



# QICCA's Balanced Approach to Arbitration.



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## Summary of the New QICCA Arbitration Rules 2024

The Qatar International Centre for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) has launched its 2024 Arbitration Rules, a forward-looking framework designed to streamline arbitral procedures, bolster transparency, and strengthen overall efficiency.

These comprehensive rules significantly expand upon the previous structure, introducing new procedural mechanisms and modern practices that better align with global arbitration standards.

### 1. Expanded Structure and Model Clause

#### Increased Scope and Detail

- The new rules span 7 chapters and 78 articles, a substantial jump from the 5 chapters and 38 articles in the 2012 iteration. This broader coverage accommodates nuances such as third-party funding, expedited proceedings, and the use of tribunal secretaries.

#### Enhanced Model Arbitration Clause

- A revised model clause offers clarity on critical points like the number of arbitrators, language of the proceedings, and seat of arbitration. By explicitly listing these elements, the 2024 Rules help parties craft robust arbitration agreements from the outset.

**Why This Matters:** By offering detailed guidance upfront, the new model clause reduces ambiguities that can cause delays or disputes over procedural matters later on.





## 2. Expedited and Emergency Arbitration

### Expedited Procedure

- Designed for claims under QAR 1 million, the new expedited track aims to issue a final award within 90 days of case file receipt. While this deadline may be extended if necessary, it signals QICCA's commitment to fast-track smaller, more straightforward cases.

### Emergency Arbitrator

- The inclusion of emergency arbitration provisions enables parties to seek urgent interim relief. An emergency arbitrator must issue a decision within 15 days of an application.
- Once a regular tribunal is formed, it can confirm, review, modify, or set aside the emergency arbitrator's relief, ensuring consistency and proper oversight.
- mined at the end of the financial year of the company.

**Why This Matters:** These new procedures deliver quicker outcomes in urgent or lower-value cases, enhancing the attractiveness of QICCA arbitration by addressing time-sensitive disputes with a structured, pre-defined process.

## 3. Confidentiality and Transparency

### Publication of Awards

- The default rule is to publish awards in anonymized form, unless parties choose to opt out. This strikes a balance between confidentiality and knowledge-sharing, allowing the arbitration community to learn from precedent while safeguarding party identities.

### Third-Party Funding (TPF) Disclosure

- Parties must disclose details of any external funder, including the funder's identity and the nature of the funding arrangements. Though initial disclosure may be optional at the notice stage, parties must inform the QICCA if TPF is introduced later in the proceedings.
- **Why This Matters:** Emphasizing transparency helps maintain the integrity of the arbitration process and aligns with global best practices, especially given the rising prominence of third-party funding.

## 4. Use of Technology

### Electronic Filings and E-Signatures

- Parties can now file their submissions electronically, reflecting modern practice and reducing administrative hurdles.
- Electronic signatures on arbitral awards are permissible, subject to approval from both the QICCA and the disputing parties.

### Integrated Case Management System

- These innovations coincide with QICCA's launch of a new electronic services platform in September 2024, enabling all stakeholders to manage and monitor cases more efficiently.

**Why This Matters:** Embracing digital tools streamlines the arbitration process, improves record-keeping, and ensures faster communication, ultimately reducing costs and delays.

## 5. Consolidation and Joinder

### Consolidation of Arbitrations

- The 2024 Rules lay out specific guidelines for consolidating multiple arbitrations involving the same issues, contracts, or parties.
- Consolidation may be requested by a party or by the QICCA itself, with prior consultation of the Centre's Conciliation and Arbitration Committee.





## Joinder of Third Parties

- Third parties can be joined to existing proceedings if they are bound by the same (or an extended/assigned) arbitration agreement.
- This ensures efficiency in multi-party or multi-contract disputes, reducing the risk of contradictory awards.

**Why This Matters:** Multi-party disputes are increasingly common in complex commercial transactions. The new provisions help avoid duplicative proceedings and encourage a unified resolution of interrelated claims.

## 6. Tribunal Secretaries

### Formal Recognition

- The 2024 Rules acknowledge the role of tribunal secretaries, who may assist arbitrators with organizational and administrative duties—especially in high-value cases exceeding QAR 5 million.
- The secretary's fees, typically included in the tribunal's overall fees, can be separately arranged upon the tribunal's request.

**Why This Matters:** By clarifying the scope of tasks a tribunal secretary can perform, QICCA aims to safeguard the transparency and efficiency of proceedings, reflecting international trends in complex arbitrations.

## 7. Expert Evidence

### Tribunal-Appointed Experts

- Arbitrators can appoint independent experts to address specialized issues, either on their own initiative or at the request of the parties.
- Experts must disclose their credentials and impartiality, giving parties an opportunity to raise any objections or present their own expert opinions.

**Why This Matters:** Enhanced guidance on expert evidence ensures that arbitrators can effectively manage technical or industry-specific disputes, producing well-informed and accurate awards.

## 8. Costs and Fees

### Sliding Scale Registration Fee

- Registration fees range from QAR 2,000 to QAR 20,000, proportionate to the amount in dispute.



### Administrative Expenses and Tribunal Fees

- Administrative costs are fixed-scale, from QAR 2,000 to QAR 650,000.
- Tribunal fees remain based on the disputed amount, with a modest increase from the 2012 rules.

**Why This Matters:** Introducing a tiered fee structure aligns the cost of arbitration with the financial stakes involved, enhancing fairness and transparency for all parties.

## Bottom Line

The QICCA Arbitration Rules 2024 provide a modern, adaptable, and user-friendly arbitration framework. By embracing expedited and emergency procedures, sharpening confidentiality and transparency standards, and incorporating technology throughout the arbitration lifecycle, QICCA ensures a streamlined process tailored to today's complex commercial landscape.

**Disclaimer: This overview is intended for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. For specific queries or guidance on QICCA arbitration, please do not hesitate to contact us or refer directly to the full text of the QICCA Arbitration Rules 2024.**



# Key Team Member



**Amr Hossam El Din**  
Head of Arbitration Department | Senior Legal Counsel  
☎ +974 4466 4066  
✉ a.hosam@slf-qa.com



**Mohammed Abdelhadi**  
Senior Associate  
☎ +974 4466 4066  
✉ m.abdelhadi@slf-qa.com



**Pascale Zgheib**  
Senior Associate  
☎ +974 4466 4066  
✉ p.zgheib@slf-qa.com





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