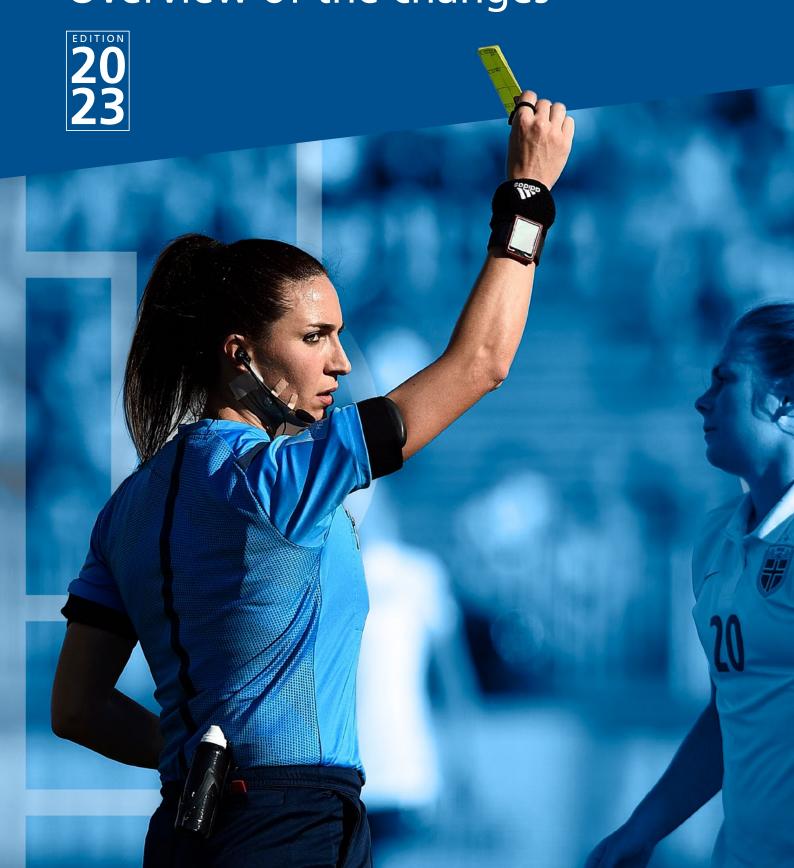
FIFA DISCIPLINARY CODE Overview of the changes





FIFA, as one of the leading sport organisations in terms of investigating and adjudicating ethic, doping and other offences that affect the integrity of football, has again and after almost 3 years renewed its commitment to modernise its football regulatory framework. Illustrating is the fact that apart from the last in-depth revision of both Codes in 2018, each had only passed either minimal changes or long periods had elapsed since a revision came through. The last known thorough review was in 2012. There is a clear trend to be committed to constantly adapt FIFA's legal framework to the surrounding reality.

With this background in mind, the FIFA Council recently adopted on 16 December 2022 the new FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC) and the FIFA Code of Ethics.

This exercise has involved a great number of different discussions with prominent legal associations such as AIAF, football confederations, as well as with important sports entities such as ECA and FIFPro.

The context of these discussions pivoted around FIFA's aim at improving the greater protection to victims of discrimination and sexual abuse or harassment before the FIFA judicial bodies, protecting financial justice between creditors and debtors, while providing FIFA with further instruments to better investigate and adjudicate illegal, immoral or unethical methods and practices.

With more than 70 changes implemented on 52 provisions of both codes, including three new articles, FIFA is proud today to state that it continues with its path of improving its judicial bodies' capacities, including in this exercise the collaboration and involvement of all those potentially unfairly affected by the activity of FIFA's judicial bodies.

All these changes, are to be found in the new editions of the <u>FIFA Disciplinary Code</u> and of the <u>FIFA Code of Ethics</u>, which have come into force on 1 February 2023 and can be accessed on the dedicated portal at legal.fifa.com.

With the aim of also providing greater transparency, FIFA has elaborated two dedicated documents whereby their member associations, players, coaches and other football actors, but also agents and legal representatives can better follow the above-mentioned changes and understand their rationale, the current wording and the aim pursued with these amendments.

