



**AFC DISCIPLINARY CODE**  
**EDITION 2016**



A large, stylized star graphic is positioned on the left side of the cover. It is composed of a grid of small, light blue dots that form the shape of a five-pointed star. The star is set against a dark blue background.

# AFC Disciplinary Code

Edition 2016



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# DEFINITIONS

In this AFC Disciplinary Code, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

<b>AFC</b>	The Asian Football Confederation.
<b>AFCAS</b>	The AFC Administration System, the AFC's online competition management and registration system.
<b>Club</b>	A professional club or an amateur club which participates in Leagues or competitions under the auspices of a Football Association.
<b>Code</b>	This AFC Disciplinary Code.
<b>FIFA</b>	The Federation Internationale de Football Association.
<b>Football Association</b>	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the AFC.
<b>Intermediary</b>	A natural or legal person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents Players and/or Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement.
<b>International Match</b>	A Match between two (2) teams affiliated to or representing different Football Associations.
<b>Match</b>	A football, futsal, or beach soccer match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred match, extra time and penalty kicks).

<p><b>Match Officials</b></p>	<p>Individually or collectively, any individual appointed to one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Referees (separately defined below);</li> <li>(ii) Head of Delegation;</li> <li>(iii) General Coordinator;</li> <li>(iv) Match Commissioner;</li> <li>(v) Referee Assessor;</li> <li>(vi) Media Officer;</li> <li>(vii) Security Officer;</li> <li>(viii) Medical Officer;</li> <li>(ix) Technical Analyst; and,</li> <li>(x) any other official designation which the AFC deems to be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Official</b></p>	<p>All office bearers and members of AFC committees, managers, coaches, trainers, Match Officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in the AFC, Member Associations, leagues or Clubs as well as other persons obliged to comply with the AFC Statutes (except Players and Intermediaries).</p>
<p><b>Player</b></p>	<p>A professional or amateur football, futsal, or beach soccer player registered to a Member Association.</p>

<b>Referee</b>	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official, fifth official, or timekeeper.
<b>Stadium</b>	<p>Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <p>(i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises;</p> <p>(ii) parking facilities;</p> <p>(iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village);</p> <p>(iv) the media tribune;</p> <p>(v) concessions areas;</p> <p>(vi) commercial display areas;</p> <p>(vii) buildings;</p> <p>(viii) the field of play;</p> <p>(ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre;</p> <p>(x) any stands; and,</p> <p>(xi) any areas beneath the stands.</p>

For the purposes of this Code, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the AFC shall include its successors and permitted assigns.

# PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

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In accordance with Articles 2 and 32 of the AFC Statutes (2015 Edition) and Article 1 of the Regulations Governing the Application of the AFC Statutes, the AFC Executive Committee has issued the following AFC Disciplinary Code (**Code**):

## ARTICLE 1 Objectives

- I.1 The principle objective of this Code is to ensure that the objectives of the AFC as set out in Article 2 of the AFC Statutes are respected.
- I.2 This Code:
  - 1.2.1. describes infringements;
  - 1.2.2. determines the sanctions incurred for any infringement; and
  - 1.2.3. regulates the organisation, functions, and procedures of the judicial bodies responsible for making decisions regarding any infringement.

## ARTICLE 2 Scope of application: jurisdiction

- 2.1 This Code applies to:
  - 2.1.1. every Match organised by the AFC;
  - 2.1.2. every function or course organised by the AFC;
  - 2.1.3. every friendly International Match requiring authorisation from the AFC;
  - 2.1.4. if a Match Official is harmed physically or otherwise;
  - 2.1.5. if the statutory objectives of AFC are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping; and



- 2.1.6. any breach of AFC regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

## **ARTICLE 3      Scope of application: natural and legal persons**

- 3.1 The following natural and legal persons are subject to and bound by this Code:
  - 3.1.1. Member Associations;
  - 3.1.2. members of Member Associations, and their affiliates;
  - 3.1.3. Clubs;
  - 3.1.4. Officials;
  - 3.1.5. Players;
  - 3.1.6. Match Officials;
  - 3.1.7. Intermediaries;
  - 3.1.8. anyone with an authorisation from the AFC, in particular with regard to a Match, competition, function, course, or other event organised by the AFC; and
  - 3.1.9. spectators.
- 3.2 In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function during proceedings, the judicial body shall remain competent to render a decision.
- 3.3 In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function, the AFC may conduct an investigation and present the case to the AFC Disciplinary Committee. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may suspend the proceedings or make a substantive decision.

## ARTICLE 4 Scope of application: time

- 4.1 This Code applies to infringements that have occurred after it has come into force.
- 4.2 This Code applies to infringements that have occurred prior to it coming into force if this Code is equally favourable or more favourable to the perpetrator of the facts. In other cases, the version of the Code in force at the time of the infringement is applicable.
- 4.3 Rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the Code coming into force, regardless of the timing of the infringement.

# CHAPTER ONE: SANCTIONS

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## Section One: Types of Sanctions

### ARTICLE 5 Culpability

- 5.1 Unless otherwise specified, the principle of strict liability applies.
- 5.2 Therefore, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently.

### ARTICLE 6 Attempt

- 6.1 Acts amounting to attempt are punishable.
- 6.2 In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the judicial body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. Article 11).

## ARTICLE 7      Involvement

- 7.1 Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, may be sanctioned.
- 7.2 The judicial body will take into account the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. Article 11).

## ARTICLE 8      Sanctions applicable to individuals

- 8.1 The following sanctions may be imposed on individuals:
- 8.1.1. warning;
  - 8.1.2. fine;
  - 8.1.3. caution;
  - 8.1.4. expulsion;
  - 8.1.5. match suspension;
  - 8.1.6. ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;
  - 8.1.7. ban from entering a stadium;
  - 8.1.8. ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
  - 8.1.9. withdrawal of a title or award;
  - 8.1.10. confiscation; and
  - 8.1.11. social work.

## ARTICLE 9 Sanctions applicable to Member Associations and Clubs

9.1 The following sanctions may be imposed on Member Associations and Clubs:

- 9.1.1. warning;
- 9.1.2. fine;
- 9.1.3. full or partial Stadium closure;
- 9.1.4. order to play a Match on neutral territory;
- 9.1.5. ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
- 9.1.6. annulment of the result of a Match;
- 9.1.7. disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;
- 9.1.8. defeat by forfeit;
- 9.1.9. deduction of points (for a current or future competition);
- 9.1.10. relegation to a lower division;
- 9.1.11. order that a Match be replayed;
- 9.1.12. withdrawal of a title or award;
- 9.1.13. confiscation;
- 9.1.14. withholding of revenues from an AFC competition;
- 9.1.15. prohibition on registering new Players in AFC competitions;

- 9.1.16. restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AFC competitions;
- 9.1.17. withdrawal of a licence to participate in AFC competition; and
- 9.1.18. social work.

## **ARTICLE 10      Warning**

**10.1** 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.

## **ARTICLE 11      Fine**

**11.1** A fine is issued in US dollars (USD). Any fine shall be paid in USD.

**11.2** Any fine issued shall be:

- 11.2.1. not less than USD500 or in the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than USD250; and
- 11.2.2. not more than USD 1,000,000.

**11.3** The judicial body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.

**11.4** Member Associations are jointly liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual or Club.

**11.5** Clubs are jointly liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual.

**11.6** The fact that an individual subject to a fine has ceased their role at their affiliated Club or Member Association or that a Club subject to a fine has ceased to exist or be affiliated to its Member Association does not cancel out joint liability.

## ARTICLE 12      **Withdrawal of a title or award**

- 12.1 The party required to return an award shall return the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (e.g. a medal, a trophy).

