



مركز التحكيم الرياضي السعودي
Saudi Sport Arbitration Center

Statute of the Saudi Sport Arbitration Center 2023

NOTES:

1. This translation is provided for guidance. The governing text is the Arabic text.
2. The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:
 - Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
 - Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
 - Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
 - The word "person" or "persons" and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them, and who) refer to a natural and legal person.
3. Amendments to this Law are provided in the Appendix .



PART 1: Definitions

Article 1

In this Statute, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

Kingdom	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
SOPC	Saudi Olympic & Paralympic Committee.
SSAC:	Saudi Sport Arbitration Center.
Statute:	SSAC's Statute.
Procedural Rules:	SSAC's Procedural Rules.
Board:	SSAC's Board of Directors.
Chairman:	Chairman of the Board.
CEO:	SSAC's Chief Executive Officer.
Dispute:	Any dispute to be decided by SSAC.
Arbitration Tribunal:	A panel of arbitrators or a sole arbitrator commissioned to hear and decide a dispute.
Chamber:	The competent arbitration or mediation chamber (as the case may be).
President of the Chamber:	President of the competent arbitration or mediation chamber (as the case may be).
Sports Bodies:	Saudi sports bodies, including the Saudi Olympic & Paralympic Committee (SOPC), national sports federations, associations, national sports clubs, and sports academies and centers.



PART 2: Saudi Sport Arbitration Center (SSAC)

Article 2

Overview of Saudi Sport Arbitration Center

The Saudi Sport Arbitration Center (SSAC) shall be the supreme and exclusive authority to decide sports and sports-related disputes via arbitration or mediation. It shall be considered an independent and impartial entity and shall have a legal personality and financial and administrative autonomy. SSAC shall be represented by the Chairman or his designee.

Article 3

Legal Basis of SSAC's Activities

1. This Statute, the Rules of Procedure, and the regulations and decisions issued by the Board and amendments thereof shall be deemed the legal basis for SSAC's engagement in sports arbitration and mediation and for the rendering of arbitration awards on all sports and sports-related disputes.
2. Without prejudice to public laws in force in the Kingdom, the provisions of the Statute of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and its Rules shall apply to all matters for which no special provision is made in this Statute.
3. In the absence of a provision in CAS's Statute and Rules, the provisions of the Saudi Arbitration Law and its Implementing Regulations shall apply.

Article 4

SSAC's Headquarters

1. SSAC shall be headquartered in Riyadh, and the Board may establish permanent or temporary branches elsewhere in the Kingdom.
2. An arbitral tribunal may initiate dispute resolution procedures by appearing in person or via electronic means, whether inside or outside SSAC's headquarters.
3. If an arbitration award is rendered outside SSAC's headquarters, it shall be deemed to have been rendered at said headquarters.



Article 5

SSAC's Principles

SSAC shall conduct its businesses in accordance with the following principles:

1. Independence and impartiality;
2. Procedural fairness; and
3. Equality in dealing with the parties to a dispute.

Article 6

SSAC's Objectives

SSAC aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Adhering to justice, fairness and speedy resolution of sports disputes;
2. Protecting the rights of the parties to a dispute;
3. Disseminating a culture of arbitration and mediation among sports professionals in the Kingdom;
4. Strengthening relations with arbitration entities within the Kingdom and abroad, and encouraging and promoting cooperation and partnership therewith; and
5. Participating in sports forums and events related to arbitration and mediation within the Kingdom and abroad.

Article 7

SSAC's Roles and Responsibilities

1. Supervising arbitration and mediation services and any form of alternative methods for resolving sports disputes in accordance with this Statute and the Rules of Procedure;
2. Preparing and publishing lists of the names of experienced and efficient arbitrators, mediators, and experts in sports and sports-related disputes;
3. Holding conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses, and issuing publications on arbitration and mediation issues;
4. Raising awareness of SSAC's activities and disseminating a culture of sports arbitration;
5. Publishing arbitration awards rendered by SSAC;
6. Developing and enhancing cooperation between SSAC, sports bodies, and specialized arbitration centers at both the local and international levels;
7. Conducting studies and research related to SSAC's competencies, and cooperating with research centers and specialized consulting firms at both the local and international levels;
8. Drawing up projects and executive plans to develop SSAC; and
9. Undertaking any other roles or powers required to achieve SSAC's objectives.



