



# FIFA Disciplinary Code

2011 edition

**FIFA**<sup>®</sup>

*For the Game. For the World.*

## **Fédération Internationale de Football Association**

President: Joseph S. Blatter  
Secretary General: Jérôme Valcke  
Address: FIFA  
FIFA-Strasse 20  
P.O. Box  
8044 Zurich  
Switzerland  
Telephone: +41-(0)43-222 7777  
Fax: +41-(0)43-222 7878  
Internet: [www.FIFA.com](http://www.FIFA.com)



FIFA  
Disciplinary Code

2011 edition

**DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

Chairman: MATHIER Marcel, Switzerland

Deputy chairmen: ESQUIVEL MELO Rafael, Venezuela  
SAHU KHAN Muhammad S., Fiji

Members: BURRELL Horace, Jamaica  
LAGRELL Lars-Åke, Sweden  
HAWIT BANEGAS Alfredo, Honduras  
NAPOUT Juan Ángel, Paraguay  
OMARI SELEMANI Constant, Congo DR  
EDWARDS Mike, USA  
HACK Raymond, South Africa  
HADDADJ Hamid, Algeria  
HADZI-RISTESKI Haralampie, FYR Macedonia  
HONG Martin, Hong Kong  
SEMEDO Mario, Cape Verde Islands  
WALSER Reinhard, Liechtenstein  
GLADING Michael, New Zealand  
KENNEDY Raymond, Northern Ireland  
LUMPER Horst, Austria  
PRITCHARD Phil, Wales  
HAYAT Makhdoom Syed Saleh, Pakistan

**Page Article****PRELIMINARY TITLE**

10	1 – Object
10	2 – Scope of application: substantive law
11	3 – Scope of application: natural and legal persons
11	4 – Scope of application: time
11	5 – Definitions
12	6 – Gender and number

**FIRST TITLE. SUBSTANTIVE LAW****CHAPTER I. GENERAL PART**

13	<b>Section 1.</b> Conditions for sanctions
13	7 – Culpability
13	8 – Acts amounting to attempt
13	9 – Involvement
14	<b>Section 2.</b> Disciplinary measures
14	10 – Sanctions common to natural and legal persons
14	11 – Sanctions applicable to natural persons
14	12 – Sanctions applicable to legal persons
15	13 – Warning
15	14 – Reprimand
15	15 – Fine
16	16 – Return of awards
16	17 – Caution
17	18 – Expulsion
18	19 – Match suspension
19	20 – Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench
19	21 – Stadium ban
19	22 – Ban on taking part in any football-related activity
19	23 – Transfer ban
19	24 – Playing a match without spectators
20	25 – Playing a match on neutral ground
20	26 – Ban on playing in a particular stadium
20	27 – Annulment of the result of a match

<b>Page</b>	<b>Article</b>
20	28 – Expulsion from a competition
20	29 – Relegation to a lower division
21	30 – Deduction of points
21	31 – Forfeit
21	31bis – Replay of a match
21	<b>Section 3.</b> Common rules
21	32 – Combined sanctions
22	33 – Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions
23	34 – Time sanctions: calculation of time limit
23	35 – Centralisation of sanctions
24	<b>Section 4.</b> Carrying over and cancelling cautions and match suspensions
24	36 – Carrying over cautions
24	37 – Cancellation of cautions
24	38 – Carrying over match suspensions
26	<b>Section 5.</b> Determining the sanction
26	39 – General rule
26	40 – Repeated infringements
27	41 – Concurrent infringements
27	<b>Section 6.</b> Limitation period
27	42 – Limitation period for prosecution
28	43 – Commencement of the limitation period
28	44 – Interruption
28	45 – Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions
<b>CHAPTER II. SPECIAL PART</b>	
29	<b>Section 1.</b> Infringements of the Laws of the Game
29	46 – Minor infringements
29	47 – Serious infringements
30	<b>Section 2.</b> Disorderliness at matches and competitions
30	48 – Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match
30	49 – Misconduct against match officials
31	50 – Brawl

Page	Article
31	51 – Unidentified aggressors
31	52 – Team misconduct
32	53 – Inciting hatred and violence
32	54 – Provoking the general public
32	55 – Ineligibility
33	56 – Unplayed match and abandonment
33	<b>Section 3.</b> Offensive and discriminatory behaviour
33	57 – Offensive behaviour and fair play
33	58 – Discrimination
34	<b>Section 4.</b> Infringements of personal freedom
34	59 – Threats
35	60 – Coercion
35	<b>Section 5.</b> Forgery and falsification
35	61 – [only]
36	<b>Section 6.</b> Corruption
36	62 – [only]
37	<b>Section 7.</b> Doping
37	63 – Definition
37	<b>Section 8.</b> Failure to respect decisions
37	64 – [only]
39	<b>Section 9.</b> Responsibilities of clubs and associations
39	65 – Organisation of matches
39	66 – Failure to comply
40	67 – Liability for spectator conduct
41	68 – Other obligations
41	<b>Section 10.</b> Unlawfully influencing match results
41	69 – [only]