We all hope that these documents are helpful and practical to all those who are interested on the new FIFA Disciplinary Code and the Code of Ethics.

Faithfully,

Dr. Emilio García Silvero

FIFA
Chief Legal & Compliance Officer

Carlos Schneider Salvadores

FIFA

Director of Judicial Bodies

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ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
3 former 3	Scope of personal application In view of the new FIFA Football Agent Regulations, the wording of the article has been amended.	The term "football agents" replaces the term "intermediaries".	AMENDMENT f) football agents licensed by FIFA; g) match agents licensed by FIFA; h) single entity leagues;
6 (1) former 6 (1)	Disciplinary measures In view of the changes to art. 21 FDC (former art. 15 FDC) as well as to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP - provisions on trial), the wording of the article has been amended to reflect adequate sanctions.	The notion of "other pecuniary measure" as well as specific sanction related to potential breaches of the provisions on trials (contained in the RSTP) have been included.	AMENDMENT c) fine or any other pecuniary measure; () f) order to fulfil a financial obligation arising or existing in the context of a trial
6 (2) former 6 (2)	Disciplinary measures The wording has been amended to reflect the wording used in other regulations.	The notion of "team bench" (used in various competition regulations) replaces the notion of "substitutes' bench".	amendment b) ban from dressing rooms and/or team bench;
	New disciplinary measures The article has been amended to reflect the new sanctions that can be imposed on football agents in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations.	New sanctions specifically concerning football agents and match agents (suspension or withdrawal of licence) have been included.	NEW e) suspension or withdrawal of a football agent licence; f) suspension or withdrawal of a match agent licence;
6 (3) former 6 (3)	Transfer ban replaced by registration ban The 2019 FDC referred to the notion of "transfer ban" whereas the sanction imposed is not a transfer ban per se but rather a ban on registering new players. For the sake of consistency, especially with the wording in the RSTP (ban from registering new players), the code has been amended to use the same terminology. The same amendment has been done with respect to article 21 (former article 15 of the 2019 FDC).	The notion of "ban on registering new players" (also used in the RSTP) replaces the notion of "transfer ban".	AMENDMENT a) ban on registering new players;
	The article has been amended to reflect the new sanctions that can be imposed in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.	New sanctions intrinsically related to the FIFA Clearing House Regulations (and related breaches) have been included.	NEW m) forfeiture of training rewards that are due; n) payment of restitution to an affiliated club; o) payment of a specific amount to a club or a member association.
11 and 12 former 19 and 20	Duty to report and duty to collaborate The articles referring to the duty to report and to collaborate (arts. 19 and 20 of the 2019 FDC) were covered under Title II "Offences".	To improve the general structure of the code, these two provisions have been included in the Title I "General provisions".	RELOCATION Former articles 19 and 20 becoming articles 11 and 12.









Duty to collaborate

Where FIFA bodies, committees, subsidiaries or instances other than the judicial bodies have to conduct investigations, the extension of the duty to collaborate to their respective investigations would benefit their work.

Indeed, this amendment is aimed at ensuring the cooperation of parties in (preliminary) investigations conducted by those bodies, committees, subsidiaries or instances (e.g. Integrity Department; Regulatory and Compliance Department; Clearing House, etc.).



CLARIFICATIONS

The article has been amended to extend the scope of the duty to collaborate of persons bound by the FDC.



AMENDMENT

The parties or the persons subject to this Code shall collaborate to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary or instance, as well as from the FIFA administration.

In particular, persons subject to this Code shall help to establish and/or clarify the facts of a case or any possible breaches of this Code and, in particular, shall provide any evidence requested.

Any breach of this article by any person subject to this code may lead to the appropriate sanctions being imposed by the relevant judicial body.

14 (1) former 12 (1)

Direct red cards

The purpose of this amendment is to align the possible sanctions that can be imposed on players who have been sent off (direct red card) with the codes used by the referees.

The 2019 FDC only foresees the notion of "serious foul play" whereas referees make a distinction between "serious foul play" and "violent conduct" on their match reports.

The notion of "violent conduct" (which is a specific reason for being sent off based on the codes used by referees) has been added to the FDC.