Article 8

SSAC Jurisdiction

- 1. SSAC shall have the jurisdiction to decide sports and sports-related disputes, including, but not limited to, the following:**
 - a. disputes arising between the Olympic Committee and/or sports federations; sports clubs; sports associations and/or academies; sports centers and/or their board members and/or their general assembly members; sportsmen (including players, referees, administrative staff, coaches, registered media professionals, and mediators); organizers of sports events; sponsors; and/or television or radio broadcast stations and others;
 - b. disputes related to the use of doping substances; and
 - c. international sports disputes (involving foreign players, coaches, and the like) in the event that the contract concluded between the parties to the dispute, or a subsequent written agreement therebetween, provides for referring the dispute to SSAC.
- 2. SSAC shall not have the jurisdiction to decide the following disputes:**
 - a. criminal disputes or lawsuits, whether or not they arise from a sports dispute;
 - b. disputes pertaining to decisions made on the technical laws of a game;
 - c. sports disputes that have not yet exhausted domestic remedies stipulated in the laws and regulations of sports bodies concerned with the dispute; and
 - d. decisions deemed to be unappealable before SSAC pursuant to the laws of sports bodies.

Article 9

SSAC's Organizational Structure

SSAC's organizational structure shall consist of the following entities:

1. Board of Directors;
2. Arbitration Chambers and Mediation Chamber; and
3. Administrative Apparatus.



Chapter 1: The Board

Article 10

Formation of the Board

The Board shall consist of 7 members to be selected by the Olympic Committee's General Assembly. These members shall be appointed pursuant to a decision to be issued by the Chairman of the Committee, and shall be nominated as follows:

1. Two members to be nominated by the Olympic Committee from among its members or others, one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Board;
2. One member to be nominated by the Players Committee of the Olympic Committee, from among its members or others;
3. One member to be nominated by the Coaches Committee of the Olympic Committee from among its members or others;
4. One member to be nominated by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation from among its members or others;
5. One member to be nominated by the individual sports federations from among their members or others;
6. One member to be nominated by the collective sports federations from among their members or others;

The Board formation decision made by the Chairman of the Olympic Committee shall take effect from the date of its issuance, and shall be submitted to the General Assembly of the Olympic Committee for approval thereof.

Article 11

Conditions of Board Membership

A Board member shall:

1. Be of Saudi Nationality;
2. Hold a bachelor's degree; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall hold a bachelor's degree in Sharia or law or its equivalent;
3. Have experience in sports or related activities; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall have a minimum of 10 years' experience in legal work; and
4. Not be convicted by a final judgment in a crime involving moral turpitude, even if he was rehabilitated.

Article 12

Term of Board Membership

1. Board members shall be elected for a renewable term of four years.
2. If a member's seat becomes vacant, another member shall be elected in accordance with provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of this Statute.



Article (13)

Expiration or Termination of Board Membership

1. Board membership shall cease in any of the following cases:

- a. expiration of the membership term specified in this Statute;
- b. resignation;
- c. re-formation of the Board; and
- d. death.

2. Board membership shall be terminated in any of the following cases:

- a. Issuing a decision to terminate membership by the Olympic Committee's General Assembly by reason of violating the provisions of this Statute; and
- b. If a member no longer fulfills one or more of the membership conditions.