**Page Article**

**SECOND TITLE. ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE**

**CHAPTER I. ORGANISATION**

42	<b>Section 1.</b> Jurisdiction of FIFA, associations, confederations and other organisations
42	70 – General rule
42	71 – Friendly matches between two representative teams
43	<b>Section 2.</b> Authorities
43	72 – Referee
43	73 – Judicial bodies
43	74 – Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
43	75 – FIFA Medical Committee
44	<b>Section 3.</b> Disciplinary Committee
44	76 – General jurisdiction
44	77 – Specific jurisdiction
44	78 – Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone
45	<b>Section 4.</b> Appeal Committee
45	79 – Jurisdiction
45	80 – Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone
46	<b>Section 5.</b> Common rules for the judicial bodies
46	81 – Composition
46	82 – Meetings
47	83 – Chairman
47	84 – Secretariat
48	85 – Independence
48	86 – Incompatibility of office
48	87 – Withdrawal
49	88 – Confidentiality
49	89 – Exemption from liability



Page	Article
	<b>CHAPTER II. PROCEDURE</b>
50	<b>Section 1.</b> General rules
50	<b>Subsection 1.</b> Time limits
50	90 – Calculation
50	91 – Compliance
51	92 – Suspension
51	93 – Extension
52	<b>Subsection 2.</b> Right to be heard
52	94 – Contents
52	95 – Restrictions
53	<b>Subsection 3.</b> Proof
53	96 – Various types of proof
53	97 – Evaluation of proof
53	98 – Match officials’ reports
54	99 – Burden of proof
54	<b>Subsection 4.</b> Representation and assistance
54	100 – [only]
55	<b>Subsection 5.</b> Language used in proceedings
55	101 – [only]
55	<b>Subsection 6.</b> Notification of decisions
55	102 – Addressees
56	103 – Form
56	<b>Subsection 7.</b> Miscellaneous
56	104 – Obvious errors
56	105 – Costs and expenses
57	106 – Enforcement of decisions
57	107 – Baseless proceedings
58	<b>Section 2.</b> Disciplinary Committee
58	<b>Subsection 1.</b> Commencement of proceedings and investigation
58	108 – Commencement of proceedings
58	109 – Investigation
58	110 – Collaboration by the parties
59	<b>Subsection 2.</b> Oral statements, deliberations, decision
59	111 – Oral statements, principles

Page	Article
59	112 – Oral statements, procedure
60	113 – Deliberations
60	114 – Passing the decision
61	115 – Form and contents of the decision
61	116 – Decisions without grounds
62	<b>Subsection 3.</b> Proceedings before the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee acting alone
62	117 – [only]
62	<b>Section 3.</b> Appeal Committee
62	118 – Contestable decisions
62	119 – Eligibility to appeal
63	120 – Time limit for appeal
63	121 – Grounds for appeal
64	122 – Petition of appeal
64	123 – Deposit
65	124 – Effects of appeal
65	125 – Sequence in proceedings leading up to the decision
65	126 – Continuation of the proceedings
66	127 – Proceedings before the chairman of the Appeal Committee acting alone
66	<b>Section 4.</b> Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
66	128 – [only]
66	<b>Section 5.</b> Special procedures
66	<b>Subsection 1.</b> Provisional measures
66	129 – General rule
67	130 – Procedure
67	131 – Decision
67	132 – Duration
67	133 – Appeal
68	134 – Approval of appeal
68	<b>Subsection 2.</b> Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting
68	135 – [only]
68	<b>Subsection 3.</b> Extending sanctions to have worldwide effect
68	136 – Request

<b>Page</b>	<b>Article</b>
69	137 – Conditions
70	138 – Procedure
70	139 – Decision
70	140 – Effect
71	141 – Appeal
71	<b>Subsection 4.</b> Review
71	142 – [only]

#### **FINAL TITLE**

72	143 – Official languages
72	144 – Scope of the code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence
72	145 – Specific disciplinary rules
73	146 – Associations’ disciplinary codes
74	147 – Adoption and enforcement

## **FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC)**

---

30 May 2011

With specific reference to art. 59 par. 4 of the FIFA Statutes, the Executive Committee of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) enforces the following code.

### **1 Object**

---

This code describes infringements of the rules in FIFA regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organisation and function of the bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these bodies.

### **2 Scope of application: substantive law**

---

This code applies to every match and competition organised by FIFA. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of FIFA are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping. It also applies to any breach of FIFA regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

## 3

### Scope of application: natural and legal persons

---

The following are subject to this code:

- a) associations;
- b) members of associations, in particular the clubs;
- c) officials;
- d) players;
- e) match officials;
- f) licensed match and players' agents;
- g) anyone with an authorisation from FIFA, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by FIFA;
- h) spectators.

## 4

### Scope of application: time

---

This code applies to facts that have arisen after it has come into force. It also applies to previous facts if it is equally favourable or more favourable for the perpetrator of the facts and if the judicial bodies of FIFA are deciding on these facts after the code has come into force. By contrast, rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the coming into force of this code

## 5

### Definitions

---

1. **Post-match:** the time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the stadium.
2. **Pre-match:** the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.

- 3. International match:** a match between two teams belonging to different associations (two clubs, one club and one representative team or two representative teams).
- 4. Friendly match:** a match organised by a football organisation, club or other person between teams chosen for the occasion and possibly belonging to different spheres of operation; the score has an effect only on the match or tournament in question and, in the case of representative teams, on the FIFA rankings.
- 5. Official match:** a match organised under the auspices of a football organisation for all of the teams or clubs in its sphere of operation; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
- 6. Officials:** 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; in particular, managers, coaches and support staff are officials.
- 7. Match official:** the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by FIFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
- 8. FIFA regulations:** the statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.

## 6

### Gender and number

---

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## Section 1. Conditions for sanctions

### 7 Culpability

---

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently.
2. Exceptionally, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral territory, or a certain stadium may be banned purely for safety reasons, without an infringement having been committed.