## ARTICLE 13      **Caution**

- 13.1 A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction minor infringements as set out in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game (cf. Article 47).
- 13.2 Two (2) cautions received during the same Match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and automatic suspension from the next Match in the same competition (cf. Article 14.4). The two (2) cautions that caused the expulsion are rescinded.
- 13.3 If a Player receives a caution in two (2) separate Matches of the same AFC competition, he is automatically suspended from the next Match in that competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise.
  - 13.3.1. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition.
  - 13.3.2. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.
- 13.4 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 teams shall be upheld.
- 13.5 Cautions issued in a Match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.
- 13.6 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 previously received in the same Match is upheld.

## ARTICLE 14      Expulsion

- 14.1** An expulsion is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the team bench, during a Match. The individual who has been sent off may enter the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.
- 14.2** 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 (2) cautions.
- 14.3** An Official who has been sent off:
- 14.3.1. may give instructions to the person replacing him on the team bench. He shall ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play;
  - 14.3.2. shall not be permitted to enter the team dressing room at half time;
  - 14.3.3. shall not be permitted to attend any official post-Match press conference as required in the relevant competition regulations.
- 14.4** An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a Match that is later abandoned and/or forfeited. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

## ARTICLE 15      Match suspension

- 15.1** A Match suspension is a ban on taking part in a future Match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 15.2** An individual who is suspended in application of Article 15.1 is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s) and team bench.

- 15.3** An Official who is suspended in accordance with Article 15.1 shall not be permitted to:
- 15.3.1. communicate with his team using electronic or any other means (e.g. hand signals) for the duration of a Match; and
  - 15.3.2. attend any official press conference as required in the relevant competition regulations.
- 15.4** The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified in this Code, it may not exceed twenty-four (24) matches or twenty-four (24) months.
- 15.5** 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, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended individual belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match.
- 15.6** If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
- 15.7** A suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a Match is retroactively forfeited because a Player took part in a match despite being ineligible (cf. Article 57). This also applies to the suspension imposed on the Player who took part in the Match despite being ineligible.

## **ARTICLE 16      Ban from team dressing room and/or team bench**

- 16.1** A ban from the dressing room deprives an individual of the right to enter a team dressing room(s) and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 16.2** A ban from the team bench deprives an individual of the right to sit on the team bench before, during, and after a Match.



16.3 These sanctions may be combined.

## **ARTICLE 17 Stadium ban**

17.1 A Stadium ban prohibits an individual from entering a specific Stadium.

17.2 An individual may be banned from more than one Stadium concurrently.

## **ARTICLE 18 Ban on taking part in any football-related activity**

18.1 A ban from taking part in any kind of football-related activity prohibits an individual from any involvement in Asian football.

18.2 This includes without limitation:

- 18.2.1. attending any Match in any AFC competition or competition organised by a Member Association; or
- 18.2.2. participating in any Match in any AFC competition or competition organised by a Member Association; or
- 18.2.3. attending or participating in any training activities connected to any Club affiliated to a Member Association or representative team of a Member Association;
- 18.2.4. conducting any administrative duties connected to football, futsal, or beach soccer on behalf of a Club affiliated to a Member Association, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association; or
- 18.2.5. attending any function or course related to football, futsal, or beach soccer, whether hosted by the AFC, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association.

## ARTICLE 19 Full or partial Stadium closure

**19.1** A Member Association or Club may be ordered to play a future Match with a full or partial Stadium closure.

19.1.1. The judicial body shall order a partial Stadium closure in terms of percentage (e.g. 50% closure).

19.1.2. Any partial Stadium closure shall not affect the allocation of tickets for away teams or the provision of an away team supporters' area.

**19.2** In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.

19.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

19.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the misconduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

**19.3** In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in AFC or domestic competitions.

## ARTICLE 20 Playing a match on neutral ground

**20.1** A Member Association or club may be ordered to play a Match on neutral ground.

**20.2** In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association.

20.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

20.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

**20.3** In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in AFC or domestic competitions. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the Club is affiliated, but may be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the opponent Club is affiliated.

## **ARTICLE 21      Ban on playing in a particular stadium**

**21.1** A ban on playing in a particular Stadium deprives the representative team of a Member Association or a Club of the right to play in a particular Stadium.

**21.2** In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.

21.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

21.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

**21.3** In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in AFC or domestic competitions.

## **ARTICLE 22      Annulment of the result of a match**

**22.1** An order that the result of a Match be annulled means that the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

## **ARTICLE 23      Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exculsion from a future competition**

**23.1** A Member Association or Club may be disqualified from taking part in a competition in progress.

**23.2** A Member Association or Club may be excluded from a future competition.

**23.3** These sanctions may be combined.

## **ARTICLE 24      Relegation to a lower division**

**24.1** A Club may be relegated to a lower division in its domestic competition.

## **ARTICLE 25      Deduction of points**

**25.1** A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a competition in progress.

**25.2** A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a future competition.

**25.3** These sanctions may be combined.

## **ARTICLE 26      Forfeit**

**26.1** Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the Match by 3-0.

**26.2** If the goal difference at the end of the Match in question is greater than 3-0, the result on the pitch is upheld.

## **ARTICLE 27      Order that a Match be replayed**

**27.1** A Match may be ordered replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full due to the behaviour for which a representative team of a Member Association or Club is liable.

## **ARTICLE 28      Withdrawal of a title or award**

**28.1** An order to return benefits received in particular sums of money and specific objects (e.g. trophies).

## **ARTICLE 29      Confiscation**

**29.1** A confiscation order shall result in a specific object (e.g. monies, sports equipment) to be provided to the AFC.

## **ARTICLE 30      Withholding of revenues**

**30.1** An order to withhold revenues is the forfeiture of any revenues owed as a result of participation and/or success in a competition.

## **ARTICLE 31      Prohibition on registering new players in AFC competition**

**31.1** A prohibition on registering new Players in AFC competition shall result in the relevant team not being permitted to register any new, additional, or replacement Players within a current and/or future registration period identified in the relevant competition regulations.

## **ARTICLE 32      Restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AFC competitions**

**32.1** A restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participating in AFC competitions shall result in the Club being permitted to register a number of Players in an AFC competition which is less than the maximum identified in the relevant competition regulations.

## **ARTICLE 33      Withdrawal of licence to participate in AFC competition**

**33.1** An order for withdrawal of a licence to participate in AFC competition is an annulment of a decision of a club licensing authority in a Member Association to award a licence to a Club to participate in a future AFC competition.

## ARTICLE 34      Social work

34.1 An individual, Club, or Member Association may be ordered to undertake social work as directed by the judicial body.

### **Section Two:** Common rules relating to sanctions

## ARTICLE 35      Suspension of implementation of sanctions

35.1 The judicial body may suspend or partially suspend the implementation of a sanction.

35.2 For Match suspensions, suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six (6) matches or six (6) months.

35.3 By suspending or partially suspending the implementation of a sanction, the judicial body subjects the party sanctioned to a probationary period of between six (6) months and two (2) years.

35.4 If a party 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.

35.5 In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this article is not applicable.

## ARTICLE 36      Time sanctions: Calculation of the limit

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

## ARTICLE 37 Centralisation of sanctions

**37.1** Records of cautions, expulsions and Match suspensions are stored in AFCAS.

37.1.1. Following each Match, the AFC shall confirm in writing any disciplinary decisions undertaken by the Referee to the Member Association or Club concerned.

37.1.2. In the case of centralised final competitions, the AFC shall confirm in writing any disciplinary decisions undertaken by the Referee to the relevant Team Manager.

