

# FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC)

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**FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC)**

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of 29 June 2005

With specific reference to art. 54, par. 4 of the FIFA Statutes, the Executive Committee of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rules:

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**Article 1**    **Object**

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

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**Article 2**    **Scope of application: material law**

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

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

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The following are subject to this code:

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

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### Article 4 **Scope of application: time**

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1. The first title of this code (material law) applies to facts that have arisen after it has come into force. It also applies to previous facts if it is equally favourable or more favourable for the perpetrator of the facts and if the judicial bodies of FIFA are deciding on these facts after the code has come into force.
2. The second title (organisation and procedure) applies as soon as the code has come into force.

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## Article 5 Definitions

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1. **Post-match:** the time between the final whistle from the referee and the team's departure from the confines of the stadium.
2. **Pre-match:** the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kick-off from the referee.
3. **International match:** a match between two teams belonging to different associations (two clubs, one club and one representative team or two representative teams).
4. **Friendly match:** a match organised by a football organisation, club or other person between teams chosen for the occasion and possibly belonging to different spheres of operation; the score has an effect only on the match or competition in question and, in the case of representative teams, on the FIFA rankings.
5. **Official match:** a match organised under the auspices of a football organisation for all of the teams or clubs in its sphere of operation; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
6. **Official:** anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at an association or club, regardless of his title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity; in particular, managers, coaches and medical staff are officials.
7. **Match official:** the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by FIFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
8. **FIFA regulations:** the Statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.

## PRELIMINARY TITLE

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### Article 6 **Gender**

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The provisions of this code apply to the male and female gender, regardless of the choice of words and expressions.

### Article 7 **Associations' disciplinary regulations**

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Associations are requested to adapt their provisions to this code so as to harmonise disciplinary regulations.

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Section 1. **Conditions for sanctions**

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Article **8** **Culpability**

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

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Article **9** **Acts amounting to attempt**

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1. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the body shall reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (cf. art. 16, par.2).

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Article **10** **Involvement**

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1. Anyone who knowingly takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable.
2. The body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved by reducing the sanction as it sees fit. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (cf. art. 16, par.2).

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Section 2. **Various sanctions**

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Article **11** **Sanctions common to natural and legal persons**

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

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

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Article **12** **Sanctions applicable to natural persons**

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The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:

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

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Article **13** **Sanctions applicable to legal persons**

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The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:

- a) transfer ban;
- b) playing a match without spectators;
- c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) annulment of the result of a match;
- f) exclusion;
- g) defeat by forfeit
- h) deduction of points;
- i) demotion to the next lower division;

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**Article 14** **Warning**

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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.

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**Article 15** **Reprimand**

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

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**Article 16** **Fine**

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

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**Article 17** **Return of awards**

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1. The person required to return an award shall return all of the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.).
2. The money received shall always be returned in full. The body pronouncing the sanction decides any interest that may be due as it sees fit.

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Article **18** Caution

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1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
2. Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card, cf. art. 52 o) ) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match (cf. art. 19 par. 4). The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.
3. The following incur automatic suspension from the subsequent match:
  - a) three cautions received in three different matches of the same competition in U-17 competitions organised by FIFA;
  - b) two cautions received in two different matches of the same competition in other championships subject to age limits organised by FIFA;
  - c) two cautions received in two different matches of the same competition in every other championship;
  - d) with regard to friendly competitions, cf. c).
4. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of this suspension (cf. par. 3).
5. If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
6. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.

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**Article 19** **Expulsion**

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1. An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.
2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards (cf. art. 18, par. 2).
3. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
4. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or cancelled. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

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Article **20** **Match suspension**

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1. A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
2. The player who has been suspended shall not be included on the players' list for the match.
3. The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four matches or two years.
4. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or finally forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
5. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.

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Article **21** **Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' benches**

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

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Article **22** **Stadium ban**

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

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**Article 23** **Ban on performing any football related activity**

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

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**Article 23<sup>ff</sup>** **Transfer ban**

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

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**Article 24** **Playing a match without spectators**

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The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires associations and clubs to have a certain match played without spectators.

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**Article 25** **Playing on neutral ground**

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The obligation to play a match on neutral ground requires associations and clubs to have a certain match played in another country or in a different region of the same country.

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

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A ban on playing in a certain stadium deprives associations and clubs of the right to have their teams play in a certain stadium.

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

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

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Article **28** **Exclusion**

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Exclusion is the deprivation of the right of associations and clubs from taking part in a current and/or future competition.

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Article **29** **Demotion to the next lower division**

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A club may be demoted to the next lower division.

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Article **30** **Deduction of points**

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A club may have points deducted from those already attained in any current championship.

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Article **31** **Forfeit**

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1. Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the match by 0-3.
2. If the goal difference is greater, the higher score is upheld.

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Section 3. **Common rules**

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Article **32** **Combined sanctions**

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1. Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in the general and special parts of this code may be combined.
2. In less serious cases, the body may only pronounce a reduced sanction or a caution or a reprimand.