Article 14

Board Jurisdiction

The Board shall have the jurisdiction to:

1. Approve plans and policies related to SSAC's activities, and the necessary programs for implementation thereof;
2. Approve SSAC's organizational structure and guidance manual;
3. Appoint and dismiss the Board Secretary;
4. Supervise the administrative apparatus;
5. Approve the establishment of temporary or permanent branches for SSAC;
6. Propose amendments to the Statute;
7. Approve any amendments to the Rules of Procedure, regulations, instructions, and the like, governing SSAC's operation;
8. Establish private or temporary chambers, and draw up the necessary rules and regulations governing their operation;
9. Interpret the Statute and all relevant regulations and decisions;
10. Appoint and dismiss the CEO;
11. Appoint and dismiss the presidents of the competent chambers, and overseeing their performance;
12. Approve SSAC's annual budget in preparation for final approval thereof by the Olympic Committee's General Assembly;
13. Approve the annual report on SSAC's activities;
14. Appoint and dismiss the external auditor;
15. Seek assistance from experts, consultants and sports bodies to carry out specific tasks, in accordance with rules to be approved by the Board;
16. Approve and classify requests to join the panels of arbitrators, mediators and experts;
17. Form temporary or permanent committees to carry out specific tasks, and approve the remuneration of their members;
18. Suspend or cancel the registration of any arbitrator, mediator or expert pursuant to a reasoned decision;



19. Decide on requests for disqualification, dismissal, or recusal of arbitrators;
20. Approve the organization of events, conferences and training courses, and approve the relevant professional and qualification certificates;
21. Accept gifts, grants, donations and endowments; and
22. Address any matter for which no special provision is made in this Statute.

The Board may delegate some of its competencies or powers to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, any Board member, or the CEO.

Article 15

Board Meetings

1. The Board shall meet upon the call of the Chairman. Meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman or by the Vice-Chairman in the event of his absence.
2. The Board shall hold 6 ordinary meetings at least per each fiscal year. The Board may be called for an extraordinary meeting if the need arises.
3. The Board secretary shall, upon the Chairman's approval, invite Board members to meetings in writing sufficiently prior to the meeting date, and shall enclose the meeting agenda and attachments with the invitation.
4. A Board member shall have the right to propose topics to be included in the meeting agenda. Such topics shall be submitted to the Board Secretary on the day immediately following the receipt of the meeting invitation.
5. The Chairman shall be entitled to invite any person he deems appropriate to attend the meeting with regard to any issue related to SSAC's activities, without having the right to vote.
6. The CEO shall attend Board meetings and take part in discussions without having the right to vote.
7. The Board may hold its meetings via modern technological means.
8. The minutes shall be signed by the meeting chairman, members present, and the Board Secretary, and shall be kept in a special record. These minutes shall be deemed valid with the signature of the Chairman and the Board Secretary.
9. Board meetings shall be deemed valid if attended by more than half of the members, including the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.
10. A Board member shall withdraw from any discussion or decision-making process entailing an actual or potential conflict of interest, and shall disclose said conflict.



Article 16

Board Decisions

1. Board decisions shall be deemed valid and effective with the approval of the majority of attending members. In case of a tie, the meeting chairman shall have the casting vote.
2. The Board may take its decisions by circulation.
3. Board decisions shall enter into force immediately, unless the Board decides otherwise.

Article 17

Chairman's Competencies

The Chairman shall have the competence to:

1. Call for Board meetings;
2. Appoint the Vice-Chairman from among Board members at the first meeting;
3. Represent SSAC in its relations with internal and external bodies and before the judiciary. He may delegate his powers or grant general, full or partial legal agencies to third parties;
4. Conclude contracts, agreements and memorandums of understanding with external entities;
5. Take all legal actions related to managing SSAC's bank accounts;
6. Form temporary or permanent work teams to achieve specific tasks, and approve the remuneration of their members; and
7. Approve the remuneration of Board members, SSAC's personnel, consultants, and experts, in accordance with the regulations governing SSAC's activities.

The Chairman may delegate some of his competencies or powers to the Vice-Chairman, any Board member, or the CEO.



