



PFF/OFF-Disciplinary/09-2026/21-001
Decision: 21 September 2026

THE PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS COMMITTEE

COMPOSED OF

ACTING/DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON MR. MUHAMMAD ALI

MEMBER (S)	MR. MALIK MAQSOOD KHOKHAR MR. ZARAK ZAMAN KHAN
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In the case of

1. **District Football Association Khanewal**, through its President, Ch. Abdul Jabbar
(Complaint Ref. 2026/DFA/09-9/001 dated 9 September 2026)

(Complainant)

VERSUS

2. **Mr. Afzal Khan Niazi S/O Adam Khan** (FIFA ID 14E8CVC; Faisal Shaheed Red Football Club; President)

(Respondent)

Facts of the matter

- i. The Complainant, Ch. Abdul Jabbar, is the President of District Football Association Khanewal ("DFA Khanewal"), an association affiliated with the Punjab Football Association and the Pakistan Football Federation ("PFF"). By a letter dated **9 September 2026 (Ref. 2026/DFA/09-9/001)**, addressed to the Head of the PFF Legal Department, he complained that the Respondent had used abusive, offensive, derogatory and disrespectful language against him, as the duly elected President of DFA Khanewal, in social media groups associated with the PFF. He asked that disciplinary action be initiated in accordance with the PFF Code of Conduct, disciplinary framework and rules and regulations.
- ii. The complaint is a single page. It does not identify the groups concerned, the dates of the messages or the words used, and it attaches no exhibit. The PFF Legal Department, acting as the Secretariat under **Articles 113 and 114** of the PFF Disciplinary Code, placed three audio recordings on the file.

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- iii. On **14 September 2026** this Committee issued a Notice to the Respondent under reference **PFF/OFF-Disciplinary/09-2026/16-001** (the “Notice”). The Notice recorded the complaint; stated that, in accordance with **Articles 6, 15 and 19** read together with **Article 81** of the PFF Constitution, the Committee had thoroughly reviewed the audio recordings provided and that “the language used appears to be gross, offensive, and highly inappropriate”; requested a written response within two days of receipt; and warned that, failing a response, the Committee would decide the case on the file in its possession.
- iv. On **15 September 2026** the Legal Department emailed the Notice to the Complainant “for the onward submission” to the Respondent, copying the General Secretary of the Punjab Football Association. The Notice therefore reached the Respondent through the Complainant himself.
- v. The Respondent replied by email dated **16 September 2026** (the “Reply”). On the same day the Legal Department sent him a copy of the complaint and the three recordings, describing the recordings as “Your Audio recordings” and stating that the Committee would examine his case accordingly.
- vi. On **17 September 2026** the Legal Department received, from the Respondent’s email address, a further email in the name of Kalabaz Football Club 23/10-R, Khanewal, addressed to this Committee and to the General Secretary of the Punjab Football Association (the “Kalabaz Email”). It complains that at the Under-17/Under-19 trials held at Khanewal on 14 September 2026, organised by the Sports Department Khanewal, the Complainant misused his position to influence selection and pushed the club’s representative, Haji Abdul Ghaffar. The email is typed and unsigned; it gives the names of the club’s President (Tanveer Ahmed Khan) and General Secretary (Muhammad Saleem) beneath the text.

Summary of the Respondent’s response

- vii. The Reply, in summary, states that:
 - a. it concerns “the unfortunate incident that occurred during the Tehsil-Level Football Trials in District Khanewal on 14-09-2026”, held under a Government of Punjab programme;
 - b. a football stakeholder who had brought his children to the trials was, on the Respondent’s observation, approached and pushed by the Complainant, who tried to remove him from the venue and behaved inappropriately towards him;
 - c. the Respondent intervened “to protect and support our guest” and to prevent escalation, whereupon the Complainant raised his voice, adopted an aggressive attitude and used abusive language towards him;
 - d. the Respondent did not initiate the confrontation, which in his view was initiated by the Complainant’s conduct;

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- e. a similar incident had reportedly occurred about six months earlier at another Punjab Government Youth Development trial, was reported to the PFF, and the Respondent was informed that, being a Government of Punjab event, it was outside the PFF's jurisdiction; and
 - f. the Committee is asked to consider the complete circumstances, hear all parties, review any witness statements or video evidence, and reconsider and drop the Notice.
- viii. The Reply does not address the allegation made in the complaint and in the Notice. It says nothing about the recordings or the groups in which they were shared, and it neither admits nor denies that the voice in them is the Respondent's. In fairness to the Respondent, the Committee records that the Reply was filed before he had been sent the complaint or the recordings.