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**Article 33** **Partial suspension of implementation of the sanction**

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1. The body that pronounces a match suspension (cf. art. 20), a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench (cf. art. 21) or a ban on playing in a certain stadium (cf. art. 26) shall examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.
2. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six matches or six months and if the circumstances generally allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
3. The body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of from six months to two years.
5. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
6. These stipulations are subject to special provisions.

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**Article 34** **Time sanctions: calculation of time limit**

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

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**Article 35** **Limitation period of sanctions**

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

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**Article 36** Centralisation of sanctions

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1. Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in the central computer system of FIFA. The Disciplinary Committee secretariat confirms them in writing to the association or club concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned.
2. This confirmation serves only as notification: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the association, club or head of delegation concerned later.
3. To ensure that the central registration system functions properly, the confederations shall inform FIFA of sanctions that have been pronounced during their own competitions and are likely to be carried over to a FIFA competition (cf. art. 39 par. 2) and future competitions.

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

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**Article 37** Carrying over cautions

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1. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
2. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to art. 38.

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Article **38** **Cancellation of cautions**

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

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Article **39** Carrying over match suspensions

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1. As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
2. Match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:
  - a) FIFA World Cup: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match;
  - b) competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match, regardless of the type of competition (whether subject to an age limit or not);
  - c) FIFA Confederations' Cup: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match;
  - d) FIFA Club World Championship: carried over to the confederation's club competition;
  - e) confederation club competitions leading to qualification for the FIFA Club World Championship: carried over to this championship;
  - f) confederation competitions for representative teams: carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match in a competition organised by FIFA;
  - g) competitions in which the teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical etc.): if the regulations of these competitions refer to the FIFA regulations for disciplinary sanctions, the suspensions are carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match;
  - h) friendly matches: carried over to the representative team's subsequent friendly match.
3. Match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition are never carried over to another competition.
4. Par. 2 similarly applies to suspensions pronounced against persons other than players.

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Section 5 **Determining the sanction**

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Article **40** **General rule**

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

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Article **41** Repeated infringements

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1. Unless otherwise specified, the body shall increase the sanction to be pronounced by half (+ 50%; if this is not possible, another sanction shall be imposed in the form of a fine) if an infringement has been repeated. It is not bound by any upper limit determined in this code.
2. The following are considered as repeated infringements:
  - a) one red card [punishable infringement] preceded by two yellow cards issued during the World Cup final competition in question;
  - b) two yellow cards issued in two different matches [punishable infringement] preceded by two other yellow cards issued in two other matches during the competition in question;
  - c) one red card [punishable infringement] preceded by one or several other red cards issued during the previous four matches, regardless of the competition in which the matches are being played;
  - d) as a general rule, if a judicial body of FIFA has imposed a financial sanction of CHF 20,000 or more, or a time sanction of four matches or four months or more, on the person being sanctioned in the two years prior to committing the infringement in question.
3. The sanction may be increased by half only once whenever this provision applies.
4. These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated doping infringements.

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Article **42** Infringements against match officials

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1. If the victim of an infringement is a match official, the sanction to be pronounced will be increased by half (+ 50%).
2. This rule does not apply to infringements which, by definition, can only be committed against match officials (cf. art. 56 and 57).

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**Article 43** **Concurrent infringements**

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1. If someone incurs several fines as the result of one or several deeds, the body imposes the fine envisaged for the most serious infringement and may increase it according to circumstances but not by more than half of the maximum envisaged for this infringement.
2. The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more stadium bans, etc.) as the result of one or several deeds.
3. The body that applies par. 1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine (cf. art. 16 par. 2).

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**Section 6.** **Limitation period on disciplinary sanctions**

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**Article 44** **Duration**

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1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two years. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.
2. Infringements provided for in section 7 of the special part (doping) may not be prosecuted after a lapse of twenty years.
3. Prosecution for corruption (cf. art. 59) is not subject to a limitation period.

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Article **45** **Commencement of the limitation period**

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The limitation period runs as follows:

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

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Article **46** **Interruption**

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The limitation period no longer applies if the Disciplinary Committee reaches a decision before it has expired.

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Section 1. **Physical assault**

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Article **47** **Physical injury**

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1. A player who deliberately assaults someone physically or damages his health will be suspended for at least four matches. An official who commits such an infringement will be suspended for at least eight matches.
2. The suspension shall be imposed at every level (local, national and international).
3. In any case, the body will impose a minimum fine of CHF 5,000. In the case of tournaments with an age limit, the fine can be reduced appropriately.

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Article **48** **Violence**

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1. A player who deliberately assaults someone, but without harming him physically or damaging his health, will be suspended for at least two matches. An official who commits such an infringement will be suspended for at least four matches.
2. If a person assaults someone by spitting at him, he will be suspended for at least six matches.
3. In any case, the body will also impose a fine amounting to at least CHF 5,000. In the case of tournaments with an age limit, the fine can be reduced appropriately.

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Article **49** **Brawl**

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1. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches.
2. The scope of the suspension extends to all official international matches.
3. Anyone who has tried to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

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**Article 50**    **Unidentified aggressors**

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1.            If, in the case of a group of people involved in violence, it is not possible to identify the instigator(s), the body will sanction the captain and the club or association to which the aggressors belong. The person sanctioned may be reprieved by naming the guilty person(s) to the disciplinary body.
  