NEW

h) at least three matches for violent

15 (2) former 13 (2)

Recidivism

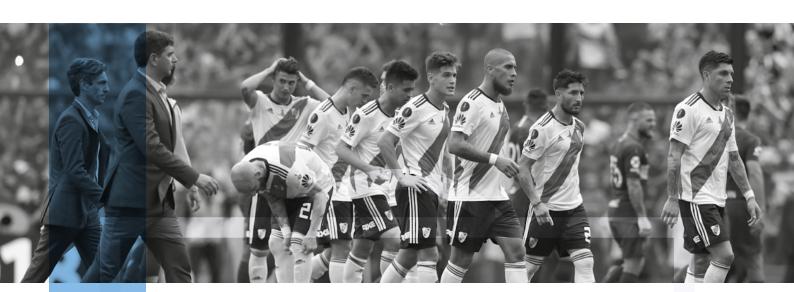
The 2019 FDC refers to the same concept using two different words: "Recidivism" and "Reoffence".

For the sake of consistency, the new code solely refers to the notion of "recidivism".

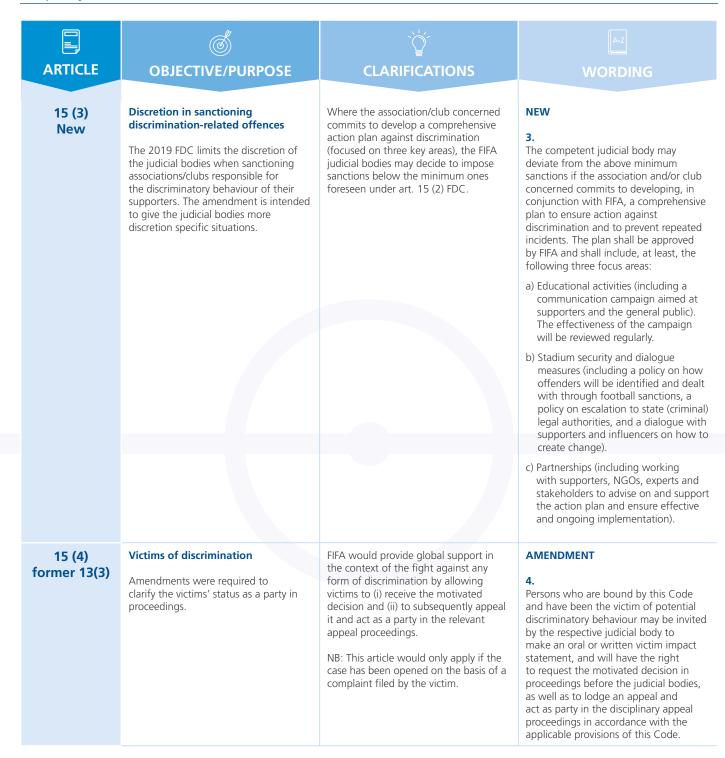
The term "recidivists" replaces the term "reoffenders".

AMENDMENT

b) For recidivists or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators.