**37.2** This communication serves only as a notice of confirmation: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent Matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the Member Association, Club or relevant Team Manager later than a Match in which a suspension is to be carried out.

**Section Three:** Carrying over and cancelling cautions and Match suspensions

## ARTICLE 38 Carrying over cautions

**38.1** Cautions received during a competition are not carried over to another competition.

**38.2** Cautions are carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise. The AFC Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this before the start of a particular competition.

**38.3** Upon its own initiative or upon request, the AFC 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.

38.3.1. This may only be undertaken once in any competition.

38.3.2. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

## ARTICLE 39 Carrying over match suspensions

- 39.1** As a general rule, every Match suspension is carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition.
- 39.2** Unless otherwise decided by a judicial body, Match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on an individual 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:
- 39.2.1. AFC competitions for representative teams: to the representative team's next Match in AFC or FIFA competition in the same category of football;
  - 39.2.2. AFC competitions subject to an age limit: to the representative team's next Match in the same age group in AFC or FIFA competition in the same category of football. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to a higher age category in AFC or FIFA competition in the same category of football;
  - 39.2.3. AFC club competitions: to the Club's next official Match in a continental competition in the same category of football;
  - 39.2.4. Friendly matches: shall be carried over to the next friendly match;
  - 39.2.5. Non-official competitions for representative teams: if the regulations of such competitions refer to the Code, to the representative team's next Match in AFC or FIFA competition in the same category of football;
- 39.3** If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is not required to participate in qualifying Matches and its next official Match in AFC or FIFA competition is in that final competition, any Match suspension pronounced in accordance with Article 39.2 shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly match in the same category of football.



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

#### **Section Four:** Determining the sanction

### **ARTICLE 40**      **General rules**

**40.1** The judicial body pronouncing the sanction decides its scope and duration.

**40.2** Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of Match or competition.

**40.3** Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.

**40.4** The judicial body shall take account of all relevant mitigating and aggravating factors in a case and the degree of guilt of the party when imposing a sanction.

**40.5** The judicial body may, even where a minimum sanction is identified in the Code or relevant AFC regulations, choose to impose a sanction lower than the minimum after having considered all of the relevant circumstances in accordance with Article 40.4.

### **ARTICLE 41**      **Recidivism**

**41.1** Unless otherwise specified, the judicial body may increase a sanction as it sees fit if an infringement has been repeated. Recidivism is an aggravating circumstance.

**41.2** Recidivism occurs if an offence is repeated within:

41.2.1. one (1) year of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a one (1) Match suspension;

41.2.2. three (3) years of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a two (2) Match suspension; and

41.2.3. five (5) years of the previous offence in all other cases.

41.3 There is no time limit for recidivism if the previous offence was related to match-manipulation or corruption.

41.4 This Article is not applicable to repeated anti-doping rule violations which are governed by the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

## **ARTICLE 42      Concurrent infringements**

42.1 Where more than one infringement has been committed as a result of the same misconduct, the sanction shall be based on the most serious infringement, and increased as appropriate depending on the specific circumstances.

## **ARTICLE 43      Limitation period for prosecution**

43.1 Infringements committed during a Match cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of two (2) years.

43.2 The prosecution of anti-doping rule violations is subject to the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

43.3 Prosecution for match-manipulation (cf. Article 69) or corruption (cf. Article 63) is not subject to a limitation period.

44.4 All other infringements cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of ten (10) years.

## **ARTICLE 44      Commencement of the limitation period**

44.1 The limitation period runs as follows:

44.1.1. from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

44.1.2. if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;

44.1.3. if the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.

## ARTICLE 45 Completion of limitation period

45.1 The limitation period is completed if the AFC commences proceedings before it has expired.

## ARTICLE 46 Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions

46.1 The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions is five (5) years.

46.2 The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

# CHAPTER TWO: OFFENCES

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## Section One: Disciplinary decisions made by the referee

### ARTICLE 47 Minor infringements punishable by a caution

47.1 A Player is cautioned by the Referee during a Match if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 13 of the Code):

47.1.1. unsporting behaviour;

47.1.2. dissent by word or action;

47.1.3. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;

47.1.4. delaying the restart of play;

- 47.1.5. failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
- 47.1.6. entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
- 47.1.7. deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

## **ARTICLE 48      Serious infringements punishable by expulsion**

**48.1** A Player is sent off by the Referee if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 14 of the Code):

- 48.1.1. serious foul play;
- 48.1.2. violent conduct;
- 48.1.3. spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- 48.1.4. 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);
- 48.1.5. 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;
- 48.1.6. using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
- 48.1.7. receiving a second caution in the same Match (cf. Article 13).

**48.2** An Official is sent off by the Referee if he commits the following offence (cf. Law 5 of the Laws of the Game and Article 14 of the Code):

- 48.2.1. failing to conduct himself in a responsible manner.

## **ARTICLE 49      Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion**

**49.1** Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 14.4, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match suspension as follows:

49.1.1. one (1) Match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity;

49.1.2. at least one (1) Match for serious foul play;

49.1.3. at least one (1) Match for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (subject to Articles 51, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61);

49.1.4. at least one (1) Match for failing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner (subject to Articles 51, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61);

49.1.5. at least two (2) Matches for violent conduct (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking);

49.1.6. at least six (6) Matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.

**49.2** A fine of at least USD1,000 shall be imposed in all cases.

**49.3** If a judicial body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article 77.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and, subject to the circumstances, Article 49.1 may apply.

## **ARTICLE 50      Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion undertaken against match officials**

**50.1** Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 14.4, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match Suspension as follows:

50.1.1. at least four (4) matches for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures towards a Match Official (subject to Articles 51, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61);

50.1.2. at least six (6) months for violent conduct (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking) undertaken towards a Match Official;

50.1.3. at least twelve (12) months for spitting at a Match Official.

**50.2** A fine of at least USD5,000 shall be imposed in all cases.

**50.3** If a body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article 77.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and, subject to the circumstances, Article 50.1 may apply.

## **Section Two:** Other offences

### **ARTICLE 51** Bringing the game into disrepute

**51.1** Any party:

51.1.1. who insults someone in any way; or

51.1.2. who violates the principles of fair play; or

51.1.3. whose behaviour is unsporting; or

51.1.4. whose conduct brings the game into disrepute in any other way,

has committed an offence.

#### **Penalty:**

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) match.

- 51.2 Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.
- 51.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 52      Brawl

- 52.1 Involvement in a brawl is an offence.

52.1.1. Any individual who has tried merely to prevent a brawl, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl, shall not be deemed to be involved in a brawl.

**Penalty:**

for an individual

suspension of at least six (6) matches;

for a Member Association or Club

fine of at least USD10,000.

- 52.2 Notwithstanding Article 52.1.1, any individual who deliberately enters the field of play during a brawl regardless of culpable conduct has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

suspension of at least two (2) matches.

- 52.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 53      Damage to property

- 53.1 Causing damage to property before, during, or after a Match is an offence.

53.2 Where property is damaged inside a team dressing room, it is presumed that such damage was undertaken by an individual affiliated to the relevant team assigned to that team dressing room. The party may produce evidence to rebut the presumption, which shall be determined on the balance of probabilities.

53.3 Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.

**Penalty:**

for an individual

fine of at least USD1,000 plus cost of damage caused;

for a Member Association or Club

fine of at least USD2,000 plus cost of damage caused.

53.4 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 54 Team misconduct

54.1 Any team of which at least five (5) individuals have been sanctioned (caution or expulsion) by the Referee during a Match has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of USD600 per expulsion and USD300 per caution, unless specified differently within the Competition Regulations or Disciplinary Circular (cf. Article 142).