### 8 Acts amounting to attempt

---

1. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (cf. art. 15 par. 2).

### 9 Involvement

---

1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable.
2. The body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (art. 15 par. 2).

## Section 2. Disciplinary measures

# 10

## Sanctions common to natural and legal persons

---

Both natural and legal persons are punishable by the following sanctions:

- a) warning;
- b) reprimand;
- c) fine;
- d) return of awards.

# 11

## Sanctions applicable to natural persons

---

The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:

- a) caution;
- b) expulsion;
- c) match suspension;
- d) ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
- e) ban from entering a stadium;
- f) ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

# 12

## Sanctions applicable to legal persons

---

The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:

- a) transfer ban;
- b) playing a match without spectators;
- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of a match;
- f) expulsion;



- g) forfeit;
- h) deduction of points;
- i) relegation to a lower division.

## 13 Warning

---

A warning is a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary rule allied with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.

## 14 Reprimand

---

A reprimand is an official written pronouncement of disapproval sent to the perpetrator of an infringement.

## 15 Fine

---

1. A fine is issued in Swiss francs (CHF) or US dollars (USD). It shall be paid in the same currency.
2. The fine shall not be less than CHF 300, or in the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than CHF 200, and not more than CHF 1,000,000.
3. The body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.
4. Associations are jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a club or association does not cancel out joint liability.

## 16 Return of awards

---

The person required to return an award shall return the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.).

## 17 Caution

---

1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
2. Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match (cf. art. 18 par. 4). The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.
3. If a player receives a caution in two separate matches of the same FIFA competition, he is automatically suspended from the next match in that competition. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee is final.
4. If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
5. Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

6. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.

## 18 Expulsion

---

1. An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.
2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
3. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
4. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled and/or forfeited. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

# 19

## Match suspension

---

- 1.** A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 2.** An official who is suspended in application of par. 1 is automatically banned from the dressing rooms in accordance with art. 20.
- 3.** The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four matches or twenty-four months.
- 4.** If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of art. 55), a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
- 5.** A match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a match is retroactively forfeited because a player took part in a match despite being ineligible (art. 55). This also applies to the match suspension imposed on the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.
- 6.** If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.

## 20 Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench

---

A ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' benches deprives someone of the right to enter a team's dressing rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench.

## 21 Stadium ban

---

A stadium ban prohibits someone from entering the confines of one or several stadiums.

## 22 Ban on taking part in any football-related activity

---

A person may be banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (administrative, sports or any other).

## 23 Transfer ban

---

A transfer ban prevents a club from registering any player during the period in question.

## 24 Playing a match without spectators

---

The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires an association or a club to have a certain match played without spectators.

## 25 **Playing a match on neutral ground**

---

The obligation to play a match on neutral ground requires an association or a club to have a certain match played in another country or in a different region of the same country.

## 26 **Ban on playing in a particular stadium**

---

A ban on playing in a certain stadium deprives an association or a club of the right to have its team play in a certain stadium.

## 27 **Annulment of the result of a match**

---

The result of a match is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

## 28 **Expulsion from a competition**

---

Expulsion is the deprivation of the right of an association or a club to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

## 29 **Relegation to a lower division**

---

A club may be relegated to a lower division.

## 30 Deduction of points

---

A club may have points deducted from those already attained in the current or a future championship.

## 31 Forfeit

---

1. A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0.
2. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three, the result on the pitch is upheld.

## 31bis Replay of a match

---

A match may be replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable.

### Section 3. Common rules

## 32 Combined sanctions

---

Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in Chapter I (General Part) and Chapter II (Special Part) of this code may be combined.

## 33 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions

---

1. The body that pronounces a match suspension (cf. art. 19), a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench (cf. art. 20), a ban on taking part in any football-related activity (cf. art. 22), the obligation to play a match without spectators (cf. art. 24), the obligation to play a match on neutral ground (cf. art. 25) or a ban on playing in a certain stadium (cf. art. 26) may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.
2. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six matches or six months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
3. The body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of anything from six months to two years.
5. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
6. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this article is not applicable.



## 34 Time sanctions: calculation of time limit

---

The duration of a time sanction can be interrupted by rest periods during or between seasons.

## 35 Centralisation of sanctions

---

1. Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in the central computer system of FIFA. The Disciplinary Committee secretary confirms them in writing to the association or club concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned.
2. This communication serves only as confirmation: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the association, club or head of delegation concerned later.
3. To ensure that the relevant records are complete, the confederations shall inform FIFA of all sanctions that have been pronounced during their own competitions and are likely to be carried over to a FIFA competition (cf. art. 38 par. 2) or future competitions organised by the confederations.

**Section 4.** Carrying over and cancelling cautions and match suspensions

## 36 Carrying over cautions

---

1. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
2. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to art. 37.

## 37 Cancellation of cautions

---

1. Upon its own initiative or at the request of a confederation, the Disciplinary Committee may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion so as to restore the balance among several teams that have not played the same number of matches during the first round of a competition, or in other exceptional circumstances.
2. In any case, the committee may do this only once in any competition.
3. The Disciplinary Committee's decision is final.

## 38 Carrying over match suspensions

---

1. As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
2. Match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the

competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:

- a)** FIFA World Cup™: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match;
- b)** competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the representative team's next official match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next highest age category;
- c)** FIFA Confederations Cup: carried over to the representative team's next official match;
- d)** FIFA Club World Cup: carried over to the club's next official match;
- e)** confederation competitions for representative teams: carried over to the representative team's next official match in a competition organised by FIFA;
- f)** competitions in which teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical etc.): if the regulations of these competitions refer to the FIFA regulations for disciplinary sanctions, the suspension is carried over to the representative team's next official match;
- g)** friendly matches: carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

**3.** If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is consequently not required to participate in qualifying matches to reach the final competition of this tournament and its next official match is in that final competition, any match suspension pronounced in accordance with par. 2 of this article shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.