Chapter 2: Arbitration and Mediation Chambers

Article 18

1. **SSAC shall engage in arbitration and mediation via the following chambers:**
 - a. Ordinary Arbitration Chamber;
 - b. Arbitration Appeals Chamber;
 - c. Chamber of Arbitration of Football Disputes;
 - d. Special and Temporary Chambers; and
 - e. Mediation Chamber.
2. The competent chambers shall carry out their duties and competences with complete independence.

Article 19

Ordinary Arbitration Chamber

The Ordinary Arbitration Chamber shall have the jurisdiction to decide contractual sports or sports-related disputes, one party of which is a member of the sports ecosystem.

Article 20

Arbitration Appeals Chamber

1. The Arbitration Appeals Chamber shall have the jurisdiction to decide appeals against any (appealable) final awards rendered by sports bodies.
2. **It shall also carry out its duties pursuant to the following:**
 - a. It shall decide appeals to final awards rendered by sports bodies upon exhausting all internal legal remedies.
 - b. It shall decide appeals filed against the internal awards issued by sports bodies that are not subject to the methods of appeal provided for in the laws and regulations governing the operation of such bodies.
3. The period of appeal before SSAC shall be 21 days as of the date of notification of the parties to the dispute of the appealed award, unless a lesser period is stipulated by the laws and regulations of sports bodies, provided that said period be not less than 10 days.



Article 21

Chamber of Arbitration of Football Disputes

1. The Chamber of Arbitration of Football Disputes shall have the jurisdiction to decide appeals against awards rendered by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation and its affiliated committees upon exhausting all its internal legal remedies.
2. The period of appeal before SSAC shall be 21 days as of the date of notification of the parties to the dispute of the appealed award, unless a lesser period is stipulated by the laws and regulations of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, provided that said period be not less than 10 days.

Article 22

Special and Temporary Chambers

SSAC may establish special or temporary chambers to decide disputes related to sports activities. The Board shall issue special bylaws to regulate the procedures related to these chambers.

Article 23

Mediation Chamber

The Mediation Chamber shall:

1. Mediate between the parties to a dispute to achieve an amicable settlement of the dispute;
2. Review the dispute settlement procedures if the parties agree to settle the dispute through SSAC's mediation chamber; and
3. Regulate mediation procedures through special bylaws to be issued by the Board.

Article 24

Appointment of the President of the Chamber

1. The President of the Chamber shall be appointed pursuant to a decision of the Board.
2. **The President of the Chamber to be appointed shall satisfy the following requirements:**
 - a. Hold a bachelor's degree in Sharia or law or its equivalent;
 - b. Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in legal work; and
 - c. Not be convicted by a final judgment in a crime involving moral turpitude, even if he was rehabilitated.
3. The Board shall appoint the vice-president of the chamber upon the nomination of its president.
4. The Rules of Procedure shall provide for the competencies entrusted to the president of the competent chamber.



Article 25

Disqualification of the President of the Competent Chamber

In the event that the Board receives and approves a request for disqualification of the president of an arbitration chamber, said president shall be replaced by the Chairman in considering the dispute, subject of the disqualification request, until an award is rendered thereon. The disqualified president shall not receive any information in relation to the dispute.

Article 26

Expedited Arbitration

1. SSAC shall provide a fast-track arbitration procedure for urgent cases with the approval of the president of the competent arbitration chamber. Said approval shall determine a specific period for deciding the dispute as per the circumstances and nature of each dispute.
2. The Rules of Procedure shall provide for the procedures and rules of expedited arbitration.

Chapter 3: SSAC's Management

Article 27

SSAC's Administrative Apparatus

1. SSAC shall have an administrative apparatus comprising the CEO and a number of employees.
2. The administrative apparatus shall carry out the operational activities of SSAC and shall monitor the implementation of the Board's decisions.

Article 28

CEO's Appointment

1. The CEO shall be appointed by a decision of the Board upon the Chairman's nomination.
2. **The CEO to be appointed shall satisfy the following requirements:**
 - a. Hold a bachelor's degree;
 - b. Have a minimum of 5 years' experience in his area of specialization; and
 - c. Not be convicted by a final judgment in a crime involving moral turpitude, even if he was rehabilitated.



