shall be proposed in writing by at least one member from each of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria (a total of 6 support letters). Every candidate for the other positions shall be proposed in writing by at least 3 Members from 3 different

geopolitical zones in Nigeria. See Article 31, paragraph 3 of the Statutes of NFF, 2026.

5.0 SUBMISSION AND EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS (Article 8 of the Electoral Code of the NFF, 2026)

- 5.1 No fees or charges of any sort shall be requested from any of the candidates at any point during the electoral procedure, unless they have previously been approved by the Electoral Committee or Congress. In any event, any fees or charges agreed upon shall remain reasonable and shall only serve to cover the costs of the relevant administrative burden.
- 5.2 Nomination Forms for any of the positions of the Executive Committee shall be sent by registered post, by email with delivery notification, or delivered by hand in exchange for confirmation of receipt, to the General Secretariat at least 45 days before the elective Congress. Nomination Forms received by the General Secretariat shall immediately be forwarded to the Secretary of the Electoral Committee as well as to the Audit and Compliance Committee for the relevant integrity checks.
- 5.3 Within seven (7) days of the deadline for submission of Nomination Forms, the Electoral Committee shall inform in writing, candidates who have failed to provide all the relevant documents in support of their Nomination Forms and grant them another seven (7) days to complete their applications. If such

candidates fail to complete their application within the prescribed deadline, their candidatures shall be declared invalid.

- 5.4 The candidates for the Executive Committee Elections shall be examined by the Electoral Committee within 21 days of the deadline for their submission and the candidates shall be informed of the decision of the Electoral Committee within the same period.

6.0 DELEGATES/VOTERS

- 6.1 The Congress is comprised of 106 delegates with 53 eligible to vote as indicated in Article 27 paragraph 1 of Statutes of the NFF, 2026.
- 6.2 A list of voters (delegates) shall be drawn up by the Electoral Committee with the assistance of the General Secretariat.
- 6.3 Each delegate shall be duly accredited using the Delegate Accreditation Form.
- 6.4 Each delegate shall have one vote per position. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- 6.5 Final delegates list shall be published on 13th September, 2026.