

FAX +41 43/222 7878**To:** Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**Date:** 31 August 2017**To:** UEFA**Total
Pages :** 16
**(incl. this
page)****Re:** Decision 170570 APC BIH ZH

Fédération Internationale de Football AssociationFIFA, FIFA-Strasse 20, P.O. Box, CH-8044 Zürich, Switzerland Tel: +41 43/222 7777

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached the decision passed in the aforementioned case by the FIFA Appeal Committee on 18 August 2017.

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Wilma Ritter
Deputy Secretary to the Appeal Committee

Decision

of the

FIFA Appeal Committee

(composed of: Mr Thomas Bodström [SWE], chairman;
Mr Neil Eggleston [USA], deputy chairman;
Mr Randall Cunliffe [GUM], member;
Mr Victor Garza [MEX], member)

at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland

on 18 August 2017,

to discuss the case of:

Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Decision 170570 APC BIH ZH)

regarding:

the appeal lodged by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
against the decision passed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee on 20 July 2017
(Decision 170570 BIH ZH)

I. inferred from the file:

1. Below is a summary of the main relevant facts and allegations based on the documents pertaining to the file. Although the FIFA Appeal Committee has considered all the facts, legal arguments and evidence submitted by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter also referred to as *the Appellant* or *the FFBH*), it refers in its decision only to submissions and evidence it considers necessary to explain its reasoning.

A. Proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

2. On 9 June 2017, the match between the representative team of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the representative team of Greece, in the scope of the Preliminary competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ was played at the "Stadion Bilino polje", in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
3. According to the Match Commissioner's report and the additional information received on 14 June 2017 from the Match Commissioner and from the Fourth Official of the match, the following incidents occurred, some of which were committed by supporters of the representative team of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Report of the Match Commissioner:

"Minute 80: Player Nr. 9 of Greece (Vellios) has been hit by [a] metal carabiner during his warm up at the position behind assistant Nr. 1. He reported the incident to the 4th official and continued the warm up. Photos of item and the slight injury of the player follow separately.

Minute 90+3: in course of addit[i]onal time of second half (3 minutes) 10 to 15 fire lighters has been thrown towards the substitution bench of visiting team, from the central blocks of stand west (home fans). The information about the number of items thrown has been confirmed by the 4th official.

Minute 90+3: 2 water bottles (plastic, 0,33 l) were thrown towards the goalkeeper of Greece from 2 different blocks (B, D) of stand south (home fans), 1 landing outside of the field, 1 landing in the penalty box.

After final whistle: at an incident involving numerous players of both teams, while leaving the pitch towards the players tunnel (in the north/west corner), several items (approx. 3 water bottles, few sandwiches, fire lighters, 3 to 5 paper cups,) have been throwing onto the pitch from blocks C to G of north stand (Ultras and supporters of home team) and the adjacent block of stand east (home fans)."

"line up ceremony: vast majority of fans of home team where booing and [whistling] throughout the whole Greek anthem.

Stairways: vast majority of home fans (throughout all stands) were standing, but stairways in stand east and west and partly in south and east were though kept free. stairways were fully blocked only in sectors of Ultras (central blocks of stand south and north).

Banners: There has been displayed a banner (" where are the greek hooligans?") in minute 16 in sector of Ultras at north stand (home fans)."

Additional report of the Match Commissioner:

"it has been reported by the Away Match Manager of the Greece Delegation, Mrs. Amalia Thomaidou, after the match. (...). The Away Match Manager reported, that the player went to the 4th official to report the incident and to handover the carabiner (which has been confirmed by the 4th official). The player then had been examined by the team doctor before continuing the warm up. I have not observed any particular medical treatment of the player. I saw the player after the match and he showed me the small scratch at the head (please see the photo), but the player did not have any plaster or any other similar cover or protection of the scratch after the match.

The position for warm up was located behind the first assistant in front of the blocks A and B from stand west, which were solely occupied by supporters/fans of the home team."