Article 29

CEO's Competencies

1. The CEO shall have the following powers:

- a. Proposing policies related to SSAC's activities, as well as the plans and programs required for implementation thereof, and submitting the same to the Board;
 - b. Proposing SSAC's organizational structure and guidance manual, and submitting the same to the Board;
 - c. Proposing the financial and administrative bylaws and other regulations for the conduct of SSAC's activities, and submitting the same to the Board;
 - d. Preparing SSAC's annual budget and submitting the same to the Board;
 - e. Managing SSAC's activities and monitoring its performance;
 - f. Implementing and following up on the policies, resolutions, plans and programs approved by the Board;
 - g. Appointing and supervising SSAC's employees as per the applicable laws and regulations;
 - h. Receiving and responding to any correspondence related to arbitration and mediation requests;
 - i. Drawing up the annual budget and final accounts, and submitting the same to the Board for approval thereof;
 - j. Signing bank payment orders and checks, together with the Chairman;
 - k. Handling correspondence and communications with all entities within the Kingdom or abroad;
 - l. Signing contracts related to the conduct of SSAC's internal affairs, as well as approval orders;
 - m. Presenting an annual report to the Board on all SSAC's achievements, activities and future plans, and submitting the same to the Board for approval thereof;
 - n. Recommending the organization of events, conferences and training courses, and approving the relevant professional and qualification certificates;
 - o. handling any other competencies entrusted to him by the Board.
2. The CEO may, with the approval of the Board, delegate or deputize another person to carry out the competencies or powers entrusted to him under this Statute.

Article 30

Training and Development

1. An organizational unit for training and development shall be established by a decision of the Board.
2. This unit shall carry out all functions required to qualify and train arbitrators, mediators, experts, trustees, and people interested in arbitration, mediation and sports laws.



Chapter 4: SSAC's Financial Affairs

Article 31

SSAC's Financial Resources

SSAC's resources shall comprise the following:

1. Annual revenues and returns for services provided by SSAC;
2. Annual appropriations for SSAC allocated by sports bodies, as determined by the Olympic Committee;
3. Revenues obtained from the events and activities held by SSAC;
4. Gifts, grants, donations and endowments approved by the Board, provided that they do not impinge on SSAC's impartiality and independence.

Article 32

SSAC's Fiscal Year

SSAC's fiscal year shall start on January 1 of each calendar year and shall end on December 31 of the same year.

Article 33

SSAC's Auditing

1. SSAC shall, by a decision of the Board, appoint an external auditor with a legal personality; said decision shall set out the tasks to be entrusted to this auditor.
2. SSAC's annual budget and final accounts shall be approved by the Olympic Committee's General Assembly.

Article 34

Legal Assistance Fund

A legal assistance fund shall be established at SSAC to provide assistance in cases where some parties to a dispute cannot afford to pay the costs and expenses arising therefrom. The Board shall issue the necessary bylaws and provisions to regulate the Fund's operation.



Article 35

Controls of Financial Management

1. SSAC shall make disbursements from its funds within the limits of the budget approved by the Board, and in accordance with its objectives.
2. The Chairman and the CEO shall sign bank payment orders and checks.

PART 3: Arbitrators, Mediators and Experts

Article 36

Formation of Arbitral Tribunals

An arbitral tribunal shall consist of three arbitrators – unless the parties to the dispute agree on a sole arbitrator – to be selected from the panel of arbitrators approved by SSAC.

Article 37

Function of Arbitral Tribunal

An arbitral tribunal shall resolve sports or sports-related disputes through the competent chambers set forth in this Statute and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

Article 38

Panels of Arbitrators, Mediators and Experts

The qualifications and legal expertise of arbitrators, mediators and experts, especially in relation to sports, shall be taken into consideration upon their registration.