**4.** In no case may match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

**5.** Par. 2 likewise applies to suspensions pronounced against persons other than players.

**Section 5.** Determining the sanction

# 39

**General rule**

---

1. The body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it.
2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
4. The body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.

# 40

**Repeated infringements**

---

1. Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
2. These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated anti-doping rule violations.

## 41 Concurrent infringements

---

1. If several fines are pronounced against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the relevant body bases the fine on the most serious offence committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent of the maximum sanction specified for that offence.
2. The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more stadium bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.
3. The body that determines the fine in accordance with par. 1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine (cf. art. 15 par. 2).

### Section 6. Limitation period

## 42 Limitation period for prosecution

---

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two years. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.
2. Anti-doping rule violations may not be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed.
3. Prosecution for corruption (cf. art. 62) is not subject to a limitation period.

## 43 Commencement of the limitation period

---

The limitation period runs as follows:

- a) from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;
- b) if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;
- c) if the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.

## 44 Interruption

---

The limitation period is interrupted if the Disciplinary Committee commences proceedings before it has expired.

## 45 Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions

---

1. The limitation period for sanctions is five years.
  
2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

## Section 1. Infringements of the Laws of the Game

### 46 Minor infringements

---

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of this code):

- a)** unsporting behaviour;
- b)** dissent by word or action;
- c)** persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
- d)** delaying the restart of play;
- e)** failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
- f)** entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
- g)** deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

### 47 Serious infringements

---

A player is sent off if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of this code):

- h)** serious foul play;
- i)** violent conduct;
- j)** spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- k)** denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
- l)** denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- m)** using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
- n)** receiving a second caution in the same match (art. 17 par. 2).

**Section 2.** Disorderliness at matches and competitions

# 48

**Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match**

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, any recipient of a direct red card shall be suspended as follows:
  - a) one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
  - b) at least one match for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
  - c) at least one match for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official (subject to art. 53, 54 and 57-60);
  - d) at least two matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
  - e) at least six matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
2. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
3. The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with art. 77 a).

# 49

**Misconduct against match officials**

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:
  - a) at least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official (subject to art. 53, 54 and 57-60);
  - b) at least six months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;
  - c) at least 12 months for spitting at a match official.



2. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
3. The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with art. 77 a).

## 50 Brawl

---

1. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches.
2. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

## 51 Unidentified aggressors

---

If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the body will sanction the club or association to which the aggressors belong.

## 52 Team misconduct

---

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on associations and clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:

- a) a fine may be imposed where the referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion);
- b) a fine of at least CHF 10,000 may be imposed where several players or officials from the same team threaten or harass match officials or other persons. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences.

## 53 Inciting hatred and violence

---

1. A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than twelve months and with a minimum fine of CHF 5,000.
2. In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be CHF 20,000.

## 54 Provoking the general public

---

Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for two matches and sanctioned with a minimum fine of CHF 5,000.

## 55 Ineligibility

---

1. If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match (cf. art. 31) and paying a minimum fine of CHF 6,000.
2. If a player takes part in a friendly match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of CHF 4,000.

## 56 Unplayed match and abandonment

---

1. If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable, the association or the club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of CHF 10,000. The match will either be forfeited (cf. art. 31) or replayed (cf. art. 31bis).
2. In serious cases, additional sanctions pursuant to art. 12 may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

### Section 3. Offensive and discriminatory behaviour

## 57 Offensive behaviour and fair play

---

Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions in accordance with art. 10 ff.

## 58 Discrimination

---

1. **a)** Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least CHF 20,000 shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least CHF 30,000.

- b)** Where several persons (officials and/or players) from the same club or association simultaneously breach par. 1 a) or there are other aggravating circumstances, the team concerned may be deducted three points for a first offence and six points for a second offence; a further offence may result in relegation to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.
2. **a)** Where supporters of a team breach par. 1 a) at a match, a fine of at least CHF 30,000 shall be imposed on the association or club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
- b)** Serious offences may be punished with additional sanctions, in particular an order to play a match behind closed doors, the forfeit of a match, a points deduction or disqualification from the competition.
3. Spectators who breach par. 1 a) of this article shall receive a stadium ban of at least two years.

#### Section 4. Infringements of personal freedom

## 59 Threats

---

Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least CHF 3,000 and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from art. 32, in that they may not be combined with others.

# 60

## Coercion

---

Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least CHF 3,000 and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from art. 32, in that they may not be combined with others.

### Section 5. Forgery and falsification

# 61

## [only]

---

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a fine.
2. If the perpetrator is a player, a suspension of at least six matches will be pronounced.
3. If the perpetrator is an official, a players' agent or a match agent, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least twelve months will be pronounced.
4. An association may be held liable for an infringement as defined in par. 1 committed by one of its officials and/or players. In such a case, an expulsion from a competition may be pronounced in addition to a fine for the association concerned.
5. A club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in par. 1 committed by one of its officials and/or players. In such a case, an expulsion from a competition and/or a transfer ban may be pronounced in addition to a fine for the club concerned.