Report of the Fourth Official:

"As I reported to uefa's delegate; at 80' the player from greece n.9 Vellios come towards me and told me that he was hit during his warm up by a metal carabiner from the home stand. After that, the same player continued his warm up without any medical treatment. I did not reported on the referee report because i didn't see what the player told me."

4. On 16 June 2017, disciplinary proceedings were opened against the FFBH in connection with the incidents which occurred in the abovementioned match, for potential violations of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC) as well as the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, as follows:

- Regarding the objects thrown:
 - Article 65 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 67 par. 1 and 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 4 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
 - Article 29 par. 1 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
 - Article 2 of Annex C of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations

- Regarding the booing of the national anthem:

- Article 65 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 67 par. 1 and 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
- Regarding the overcrowded/blocked stairways:
 - Article 65 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 67 par. 1 and 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 4 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
 - Regarding the banner:
 - Article 65 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 67 par. 1 and 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code
 - Article 29 par. 1 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
 - Article 60 par. 1 and 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
 - Article 2 of Annex C of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations
5. The FFBH was asked to provide FIFA with its statement and all the evidence that it may consider relevant to the present case by 29 June 2017, at the latest.
6. The secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee never received a position from the FFBH.
7. On 20 July 2017, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee rendered the following decision (hereinafter also referred to as *the Appealed Decision*):
1. *The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is liable for the improper conduct among spectators and for failing to comply with its obligations as organizer of the match, and is therefore in violation of articles 65 and 67 par. 1 and 3 of the FDC, articles 4 par. 2, 29 par. 1, 60 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations and article 2 of Annex C of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations.*
 2. *As a result of the above and in application of articles 12 d) and 26 FDC, the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is banned from playing in the stadium "Stadion Bilino polje", in Zenica, for the next match of the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ to be hosted by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, that is the match scheduled to be played on 7 October 2017 between the representative teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belgium.*

3. *The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also ordered to pay a fine in the amount of CHF 30,000. The fine is to be paid within 30 days of notification of this decision. Payment can be made either in Swiss francs (CHF) to the account no. 0230-325519.70J, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH85 0023 0230 3255 1970 J or in US dollars (USD) to the account no. 0230-325519.71U, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH95 0023 0230 3255 1971 U, with reference to case no. **170570 jud.***
4. *In application of art. 10 a) and art. 13 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is warned on its future conduct. The Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is ordered to undertake all appropriate measures in order to guarantee that the FIFA regulations are strictly complied with. Should such incidents occur again in the future, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose harsher sanctions on the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.*
5. *The costs of these proceedings amounting to CHF 3,000 are to be borne by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and shall be paid according to the modalities stipulated under point 3. above.*
8. On 27 July 2017, the grounds of the Appealed Decision were duly communicated via fax to the Appellant, as well as to UEFA.

B. Proceedings before the FIFA Appeal Committee

9. By means of a correspondence received on 29 July 2017, the Appellant announced its intention to appeal against the Appealed Decision.
10. On 31 July 2017, the appeal fee of CHF 3,000 was duly received by FIFA.
11. On 2 August 2017, the FFBH's reasons for the appeal were provided. The reasons for the appeal will be summarised below. It does not purport to include every contention put forth by the FFBH. However, the FIFA Appeal Committee has thoroughly considered in its discussion and deliberations any and all evidence and arguments submitted, even if no specific or detailed reference has been made to those arguments in the following outline of their positions and in their ensuing discussion on the merits:
 - i. The FFBH does not deny the events which led to the Appealed Decision but rather emphasises the context of the match. According to the FFBH, the rivalry between the fans of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ones of Greece dates back to a match played in Athens on 12 October 2012 between the representative team of Greece and the representative team of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the scope of the Preliminary competition for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™. During this match, the

representative team of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as its fans were *"unpleasantly welcomed"*. The same happened *"in a much more drastic form"* in Athens on 12 November 2016 during the match played between the representative team of Greece and the representative team of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the scope of the Preliminary competition for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™. In this context, the FFBH witnessed a very hostile atmosphere, which ultimately resulted in the boing of the Bosnia and Herzegovina's national anthem, the breaking of banners which had a sign of Bosnia and Herzegovina, verbal insults and insulting scandals, swinging the flags of Serbia. In this respect, the FFBH declares that these events unfortunately caused a reaction to the behaviour of the Bosnian fans during the match played in Zenica on 9 June 2017.