Procedural matters

- ix. **Service and time;** The Notice allowed two days from receipt. **Articles 94(2) and 106(3)** of the PFF Disciplinary Code provide that time limits for persons other than associations run from four days after the association responsible for forwarding the document has received it. The Notice was routed to the Respondent through the Complainant rather than through a body independent of the dispute. It has caused no prejudice: the Respondent received the Notice, replied within time, and has raised no objection to service or to the period allowed. The Reply is treated as filed in time and has been considered in full.
- x. **Oral hearing;** The Reply asks the Committee to "hear all parties". Under **Article 116(1)** of the Disciplinary Code the Committee decides on the contents of the file, and oral statements may be arranged at a party's request under **Article 116(2)** in the Committee's discretion. The Committee declines an oral hearing. The factual account in the Reply concerns the events of 14 September 2026, which this Committee does not determine (see "Matter B" below); on the allegation that is determined, the evidence is documentary and audio, and the Respondent has replied in writing and his reply has been considered.
- xi. **Impartiality;** No objection has been raised under **Article 91** of the Disciplinary Code. The Complainant is not a member of this Committee. The Legal Department's role has been confined to the Secretariat's functions under **Articles 113 and 114** (receiving the complaint and assembling the file); it is not a party to this case.

Detailed Decision

The issues

- xii. The Committee has to decide:
 - a. whether it has jurisdiction and whether the complaint is maintainable;

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- b. whether the conduct charged in the Notice, namely the use of abusive and offensive language against the Complainant in PFF-associated social media groups ("Matter A"), is established and breaches the PFF's regulations;
- c. if so, what sanction is appropriate; and
- d. what should be done about the incident at the Khanewal trials on 14 September 2026 and the allegations made about it ("Matter B"), which the Notice does not charge.

Burden and standard of proof

- xiii. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the PFF (**Article 103(1)**). Any type of proof may be produced; audio and video recordings and declarations from the parties are expressly admissible, and the only proof that may be rejected is proof that violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts (**Articles 100(1) to (3)**). The Committee has absolute discretion regarding proof, may take account of the parties' attitude and cooperation during the proceedings, and decides on the basis of its personal convictions (**Article 101**). The Precedent applied the "comfortable satisfaction" standard found in **Article 50** of the FIFA Code of Ethics. That formulation does not appear in the Disciplinary Code; the Committee applies **Article 101(3)** and records that it would reach the same conclusion on the comfortable satisfaction standard.

Personal jurisdiction

PFF Disciplinary Code – Article 3: Scope of application: natural and legal persons

"The following are subject to this code: a) PFF Member Associations; b) members of these associations, in particular the clubs; c) Officials; d) players; e) match officials; f) anyone with an authorization from PFF, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by PFF; g) spectators."

PFF Disciplinary Code – Article 5(6): Definition

"Official: anyone with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at an association or club, regardless of his title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity ..."

- xiv. The Constitution defines "Officials" to include all Congress and Executive Committee members, committee members, coaches, referees and other persons responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters of the PFF, Provincial and Regional Football Associations, Units, Leagues or Clubs. **Article 10** of the Constitution requires the bodies and officials of the PFF to observe the Constitution, regulations, directives, decisions and the Code of Ethics of FIFA, AFC and the PFF in their activities, and **Article 65(3)** empowers this Committee to pronounce the sanctions in the Constitution and the Disciplinary Code on Members, Officials, Players, Clubs and match and player's agents.