54.2 Any team where several individuals threaten or harass match officials or other persons during a Match has committed an offence.



**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD6,000

- 54.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

**ARTICLE 55 Inciting hatred and violence**

- 55.1 Anyone who publicly incites others to hatred or violence has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

for a Player, Match Official or individual in a team delegation  
match suspension of at least twelve (12) months; and  
fine of at least USD3,000 (at least USD15,000 in aggravated cases).

for any other individual  
ban on all football-related activity for at least twelve (12) months; and  
fine of at least USD3,000 (at least USD15,000 in aggravated cases).

for a Member Association of Club  
fine of at least USD15,000 (at least USD30,000 in aggravated cases); and  
any other sanctions as listed in the Code.

- 55.2 The offence is aggravated where the infringement is committed using the mass media, social media, or if it takes place on a Match day in or around a Stadium.
- 55.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 56 Provoking the general public

56.1 Anyone who provokes the general public during a Match has committed an offence.

### **Penalty:**

for a Player, Match Official or individual in a team delegation  
suspension of two (2) matches; and  
fine of at least USD3,000.

for any other individual  
ban on all football-related activity for at least thirty (30) days; and  
fine of at least USD3,000.

for a Member Association of Club  
fine of at least USD15,000.

56.2 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 57 Ineligibility

57.1 If a Player is fielded in a Match despite being ineligible, his team has committed an offence.

### **Penalty:**

forfeit of the Match; and  
fine of at least USD1,000.

57.2 If a team fields more than one (1) Player who is ineligible in a Match, the fine shall be multiplied by the number of ineligible Players who participated in the relevant Match.

**57.3** The offence is aggravated if the ineligible Player(s) is (are) fielded in an AFC competition subject to an age limit.

**Penalty:**

forfeit of the Match; and fine of at least USD2,500; and  
(if applicable) withdrawal of title or awards; and  
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

## **ARTICLE 58      Abandonment**

**58.1** If a team refuses to play a Match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

forfeit of the Match; and  
fine of at least USD10,000.

**58.2** In serious cases, the offence is aggravated.

**Penalty:**

forfeit of the Match; and  
fine of at least USD10,000; and  
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

## ARTICLE 59    Discrimination

59.1 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 has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

for an individual

suspension of at least five (5) matches; and  
fine of at least USD10,000.

for a Club or Member Association

an order to play two (2) future Matches without spectators; and  
fine of at least USD10,000.

59.2 The offence is aggravated where several persons from the same Club or Member Association simultaneously commit the offence.

**Penalty:**

for a Club or Member Association

an order to play two (2) future Matches without spectators; and  
fine of at least USD10,000; and  
deduction of three (3) points for the current or future competition; or  
(in the case of a Match or competition in which no points are awarded)  
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

59.3 The offence is aggravated where supporters of a team commit the offence.

**Penalty:**

for a Club or Member Association

an order to play two (2) future Matches without spectators; and

fine of at least USD15,000.

for a spectator

Stadium ban of at least two (2) years.

- 59.4 In any other type of aggravated offence, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 60 Threats

- 60.1 Anyone who intimidates a Match Official with serious threats has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD2,000; and  
suspension of at least two (2) Matches.

- 60.2 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 61 Coercion

- 61.1 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 has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD2,000; and  
suspension of at least two (2) Matches.

- 61.2 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 62    Forgery and Falsification

62.1 Anyone who, in football-related activities:

62.1.1. forges a document; or

62.1.2. falsifies an authentic document; or

62.1.3. uses a forged or falsified document,

to deceive in legal relations has committed an offence.

### **Penalty:**

#### for a Player

fine of at least USD5,000; and  
suspension of at least six (6) Matches.

#### for an Official or Intermediary;

fine of at least USD5,000; and  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for twelve (12) months.

62.2 A Member Association or Club may be held liable for an offence committed by any affiliated individual.

### **Penalty:**

fine of at least USD10,000; and  
(in appropriate circumstances) disqualification from a competition in progress  
and/or exclusion from a future competition.

62.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 63    Corruption

**63.1** Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body or judicial body of the AFC, a Match Official, a Player or an Official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite a violation of AFC regulations has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD10,000; and  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years; and  
confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement.

**63.2** Anyone who solicits or accepts an unjustified advantage from an individual seeking to incite a violation of AFC regulations, regardless of whether that advantage materialises, has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD10,000; and  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years; and  
confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement.

**63.3** For either offence, where the offence is aggravated, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

**63.4** For either offence, in the case of a repeated offence, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

## ARTICLE 64     Doping

- 64.1 The commission of any Anti-Doping Rule Violation as pronounced within the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations in force at the relevant time is an offence.

**Penalty:**

in accordance with the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

## ARTICLE 65     Betting

- 65.1 Making any bets in relation to any football match or competition is an offence.

65.1.1. The requesting or support of any such betting, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 65.1.

**Penalty:**

for a Player

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match; and/or  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1) month.

- 65.2 The provision to anyone of special knowledge or otherwise not publicly available information that is relevant to betting on any football match or competition, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, is an offence.

65.2.1. The requesting or support of any such provision, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 65.2.



**Penalty:**for a Player

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match; and/or  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1) month.

**65.3** Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

**ARTICLE 66 Failure to respect decisions**

**66.1** Anyone who fails to:

- 66.1.1. pay a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of AFC or a subsequent CAS appeal decision;
- 66.1.2. comply with a non-financial decision passed by a body, a committee or an instance of AFC or a subsequent CAS appeal decision;
- 66.1.3. respect the disciplinary decision of a Referee to expel him from a Match, has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD3,000.

- 66.2** The non-compliant party will be granted a final deadline by the judicial body in which to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision.
- 66.3** Anyone who fails to comply with a final deadline issued by a judicial body as set out in this Article has committed an aggravated offence.

**Penalty:**

for an individual

ban on football-related activity for at least six (6) months (first offence);  
ban on football-related activity for at least twelve (12) months (repeat offences).

for a Club or Member Association

deduction of points from a current or future competition (first offence);  
disqualification from a current competition or expulsion from a future competition (second offence).

- 66.4** The non-compliant party will be granted another final deadline by the body in which to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision. Failure to comply shall result in the offence pursuant to Article 66.3 being committed again.
- 66.5** Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this Article shall be directly lodged with CAS.

## **ARTICLE 67      Organisation of matches**

- 67.1** Any Member Association or Club that fails to fulfil any of its obligations relating to the organisation of Matches has committed an offence.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD5,000.

- 67.2** Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

**67.3** A Member Association or Club that hosts Matches shall:

- 67.3.1. assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the AFC bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- 67.3.2. comply with and implement existing safety rules (e.g. FIFA & AFC regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the Match and if incidents occur;
- 67.3.3. ensure the safety of Match Officials, Players and Officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- 67.3.4. keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- 67.3.5. ensure that law and order is maintained in the Stadium and immediate surroundings and that Matches are organised properly.

**ARTICLE 68**      **Liability for spectator conduct**

**68.1** Improper conduct undertaken by spectators is an offence.

- 68.1.1. Improper conduct includes without limitation violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
- 68.1.2. The home Member Association or home Club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.

68.1.3. The visiting Member 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. Supporters occupying the away sector of a Stadium are regarded as the visiting Member Association or visiting Club supporters, unless proven to the contrary.

**Penalty:**

please refer to Appendix 1.

68.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the liability described in Articles 68.1.2 and 68.1.3 includes Matches played on neutral territory.

## ARTICLE 69 Unlawfully influencing match results

69.1 Anyone who conspires to influence or manipulate the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics has committed an offence.