**Section 6.** Corruption**62** [only]

- 
- 1.** Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of FIFA, a match official, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate the regulations of FIFA will be sanctioned:
    - a)** with a fine of at least CHF 10,000,
    - b)** with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, and
    - c)** with a ban on entering any stadium.
  
  - 2.** Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
  
  - 3.** In serious cases and in the case of repetition, sanction 1b) may be pronounced for life.
  
  - 4.** In any case, the body will order the confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for football development programmes.

## Section 7. Doping

# 63

### Definition

---

Doping is prohibited. Doping and anti-doping rule violations are defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

## Section 8. Failure to respect decisions

# 64

### [only]

---

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or FIFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of FIFA or a subsequent CAS appeal decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee or an instance of FIFA, or by CAS (subsequent appeal decision):

- a)** will be fined for failing to comply with a decision;
- b)** will be granted a final deadline by the judicial bodies of FIFA in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the (non-financial) decision;
- c)** (only for clubs:) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, points will be deducted or relegation to a lower division ordered. A transfer ban may also be pronounced;
- d)** (only for associations) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, further disciplinary measures will be imposed. An expulsion from a FIFA competition may also be pronounced.

2. If a club disregards the final time limit, the relevant association shall be requested to implement the sanctions threatened.
3. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
4. A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.
5. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this article shall be lodged with CAS directly.
6. Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a club by a court of arbitration within the relevant association or National Dispute Resolution Chamber (NDRC), both duly recognised by FIFA, shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has pronounced the decision in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations.
7. Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a natural person by a court of arbitration within the relevant association or NDRC, both duly recognised by FIFA, shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has pronounced the decision or by the natural person's new association if the natural person has in the meantime registered (or otherwise signed a contract in the case of a coach) with a club affiliated to another association, in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations.



## Section 9. Responsibilities of clubs and associations

# 65

### Organisation of matches

---

Associations that organise matches shall:

- a)** assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b)** comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
- c)** ensure the safety of match officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- d)** keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- e)** ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadiums and immediate surroundings and that matches are organised properly.

# 66

### Failure to comply

---

- 1.** Any association that fails to fulfil its obligations in accordance with art. 65 shall be fined.
- 2.** In the case of a serious infringement of art. 65, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban (cf. art. 26) or ordering a team to play on neutral ground (cf. art. 25).
- 3.** The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (cf. art. 7, par. 2).

## 67 Liability for spectator conduct

---

1. The home association or home club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
2. The visiting association or visiting club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium are regarded as the visiting association's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.
3. Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
4. The liability described in par. 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.

## 68 Other obligations

---

Associations shall also:

- a) actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
- b) ensure that no-one is involved in the management of clubs or the association itself who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, corruption, forgery etc.) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

### Section 10. Unlawfully influencing match results

## 69 [only]

---

1. Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics shall be sanctioned with a match suspension or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least CHF 15,000. In serious cases, a lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be imposed.
  
2. In the case of a player or official unlawfully influencing the result of a match in accordance with par. 1, the club or association to which the player or official belongs may be fined. Serious offences may be sanctioned with expulsion from a competition, relegation to a lower division, a points deduction and the return of awards.

## **Section 1.** Jurisdiction of FIFA, associations, confederations and other organisations

# 70

## **General rule**

---

- 1.** With regard to matches and competitions not organised by FIFA (cf. art. 2), associations, confederations and sports organisations that organise matches for cultural, geographical, historical or other reasons are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have worldwide effect (cf. art.136 ff.).
- 2.** The judicial bodies of FIFA reserve the right to sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA (cf. final part of art. 2) if associations, confederations and other sports organisations fail to prosecute serious infringements or fail to prosecute in compliance with the fundamental principles of law.
- 3.** Associations, confederations and other sports organisations shall notify the judicial bodies of FIFA of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA (cf. final part of art. 2).

# 71

## **Friendly matches between two representative teams**

---

- 1.** Any disciplinary action to be taken at friendly matches between two representative teams from different associations is the responsibility of that association to which the sanctioned player belongs. However, in serious cases, the Disciplinary Committee may intervene *ex officio*.
- 2.** The associations shall inform FIFA of the sanctions pronounced.
- 3.** FIFA ensures compliance with the sanctions by means of this code.

## Section 2. Authorities

### 72 Referee

---

1. During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
2. These decisions are final.
3. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply (cf. art. 77).

### 73 Judicial bodies

---

The judicial bodies of FIFA are the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee and the Ethics Committee.

### 74 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

---

Certain decisions passed by the Disciplinary and Appeal Committees may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (cf. art. 63 of the FIFA Statutes as well as art. 64 and art. 128 of this code).

### 75 FIFA Medical Committee

---

In compliance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Medical Committee, or other bodies under its supervision, carries out the doping test, analyses of samples and examination of medical certificates.

### Section 3. Disciplinary Committee

## 76 General jurisdiction

---

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of FIFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

## 77 Specific jurisdiction

---

The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

- a)** sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
- b)** rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
- c)** extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (cf. art 18, par. 4);
- d)** pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

## 78 Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone

---

1. The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:

- a)** suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months;
- b)** pronounce a fine of up to CHF 50,000;
- c)** rule on extending a sanction (art. 136);
- d)** settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
- e)** pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 129).

2. Whenever the Disciplinary Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions mentioned under par. 1 be taken by the committee.

#### Section 4. Appeal Committee

## 79 Jurisdiction

---

The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that FIFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

## 80 Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone

---

1. The chairman of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:
  - a) decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction (art. 141);
  - b) resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
  - c) rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - d) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 129).
2. Whenever the Appeal Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions mentioned under par. 1 be taken by the committee.