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- xv. DFA Khanewal is affiliated with the Punjab Football Association (**Constitution, Article 81(3)**), clubs are affiliated with the District Football Association (**Article 81(4)**), and each Member is obliged to ensure that the Constitution and regulations are respected by its own members (**Article 15(1)(a)**). The Respondent's own Reply describes him as one of "our football stakeholders" present at the trials, who intervened on behalf of a person he described as "our guest"; the Kalabaz Email was sent from his address; he has himself invoked the PFF's disciplinary process, by reporting an earlier incident to the PFF and by asking this Committee to act on the events of 14 September 2026; and he took part in these proceedings without objecting to jurisdiction. The Secretariat's records show that the Respondent is registered as President of Faisal Shaheed Red Football Club (FIFA ID 14E8CVC). The Committee is satisfied that the Respondent is an "official" within the meaning of **Article 5(6)** of the Disciplinary Code (a category to which **Article 3(c)** confirms officials belong) and within the definition in the Constitution.

Subject-matter jurisdiction: nature of the allegation and the regulations engaged

PFF Disciplinary Code – Article 2: Scope of application (material law)

"This Code applies to every match and competition organized by PFF. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of PFF are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping."

- xvi. The statutory objectives of the PFF include fostering friendly relations among its affiliated units, their officials and players, preventing the introduction of improper methods or practices in the game, and protecting it from abuses (**Constitution, Article 6(b) and (d)**). **Article 80** of the Disciplinary Code authorises this Committee to sanction any breach of PFF regulations that does not come under the jurisdiction of another body. The use by an official of offensive language against the elected President of an affiliated District Football Association, in groups associated with the PFF, engages those objectives and **Article 10** of the Constitution. It also engages **Articles 4 and 9** of the PFF Code of Ethics, which require officials to represent the PFF respectably and with integrity and to ensure that the personal rights of those with whom they deal are protected, respected and safeguarded. And it is specifically addressed by **Article 54(1)** of the Disciplinary Code, set out below.
- xvii. The Committee sits as the Disciplinary Committee, which is how the Notice was issued. **Article 8** of the Procedural Regulations of the Code of Ethics provides that cases falling within both the Code of Ethics and the Disciplinary Code are dealt with primarily by the Disciplinary Committee, and **Article 2** of those Regulations provides that violations of the Code of Ethics are sanctioned in accordance with the Disciplinary Code. The restriction in **Article 4** of those Regulations on who may make disclosure to the Ethics Committee does not limit a complaint to the Disciplinary Committee, which **Article 113(2)** of the Disciplinary Code opens to any person or authority.

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- xviii. The Notice referred, without citing any article, to “the applicable regulations under FIFA and AFC statutes”. The Committee does not rest its finding on those instruments, and rests it on the PFF provisions identified above. The Notice described this conduct and required an answer to it; Article 98 entitles the Respondent to answer the facts alleged, not to advance notice of every article those facts may fall under. The Reply addresses the conduct described in the Notice, so no prejudice arises.

Procedural maintainability

PFF Disciplinary Code – Article 113(2): Commencement of proceedings

“Any person or authority may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of PFF to the judicial bodies via the PFF Secretariat. Complaints may not be made orally.”

- xix. The complaint was made in writing, by a person entitled to report under **Article 113(2)**, and was received by the Secretariat. It is thin, and the Committee has treated that as going to weight and to fairness rather than to admissibility: any want of particulars was made good by the Notice and by the placing of the recordings on the file. There is no procedural defect in the initiation or maintainability of the complaint.

Territorial and institutional jurisdiction

- xx. The jurisdiction of the PFF extends throughout Pakistan (**Constitution, Article 4**). The chain of affiliation described above brings the Complainant’s association, and the Respondent as an official, within the Federation’s institutional jurisdiction.