69.1.1. The requesting or support of any such influence or manipulation, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 69.1.

69.1.2. There is no influence or manipulation if the individual intends to obtain or secure an advantage exclusively within the context of a Match.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD10,000; and  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years.

69.2 In the case of an aggravated offence, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

- 69.3** The Club or Member Association to whom the individual is affiliated may be also held jointly and severally liable for any offence committed pursuant to Article 69.1.

**Penalty:**

fine of at least USD25,000; and/or  
disqualification from a current competition or exclusion from a future competition; and  
(where applicable) withdrawal of a title or award.

- 69.4** The provision to anyone of special knowledge or otherwise not publicly available information that may impact on the integrity of any football match or competition, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, is an offence.

69.4.1. The requesting or support of any such provision, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 69.4.

**Penalty:**

for a Player

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or  
suspension of at least one (1) Match; and/or  
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1) month.

- 69.5** Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

**69.6** Association in a professional or sports-related capacity with an individual who has violated Article 69.1 or found in a criminal, disciplinary, or professional proceeding to have engaged in conduct which would have constituted a violation of Article 69.1 is an offence.

69.6.1. The disqualifying status of such individual shall be whichever is longer of:

69.6.1.1. the sanction issued due to a violation of Article 69.1; or

69.6.1.2. the criminal, disciplinary, or professional sanction imposed; or

69.6.1.3. five (5) years from the date of the criminal, disciplinary, or professional sanction imposed.

69.6.2. The association with a front or intermediary of an individual described in Article 69.6 of this Code shall be considered to be an association with that individual for the purposes of Article 69.6.

69.6.3. Anybody charged with an offence pursuant to Article 69.6 shall bear the burden of proving that their association with any individual described in Article 69.6 is not in a professional or sports-related capacity.

**Penalty:**

for an individual

ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years.

for a Club or Member Association

fine of at least USD10,000; and  
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

**69.7**

Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 70 Duty to report any infringement

70.1 Everyone bound by this Code has a duty to report to the AFC, without undue delay and unprompted, any conduct incompatible with this Code or any other AFC regulation.

70.2 The failure to comply with the duty to report conduct incompatible with this Code or any other AFC regulation is an offence.

### **Penalty:**

#### for a Player

warning; and/or

fine of at least USD1,000; and/or

suspension of at least one (1) Match.

#### for any other individual

warning; and/or fine of at least USD1,000; and/or

ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1) month.

70.3 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

## ARTICLE 71 Other obligations

71.1 Member Associations and Clubs shall:

71.1.1. actively vet the age of Players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;

71.1.2. ensure that no-one is involved in their management who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (e.g. doping, corruption, forgery) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five (5) years; and

71.1.3. bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Players and Officials and to ensure that all Players and Officials registered and or fielded during a competition are eligible to play.

71.2 Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

## **CHAPTER THREE: ORGANISATION**

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### **Section One: Jurisdiction**

#### **ARTICLE 72     General Rule**

72.1 The scope of the jurisdiction of the AFC is set out in Article 2 of this Code.

72.2 With regard to friendly international matches requiring authorisation from the AFC but not organised by the AFC (cf. Article 2), the relevant Member Association is responsible for enforcing sanctions against infringements that are undertaken by its Clubs, Players, Officials, and spectators.

72.2.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 134).

72.2.2. The AFC may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the AFC ex officio if the relevant Member Association fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.

72.3 With regard to international competitions requiring authorisation from the AFC but not organised by the AFC (cf. Article 2), the Member Association and/or sports organisation that organise such competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction.



72.3.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 134).

72.3.2. The AFC may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the AFC ex officio if a Member Association and/or other sports organisation fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.

**72.4** With regard to domestic Matches or competitions, the Member Association and/or sports organisation that organise such Matches or competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction.

72.4.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 134).

72.4.2. The AFC may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the AFC ex officio if a Member Association and/or other sports organisation fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.

**72.5** Member Associations and other sports organisations shall notify the AFC of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the AFC that occur within their area of jurisdiction.

## **ARTICLE 73 Referee**

**73.1** During Matches, disciplinary decisions are made by the Referee.

**73.2** These decisions are final.

**73.3** In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the AFC Disciplinary Committee may be enlivened (cf. Article 77).

## **ARTICLE 74      Judicial bodies**

**74.1** The judicial bodies of the AFC (cf. Articles 18 and 56 of the AFC Statutes) are the:

74.1.1. AFC Disciplinary Committee;

74.1.2. AFC Appeal Committee; and

74.1.3. AFC Ethics Committee.

**74.2** The rules governing organisation and procedure of the AFC Ethics Committee are set out in the AFC Code of Ethics (cf. Article 18 of the AFC Statutes).

## **ARTICLE 75      Court of Arbitration for Sport**

**75.1** Certain decisions passed by the AFC Appeal Committee may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport if such appeal is in accordance with the relevant Articles of the AFC Statutes and this Code.

### **Section Two: AFC Disciplinary Committee**

## **ARTICLE 76      General jurisdiction**

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

## **ARTICLE 77      Specific jurisdiction**

**77.1** The AFC Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

77.1.1. sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;

77.1.2. rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;

- 77.1.3. extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (cf. Article 14.4);
- 77.1.4. pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

## **ARTICLE 78      Jurisdiction of the chairman or member ruling alone**

**78.1** The chairman of the AFC Disciplinary Committee or a member designated by the chairman, may make the following decisions alone:

- 78.1.1. suspend a person for up to three (3) matches or for up to two (2) months;
- 78.1.2. pronounce a fine of up to USD5,000;
- 78.1.3. rule on a request to extend a sanction (cf. Article 134);
- 78.1.4. settle disputes arising from objections to members of the AFC Disciplinary Committee (cf. Article 87);
- 78.1.5. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. Article 129).

**78.2** In the case of a member designated by the chairman, this jurisdiction can only be exercised where it is essential for the timeliness or integrity of a competition during the period of the competition.

### **Section Three: AFC Appeal Committee**

## **ARTICLE 79      Jurisdiction**

**79.1** The AFC Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any decision of the AFC Disciplinary Committee that AFC regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

## ARTICLE 80 Jurisdiction of the chairman or member ruling alone

**80.1** The chairman of the AFC Appeal Committee or a member designated by the chairman may make the following decisions alone:

- 80.1.1. decide on appeals against decisions passed by the chairman or member of the AFC Disciplinary Committee acting alone so long as such appeals are admissible (cf. Articles 78 and 120);
- 80.1.2. decide on appeals against provisional measures decisions passed by the chairman or member of the AFC Disciplinary Committee acting alone (cf. Articles 78 and 129);
- 80.1.3. decide on appeals against a decision to extend a sanction (cf. Article 139);
- 80.1.4. resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the AFC Appeal Committee (cf. Article 87); and
- 80.1.5. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. Article 129).

**80.2** In the case of a member designated by the chairman, this jurisdiction can only be exercised where it is essential for the timeliness or integrity of a competition during the period of the competition.

### Section Four: Common rules for the Judicial bodies

## ARTICLE 81 Composition

**81.1** The AFC Executive Committee appoints the members of the AFC Disciplinary Committee and the AFC Appeal Committee for a period of four (4) years. It designates the number of members deemed necessary for judicial bodies to function properly.

- 81.2** The AFC Executive Committee appoints the chairman and the deputy chairman of each committee from among the members for the same period of four (4) years.
- 81.3** The chairman and deputy chairman of each judicial body shall have legal qualifications. The members of each judicial body shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

## **ARTICLE 82 Meetings**

- 82.1** Meetings are deemed valid if at least three (3) members are present.
- 82.2** At the behest of the chairman, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.