2.            If, in the case of group violence, it is impossible to establish each participant's exact share of guilt, the body will consider every participant identified as a perpetrator of the infringements committed.

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**Section 2.**        **Infringements of the Laws of the Game**

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**Article 51**        **Minor infringements**

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A player is cautioned if he commits one of the following infringements (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 above):

- a) unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- b) showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- c) violation of the Laws of the Game;
- d) delaying the restart of play;
- e) failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- f) entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- g) leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- h) play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.).

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**Article 52** **Serious infringements**

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A player is sent off if he commits one of the following infringements (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 19 above):

- i) serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- j) brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- k) spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- l) denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- m) denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- n) making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- o) second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

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**Article 53** **Team's misconduct**

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1. The following constitute misconduct by a team and are sanctioned by a maximum fine of CHF 15,000:
  - a) when four players are cautioned during one match;
  - b) when three players are sent off during one match;
  - c) when several players together make threats (cf. art. 56) or show force (cf. art. 57) against a match official.
2. When determining the amount of the fine, the type of competition shall be taken into account.

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Section 3. **Offensive and racist behaviour**

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Article **54** **Offensive behaviour**

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1. Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, will be sanctioned with a match suspension. If the perpetrator is a player, he will be suspended from at least two matches; if he is an official, he will be suspended from at least four matches.
2. If the victim of the attack is FIFA itself or one of its bodies, the duration of the suspension will be doubled (+ 100%); the sanction applies at least to all official international matches. A minimum fine of CHF 5,000 shall be pronounced.

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Article **55** **Racism**

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1. Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches at every level. The body will also pronounce a ban on his entering the confines of any stadiums and a fine of at least CHF 10,000. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine will be at least CHF 15,000.
2. Any spectator who commits such an infringement will be subject to a stadium ban for two years.
3. If spectators display banners bearing racist slogans at a match, the body will sanction the association or the club which these spectators support with a fine of at least CHF 30,000 and force it to play its next official international match without spectators.

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Section 4. **Intimidation**

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Article **56** **Threats**

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

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Article **57** **Force**

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

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Section 5. **Forgery and falsification**

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Article **58** [only]

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1. Anyone who, in football related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.
2. If the perpetrator is an official, the body will pronounce a ban on performing any football related activity for a period of at least twelve months.
3. The body may also pronounce a fine of at least CHF 5,000.

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Section 6. **Corruption**

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Article **59** [only]

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

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Section 7. **Doping**

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Article **60** **Definition**

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1. Doping and doping offences are defined in the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition.
2. These acts constitute doping whether detected during or out of a competition.

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Article **61** **Therapeutic justification**

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1. Any player who consults a doctor and is prescribed treatment or medication for therapeutic reasons shall enquire whether the prescription contains prohibited substances or methods (cf. the list in the FIFA Doping Control Regulations).
2. If so, the player shall request alternative treatment or medication.
3. If there is no alternative treatment, the player shall obtain a medical certificate explaining the circumstances. This certificate shall be sent to the relevant FIFA body within 48 hours of the medical consultation. If a match takes place during this period, the certificate shall reach the relevant body before the match begins or be produced at the doping test. Once this time limit has passed, no medical certificate will be accepted.
4. The treatment will only be considered justifiable if endorsed by the relevant body of FIFA.
5. These provisions are subject to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition.

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## Article 62 Sanctions

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A doping offence is any violation of the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition.

1. A suspension imposed for a doping offence shall be commensurate with the degree of the offender's guilt and the objective and subjective circumstances of the case. It shall take into account generally recognised principles of law.
2. For a first offence, a suspension of no less than six months and no more than two years shall be imposed. A lifetime ban shall be imposed for a repeated offence. The same sanctions shall apply if, without compelling justification, a player refuses to provide a sample, or refuses to comply with, prevents, manipulates or attempts to manipulate the doping test.
3. In the case of certain substances that appear in the list of prohibited substances, the minimum sanction stipulated in art. 62 par. 2 may be reduced. In certain circumstances, a caution may be issued instead. A minimum two-year suspension shall be imposed for a second offence, and a lifetime ban for a third offence.
4. Persons found in possession of a prohibited substance, dealing a prohibited substance, using a prohibited method, administering or attempting to administer a prohibited substance to a player, or aiding, abetting or acting as an accomplice in any way to a doping offence shall be suspended for a minimum of four years. If any of the players concerned are under the age of 21, the offender shall receive a lifetime ban. Persons violating the applicable requirements regarding player availability for out-of-competition testing shall be suspended for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years.
5. If more than one player from the same team is sanctioned for doping offences, the team may also be sanctioned. The team may have points deducted and in a final competition the team's results may be annulled. The Association of the team concerned may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions.
6. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.

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Article **63** **Repeat testing**

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FIFA may order any player sanctioned for a doping offence to undergo further doping tests while serving a suspension.

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Article **64** **Procedure**

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The formal and technical aspects of the doping control procedure shall comply entirely with the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition.

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**Section 8. Disorderliness at matches and competitions**

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**Article 65 Inciting hatred and violence**

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

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**Article 66 Provoking the general public**

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

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**Article 67 Abandonment**

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1. If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of CHF 10,000 and will, in principle, forfeit the match (cf. art. 31).
2. In serious cases, the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.