- ii. With respect to the *"listed violations at the game against Greece"*, the Appellant emphasises the following:
 - a. The FFBH is aware of certain problems and explains that it is not the first time that the stairways *"were filled with fans"*. In particular, the FFBH states that for cultural reasons, *"it is impossible to clear the [stairways] without any major excess"*. In addition, the FFBH explains that it is constantly working on bringing the *"fan culture/cheering"* in its stadiums closer to the *"culture of cheering in better organized European countries"*, further declaring that it has hired *"people from 'Securitas' who provided and secured the passages and stairs at the Western and Eastern tribunes"*.
 - b. The appearance of a banner that may have seemed provocative cannot be denied. However, the FFBH emphasises that said banner was removed after a short time, as well as the fact that it did not *"allow the entry of any other offensive content banners"*.
 - c. During the preparation phase of the match, through various medias and its official website, but also by discussing with its group of fans, the FFBH explained and asked them to refrain from whistling during the national anthem of Greece. However these efforts remained futile.
 - d. The FFBH makes every effort to promote all the values stated in Art. 2 of the FIFA Statutes, and as such, right after the match, it posted an article on its website by means of which it condemned the whistling of the Greek national anthem, as well as all other inappropriate and unacceptable behaviours which occurred during the match.
 - e. With respect to the *"presence of the sandwiches and especially the water bottles"* in the stadium's stands, the FFBH explains that

the match was played during the month of Ramadan and that on the day of the match the fasting ended a few minutes before the match started. In this context, the FFBH points out that, due to the high summer temperatures, it faced some problems by not allowing spectators to enter the stadium with beverages and/or food, and therefore decided to organise free sandwiches and water for people observing the Ramadan.

- f. According to the FFBH, the *"biggest incidents"* occurred at the end of the match and are the results of an incident which occurred on the pitch and involved players from both representative teams. In this respect, the FFBH emphasised that the players and officials involved in said incident have already been sanctioned and, as such, *"[t]he imposition of additional sanctions for the [FFBH] for incidents which the players have started, as well as a prohibition to play against Belgium, practically resulted in a double punishment"*.
 - g. Finally, the FFBH highlights that *"due to the extremely poor economic and political situation"* of the country, only one stadium, i.e. the *"Stadion Bilino polje"* in Zenica, meets the requirements and standards of FIFA and UEFA in order to organise international matches.
- iii. In view of the aforementioned elements, the Appellant requests the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to pass a *"fair"* decision having a *"preventive character in terms of financially fining the [FFBH] but without the suspension of the stadium in Zenica"*.
 - iv. Finally, the FFBH requested a hearing to be held before the FIFA Appeal Committee in order to provide further comments and explanations.
12. On 9 August 2017, the secretariat to the FIFA Appeal Committee (hereinafter also referred to as *the secretariat*) informed the Appellant that the chairman of the Appeal Committee had granted its request for a hearing, which was scheduled to be held on 18 August 2017, at 11:00 am at the Home of FIFA, Zurich, Switzerland.
13. On 10 August 2017, the Appellant informed the secretariat that it would be represented before the FIFA Appeal Committee by Mr Adnan Džemidžić, lawyer.
14. On 18 August 2017, a hearing was held by the FIFA Appeal Committee at the Home of FIFA, in the presence of Mr Adnan Džemidžić.