## **ARTICLE 83 Chairman**

- 83.1** The chairman chairs each meeting and undertakes the decisions which this Code empowers him to make.
- 83.2** If the chairman is unable to attend, the deputy chairman replaces him. If the deputy chairman is unable to attend, the longest-serving member replaces him.

## **ARTICLE 84 Secretariat**

- 84.1** The AFC general secretariat provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at AFC headquarters.
- 84.2** The AFC General Secretary appoints the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries who shall be legally trained.
- 84.3** The secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
- 84.4** The secretariat takes care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten (10) years.

## **ARTICLE 85      Independence**

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

## **ARTICLE 86      Incompatibility of office**

- 86.1** The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong either to the AFC Executive Committee or any AFC standing committee.

## **ARTICLE 87      Withdrawal**

- 87.1** Members of the judicial bodies must recuse themselves from matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.
- 87.2** This applies, without limitation, in the following cases:
- 87.2.1.** if the member has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
  - 87.2.2.** if the member is associated with any of the parties;
  - 87.2.3.** if the member has the same nationality as the party implicated or any party central to the matter;
  - 87.2.4.** if the member has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.
- 87.3** Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately.
- 87.4** Parties may raise an objection to any member they believe to be biased.

**87.5** The chairman shall decide on any such objection. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

**87.6** Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairman has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

## **ARTICLE 88      Confidentiality**

**88.1** The members of the judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential.

**88.2** Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public. This includes, without limitation, publishing such decisions online. Where appropriate, such decisions shall be redacted.

## **ARTICLE 89      Exemption from liability**

**89.1** Neither the members of the judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any action or omission relating to any disciplinary procedure conducted pursuant to this Code.

# **CHAPTER FOUR: PROCEDURE**

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### **Section One: Time limit**

## **ARTICLE 90      Calculation of time limits**

**90.1** Time limits to which a party who has directly received a document shall adhere commence the day after receipt of the relevant document.

**90.2** Time limits to which other parties shall adhere commence four (4) days after receipt of the relevant document by the Member Association responsible for forwarding it.

**90.3** If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the party required to comply, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.

## **ARTICLE 91 Compliance with time limits**

**91.1** Compliance occurs if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.

**91.2** If the action required is the submission of a document, such document must be submitted to the relevant body or mailed to its address no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.

**91.3** Parties may submit documents by facsimile, electronic mail, or courier.

**91.4** In the case of appeals, the appeal fee (cf. Article 124) is considered to be paid in time if the payment is irreversibly made to the nominated AFC account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

## **ARTICLE 92 Pause of time limits**

**92.1** Time limits are paused:

92.1.1. during the period two (2) days before the AFC Congress up to two (2) days after;

92.1.2. during the period two (2) days before the first Match up to two (2) days after the final Match of the AFC Asian Cup (Finals). The only exception shall be for facts arising during the AFC Asian Cup (Finals) and facts which have occurred before but which may have repercussions on the AFC Asian Cup (Finals); and

92.1.3. the periods when AFC House is officially closed. The exact dates of the closure will be announced to the Member Associations via circular.

**92.2** Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.



## ARTICLE 93 Extension of time limits

- 93.1** Time limits that have been set by the secretariat or the chairman may be extended, upon request. The time limits fixed in this Code shall not be extended.
- 93.2** A time limit shall not be extended more than twice and, the second time, only in exceptional circumstances.
- 93.3** Any decision to extend or not extend a time limit is final and binding and not appealable.

### **Section Two:** Right to be heard

## ARTICLE 94 Right to be heard

- 94.1** A party shall be given the opportunity to be heard before any decision is passed.
- 94.2** A party may, without limitation:
- 94.2.1. refer to the file;
  - 94.2.2. present their argument in fact and in law;
  - 94.2.3. request production of proof;
  - 94.2.4. be involved in the production of proof; and
  - 94.2.5. obtain a reasoned decision.
- 94.3** Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

## ARTICLE 95     Restrictions

**95.1** The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances shall be determined by the chairman.

**95.2** Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

### **Section Three:** Evidence

## ARTICLE 96     Types of evidence

**96.1** Any type of evidence may be produced.

**96.2** The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are inadmissible:

96.2.1. evidence that violates human dignity; and

96.2.2. evidence in a language other than English that is not accompanied by a certified translation.

**96.3** The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are admissible:

96.3.1. reports from Match Officials;

96.3.2. testimonial or oral declarations from the parties and witnesses;

96.3.3. expert opinions; and

96.3.4. audio or video recordings.

## ARTICLE 97     Anonymous witnesses

**97.1** When an individual's testimony could endanger his life or put him or his family or close friends in physical danger, the chairman may order at the request of the AFC that:

97.1.1. the witness not be identified in the presence of the parties;

97.1.2. the witness not appear at the hearing;

97.1.3. all or some of the information that could be used to identify the witness be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

**97.2** In view of all the circumstances and in particular if no other evidence is available to corroborate that of the anonymous witness and if it is technically possible, the chairman may exceptionally order, on his own initiative or at the request of one of the parties, that:

97.2.1. the voice of the witness be distorted;

97.2.2. the face of the witness be masked;

97.2.3. the witness be questioned outside the hearing room;

97.2.4. the witness be questioned in writing through the chairman.

**97.3** Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of an anonymous witness or any information that could be used to identify an anonymous witness.

## **ARTICLE 98 Identification of anonymous witnesses**

**98.1** To ensure their safety, anonymous witnesses shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties.

**98.2** This witness identification shall be conducted by the chairman of the judicial body alone, or all the members of the judicial body together, and shall be recorded in minutes containing the witness's personal details.

**98.3** These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

**98.4** The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

98.4.1. confirms that the anonymous witness has been formally identified; and

98.4.2. contains no details that could be used to identify the anonymous witness.

## **ARTICLE 99      Evaluation of proof**

**99.1** The judicial bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.

**99.2** 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.

**99.3** The standard of proof shall be to the comfortable satisfaction of the members, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made.

**99.4** The relevant standards of proof in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations are set out in the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

## **ARTICLE 100    Match officials' reports**

**100.1** Facts contained in Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.

**100.2** Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of a Match Officials' report may be provided.

**100.3** 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 report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play and the Match Commissioner report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

## ARTICLE 101 Burden of proof

- 101.1 The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the AFC.
- 101.2 The burden of proof in the case of a protest rests on the protesting party.
- 101.3 Any party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.
- 101.4 The relevant evidentiary burdens in relation to an anti-doping rule violation are set out in the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations.

## ARTICLE 102 Collaboration

- 102.1 Everyone subject to this Code is obliged to collaborate to establish facts if requested by the secretariat. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information.
- 102.2 The chairman of the judicial body, upon the application of the secretariat, may impose a fine of up to USD5,000 or a ban on football-related activity of up to two (2) months, on anyone who is dilatory in responding to a request for collaboration.
  - 102.2.1. The chairman hears any such application ex parte.
- 102.3 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.

### Section Three: Oral hearings, deliberations, decisions

## ARTICLE 103 Request for oral hearing

- 103.1 As a general rule, there are no oral hearings and the AFC Disciplinary Committee decides on the basis of the file.
- 103.2 A party may request for an oral hearing. The chairman shall decide on any such request. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.

103.3 Oral hearings are always conducted behind closed doors.

## **ARTICLE 104 Procedure for oral hearing**

104.1 The chairman decides on the procedure of any oral hearing.

104.2 Once the hearing of evidence has ended, the chairman allows the person against whom proceedings are being conducted a final opportunity to speak.