ARTICLE	© OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	MORDING
17 (1) former 16(1)	Responsibility of the home association The 2019 FDC stated that home clubs and associations are "liable for incidents of any kind". In order to improve legal certainty and clarify the notion of "incidents of any kind", reference to the list of incidents mentioned in paragraph 2 of said article has been added.	Under the new wording, the home association may be liable for any incident(s), including those listed under paragraph 2, regardless of the supporter(s) responsible for the infringement(s).	1. Host clubs and associations are responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. Without prejudice to their responsibility towards the inappropriate behaviour of their own supporters, they are liable for incidents of any kind, in particular but not limited to those enumerated in paragraph 2 below, and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match. In particular, associations, clubs and licensed match agents who organise matches shall: ()
18 former 46	Protests Article 46 of the 2019 FDC came under Title III "Organisation and Competence" section, chapter 1 "General provisions".	To improve the structure of the code, this article has been moved to chapter 2. "Disorderliness at matches and competitions", linking it to matchrelated articles.	RELOCATION Former article 46 becoming article 18
19 former 22	Fielding ineligible players In the 2019 FDC, eligibility issues and forfeit are regrouped into one article (art. 22 FDC) under chapter 3 "Other provisions".	To improve the structure of the code, these two notions have been divided into two specific articles: - one related to fielding ineligible players (now art. 19); and - one on the forfeit itself (now art. 28). The article related to fielding ineligible players has been moved to chapter 2. "Disorderliness at matches and competitions", linking it to matchrelated articles.	RELOCATION AND AMENDMENT Former article 22 becoming articles 19 and 20 1. If a player fielded in a match and/ or competition is declared ineligible, the FIFA judicial bodies, taking into consideration the integrity of the competition concerned, may impose any appropriate disciplinary measures. 2. If a player fielded in a match is declared ineligible following a protest, the team to which the player belongs will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of CHF 6,000. The player may also be sanctioned.
21 former 15	Failure to comply with a decision Article 15 of the 2019 FDC referring to the failure to comply with a decision currently comes under chapter 2 "Disorderliness at matches and competition".	To improve the general structure of the code, the article has been moved to chapter 3 "Other provisions".	RELOCATION Former article 15 becoming article 21
21 (1) former 15 (1)	Including the notion of subsidiary of FIFA Said amendment was required in view of the implementation of the Clearing House.	The article has been amended to include the notion of "subsidiary" of FIFA.	AMENDMENT 1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or FIFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or a CAS decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another final decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or by CAS:





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	ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
fo	21 (1) ormer 15 (1)	Imposition of any disciplinary measures Clarify the fact that the Disciplinary Committee is entitled to impose any disciplinary measure. Very recently CAS has decided that a breach of a transfer ban constitutes a violation of the FDC but that there is no legal basis to impose any disciplinary measure, as those contemplated in the former article 15 (now art. 21 FDC) do not envisage a specific sanction for these behaviours.	The new provision should open the possibility to the Disciplinary Committee to decide on the appropriate disciplinary measure apart from those contemplated and envisaged mainly for the financial decisions.	AMENDMENT a) will be fined for failing to comply with a decision and receive any pertinent additional disciplinary measure; and, if necessary:
	21 (1)	Higher interest rate as sanction	For the sake of clarity:	NEW
fo	ormer 15 (1)	With respect to financial decisions, the Disciplinary Committee may order the debtor to pay a higher rate of interest in the event of the debtor's failure to pay the amounts due to the creditor. The option of imposing such a sanction should be seen as an additional deterrent for the debtor to avoid delaying the payment of the amounts due to the creditor.	 (i) this additional measure would be limited to proceedings related to failures to respect a CAS award rendered on appeal against a financial decision rendered by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA; (i) this increased rate should only start to accrue from the notification of the Disciplinary Committee's decision NB: The interest rate of 18% p.a. is in 	c) may be ordered to pay an interest rate of 18% p.a. to the creditor as from the date of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee rendered in connection to a CAS decision on an appeal against a (financial) decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA;
			line with jurisprudence of the Swiss	
fo	21 (1) ormer 15 (1)	Definition of persistent failure Amendments were required to clarify the notion of "persistent failure".	A club would be considered in "persistent failure" when a registration ban imposed upon it by the Disciplinary Committee "has been served for more than three entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision".	AMENDMENT d) in the case of clubs, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on registering new players will be issued until the complete amount due is paid or the non-financial decision is complied with. A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a ban on registering new players in the event of persistent failure (i.e. the ban on registering new players has been served for more than three entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision), repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full registration ban could be imposed or served for any reason.
fo	21 (2) ormer 15 (2)	Claimant's right to request the motivated decision and notion of subsidiary of FIFA The Code has been amended to reflect the claimant's right to request the motivated decision with respect to proceedings related to failure to respect decisions. The article has also been amended in view of the implementation of the Clearing House.	Creditors (or other affected parties) will not only be entitled to request the initiation of the disciplinary proceedings under art. 21 FDC, but they will also be entitled to request the motivation of the decision rendered in relation thereto.	2. With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or CAS, disciplinary proceedings may only commence at the request of the creditor or any other affected party, who is entitled to be notified of the final outcome of the said disciplinary proceedings, including the motivated decision if so requested.