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Section 9. **Failure to respect disciplinary decisions**

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Article **68** **Payment of sums of money**

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1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) a sum of money in full, even though instructed to do so by a body of FIFA:
  - a) will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of CHF 5,000 for failing to comply with the instructions issued by the body that imposed the payment (cf. art. 55 par. 1 c) of the FIFA Statutes);
  - b) will be given a final time limit by the judicial bodies of FIFA in which to settle the debt;
  - c) if it is a club, it will be warned and threatened with deduction of points or relegation to the next lower division if it has not paid by the final time limit. Furthermore, a transfer ban may be imposed.
2. If the club disregards the final time limit, the body will request the association concerned to implement the threat.
3. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
4. A ban on any football related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.
5. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with Art. 68 shall immediately be lodged to CAS.

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Article **69** **Ineligibility**

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

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Section 10. **Associations' responsibilities**

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Article **70** **Organisation of matches**

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Associations that organise matches shall:

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

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Article **70<sup>ff.</sup>** **Liability for spectator conduct**

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

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Article **71** **Other obligations**

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Associations shall also:

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

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**Article 72** **Failure to comply**

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1. Any association that fails to comply with the obligations contained in the provisions of this section will be sanctioned with a fine.
2. In the case of a serious infringement as set out in art. 70 lit. b) and c), the body may impose other sanctions, such as a stadium ban (cf. art. 26) or ordering a team to play on neutral ground (cf. art. 25).
3. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (cf. art. 8, par. 2).

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**Section 11.** **Manipulating match results**

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**Article 73** **[only]**

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Anyone who conspires to distort the result of a match in a manner incompatible with sporting ethics will be sanctioned with a match suspension and a minimum fine of CHF 15,000. The body will also pronounce a ban on performing any football related activity; in serious cases this sanction will apply for life.

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

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**Article 74**      **General rule**

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1. With regard to matches and competitions not organised by FIFA (cf. art. 2, second sentence), associations, confederations and sports entities that organise matches for cultural, geographical, historical or other reasons (cf. art. 39 g) are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. The scope of their decisions may be extended to have worldwide effect (cf. art. 140)
2. The judicial bodies of FIFA reserve the right to sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA (cf. the final part of art. 2), if associations, confederations and other sports organisations fail to prosecute the infringements committed or fail to prosecute in compliance with the fundamental principles of law.
3. Associations, confederations and other sports organisations shall notify the judicial bodies of FIFA of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA (cf. the final part of art. 2).

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**Article 75**      **Friendly matches between two representative teams**

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

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**Section 2. Authorities**

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**Article 76 Referee**

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1. During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
2. These decisions are final.
3. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply (cf. art. 81).

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**Article 77 Judicial bodies**

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

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**Article 78 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

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Certain decisions passed by the Appeal Committee may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (cf. art. 60 of the FIFA Statutes and art. 132 below).

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**Article 79 FIFA Sports Medical Committee**

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The FIFA Sports Medical Committee, or other bodies under its supervision, carries out the doping tests, analyses of samples and examination of medical certificates (cf. art. 61).

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#### Section 3. **Disciplinary Committee**

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#### Article **80** **General jurisdiction**

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

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#### Article **81** **Specific jurisdiction**

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The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

- a) sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
- b) rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
- c) extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (cf. art. 18, par. 4 and art. 19, par. 4);
- d) pronouncing additional sanctions to those imposed by the referee, such as a fine.

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#### Article **82** **Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone**

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1. The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
  - a) suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months;
  - b) impose a fine of up to CHF 10,000;
  - c) rule on a request to extend a sanction (cf. art. 140);
  - d) settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - e) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 133).
2. Whenever the Disciplinary Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide to take the decisions mentioned under par. 1 for the committee.

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Section 4. **Appeal Committee**

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Article **83** **Jurisdiction**

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

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Article **84** **Jurisdiction of the chairman ruling alone**

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1. The chairman of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:
  - a) decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction (cf. art. 145);
  - b) resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
  - c) rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - d) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 133).
  
2. Whenever the Appeal Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide to take the decisions mentioned under par. 1 for the committee.

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

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#### Article 85 Composition

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

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#### Article 86 Meetings

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1. The committee meetings are deemed to be valid if at least three members are present.
2. At the behest of the chairman, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting. The chairman shall, as far as possible, ensure that the confederations are equitably represented among the members called to the meeting.
3. The number of members deemed necessary for each committee are called to the meetings held during the World Cup final competition and other FIFA competitions.

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**Article 87** **Chairman**

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1. The chairman conducts the meetings and delivers the decisions which this code empowers him to take.
2. If the chairman is prevented from attending, the deputy chairman replaces him. If the deputy chairman is prevented from attending, the member holding the most senior position will replace him.

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**Article 88** **Secretariat**

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1. The general secretariat of FIFA provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at FIFA headquarters.
2. It designates the secretary.
3. The secretary takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
4. He takes care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten years.
5. He takes charge of publishing the decisions passed by the judicial bodies of FIFA in a suitable manner, such as on the internet. In exceptional circumstances, he may choose not to publish certain decisions.