15. During said hearing, the Appellant was invited to provide its position and comments on the case as well as to answer questions of the members of the Committee. In summary, the following arguments were raised:

- (1) The Appellant does not have any new evidence to provide to the FIFA Appeal Committee.
- (2) The Appellant's main problem concerns the stadium ban because the stadium "Stadion Bilino polje", in Zenica is the only stadium in Bosnia and Herzegovina that complies with the requirements imposed by FIFA and UEFA. In fact, the Appellant claims that the only other stadium(s) which could eventually host international matches in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are old and too small.
- (3) The Appellant has already started to prepare one of these stadiums, but it will be difficult to duly adapt it to the aforementioned requirements by 7 October 2017.
- (4) The Appellant is working "very hard" – in collaboration with the Bosnian police – to avoid any future crowd disturbance incidence.

II. and considered

1. According to art. 55 par. 2 of the FIFA Statutes the FIFA Appeal Committee is responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared final by the relevant FIFA regulations.
2. Moreover, as per art. 79 of the FDC, the FIFA Appeal Committee (hereinafter also referred to as *the Committee*) is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's decisions that FIFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.
3. Art. 118 of the FDC establishes that an appeal may be lodged with the FIFA Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is a warning, a reprimand, a suspension for fewer than three matches or of up to two months, a fine of up to CHF 15,000 imposed on an association or a club or of up to CHF 7,500 in other cases, or a decision passed in compliance with art. 64 of the FDC.
4. Pursuant to art. 120 par. 1 of the FDC, any party intending to appeal must inform the FIFA Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three days of notification of the decision.
5. Furthermore, reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven days. This seven-day period begins after the first deadline of three days has expired, in accordance with art. 120 par. 2 of the

FDC.

6. Within the same time limit, the person wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of CHF 3,000 to FIFA's bank account, in accordance with art. 123 par. 1 of the FDC.
7. The Committee takes note that the sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in the Appealed Decision, duly communicated to the Appellant on 27 July 2017, are a fine of CHF 30,000 as well as a ban from playing in the stadium "Stadion Bilino polje" in Zenica for the next match of the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ to be hosted by the FFBH and a warning.
8. Furthermore, the Committee establishes that on 29 July 2017 and, therefore, in due time (cf. art. 120 par. 1 of the FDC), the Appellant announced its intention to appeal against the Appealed Decision. On 31 July 2017, the Appellant transferred the appeal fee of CHF 3,000 to FIFA's bank account and on 2 August 2017, it submitted its reasons for the appeal and therefore, both steps were undertaken in due time (cf. art. 120 par. 2 and art. 123 par. 1 of the FDC).
9. Consequently, the Committee deems that it is competent to decide on the present appeal and that all of the abovementioned procedural requirements have been fulfilled by the Appellant and, thus, declares the appeal admissible.

Substantive part – legal provisions

10. In view of their importance, the Committee points out that amongst its objectives FIFA has to improve the game of football constantly and promote it globally in light of its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values as stated in art. 2 lit. a) of the FIFA Statutes.
11. In this context, the Committee emphasises that, in accordance with art. 65 of the FDC, national associations that organise matches shall:
 - assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
 - comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
 - ensure the safety of match officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;

- keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadia and immediate surroundings and that matches are organised properly.

12. In addition, art. 66 par. 1 of the FDC provides that any association that fails to fulfil its obligations in accordance with art. 65 shall be fined. Furthermore, in line with art. 66 par. 2 of the FDC, in the case of a serious infringement of art. 65, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban (cf. art. 26) or ordering a team to play on neutral ground (cf. art. 25).

13. Furthermore, according to art. 67 par. 1 of the FDC, the home association is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.

14. In continuation, in line with art. 67 par. 3 of the FDC, improper conduct includes, among others, violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, or uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.

15. As to the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, art. 4 par. 2 specifies the responsibility of the association for the safety and security of the spectators, players, officials, VIPs/VVIPs and any person at a stadium hosting a FIFA event.