ARTICLE

OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE



CLARIFICATIONS

21 (3) former 15 (3)

Provisional lifting of the registration

In order to ensure a smooth and efficient procedure for lifting a ban on registering new players, a ban imposed as a result of a decision of the Disciplinary Committee could be provisionally lifted if the debtor presents reliable evidence that the debt has been In circumstances where the debtor provides the secretariat with reliable proof that the amounts due to the creditor have been paid in full (such as SWIFT MT-103), the relevant disciplinary measure (ex. registration ban) would be immediately and provisionally lifted.

The secretariat would then contact the creditor and ask for their confirmation on the payment being received.

The ban would subsequently be definitively lifted upon confirmation by the creditor that the debt has been properly settled.

To the contrary and in order to avoid any potential abuse by the debtor, the latter will be subject to severe sanctions (in addition to the relevant measure being reinstated) if it acts in bad faith and provides inaccurate or wrong information with respect to the payment of the debt.

NB: This special procedure would only apply to disciplinary measures imposed as a result of a debtor's failure to comply with a financial decision.



NEW

If the sanctioned person disregards the final time limit, FIFA and/or the relevant association (in cases involving clubs or natural persons) shall implement the sanctions imposed. Where a registration ban (in the case of a club), a ban on any football-related activity (in the case of a natural person) or a disciplinary measure (in the case of associations) has been enforced against a debtor in accordance with this article in relation to a financial obligation resulting from a CAS or FIFA decision and where the debtor provides FIFA with reliable evidence of having complied with such decision, such ban or measure may be provisionally be lifted.

The creditor will be invited to confirm whether such payment has been made.

- a) Should the debtor have provided accurate information and fully settled its financial obligation, the ban or measure is considered permanently lifted.
- b) Should the debtor have provided inaccurate information and/or have failed to comply with its financial obligation in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to:
 - (i) reinstate the ban or measure; and
 - (il) impose additional disciplinary measures.











The Code has been amended to:

Decisions passed at national level

- (i) clarify the notion of court of arbitration or national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC) "duly recognised by FIFA";
- (ii) include an incentive for associations to implement the decisions issued by their respective competent decisionmaking bodies, the Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions on associations that fail to do so;
- (ii) to cover match agents and intermediaries who may get registered/licensed at another association.



CLARIFICATIONS

The notion of "court of arbitration within the relevant association or national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), both duly recognised by FIFA" has been replaced by a general notion, i.e. "a competent decision-making body within the relevant association".

In addition, the Disciplinary Committee may now impose sanctions on associations that fail to implement the decisions passed by their competent decision-making bodies.



AMENDMENT

Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a club by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association.

Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a natural person by a competent decision-making body within the relevant association shall be enforced by the association of the deciding body that has issued the decision or by the natural person's new association, if the natural person has, in the meantime, been registered or licenced at another association, or otherwise employed by a club affiliated to another association or by another association, in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations. An association will be fined for failing to enforce the decision in accordance with this article. In the event of persistent failure to enforce the decision, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association.

21 (7) New

Enforcement of disciplinary measures imposed by the Football **Tribunal**

Disciplinary measures imposed pursuant to art. 24 of the RSTP (formerly art. 24bis) by the respective chambers of the Football Tribunal would be enforced

This should not only ensure consistency but also that the procedure runs smoothly.

FIFA will be competent for the enforcement of disciplinary measures imposed by the Football Tribunal pursuant to art. 24 of the RSTP.

Similarly, all matters relating to the sporting succession, insolvency or bankruptcy of a club would be centralised and dealt with by FIFA.

In other words, FIFA will be responsible for any and all communications exchanged in relation to disciplinary measures imposed by the Football Tribunal.

NEW

Any financial decision issued by the Football Tribunal or FIFA imposing disciplinary measures, such as a ban from registering any new players – either nationally or internationally - or a restriction on playing in official matches, will be automatically enforced by FIFA and the relevant member association. FIFA will be competent to deal with any issue relating to the enforcement of such decisions, including but not limited to the potential recognition of the sporting successor and the assessment of potential insolvency and/ or bankruptcy proceedings.