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**Article 89** **Independence**

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

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#### Article 90 **Incompatibility of office**

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

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#### Article 91 **Objection**

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1. Members of the judicial bodies of FIFA shall decline to take responsibility if there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.
2. This applies in the following cases:
  - a) if the member in question is directly involved in the outcome of the matter;
  - b) if he is associated with any of the parties;
  - c) if he has the same nationality as the party implicated (association, club, official, player etc.);
  - d) if he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.
3. Members against whom an objection might be raised shall notify the chairman immediately. Each party may also raise an objection to a member.
4. In the case of a dispute, the chairman decides.
5. Proceedings that have involved someone to whom an objection has been raised will be considered null and void.

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**Article 92 Confidentiality**

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

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**Article 93 Exemption from liability**

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

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Section 1. **General rules**

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Subsection 1. Time limits

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Article **94** **Calculation**

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1. Time limits to which associations shall adhere commence the day after they have received the relevant legal document.
2. Time limits to which other persons shall adhere commence four days after receipt of the document by the association responsible for forwarding it.
3. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the person required to comply with the document by a certain deadline, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.
4. Otherwise, the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations apply to calculate the time limits.

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**Article 95 Compliance**

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1. The time limit has been met only if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.
2. The document is sent to the relevant authority or to its address at a Swiss post office no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.
3. If the document is sent by telefax, the time limit has been met if the document reaches the authority on the last day of the time limit and the original document reaches it within another five days.
4. Parties are not permitted to observe time limits by sending electronic mail.
5. In the case of appeals, the deposit demanded (cf. art. 127) is considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to FIFA's account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

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**Article 96 Interruption**

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1. Time limits are interrupted:
  - a) from 20 December to 5 January inclusive;
  - b) during the period starting two days before FIFA Congresses up to two days after;
  - c) during the period starting two days before the FIFA World Cup™ final competition up to two days after except for facts arising during the final competition and facts which occurred before but which may have repercussions on the final competition.
2. In certain circumstances, the special procedures may apply.

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#### Article 97 Extension of time limits

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

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#### Subsection 2. Right to be heard

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#### Article 98 Contents

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

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#### Article 99 Restrictions

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

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### Subsection 3. Proof

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#### Article 100 Various types of proof

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

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#### Article 101 Absolute discretion regarding proof

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1. The bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
2. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat (cf. art. 115).
3. They decide on the basis of their personal convictions.

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#### Article 102 Match officials' reports

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1. Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
2. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.
3. If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play; the match commissioner's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

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Article **103** **Burden of proof**

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1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on FIFA.
2. In the doping procedure, it is the responsibility of the person who has been tested positive to prove his innocence.

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Subsection 4. Representation and assistance

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Article **104** **[only]**

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1. The parties may arrange to be assisted by a third party.
2. They may be represented even if they are not required to appear personally.
3. The parties are free to choose their own assistance and representation.

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#### Subsection 5. Language used in proceedings

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#### Article **105** [only]

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

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#### Subsection 6. Notification and communication

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#### Article **106** Addressees

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1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
5. Copies of other documents emanating from the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee, their chairman or the secretariat will be sent to every party.
3. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the association concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. These documents are considered to have been notified/communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after notification/communication of the documents to the association (cf. art. 94).

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Article **107** **Form: general rule**

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1. Decisions communicated by fax shall be legally binding. If necessary, decisions may be communicated by registered letter, which shall also be legally binding.
2. Electronic mail is not permitted.
3. In certain circumstances, the special provisions set out in art. 108 may apply.

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Article **108** **Form: special cases**

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If justified by the circumstances, the parties may be informed solely of the outline of the decision. The reasoned decision shall then be sent within thirty days. The legal time limits do not begin until the reasoned decision has been delivered.

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Subsection 7. Various rules

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Article **109** **Obvious errors**

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

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**Article 110** **Costs and expenses**

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1. Costs and expenses shall be paid by the unsuccessful party.
2. If there is no unsuccessful party, they will be borne by FIFA.
3. If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several persons.
4. The body that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses will be allocated. The amounts are stipulated by the chairman, against which no appeal may be made.
5. The chairman may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.

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**Article 111** **Enforcement of decisions**

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1. Decisions will be enforced immediately if they are not liable to appeal or if this code provides for such action.
2. Otherwise they are enforced upon expiry of the time limit for appeal.

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**Article 112** **Closing of the proceedings**

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- Proceedings may be closed if
- a) the parties reach an agreement;
  - b) a party declares bankruptcy.

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#### Section 2. **Disciplinary Committee**

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##### Subsection 1. Commencement of proceedings and investigation

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#### Article **113** **Commencement of proceedings**

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1. Disciplinary infringements are automatically prosecuted.
2. Any person or authority may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of FIFA to the judicial bodies. Complaints may not be made orally.
3. Match officials are obliged to expose infringements which have come to their notice.

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#### Article **114** **Investigation**

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

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#### Article **115** **Collaboration among the parties**

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1. The parties are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information from the judicial bodies.
2. Whenever deemed necessary, the secretariat verifies the parties' versions of the facts.
3. If the parties are dilatory in responding, the chairman of the judicial body may, after warning them, impose a fine of up to CHF 10,000.
4. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will decide the case, using the file in their possession.