**Section 5.** Common rules for the judicial bodies

# 81

**Composition**

---

1. The Executive Committee appoints the members of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee for a period of eight years. It designates the number of members deemed necessary for the committees to function properly.
2. The Executive Committee appoints the chairman of each committee from among the members for the same period of eight years.
3. Each committee convokes a plenary session to designate two deputy chairmen from among the members present by a simple majority for the same period of eight years. The candidates are not entitled to vote.
4. Ideally, at least one member of the chairmanship of each committee (chairman or deputy chairman) shall be domiciled in the country in which FIFA's headquarters are located.
5. The chairman of each committee shall have legal qualifications.

# 82

**Meetings**

---

1. The committee meetings are deemed to be valid if at least three members are present.
2. At the behest of the chairman, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting. The chairman shall, as far as possible, ensure that the confederations are equitably represented among the members called to the meeting.



3. The number of members deemed necessary for each committee are called to the meetings held during the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™ and other FIFA competitions.

## 83 Chairman

---

1. The chairman conducts the meetings and delivers the decisions which this code empowers him to take.
2. If the chairman is prevented from attending, the deputy chairman replaces him. If the deputy chairman is prevented from attending, the longest-serving member replaces him.

## 84 Secretariat

---

1. The general secretariat of FIFA provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at FIFA headquarters.
2. The general secretariat of FIFA designates the secretary.
3. The secretary takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
4. The secretary takes care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten years.

## 85 Independence

---

1. The judicial bodies of FIFA pass their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other body.
2. A member of another FIFA body may not stay in the meeting room during the judicial bodies' deliberations unless they have explicitly summoned him to attend.

## 86 Incompatibility of office

---

The members of the judicial bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee or a standing committee of FIFA.

## 87 Withdrawal

---

1. Members of the judicial bodies of FIFA must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.
2. This applies in the following cases (among others):
  - a) if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
  - b) if he is associated with any of the parties;
  - c) if he has the same nationality as the party implicated (the association, club, official, player etc.);
  - d) if he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.
3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately. The parties involved may also raise an objection to a member they believe to be biased.

4. The chairman shall decide on any such claim of bias.
5. Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairman has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

## 88 Confidentiality

---

1. The members of the judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts of the case, contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).
2. Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public.

## 89 Exemption from liability

---

Except in the case of gross culpability, neither the members of the judicial bodies of FIFA nor the secretariat may be made liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

## Section 1. General rules

### Subsection 1. Time limits

# 90

## Calculation

---

1. Time limits to which the associations shall adhere commence the day after they have received the relevant document.
2. Time limits to which other persons shall adhere commence four days after receipt of the document by the association responsible for forwarding it, except when the document is not also or solely sent to the person concerned or his legal representative. If the document was also or solely sent to the parties or their legal representatives, the time limit commences on the day after receipt of the document in question.
3. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the person required to comply with the document by a certain deadline, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.
4. In all other cases, the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations apply to calculate the time limits.

# 91

## Compliance

---

1. The time limit has been met only if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.
2. The document must be submitted to the relevant body or its address with the Swiss post office no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.

3. If the document is sent by telefax, the time limit has been met if the document reaches the body on the last day of the time limit and the original document reaches it within another five days.
4. Parties are not permitted to observe time limits by sending electronic mail.
5. In the case of appeals, the deposit demanded (cf. art. 123) is considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to FIFA's account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

## 92 Suspension

---

1. Time limits are suspended:
  - a) from 20 December to 5 January inclusive;
  - b) during the period starting two days before the FIFA Congress up to two days after.
2. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

## 93 Extension

---

1. The chairman may extend the time limits he has set, upon request. The time limits fixed in this code may not, however, be extended.
2. A time limit may not be extended more than twice and, the second time, only in exceptional circumstances.
3. If the chairman refuses to extend the time limit, the applicant will be granted two extra days. In emergencies, the chairman may announce his negative decision to the applicant orally.

## Subsection 2. Right to be heard

# 94

## Contents

---

1. The parties shall be heard before any decision is passed.
2. They may, in particular:
  - a) refer to the file;
  - b) present their argument in fact and in law;
  - c) request production of proof;
  - d) be involved in the production of proof;
  - e) obtain a reasoned decision.
3. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

# 95

## Restrictions

---

1. The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances, such as when confidential matters need to be safeguarded or the proceedings need to be conducted properly.
2. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

### Subsection 3. Proof

## 96 Various types of proof

---

1. Any type of proof may be produced.
2. Proof that violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected.
3. The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, match commissioners and referee inspectors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and audio or video recordings.

## 97 Evaluation of proof

---

1. The bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
2. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat (cf. art. 110).
3. They decide on the basis of their personal convictions.

## 98 Match officials' reports

---

1. Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
2. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.

3. If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play; the match commissioner's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

## 99 Burden of proof

---

1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on FIFA.
2. In the case of an anti-doping rule violation, it is incumbent upon the suspect to produce the proof necessary to reduce or cancel a sanction. For sanctions to be reduced, the suspect must also prove how the prohibited substance entered his body.

### Subsection 4. Representation and assistance

## 100 [only]

---

1. The parties may arrange to have legal representation.
2. If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.
3. The parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.