The Precedent

- xxi. The Committee has had regard to its decision **PFF/OFF-Disciplinary/06-2026/04-001** dated **4 July 2026** concerning Mr. Ali Abid Toor and others (the “Precedent”), which the FIFA Disciplinary Committee extended to have worldwide effect on **12 August 2026 (Decision FDD-28525)**. The Precedent is followed in the following respects:
- audio recordings shared in social media groups associated with the PFF are admissible and may found a finding of misconduct;
 - where recordings contain vulgar or abusive language, the Committee need not reproduce it in its decision;
 - persons registered as club officials, and officials as defined in the Constitution, are subject to this Committee’s jurisdiction;
 - a written complaint lodged through the Secretariat satisfies **Article 113(2)**;
 - the respect and dignity of officials must be upheld, and offensive language directed at them by other officials is sanctionable; and
 - the sanction must reflect the gravity and repetition of the conduct and the respondent’s attitude towards the orders of this Committee.

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Evaluation of the evidence against the Respondent (Matter A)

xxii. The Committee has listened to each of the three recordings. The Committee makes the following findings:

- a. **Authorship:** The speaker in each recording is the Respondent. The Legal Department sent the files to him as “Your Audio recordings” and he has not disputed authorship.
- b. **Content:** Consistently with its assessment recorded in the Notice, the Committee finds that the language used in each recording is gross, offensive and insulting, and that it is directed at the Complainant, Ch. Abdul Jabbar, President DFA Khanewal.
Following the approach in the Precedent, the Committee does not reproduce it.
- c. **Context:** The recordings were shared in WhatsApp groups with members directly and/or indirectly associated with the PFF, whose membership extends beyond the Complainant and the Respondent. The audience for the language was therefore wider than the Complainant alone.
- d. **Number of recordings:** three (3) recordings.

The Respondent’s answers

xxiii. The Committee has considered each answer that can be drawn from the Reply.

- a. **No engagement with the recordings:** The Reply addresses the events of 14 September 2026 and not the allegation in the Notice. The Respondent is the speaker in the recordings and knew from the Notice what was alleged. Although the recordings were sent to him on 16 September 2026, he has not denied authorship, offered any context for the words used, or asked for time (the Kalabaz Email of 17 September 2026 does not mention them). A respondent who does not engage with the recordings leaves the Committee nothing to weigh against them, and the Committee is entitled to take his attitude into account (**Article 101(2)**).
- b. **Provocation:** The recordings contain abusive language. Language of that kind, recorded and circulated to groups associated with the PFF, is not a proportionate response to any dispute, whether or not the Respondent was provoked (which this Committee does not decide). The Committee has taken the Respondent’s account into consideration, on his best case, when determining sanction.
- c. **Allegations against the Complainant:** If true, they are matters for separate inquiry. They are not a defence to **Article 54(1)**, which sanctions an official who insults someone “in any way”, and infringements are punishable whether deliberate or negligent (**Article 8(1)**).
- d. **The earlier incident:** The Respondent says an incident about six months before 14 September 2026 was reported to the PFF and treated as outside its jurisdiction. It is unverified and has no bearing on liability for Matter A. The Secretariat is directed to search its records (Term C below).

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e. **Witnesses and video:** These requests relate to Matter B and are dealt with there.

Finding on Matter A

PFF Disciplinary Code – Article 54(1): Offensive behaviour

“A player or official who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, will be sanctioned with a match suspension. If the perpetrator is a player, he will be suspended from at least two (2) matches; if he is an official, he will be suspended from at least four (4) matches.”

- xxiv. The Committee finds Matter A established. The Respondent, an official, insulted the Complainant by using offensive language in recordings circulated in groups associated with the PFF. That is a breach of **Article 54(1)** of the Disciplinary Code, read with **Article 10** of the Constitution and **Articles 4 and 9** of the Code of Ethics.
- xxv. The Committee does not apply **Article 54(2)**, which doubles the suspension and requires a minimum fine of Rs 20,000 “if the victim of the attack is PFF itself or one of its bodies”. The Complainant is the elected President of a District Football Association, which is a Unit affiliated to a Provincial Association and is not among the bodies of the Federation listed in **Article 21(1)** of the Constitution. Nor does the Committee apply **Article 55** (racism), or **Articles 23 and 24** of the FIFA Code of Ethics as applied in the Precedent.