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

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**Article 116** Oral statements, principles

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

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**Article 117** Oral statements, procedure

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

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#### Article 118 Deliberations

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

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#### Article 119 Passing the decision

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

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#### Article 120 Form and contents of the decision

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1. The decision contains:
  - a) the composition of the committee;
  - b) the designation of the parties;
  - c) the summary of the facts;
  - d) the legal reasons for the decision;
  - e) the provisions on which the decision was based;
  - f) the terms of the decision;
  - g) notice of the channels for appeal.
2. The decisions are signed by the committee secretary.

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Subsection 3. Proceedings before the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee

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Article **121** [only]

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The rules governing the Disciplinary Committee similarly apply whenever the chairman decides alone.

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Section 3. **Appeal Committee**

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Article **122** **Contestable decisions**

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An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the sanction pronounced is:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a suspension for less than three matches or of up to two months;
- d) a fine of less than CHF 15,000 imposed on an association or a club, and of less than CHF 7,000 in other cases;
- e) decisions passed in compliance with art. 68 of these regulations.

---

Article **123** Eligibility to appeal

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1. Anyone who is affected by a decision and has an interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision may submit it to the Appeal Committee.
2. Associations may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned.

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Article **124** Time limit for appeal

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1. The party intending to appeal shall announce his intention in writing within three days of communication of the decision.
2. Reasons for the appeal shall then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven days, commencing upon the expiry of the first time limit of three days.
3. The announcement of the intention to appeal shall be sent directly to FIFA. The petition of appeal shall, however, be forwarded to FIFA via the association.
4. The association receiving the petition of appeal shall forward it immediately to FIFA.

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Article **125** Grounds for complaint

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The appellant may object to insufficient representation of the facts and wrong application of the law.

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**Article 126** Petition of appeal

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1. The appellant shall submit his petition of appeal in triplicate.
2. The petition shall include the necessary conclusions, reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative, subject to art. 123 par. 2.

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**Article 127** Deposit

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1. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer the amount of CHF 3,000 to FIFA's bank account before expiry of the time limit of seven days to formalise the appeal.
2. The appeal is inadmissible without this deposit.
3. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case. Costs and charges payable by an appellant who loses the case are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed to him. If the deposit is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.
4. If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.

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**Article 128** Effects of the appeal

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1. The Appeal Committee has full power in fact and in law to rule on the appeal.
2. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

---

**Article 129** Sequence in proceedings leading up to the decision

---

1. Art. 114 to 120 par. 1 apply similarly to the procedure to be followed.
2. The decisions are signed by the chairman.
3. Decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the party contesting them.

---

**Article 130** Conclusion to the proceedings

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1. The Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.
2. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as set out in art. 132.

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**Article 131** Proceedings before the chairman of the Appeal Committee

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The rules governing the Appeal Committee similarly apply whenever the chairman of the committee decides alone.

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

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**Article 132** [only]

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

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**Section 5. Special Procedures**

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**Subsection 1. Provisional measures**

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**Article 133 Principle**

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

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**Article 134 Procedure**

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

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**Article 135 Decision**

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1. The chairman delivers his decision immediately.
2. That decision shall be implemented immediately.

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Article **136** Duration of provisional measures

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

---

Article **137** Appeal

---

1. An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be taken before the chairman of the Appeal Committee.
2. The time limit for lodging the appeal is two days commencing from the communication of the decision.
3. The petition of appeal shall be sent direct to FIFA by telefax within the same time limit.
4. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect.

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Article **138** Approval of appeal

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

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

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#### Article **139** [only]

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1. If the circumstances allow such an option, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-taking to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or any other similar method.
2. Art. 116 par. 2 is, in this case, no longer applicable.
3. The secretary takes minutes as if it were a chaired meeting.

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

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#### Article **140** Request

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1. If the infringement is serious, in particular doping (cf. section 7 of the special part), corruption (cf. art. 59), manipulation of match results (cf. art. 73), physical assault of a match official (cf. art. 47), forgery (cf. art. 58) or violation of the rules governing age limits (cf. art. 71 a), the associations, confederations, and other organising sports organisations shall request FIFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect.
2. The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the club and the association concerned.
3. If the judicial bodies of FIFA discover that associations, confederations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have worldwide effect, even though it should have been, these bodies may themselves pass a decision.

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Article **141** **Conditions**

---

The sanction will be extended if:

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

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Article **142** **Procedure**

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

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Article **143** **Decision**

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1. The chairman is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of art. 141 have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the decision.
2. He either grants or refuses to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

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**Article 144 Effect**

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The sanction passed by the association or confederation requesting it to be extended has the same effect in each member association of FIFA as if the sanction had been passed by any one of them.

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**Article 145 Appeal**

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1. Both the body requesting extension of the sanction and the person affected by it may appeal against it.
2. A reasoned appeal shall be lodged within four days of receipt of notification of the decision.
3. Any grounds for complaint may only refer to the terms set out in art. 140 and 141. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the initial decision.