**Subsection 5.** Language used in proceedings

# 101

**[only]**

- 
1. The languages used in proceedings are the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German and Spanish). The body and parties may choose any of these languages.
  2. FIFA may, if necessary, use the services of an interpreter.
  3. Decisions are passed in one of the languages used by the association concerned or the association to which the person concerned belongs. Efforts will be made to use the association's first language, wherever possible.
  4. If the language used in a decision is not the mother tongue of the person concerned, the association to which the person belongs will be responsible for translating it.

**Subsection 6.** Notification of decisions

# 102

**Addressees**

- 
1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
  2. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the association concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the association (cf. art. 90).

3. If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Doping decisions passed by the Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). FIFA will announce anti-doping rule violations within 30 days.

## 103 Form

---

1. Decisions communicated by telefax shall be legally binding. Alternatively, decisions may be communicated by registered letter, which shall also be legally binding.
2. The communication of decisions by electronic mail is not permitted.

### Subsection 7. Miscellaneous

## 104 Obvious errors

---

A body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors at any time.

## 105 Costs and expenses

---

1. Costs and expenses shall be paid by the unsuccessful party.
2. If there is no unsuccessful party, they shall be borne by FIFA.
3. If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several parties.

4. The body that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated and the relevant amounts are stipulated by the chairman. These rulings are not subject to appeal.
5. The chairman may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.
6. No procedural compensation shall be awarded in proceedings of the Disciplinary and Appeal Committees.

## 106 Enforcement of decisions

---

Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated.

## 107 Baseless proceedings

---

Proceedings may be closed if:

- a) the parties reach an agreement;
- b) a party declares bankruptcy;
- c) they become baseless.

## Section 2. Disciplinary Committee

### Subsection 1. Commencement of proceedings and investigation

# 108

## Commencement of proceedings

---

1. Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio.
2. Any person or body may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of FIFA to the judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing.
3. Match officials are obliged to expose infringements which have come to their notice.

# 109

## Investigation

---

The secretariat carries out the necessary investigation ex officio under the chairman's guidance.

# 110

## Collaboration by the parties

---

1. The parties are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information from the judicial bodies.
2. Whenever deemed necessary, the secretariat verifies the parties' versions of the facts.

3. If the parties are dilatory in responding, the chairman of the judicial body may, after warning them, impose a fine of up to CHF 10,000.
4. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

### Subsection 2. Oral statements, deliberations, decision

## 111

### Oral statements, principles

---

1. As a general rule, there are no oral statements and the Disciplinary Committee decides on the basis of the file.
2. At the request of one of the parties, the body may arrange for oral statements to be heard, to which all the parties shall be summoned.
3. Oral statements are always heard behind closed doors.

## 112

### Oral statements, procedure

---

1. The chairman decides on the sequence of the oral statements.
2. Once the hearing of evidence has ended, the chairman allows the person against whom proceedings are being conducted a final opportunity to speak.
3. The oral statements terminate with the parties' closing statement.

## 113 Deliberations

---

1. The Disciplinary Committee deliberates behind closed doors.
2. If any oral statements have been heard, they will immediately be followed by deliberations.
3. Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
4. The chairman decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.
5. The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairman, who always speaks last.
6. The committee secretary has consultative powers only.

## 114 Passing the decision

---

1. Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
2. Every member present shall vote.
3. If votes are equal, the chair has the casting vote.

# 115

## Form and contents of the decision

---

1. Without prejudice to the application of art. 116 below, the decision contains:
  - a) the composition of the committee;
  - b) the names of the parties;
  - c) a summary of the facts;
  - d) the grounds of the decision;
  - e) the provisions on which the decision was based;
  - f) the terms of the decision;
  - g) notice of the channels for appeal.
  
2. The decisions are signed by the committee secretary.

# 116

## Decisions without grounds

---

1. The judicial bodies may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding.
  
2. If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.
  
3. If the parties do not request the grounds of a decision, a short explanation of the decision shall be recorded in the case files.

**Subsection 3.** Proceedings before the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee acting alone

## 117 [only]

---

The rules governing the Disciplinary Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman decides alone.

**Section 3.** Appeal Committee

## 118 Contestable decisions

---

An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a suspension for fewer than three matches or of up to two months;
- d) a fine of up to CHF 15,000 imposed on an association or a club or of up to CHF 7,500 in other cases;
- e) decisions passed in compliance with art. 64 of this code.

## 119 Eligibility to appeal

---

1. Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance and has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee.

2. Associations may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned.



## 120 Time limit for appeal

---

1. Any party intending to appeal must inform the FIFA Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three days of notification of the decision.
2. Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven days, This seven-day period begins after the first deadline of three days has expired.
3. If these requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
4. In urgent cases, the chairman may shorten the deadline for the submission of the reasons for appeal.
5. The association receiving the petition of appeal shall forward it immediately to FIFA.

## 121 Grounds for appeal

---

The appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.

## 122 Petition of appeal

---

1. The appellant shall submit his petition of appeal in writing.
2. The petition shall include the claim as well as the reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative, subject to art. 119 par. 2.

## 123 Deposit

---

1. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of CHF 3,000 to FIFA's bank account before expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.
2. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
3. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who loses the case are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed to him. If the deposit is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.
4. If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.

## 124 **Effects of appeal**

---

1. An appeal results in the case being reviewed by the Appeal Committee.
2. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

## 125 **Sequence in proceedings leading up to the decision**

---

1. The sequence in proceedings is determined as described in this code.
2. The decisions are signed by the secretary.
3. Decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the party contesting them.

## 126 **Continuation of the proceedings**

---

1. The Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.
2. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as set out in art. 128.