The charge in the Notice is the use of offensive language against an individual. It does not allege discrimination, gender-based abuse, harassment, or hostile acts intended to isolate or ostracise, and no such charge was put to the Respondent.

Matter B: the events at the Khanewal trials on 14 September 2026

- xxvi. The Committee therefore refers Matter B, and the Kalabaz Email, to the Punjab Football Association, and reserves its powers under **Article 74(2)** should the allegations not be prosecuted, or not be prosecuted in compliance with fundamental principles of law.
- xxvii. The trials were a district-level event organised by the Sports Department Khanewal under a Government of Punjab programme. They were not a match or competition organised by the PFF (Disciplinary Code, **Article 2**), and on the material before the Committee the case has no national implications affecting various associations (Procedural Regulations of the Code of Ethics, **Article 3**). Under **Article 74(1)** of the Disciplinary Code, associations that organise matches and events outside the PFF’s competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions for infringements in their area of jurisdiction.

Determination of the sanction

- xxviii. **Article 54(1)** prescribes a match suspension of at least four matches for an official. In deciding the sanction the Committee has regard to all the circumstances, in particular the record of the person sanctioned, his personal situation, culpability, the reasons that

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prompted the infringement and its seriousness (**Article 40(4)**); sanctions may be combined (**Article 32(1)**); a match suspension may be imposed in matches, days or months (**Article 20**); a fine may not be less than Rs 2,000 nor more than Rs 200,000 (**Article 16(2)**); and a warning is a reminder of the rule together with the threat of sanction for a further infringement (**Article 14**).

xxix. The Precedent imposed a lifetime ban on its first respondent and three-year bans on the second and third. Those sanctions reflected conduct of a different order.

xxx. **Aggravating factors:**

- a. The language was directed at an elected office-bearer in respect of his office.
- b. It was recorded and circulated in groups associated with the PFF, to an audience wider than the Complainant.
- c. It was repeated.
- d. The Respondent has offered no acknowledgement, apology or engagement with the recordings.

xxxi. **Mitigating factors:**

- a. No sanction against the Respondent appears on the Secretariat's records.
- b. He answered the Notice promptly and has taken part in the proceedings.
- c. The Reply describes a heated confrontation on 14 September 2026; that is unproven, but is taken into account on the Respondent's best case.
- d. The language carries no discriminatory content and no threat, and there was no attempt to interfere with this Committee's process.

xxxii. Weighing these factors, the Committee considers that the statutory minimum of four matches is the correct starting point and that the aggravating factors do not warrant more, while the mitigating factors do not warrant less. **Article 33** permits partial suspension where a sanction does not exceed six matches and the circumstances, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned, allow it; half of the sanction must remain definite. Given the absence of any previous record, the Committee suspends half of the sanction on probation to deter repetition. A fine and a warning are added under **Articles 32(1), 16 and 14**. The amount of **Rs 20,000** is chosen with regard to the benchmark the Code itself uses for offensive behaviour towards the PFF and its bodies (**Article 54(2)**); the Committee does not thereby apply that article.

xxxiii. The Committee considers a sanction confined to Pakistan sufficient and does not request a worldwide extension (**Article 140** of the Disciplinary Code), without prejudice to the power in **Article 140(3)**.

Terms of the Decision

Therefore, in exercise of the authority vested in the PFF Disciplinary & Ethics Committee under the PFF Constitution and the PFF Disciplinary Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

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A. Sanction on the Respondent, Mr. Afzal Khan Niazi:

1. The Respondent is found in breach of **Article 54(1)** of the PFF Disciplinary Code, read with **Article 10** of the PFF Constitution and **Articles 4 and 9** of the PFF Code of Ethics.
2. An appeal against this finding and the sanctions below lies to the Appeals Committee under **Article 122** of the PFF Disciplinary Code.
3. The Respondent is suspended from holding any office in a club, District or Provincial Football Association, and from taking part in any football-related activity, for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of this decision (**Articles 20, 23 and 32(1)**).
4. The Respondent is fined **Rs 100,000**, payable to the PFF within thirty (30) days of communication of this decision (**Article 16(3)**). The ban above is extended.
5. The Respondent is warned (**Article 14**) that the use of offensive, abusive or insulting language against any person in any social media group or forum associated with the PFF is prohibited. Any repetition will be treated as a repeated infringement, for which the sanction is increased by half (**Article 41**), and may be sanctioned by a ban on taking part in any football-related activity (**Article 23**).
6. Within three (3) working days of communication of this decision, the Respondent shall get the recordings deleted from every group in which he has posted them and confirm in writing to the Secretariat that he has done so.

B. Costs:

Costs and expenses are borne by the Respondent as the unsuccessful party (**Article 110(1)**), in the amount to be stipulated by the Chairman (**Article 110(4)**).

C. Matter B and the Kalabaz Email:

1. No finding is made on the events at the Khanewal trials on 14 September 2026, or on the allegations made about them by the Respondent or in the Kalabaz Email.
2. The Secretariat shall, within seven (7) days, refer Matter B and the Kalabaz Email to the Punjab Football Association with a copy of the file, and require Kalabaz Football Club to confirm in writing, signed by its office-bearers, that the Kalabaz Email is its complaint, since it was received from the Respondent's personal address and bears typed names only.
3. The Secretariat shall search the PFF's records for the earlier incident described in the Reply (about six months before 14 September 2026) and report the result to the Committee and to the Punjab Football Association.

D. Both parties:

Both the Complainant and the Respondent are reminded to refrain from posting or circulating comment on their dispute or on these proceedings in any social media group or



forum associated with the PFF. Failure to do so may lead to further disciplinary measures under this decision and the Disciplinary Code.

E. Non-compliance:

Failure to comply with this decision will result in further disciplinary measures under the PFF Constitution and the Disciplinary Code. The Complainant's rights and remedies under the general law are unaffected.

F. Effect:

This decision takes effect immediately and remains in force unless and until reversed by the Appeals Committee (**Article 111**). An appeal has no suspensive effect, save as to the payment of the fine (**Article 128(2)**).

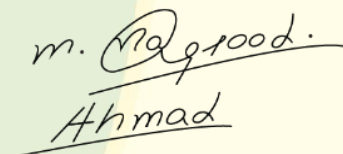
By order of the PFF Disciplinary & Ethics Committee:




Mohammad Ali
(Acting/Deputy Chairman)
Disciplinary Committee
Pakistan Football Federation



Zarak Zaman Khan
(Member)
Disciplinary Committee
Pakistan Football Federation



Malik Maqsood Ahmed
(Member)
Disciplinary Committee
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Note relating to Appeal

A copy of this decision shall be communicated to the Respondent and to the Complainant, and to the PFF Secretariat for its records, in accordance with **Articles 106 and 107** of the PFF Disciplinary Code. The sanction pronounced exceeds the limits in **Article 122** of the PFF Disciplinary Code, so an appeal lies to the Appeals Committee.

The aggrieved party shall announce its intention to appeal in writing, sent directly to the PFF, within fifteen (15) days of the communication of this decision (**Article 124**). The petition of appeal, which shall include the necessary arguments, reasons and means of proof, shall be signed by the appellant or his representative and submitted in triplicate (**Article 126**). The deposit prescribed by **Article 127** shall be paid to the PFF's account within seven (7) days to formalise the appeal, failing which the appeal is inadmissible, to the PFF's designated bank account for submission of appeal fees: **Bank Name: The Bank of Punjab; Branch: 085, Main Boulevard, Gulberg, Lahore; Title of Account: Pakistan Football Federation; Bank Account No.: PK88BPUN6540051435200014.**

The appeal does not have suspensive effect, save as to the payment of the fine (**Article 128**).



Mohammad Ali (Acting/Deputy Chairman)
Disciplinary Committee
Pakistan Football Federation

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