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**Subsection 4. Procedure to be followed in combating doping**

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**Article 146 Tests**

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1. The test procedure is governed by the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and out of Competition.
2. Tests may be conducted in conjunction with other sports federations.
3. Associations shall ensure that tests and sanctions conform to the relevant FIFA regulations (Doping Control Regulations and the Disciplinary Code).

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Article **147** **Players' obligations**

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1. Every player taking part in a competition or other event organised by FIFA, or in training leading up to such a competition or event, shall agree to undergo any tests conducted by the relevant bodies of FIFA.
2. He agrees to samples being taken so as to detect the presence of any prohibited substances or to establish the use of any prohibited methods.

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Article **148** **Government Criminal sanctions**

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Even if a state body imposes legal sanctions on a doping offence, the legal bodies of FIFA shall still review the case and decide whether to impose a sanction in line with FIFA regulations.

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Article **149** **Sanctions imposed by other international sports federations**

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Any legally binding sanctions imposed by another international sports federation or a national doping organisation that comply with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FIFA and, provided that the requirements of article 140 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code are met, may extend them to have worldwide effect.

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Subsection 5. Review

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Article **150** [only]

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

### Article 151 Diverging texts in the Disciplinary Code

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

### Article 152 Scope of the code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence

---

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

### Article 153 Adoption and enforcement

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1. The FIFA Executive Committee adopted this code on 29 June 2005.
2. This code comes into force on 1. September 2005.

Zurich, June 2005

For the FIFA Executive Committee

President:  
Joseph S. Blatter

General Secretary:  
Urs Linsi



1/2

### FIFA Disciplinary Committee

Confirmation Letter **A**  
for disciplinary measures (art. 36 and 76 par. 1 FDC\*)

**IMPORTANT:** We should be grateful if you would check this confirmation letter and notify us of any discrepancy within 2 days of receipt.

**Association:**  
**Attn. of the General Secretary/  
Head of delegation**

**Confederation:**

**Competition:**

**Match:**

**Date:**

**Referee:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We confirm the disciplinary measure(s) taken against player(s) of your representative team at the above-mentioned match.

The referee of the above-mentioned match has reported to FIFA that the following player(s) was (were) cautioned.

<b>Name</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>Offence</b> (cf. abbreviations p.2)
-------------	------------	--

- 
- 
-

Please note that the sanction(s) has(have) been registered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (art. 36 FDC).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee

Communication without signature

**cc:**

Confederation  
FIFA publications

**TELEFAX**

**Place and date:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABBREVIATIONS (cf. articles 51 and 52 FDC)**

- A** = unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- B** = showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- C** = violation of the Laws of the Game;
- D** = delaying the restart of play;
- E** = failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- F** = entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- G** = leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- H** = play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.);
- I** = serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- J** = brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- K** = spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- L** = denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- M** = denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- N** = making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- O** = second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

**\* FIFA Disciplinary Code**

1/2

**FIFA Disciplinary Committee**

Confirmation Letter **B**  
for disciplinary measures (art. 36 and 76 par. 1 FDC\*)

**IMPORTANT:** We should be grateful if you would check this confirmation letter and notify us of any discrepancy within 2 days of receipt.

**Association:**  
**Attn. of the General Secretary/  
Head of delegation**

**Confederation:**

**Competition:**

**Match:**

**Date:**

**Referee:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We confirm the disciplinary measure(s) taken against player(s) of your representative team at the above-mentioned match.

I. The referee of the above-mentioned match has reported to FIFA that the following player(s) was (were) cautioned.

<b>Name</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>Offence (cf. abbreviations p.2)</b>
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II. For receiving 2 cautions in two different matches of this competition the following player(s) is (are) suspended from the next match (art.18 par. 3 c) FDC):

<b>X-Y, 00.00.00</b>
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- 
- 
-

Please note that the sanction(s) has (have) been registered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (art. 36 FDC).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee

ad int. (Mr/Ms):

**cc:**

Confederation  
FIFA publications

**TELEFAX**

**Place and date:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABBREVIATIONS (cf. articles 51 and 52 FDC)**

- A** = unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- B** = showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- C** = violation of the Laws of the Game;
- D** = delaying the restart of play;
- E** = failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- F** = entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- G** = leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- H** = play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.);
- I** = serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- J** = brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- K** = spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- L** = denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- M** = denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- N** = making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- O** = second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

**\* FIFA Disciplinary Code**

1/2

**FIFA Disciplinary Committee**

Confirmation Letter **C**  
for disciplinary measures (art. 36 and 76 par. 1 FDC\*)

**IMPORTANT:** We should be grateful if you would check this confirmation letter and notify us of any discrepancy within 2 days of receipt.

**Association:**  
**Attn. of the General Secretary/  
Head of delegation**

**Confederation:**

**Competition:**

**Match:**

**Date:**

**Referee:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We confirm the disciplinary measure(s) taken against player(s) of your representative team at the above-mentioned match.