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ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
21 (8) New	Bridge between art. 24 of the RSTP and art. 15 of the 2019 FDC Under the current legal framework (the RSTP and the FDC), there is a gap that could be used by a club to register new players after having served a three-registration-period ban in accordance with article 24 of the RSTP without, however, settling its debt or the case being referred to the Disciplinary Committee to sanction the failure to comply with a financial decision. The purpose of this new paragraph is to prevent a club from registering new players during the period following the last registration period impacted by the ban imposed pursuant to article 24 of the RSTP and the referral of the matter to the Disciplinary Committee by the creditor, despite the fact that its debt has not been settled.	Once the club has served the ban on registering new players for three registration periods pursuant to article 24 of the RSTP, the Disciplinary Committee may, at the request of the creditor, provisionally ban the club from registering new players. In such cases, upon request of the creditor, the matter would be presented to the Disciplinary Committee in order for the latter to decide on the possible extension of the registration ban imposed by the Football Tribunal until a final decision is rendered under art. 21 FDC. This additional registration ban may be regarded as a provisional measure imposed by the Disciplinary Committee.	8. Where a decision issued by the FIFA Football Tribunal or a proposal confirmed by the FIFA general secretariat contains consequences for failure to pay relevant amounts on time and the debtor has not provided proof of payment after such consequences have been served in full, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to provisionally extend such consequences until a final decision has been rendered by this judicial body in accordance with this article.
21 (9) New	Enforcement of private settlement agreements	If, following the opening of disciplinary proceedings in relation to a financial	NEW
	Currently, when a settlement agreement is signed, leads to the termination (or prevents the initiation) of disciplinary proceedings. In accordance with FIFA circular n° 1628, the non-compliance with the agreement must be resolved by the Football Tribunal or the competent body chosen by the parties. In order to avoid the need for the parties to initiate a new procedure before the competent body to enforce the settlement agreement, the Disciplinary Committee should be competent to enforce such an agreement provided that it is directly linked to a final and binding decision issued by FIFA or CAS.	decision by FIFA (Football Tribunal) or CAS, the parties decide to settle their dispute by means of a private settlement agreement, the Disciplinary Committee would be competent to enforce such agreement without the need to lodge a new complaint with the Football Tribunal. NB: this procedure would solely apply to those agreements concluded after the opening of the relevant disciplinary proceedings.	9. The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to decide on cases related to the failure to respect settlement agreements concluded in the context of disciplinary proceedings opened against a debtor with respect to a final and binding financial decision issued by a body, a committee or an instance of FIFA or by CAS.
21 (10) former 72 (2)	Enforcement of CAS ordinary awards The relevant paragraph related to failure to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings has been moved to the article related to failure to respect decisions.	To improve the general structure of the code, the article has been moved under art. 21 FDC.	RELOCATION AND AMENDMENT 10. Disciplinary proceedings for failing to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings may be initiated provided that the respective CAS procedure started after 15 July 2019.



ARTICLE	objective/purpose	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
23 former 17	Doping proceedings Article 17 of the 2019 FDC referring to doping proceedings came under chapter 2 "Disorderliness at matches and competition".	To improve the general structure of the code, the article has been moved to chapter 3 "Other provisions" and has been linked to other specific proceedings.	RELOCATION1.Doping is sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and this Code.
	Proceedings related to football agents, match agents and the FIFA Clearing House The article has been amended to reflect the new FIFA Football Agent Regulations, as well as the creation of the Clearing House and the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.	In the same way that doping-related cases must be sanctioned in accordance with the Anti-Doping Regulations: - offences committed by football agents or match agents should be sanctioned in accordance with the relevant regulations, namely the FIFA Football Agents Regulations and the FIFA Match Agent Regulation offences relating to the FIFA Clearing House should be sanctioned in accordance with the relevant regulations, namely the FIFA Clearing House Regulations.	2. Breaches of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Football Agent Regulations and this Code. 3. Breaches of the FIFA Match Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Match Agent Regulations and this Code. 4. Breaches of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Clearing House Regulations and this Code.
27 former 26	Suspension of anti-doping rule violation To be consistent with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the possibility to suspend a sanction as a result of an anti-doping rule violation has been removed in the FDC.	As defined in article 24 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, a period of ineligibility can be suspended. In order to reflect this, article 26 (4) of the 2019 FDC has been amended by removing the part relating to antidoping.	4. Disciplinary measures relating to match manipulation cannot be suspended.
28 former 22	Forfeit In the 2019 FDC, eligibility issues and forfeit are regrouped into one article (art. 22 FDC) under chapter 3 "Other provisions".	To improve the structure of the code, these two notions have been divided into two specific articles: - one related to fielding ineligible players (now art. 19); and - one on the forfeit itself (now art. 28). The article related to forfeit has been moved to chapter 4. "Implementation of disciplinary measures".	RELOCATION Former article 22 becoming articles 19 and 20