Article 39

Compliance of Arbitrators, Mediators and Experts

Arbitrators, mediators and experts registered in SSAC's panels shall adhere to objectivity and impartiality; comply with the provisions of this Statute, the Rules of Procedure, SSAC's regulations and decisions; maintain the confidentiality of information; and never disclose the same to a third party. They shall sign a statement of compliance with the rules set forth hereinabove upon the approval of their registration to the panels.



PART 4: Arbitration Awards

Article 40

Issuance and Publication of Arbitration Awards

1. The Rules of Procedure shall regulate the procedures for issuing arbitration awards and for notifying the parties to the dispute thereof.
2. SSAC may publish final arbitration awards on its website, provided that it anonymizes the involved parties to the dispute.
3. SSAC's website shall be the official approved means to publish arbitration awards and grounds therefor.

Article 41

Res Judicata

Arbitration awards shall not be challenged on merits before any other entity whether inside the Kingdom or abroad, except for awards rendered in cases of doping substances.

PART 5: Concluding Provisions

Article 42

SSAC's Approved Language

1. Arabic shall be the official language of SSAC and shall be approved for all correspondence and communications. English may be used if required.
2. SSAC shall approve English translations of this Statute, the Rules of Procedure, and other regulations in force at SSAC. In the event of any discrepancy between the Arabic and the English versions, the Arabic text shall prevail.

Article 43

Confidentiality and Impartiality

1. SSAC employees shall maintain confidentiality in the performance of their duties, and shall not disclose any information or documents related to SSAC's activities whether during or beyond their term of service at SSAC.
2. All information provided by the parties to a dispute shall be confidential. SSAC employees who happen to be privy to such information may not disclose or reveal the same except with the written approval of the parties to the dispute or at the request of the competent judicial authority.



3. SSAC employees shall exercise their duties with complete impartiality, independence and objectivity; respect this Statute, the Rules of Procedure, regulations and decisions; avoid any conflict of interest; and disclose said conflict, if any.
4. The Chairman, Board Members, Presidents of Arbitration and Mediation Chambers, CEO, or members of the Administrative Apparatus may not engage in any activity involving arbitration, mediation, expertise or law practice at SSAC; nor shall any of them serve as agent or legal representative for any of the parties to a dispute.
5. The employees of SSAC's legal department may, pursuant to a decision of the CEO, carry out the secretary's duties in any dispute considered by SSAC.

Article 44

Notifications and Correspondence

1. All notifications shall be made in writing and may be sent through SSAC-approved electronic communication means.
2. A notification shall be deemed to have produced its legal effects as of the day immediately following its dispatch to the notified person, or the time of acknowledgment of receipt, whichever is earlier.
3. A notification sent by electronic means shall be deemed to have been received by the addressee unless evidence to the contrary is provided to SSAC.
4. For the purpose of calculating any period under the Statute, official holidays occurring during the running of such period shall be included in calculating the period. If the last day of said period is an official holiday at the residence of the addressee or at SSAC's headquarters, the period shall be extended until the end of the first business day following the holiday.

Article 45

Amendment of the Laws and Regulations of Sports Bodies and Overcoming Difficulties and Obstacles

1. Sports bodies shall make the necessary amendments to their laws and regulations in such a way as to ensure that SSAC be considered the highest and exclusive authority for deciding sports disputes in the Kingdom and to allow their members to refer to SSAC in accordance with their laws and regulations.
2. Sports bodies shall overcome all difficulties and obstacles to enable SSAC to perform its duties pursuant to the provisions of this Law.
3. In the event of any inconsistency between this Statute and the Rules of Procedure and any provisions of the laws, regulations or decisions issued by sports bodies or by any affiliates thereof, the provisions of this Statute and the Rules of Procedure shall prevail.



Article 46

Amendment of Statute

The Olympic Committee's General Assembly shall have the jurisdiction to approve any amendment to this Statute upon the proposition of the Board.

Article 47

Publication and Entry into force of this Statute

1. The Board shall publish this Statute (or any amendment thereto) on SSAC's website within a period not exceeding 7 days from the date of its notification of approval of the Statute.
2. This Statute shall enter into force from the day following its publication on SSAC's website.





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