The referee of the above-mentioned match has reported to FIFA that the following player(s) was (were) sent off. In conformity with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), the player(s) is (are) automatically suspended from the next match (art. 19 FDC):

**X-Y, 00.00.00**

<b>Name</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>Offence</b> (cf. abbreviations p.2)
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- 
- 
-

Please note that the sanction(s) has (have) been registered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (art. 36 FDC).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee

ad int. (Mr/Ms):

**cc:**

Confederation  
FIFA publications

**TELEFAX**

**Place and date:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABBREVIATIONS (cf. articles 51 and 52 FDC)**

- A** = unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- B** = showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- C** = violation of the Laws of the Game;
- D** = delaying the restart of play;
- E** = failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- F** = entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- G** = leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- H** = play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.);
- I** = serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- J** = brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- K** = spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- L** = denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- M** = denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- N** = making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- O** = second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

**\* FIFA Disciplinary Code**

1/2

### FIFA Disciplinary Committee

Confirmation Letter **D**  
for disciplinary measures (art. 36 and 76 par. 1 FDC\*)

**IMPORTANT:** We should be grateful if you would check this confirmation letter and notify us of any discrepancy within 2 days of receipt.

**Association:**  
**Attn. of the General Secretary/  
Head of delegation**

**Confederation:**

**Competition:**

**Match:**

**Date:**

**Referee:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We confirm the disciplinary measure(s) taken against player(s) of your representative team at the above-mentioned match.

I. The referee of the above-mentioned match has reported to FIFA that the following player(s) was (were) sent off. In conformity with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), the player(s) is (are) automatically suspended from the next match (art. 19 FDC):

**X-Y, 00.00.00**

<b>Name</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>Offence</b> (cf. abbreviations p.2)
-------------	------------	--

- 
- 
- 

II. The case will be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee at its next meeting.

III. So that the committee can consider the case from every perspective, you are requested to submit any comments or evidence you might have in connection with these incidents to the FIFA General Secretary within 5 days of receipt of this letter.

If we do not hear from you by then, the Disciplinary Committee will judge the case on the basis of the documents already available (art. 115 par. 4 FDC).

IV. We shall inform you accordingly if this body imposes an additional sanction.

Please note that the sanction(s) has (have) been registered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (art. 36 FDC).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee

ad int. (Mr/Ms):

**cc:**

Confederation  
FIFA publications

**TELEFAX**

**Place and date:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABBREVIATIONS (cf. articles 51 and 52 FDC)**

- A** = unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- B** = showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- C** = violation of the Laws of the Game;
- D** = delaying the restart of play;
- E** = failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- F** = entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- G** = leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- H** = play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.);
- I** = serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- J** = brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- K** = spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- L** = denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- M** = denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- N** = making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- O** = second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

**\* FIFA Disciplinary Code**

1/2

**FIFA Disciplinary Committee**

Confirmation Letter **E**  
for disciplinary measures (art. 36 and 76 par. 1 FDC\*)

**IMPORTANT:** We should be grateful if you would check this confirmation letter and notify us of any discrepancy within 2 days of receipt.

**Association:**  
**Attn. of the General Secretary/  
Head of delegation**

**Confederation:**

**Competition:**

**Match:**

**Date:**

**Referee:**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We confirm the disciplinary measure(s) taken against player(s) of your representative team at the above-mentioned match.

I. The referee of the above-mentioned match has reported to FIFA that the following player(s) was (were) sent off.

<b>Name</b>	<b>no.</b>	<b>Offence</b> (cf. abbreviations p.2)
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- 
- 
- 

II. As your team has not qualified for the next round, the player(s) must serve this suspension as follows, in conformity with the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC) art. 39:

- during the next FIFA competition in which the player(s) compete(s).
- If this is not possible, the suspension must be served in your Confederation's next official competition (with the representative team).

So that the committee can consider the case from every perspective, you are requested to submit any comments or evidence you might have in connection with these incidents to the FIFA General Secretary within 5 days of receipt of this letter.

If we do not hear from you by then, the Disciplinary Committee will judge the case on the basis of the documents already available (art. 115 par. 4 FDC).

Please note that the sanction(s) has (have) been registered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (art. 36 FDC).

Yours faithfully,

FIFA

Secretary to the Disciplinary Committee

ad int. (Mr/Ms):

**cc:**

Confederation  
FIFA publications

**TELEFAX**

**Place and date:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ABBREVIATIONS (cf. articles 51 and 52 FDC)**

- A** = unsporting behaviour such as foul play, dangerous play or holding on to an opponent's shirt or any part of his body;
- B** = showing disapproval of match officials by word or action (criticising decisions, protesting);
- C** = violation of the Laws of the Game;
- D** = delaying the restart of play;
- E** = failing to comply with the required distance during corner kicks or free kicks;
- F** = entering or re-entering the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- G** = leaving the field of play without prior permission from the referee;
- H** = play acting (diving, feigning injury, etc.);
- I** = serious foul play such as excessive or brute force;
- J** = brutal action such as violent or aggressive conduct;
- K** = spitting at an opponent or anyone else;
- L** = denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- M** = denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the opposing goal by committing an infringement punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- N** = making offensive, insulting or abusive remarks;
- O** = second caution during the same match (cf. art. 18 par. 2).

**\* FIFA Disciplinary Code**

## NOTES