104.3 The oral hearing terminates with this closing statement.

## **ARTICLE 105 Deliberations**

105.1 The AFC Disciplinary Committee deliberates behind closed doors.

105.2 If an oral hearing has occurred, it will immediately be followed by deliberations.

105.3 Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

105.4 The chairman decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.

105.5 The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairman, who always speaks last.

105.6 The Secretary or Deputy Secretary have consultative powers only.

## **ARTICLE 106 Deliberations without meeting**

106.1 If the circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-making to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or any other similar method.

**106.2** In such cases, the party shall not be permitted to request an oral hearing.

**106.3** The secretariat takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

## **ARTICLE 107     Decision**

**107.1** Subject to Articles 78 and 80, decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote.

**107.2** Every member present shall vote.

**107.3** If votes are equal, the chairman has the casting vote.

## **ARTICLE 108     Form and content of the decision**

**108.1** Without prejudice to the application of Article 109 below, the decision contains:

108.1.1. the composition of the committee;

108.1.2. the names of the parties;

108.1.3. a summary of the facts;

108.1.4. the grounds of the decision;

108.1.5. the provisions on which the decision was based;

108.1.6. the terms of the decision;

108.1.7. notice of the channels for appeal.

**108.2** The decisions are signed by the Secretary or a Deputy Secretary.

## ARTICLE 109 Decision without grounds

- 109.1** 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 (10) 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 and not appealable.
- 109.2** 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.
- 109.3** If the parties do not request the grounds of a decision, a short explanation of the decision shall be recorded in the case files.

## ARTICLE 110 Notification of decision

- 110.1** All parties are notified of the decisions.
- 110.2** Decisions and other documents intended for Players, Clubs and Officials are addressed to their affiliated Member Association on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned.
- 110.2.1.** 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 (4) days after communication of the documents to the Member Association (cf. Article 90).
- 110.3** If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the AFC Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to FIFA. Doping decisions passed by the AFC Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and FIFA. The AFC will publicly announce Anti-Doping Rule Violations within thirty (30) days.



## ARTICLE 111 Form of notification

- III.1 Decisions shall be communicated by facsimile, email, or registered letter to be legally binding.

### Section Five: Miscellaneous

## ARTICLE 112 Representation and legal representation

- II2.1 A party may be legally represented.
- II2.2 If a party is not required to appear personally, they may be represented or legally represented.
- II2.3 Parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.
- II2.4 In all cases, parties must provide written authorisation to be represented or legally represented.

## ARTICLE 113 Language

- II3.1 The language used in all proceedings shall be English.
- II3.2 The judicial bodies may use the services of an interpreter. The costs of interpretation shall be borne by the party requiring the interpreter.

## ARTICLE 114 Obvious errors

- II4.1 A judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in its decisions at any time.

## ARTICLE 115    Costs and expenses

- II5.1 Costs and expenses related to proceedings may be imposed by the judicial body on the unsuccessful party.
- II5.2 If there is no unsuccessful party, they shall be borne by the AFC.
- II5.3 If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several parties.
- II5.4 The judicial 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 decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- II5.5 The chairman may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.

## ARTICLE 116    Enforcement of decisions

- II6.1 Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated.

### **Section Six:** Procedural rules specific to the AFC Disciplinary Committee

## ARTICLE 117    Commencement

- II7.1 Disciplinary proceedings may be opened by the AFC administration:
  - 117.1.1. *ex officio*;
  - 117.1.2. on the basis of official reports;
  - 117.1.3. where a protest has been lodged in accordance with the relevant competition regulations;
  - 117.1.4. at the request of the AFC President, AFC Executive Committee, or the AFC General Secretary;

117.1.5. on the basis of documents received from a public authority; or

117.1.6. where a complaint has been filed.

117.2 Any person or body may report any conduct considered incompatible with AFC regulations. Such complaints shall be made in writing.

117.3 Match Officials are obliged to report infringements which have come to their notice.

## ARTICLE 118 Investigation

118.1 Prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings, the secretariat shall carry out the necessary preliminary investigation *ex officio* on the basis of the information received pursuant to Article 117.

118.2 If the secretariat deems that there is no *prima facie* case, it may close the preliminary investigation without opening disciplinary proceedings.

118.3 If the secretariat deems that there is a *prima facie* case, it shall open disciplinary proceedings.

118.3.1. The secretariat may offer an administrative resolution with the party prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings and subject to the relevant competition regulations.

118.3.2. If accepted by the party, such administrative resolution must be subsequently approved by the chairman and recorded in AFCAS.

118.3.3. Should the chairman not approve the administrative resolution, disciplinary proceedings shall be opened.

118.3.4. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external resources to assist in any investigation.

**118.4** The secretariat shall inform the party that disciplinary proceedings have been opened.

**118.5** Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is a case, it shall forward charges of misconduct and the full case file to the party and provide the party with an opportunity to be heard.

118.5.1. The content of the full case file may be restricted in accordance with Article 95.

**118.6** Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is no case, disciplinary proceedings shall be closed.

118.6.1. Disciplinary proceedings may be closed, if, among other reasons, the parties reach an agreement or a party declares bankruptcy.

118.6.2. If disciplinary proceedings have been closed, the secretariat may reopen the investigation if new facts or evidence are discovered within the limitation period for prosecution.

**118.7** The Secretary or Deputy Secretary shall prosecute the case on behalf of the AFC before the AFC Disciplinary Committee.

118.7.1. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external counsel to prosecute the case on behalf of the AFC.

## **ARTICLE 119      Procedural rules for the chairman or member of the AFC Disciplinary Committee acting alone**

**119.1** The procedural rules governing the AFC Disciplinary Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman or member decides alone.

**Section Seven:** Procedural rules specific to the AFC Appeal Committee

## ARTICLE 120 Appeal

**120.1** An appeal may be lodged to the AFC Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the AFC Disciplinary Committee, except:

120.1.1. where the sanction imposed is:

120.1.1.1. a warning; or

120.1.1.2. a suspension for less than three (3) matches or of up to two (2) months; or

120.1.1.3. a fine of less than USD5,000 imposed on a Member Association or a Club; or

120.1.1.4. a fine of less than USD2,500 imposed on all other legal or natural persons; or

120.1.2. those decisions:

120.1.2.1. passed in compliance with Article 66 of this Code; or

120.1.2.2. which this Code sets out are final and binding.

**120.2** No appeal is admissible if a party does not request the issuance of a motivated decision in accordance with Article 109.

## ARTICLE 121 Standing to appeal

121.1 Anyone who:

121.1.1. has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance; or

121.1.2. has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision,

may lodge an appeal to the AFC Appeal Committee.

121.2 Member Associations may appeal against decisions sanctioning any party affiliated to it. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

121.3 Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their Players or Officials. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

## ARTICLE 122 Time limit to appeal

121.1 Any party intending to appeal must inform the AFC Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three (3) days of notification of the decision.

121.2 Reasons for the appeal with evidence must be provided in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days. This seven (7) day period begins after the first deadline of three (3) days has expired.

121.3 If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

121.4 In urgent cases, the chairman may shorten the deadline for the submission of the reasons for appeal.

121.5 Any Member Association receiving a petition of appeal from any party affiliated to it shall forward it immediately to the AFC Appeal Committee.

## ARTICLE 123    Grounds for appeal

123.1 In its reasons for appeal, an appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.

## ARTICLE 124    Appeal fee

124.1 All appeals shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of USD1,000 (non-inclusive of back charges). The appeal fee shall be transmitted to the nominated AFC account before the expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.