16. Furthermore, art. 29 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations sets the requirements for the security checks that must be carried out in the stadiums. Additionally, said article in conjunction with art. 2 of Annexe C of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, provides for the expected conduct at the stadium and details the items that are not allowed to be taken into the stadium and in particular:

- (lit a) any item that could be used as a weapon, cause damage and/or injury or be used as a projectile;
- (lit c) any item that could detract from the sporting focus;
- (lit j) any other object that could compromise public safety and security and/or harm the reputation of the event.

17. Finally, in line with art. 60 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations, *"The event organiser must guarantee in cooperation with the local security authorities that, in the stadium (...), supporters do not act in a provocative or aggressive manner. This includes, for example, unacceptable levels of verbal provocation or aggression towards players, match officials or*

opposing fans, racist behaviour and banners and flags that bear provocative or aggressive slogans. If such actions arise, the event organiser and/or security forces must intervene over the public address system and immediately remove any offensive material. Stewards must draw the attention of the police to serious acts of misbehaviour, including racist insults, so that offenders may be removed from the stadium." In particular, "all associations (...) shall observe the relevant FIFA regulations and implement all available measures to prevent such misconduct."

18. With the above in mind, the Committee wishes to also underline for the sake of completeness, that disciplinary infringements are prosecuted *ex officio* and that any person might report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of FIFA to the judicial bodies (art. 108 par. 1 and 2 of the FDC).
19. In accordance with art. 39 par. 4 of the FDC, the body pronouncing the sanction shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.
20. In this context, according to art. 96 par. 1 of the FDC, any type of proof may be produced. Particularly, par. 3 of art. 96 of the FDC provides for a non-exhausting list of admissible evidence. For the sake of good order, the Committee recalled that it has absolute discretion regarding proof and that its members decide on basis of their personal conviction (cf. art. 97 par. 1 and 3 of the FDC). In this sense, the Committee recalls that the facts contained in the match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
21. Finally, the Committee recalls art. 121 of the FDC, according to which the Appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.

Elements considered by the Committee

22. Having in mind the abovementioned legal provisions, the Committee passes on to evaluate the elements pertinent to the matter. In particular, the Committee considers the contents of the Appealed Decision and, furthermore, takes into consideration the Match Officials' reports, the pictures and videos provided by the Match Commissioner of the match in question as well as the Appellant's allegations.
23. The Committee has noted that – through the reasons for the appeal, but also during the hearing held on 18 August 2017 – the Appellant did not contest incidents subject of the proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee, but rather admitted their occurrence and tried to explain the reasons leading to said incidents. In that sense, the Committee underlines that there is no objection with regard to an inaccurate representation of the facts leading to the Appealed Decision.

24. In continuation, the Committee equally pointed out that at no point – neither in its reasons for the appeal nor during the hearing – did the Appellant claim that the relevant set of Regulations had been erroneously or incorrectly applied by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in the Appealed Decision.
25. With the abovementioned elements in mind, and with respect to the various incidents which occurred during the match played on 9 June 2017 (i.e. the overcrowded/blocked stairways, the display of the banner, the booing of the national anthem of Greece and the throwing of objects) and the relevant violations incurred as a result of said facts – which the Appellant has never contested –, the Committee sees no reason to depart from the first instance considerations and, consequently, agrees in full with the conclusions contained in the Appealed Decision.
26. In view of the above considerations, the Committee agrees with the analysis and interpretation of the facts and the subsequent application of the law as carried out by the Disciplinary Committee.
27. Moreover, the Committee concurs in full with the content of the Appealed Decision in the sense that, indeed, the provisions mentioned above (cf. pars. 10 ff.) were infringed by the Appellant as a consequence of the already established facts.
28. Consequently, the Committee concludes that the Appellant did infringe several provisions of different applicable regulations (which once again was not contested during the appeal proceedings), namely:
- article 65 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code;
 - article 67 pars. 1 and 3 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code;
 - article 4 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations;
 - article 29 par. 1 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations;
 - article 60 par. 2 of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations ;
 - article 2 of Annexe C of the FIFA Stadium Safety and Security Regulations.