## 127 Proceedings before the chairman of the Appeal Committee acting alone

---

The rules governing the Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman of the committee decides alone.

### Section 4. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

## 128 [only]

---

The FIFA Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies of FIFA may be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

### Section 5. Special procedures

#### Subsection 1. Provisional measures

## 129 General rule

---

1. If an infringement appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough, the chairman of the judicial body may, in emergencies, provisionally pronounce, alter or revoke a sanction.
2. In similar circumstances, he may take other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
3. He will take action upon request or ex officio.

## 130 Procedure

---

1. The chairman shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time.
2. He is not obliged to hear the parties.

## 131 Decision

---

1. The chairman delivers his decision immediately.
2. That decision is implemented immediately.

## 132 Duration

---

1. Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than 30 days.
2. This period may be extended only once by 20 days.
3. If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

## 133 Appeal

---

1. An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged with the chairman of the Appeal Committee.
2. The time limit for lodging the appeal is two days commencing from the communication of the decision.

3. The petition of appeal shall be sent direct to FIFA by telefax within the same time limit.
4. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

## 134 Approval of appeal

---

The appeal will be admitted if the facts stated in the contested decision are inaccurate or if the law has been violated.

### Subsection 2. Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting

## 135 [only]

---

1. If the circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-taking to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or any other similar method.
2. Art. 111 par. 2 is, in this case, not applicable.
3. The secretary takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

### Subsection 3. Extending sanctions to have worldwide effect

## 136 Request

---

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to doping (cf. art. 63), unlawfully influencing match results (cf. art. 69), misconduct against match officials (cf. art. 49), forgery and falsification (cf. art. 61) or violation of the rules governing age limits (cf. art. 68 a), the associations, confederations,

and other organising sports bodies shall request FIFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect.

**2.** Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another international sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FIFA and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by FIFA to have worldwide effect.

**3.** The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the club and the association concerned.

**4.** If the judicial bodies of FIFA discover that associations, confederations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have worldwide effect, these bodies may themselves pass a decision.

## 137 Conditions

---

The request for sanctions to be extended will be approved if:

- a)** the person sanctioned has been cited properly;
- b)** he has had the opportunity to state his case (with the exception of provisional measures);
- c)** the decision has been communicated properly;
- d)** the decision complies with the regulations of FIFA;
- e)** extending the sanction does not conflict with public order and accepted standards of behaviour.

## 138 Procedure

---

1. The chairman makes his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing any of the parties, using only the file.
2. He may exceptionally decide to summon the parties concerned.

## 139 Decision

---

1. The chairman is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of art. 137 have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the decision.
2. He either grants or refuses to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

## 140 Effect

---

1. A sanction imposed by an association or confederation has the same effect in each member association of FIFA as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them.
2. If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have worldwide effect, any decision regarding extension shall always be based on the content of the association or confederation's current decision.



# 141

## Appeal

---

1. The provisions of art. 119ff. shall apply, subject to par. 2 of this article, to any appeal lodged against a decision passed in accordance with art. 139.
2. Any grounds for complaint may only refer to the terms set out in art. 136 and 137. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the initial decision.

### Subsection 4. Review

# 142

## [only]

---

1. A review may be requested after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.
2. A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.
3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the enforcement of the decision.

## 143 Official languages

---

1. The code exists in the four official languages of FIFA (English, French, German, Spanish).
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the four texts, the English version is authoritative.

## 144 Scope of the code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence

---

1. This code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.
2. If there are any omissions in this code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with the association's custom or, in the absence of custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down if they were acting as legislators.
3. During all their operations, the judicial bodies of FIFA draw on settlements already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

## 145 Specific disciplinary rules

---

Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a FIFA final competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating member associations/clubs before the first match of the final competition at the latest.

# 146

## Associations' disciplinary codes

---

- 1.** The associations are obliged to adapt their own provisions to comply with this code for the purpose of harmonising disciplinary measures.
  
- 2.** The associations shall, without exception, incorporate the following mandatory provisions of this code into their own regulations in accordance with their internal association structure: art. 33 par. 6, art. 42 par. 2, art. 58, art. 63, art. 64, art. 99 par. 2 and art. 102 par. 3. Pursuant to art. 146 par. 3, the associations do, however, have some freedom with regard to the fines stipulated in art. 58 and art. 64.
  
- 3.** The associations shall also incorporate the following provisions of this code to achieve the objective of harmonising disciplinary measures but, in doing so, they are at liberty to choose the means and wording of the provisions: art. 1-34, art. 39-57, art. 59-62, art. 65-72, art. 75-77, art. 85-90, art. 94-98, art. 99 par. 1, art. 100, art. 102 par. 1 and 2, art. 103-108, art. 110, art. 115, art. 129-132, art. 136-137, art. 142 and art. 144. The associations are obliged to ensure especially that the infringements mentioned in these provisions and the appropriate sanctions are strictly incorporated and that the general principles are adhered to.
  
- 4.** It is not mandatory for the associations to incorporate the articles not listed under par. 2 and par. 3 of this article but it is advisable insofar as they are necessary.
  
- 5.** Any association that infringes this article shall be fined. In the event of more serious infringements, further sanctions may be pronounced in accordance with this code, including expulsion from current or future competitions (cf. art. 28).

# 147

## Adoption and enforcement

---

1. The FIFA Executive Committee adopted this code on 30 May 2011.
2. This code comes into force on 1 August 2011.

Zurich, May 2011

For the FIFA Executive Committee:

President:  
Joseph S. Blatter

Secretary General:  
Jérôme Valcke