124.2 If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

124.3 This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.

121.4 If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the appeal fee.

## ARTICLE 125    Effects of appeal

125.1 An appeal results in the case being reviewed de novo by the AFC Appeal Committee.

125.2 An appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

125.3 Decisions of the AFC Disciplinary Committee may not be amended to the detriment of the party appealing them.

**ARTICLE 126**      **Procedural rules for the chairman or member of the AFC Appeal Committee acting alone**

126.1 The procedural rules governing the AFC Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman or member decides alone.

**ARTICLE 127**      **Body of last instance**

127.1 The AFC Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.

127.2 The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport as set out in Article 128.

**Section Eight:** Court of Arbitration for Sport

**ARTICLE 128**      **Right to appeal**

128.1 The AFC Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

128.2 The relevant competition regulations may contain further stipulations.

**Section Nine:** Provisional measures

**ARTICLE 129**      **Request**

129.1 Upon request, the chairman of a judicial body may provisionally pronounce, alter, or revoke a sanction:

129.1.1. if an infringement appears to have been committed;

129.1.2. a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough; and

129.1.3. in an emergency.



**129.2** In similar circumstances, the chairman may issue other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.

## **ARTICLE 130 Procedure**

**130.1** The chairman shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time.

**130.2** The chairman is not obliged to hear the parties.

## **ARTICLE 131 Decision**

**131.1** The chairman delivers his decision immediately.

**131.2** That decision shall be implemented immediately.

## **ARTICLE 132 Duration**

**132.1** Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than sixty (60) days.

**132.2** This period may be extended only once by thirty (30) days.

**132.3** If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

## **ARTICLE 133 Appeal**

**133.1** An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged before the chairman of the AFC Appeal Committee.

**133.2** The time limit for lodging the appeal is two (2) days commencing from the notification of the decision.

**133.3** The reasons for appeal shall be sent to the AFC within the same time limit.

133.3.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

**133.4** The appeal fee of USD1,000 (non-inclusive of banking charges) shall be transmitted to the nominated AFC account within the same time limit.

133.4.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

133.4.2. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.

**133.5** The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

**Section Ten:** Extension of sanction to have effect at confederation level

## **ARTICLE 134** Request

**134.1** If an infringement is serious, a Member Association or other organising sports body shall request the AFC to extend the sanctions they have imposed to have effect at confederation level.

134.1.1. 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 the AFC and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by the AFC to have effect at confederation level.

**134.2** The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy of the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the Member Association and/or (if relevant) Club concerned.

**134.3** If the judicial bodies discover that Member Associations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have effect at confederation level, they may pass a decision without a request.

## **ARTICLE 135**      **Conditions**

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

135.1.1. the person sanctioned has been cited properly;

135.1.2. the person sanctioned has had the opportunity to state their case (with the exception of provisional measure decisions);

135.1.3. the decision has been communicated properly;

135.1.4. the decision complies with AFC regulations; and

135.1.5. the decision complies with fundamental legal principles.

## **ARTICLE 136**      **Procedure**

**136.1** The chairman makes his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing any of the parties, using only the file.

**136.2** The chairman may exceptionally decide to orally hear the parties concerned.

## **ARTICLE 137**      **Decision**

**137.1** The chairman is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of Article 135 have been fulfilled. The chairman may not review the substance of the decision.

**137.2** The chairman either grants or refuses the request to have the sanction extended.

## ARTICLE 138 Effect

- 138.1** An extended sanction has the same effect in each Member Association as if it had imposed the sanction.
- 138.2** If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have effect at confederation level, any decision regarding extension shall always be based on the content of the current decision and subject to any decision on appeal.

## ARTICLE 139 Appeal

- 139.1** An appeal against a decision extending a sanction to have effect at confederation level may be lodged before the AFC Appeal Committee.
- 139.2** The provisions of Articles 121-127 shall apply, subject to Article 139.3 below.
- 139.3** The grounds for appeal shall only refer to the conditions for extension set out in Articles 134 and 135.
- 139.4** It is inadmissible to question the substance of the extended decision.

### Section Eleven: Review of decision

## ARTICLE 140 Review

- 140.1** 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.
- 140.2** A request for review shall be made within ten (10) days of discovering the reasons for review.
- 140.3** The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one (1) year after the enforcement of the decision.

**140.4** The decision on the request for review shall be made by the chairman of the judicial body who made the legally binding decision. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: ENFORCEMENT**

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### **ARTICLE 141**     **Scope of the code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence**

**141.1** This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.

**141.2** If there are any omissions in this Code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with legal custom or, in the absence of legal custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down as if they were acting as legislators.

**141.3** The judicial bodies shall draw upon precedents already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

### **ARTICLE 142**     **Specific disciplinary rules**

**142.1** Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a final AFC competition. They may depart from the rules stipulated within this Code.

**142.2** Such rules shall be communicated to the participating teams in accordance with the relevant competition regulations.

### **ARTICLE 143**     **AFC Statutes**

**143.1** To the extent that this Code is inconsistent with the AFC Statutes, the AFC Statutes shall prevail.

## ARTICLE 144 Adoption

144.1 The AFC Executive Committee adopted this Code in New Delhi, India, on 27 November 2015.

144.2 This Code comes into force on 1 January 2016.

For the AFC Executive Committee

**Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
President

**Dato' Windsor John**  
General Secretary

## APPENDIX 1: SCALE OF FINES FOR SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT

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- I.1 This scale of fines is to be read in accordance with Article 68 of the Code.
- I.2 This scale relates to non-aggravated, first-time offences.
- I.3 An offence is aggravated, without limitation, where:
  - 1.3.1. the number of objects utilised to commit the offence is higher than the corresponding highest number in the penalty section below;
  - 1.3.2. an object utilised to commit the offence strikes a Player, Official, Match Official, or any other individual in attendance at a Match;
  - 1.3.3. the offence involves an attempt to physically harm an individual;
  - 1.3.4. as a result of the offence, an individual is physically harmed;
  - 1.3.5. as a result of the offence, damage occurs to any object related to the Match;
  - 1.3.6. the offence involves an element of racism, nationalism, or any other type of discrimination in violation of Article 3 of the AFC Statutes;
  - 1.3.7. it is not the first offence committed by the spectators affiliated to the relevant Member Association or Club.
- I.4 Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

<b>Improper Conduct</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
<b>Violence towards persons or objects</b>	Any sanctions as listed in the Code subject to the gravity of the offence.
<b>Letting off incendiary devices or fire</b>	USD5,000 (one device); USD10,000 (between two and five inclusive); USD20,000 (between six and ten inclusive).
<b>Flashing lasers</b>	USD2,000 per identified flash (maximum of five).
<b>Throwing missiles:</b>	
<b>Water bottle or aluminium can (filled)</b>	USD5,000 (between one and ten inclusive);
<b>Water bottle or aluminium can (empty)</b>	USD3,000 (between one and ten inclusive);
<b>Stones</b>	USD5,000 (between one and five inclusive);
<b>Plastic/paper cups</b>	USD2,000 (between one and ten inclusive);
<b>Any other item</b>	USD1,000 (between one and ten inclusive);
<b>Any combination of the above</b>	USD5,000 (between one and ten inclusive).
<b>Displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form.</b>	USD2,000 per banner (maximum of five).
<b>Uttering insulting words or sounds:</b>	Subject to the gravity of the offence.
<b>Pitch invasion</b>	USD3,000 (one person); USD5,000 (between two and five persons).
<b>Flying of drones</b>	USD5,000 (one drone).
<b>Any other type of misconduct</b>	Subject to the gravity of the offence.

1.5 Where an offence results in the delay of the Match, the scale fine shall be compounded with an additional USD1,000 per minute of delay.







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