The sanctions imposed on the Appellant by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

29. As mentioned above, in accordance with art. 39 par. 4 of the FDC, the body pronouncing the sanction shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.
30. The Committee takes note of the considerations made by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in this regard and, in particular refers to par. 40 of the Appealed Decision by means of which the FIFA Disciplinary Committee emphasised "*the particular gravity of the incidents involving the spectators, the high number of*

the incidents at stake, the enormous negative impact on the security and safety of the players, officials, match officials and other spectators, the impact on the match itself, the damages on the reputation of football as a whole, the messages sent in contradiction with all FIFA statutory objectives as well as the fact that the FFBH has been sanctioned for various incidents in the past". In this regard, the Committee agrees and adheres to such conclusion and wishes to highlight the numerous occasions in which the FFBH has been sanctioned in the past as the result of the conduct of its spectators.

31. In view of all the aforementioned considerations, the Committee deems that the FFBH's violations warrant the imposition of a sanction.
32. In this context, the Committee acknowledges that the Appellant argued that the "Stadion Bilino polje" in Zenica is the only stadium in Bosnia and Herzegovina that complies with the requirements imposed by FIFA and UEFA with respect to the organisation of international matches, and that it therefore requested the Committee to pass a "fair" decision having a "preventive character in terms of financially fining the [FFBH] but without the suspension of the stadium in Zenica".
33. In light of the above, the Committee however recalls that the Appellant did not claim that the law had been wrongly applied by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, nor did it raise any argument which might justify to reach a conclusion different to the one of the Appealed Decision.
34. As a result, and in particular taking into consideration the fact that the Appellant had already been financially fined several times for the improper conduct of its supporters – on six different occasions in the frame of the last preliminary competition of the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil™ and on three different occasions in the frame of the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ –, the Committee concurs with the Disciplinary Committee that only a fine would not be an appropriate sanction and agrees that a ban for one match from playing in the stadium in which the aforementioned incidents occurred – coupled with a fine – would be the most appropriate sanctions to impose on the FFBH.
35. The fact that the FFBH will have to adapt another stadium to the required standards for a match of the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ certainly does not constitute a valid argument in the eyes of the Committee to depart from the initial sanction.
36. In what concerns the fine, pursuant to the provisions of art. 10 of the FDC in conjunction with art. 15 of the FDC, the Committee notes that the fine cannot be less than CHF 300 and cannot exceed CHF 1,000,000 (cf. art. 15 par. 2 of the FDC). In addition, decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the party contesting them (cf. art. 125 par. 3 of the FDC).

37. At this point, the Committee considers a fine against the FFBH in the amount of CHF 30,000 as appropriate, arising from the different violations that occurred during such match.
38. Consequently, the Committee concludes that a ban from playing the next match of the preliminary competition of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ in the stadium in which the aforementioned incidents occurred coupled with a fine amounting to CHF 30,000 was appropriate to the circumstances of the case and the disciplinary record of the FFBH.
39. Finally, the Committee decides that the costs and expenses of these proceedings in the amount of CHF 3,000 are to be borne by the Appellant, being set off against the appeal fee of CHF 3,000 already paid by the latter on 31 July 2017.

III. therefore decided

1. The appeal lodged by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is rejected and the decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee rendered on 20 July 2017 is confirmed in its entirety.
2. The costs and expenses of these proceedings in the amount of CHF 3,000 are to be borne by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This amount is set off against the appeal fee of CHF 3,000 already paid by the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sent to: - Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- UEFA

Note relating to the legal action:

According to art. 58 par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes, this decision may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The statement of appeal must be sent to the CAS directly within 21 days of receipt of notification of this decision. Within another 10 days following the expiry of the time limit for filing the statement of appeal, the appellant shall file a brief stating the facts and legal arguments giving rise to the appeal with the CAS.

The full address and contact numbers of the CAS are the following:

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FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Wilma Ritter
Deputy Secretary to the Appeal Committee