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ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
29 New	Match behind closed doors conditions In order to ensure greater predictability for associations/clubs having to serve a match without spectators (co-called match behind closed doors), a new article has been included.	The new article provides for the scope of a match to be played without spectators, including a clear defined list of persons who can attend the match, including FIFA/confederation representatives and partners.	NEW To the extent that the competent judicial body decides otherwise, no one shall be allowed to attend a match that has been ordered to be played without spectators, with the exception of: a) a maximum of 200 people holding category 1 tickets from the visiting club or association and a maximum of 20 VIP guests for each association; b) a maximum of 55 people per team delegation, including the players; c) accredited broadcast staff and media (journalists and photographers); d) police officers and security staff with specific tasks related to security at the match; e) people carrying out functions related to the stadium infrastructure (grounds, lighting, signage, etc.) and persons carrying out functions related to the match (ball kids, children involved in the pre-match ceremony as well as their chaperones); f) a maximum of 75 confederation/FIFA representatives carrying out functions at the match; g) people from the confederation/FIFA and confederation/FIFA partners with complimentary tickets; and h) a maximum of 1,000 children up to the age of 14 (duly accompanied) from schools and/or football academies invited to the match free
30 (3) former 27 (3)	Competence of FIFA for A-team friendly matches The article has been amended to give competence to FIFA on international friendly matches of representative teams at A-level (i.e. Tier 1 International Matches).	The exclusive competence of FIFA and its judicial bodies has been extended to also cover "international "A" friendly matches (i.e. Tier 1 International Matches)". Thus, not being limited to matches and competitions organised by it as well as to friendly matches between representative teams of different confederations.	of charge. AMENDMENT 3. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to matches and competitions organised by it, to international "A" friendly matches (i.e. Tier 1 International Matches), to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to different confederations or to matches involving invitational teams composed of players registered with clubs belonging to associations of different confederations.
30 (5) former 27 (5)	Obligation to inform FIFA of any match fixing decision The article has been amended to codify a practice by means of which member associations were required to inform FIFA of any decision issued in relation to serious infringements.	The article has been amended to: extend its scope also to member associations (thus not being limited to confederations); and provide clarification on the scope of the information to be passed on to FIFA, i.e. sanctions related to "serious infringements (in particular but not limited to doping, manipulation of football matches and competitions, sexual abuse or harassment)."	5. Confederations and associations shall inform FIFA immediately of the sanctions issued by their respective judicial bodies in relation to serious infringements (in particular but not limited to doping, manipulation of football matches and competitions, sexual abuse or harassment).







ARTICLE



OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE



CLARIFICATIONS



WORDING

30 (6) former 27 (6)

FIFA's right to investigate serious infringement

Under the 2019 FDC, when a serious infringement is brought to the attention of the FIFA judicial bodies, they had to wait three months before they could investigate the matter in cases where FIFA has no competence (and provided that the otherwise competent body failed to prosecute this serious infringement).

The article has now been amended to avoid a situation where FIFA would be prevented from prosecuting serious infringements and to ensure the proper administration of justice.

FIFA's judicial bodies now have the right, where appropriate, to investigate serious infringements if no investigations have been initiated by

investigate serious infinigements if his investigations have been initiated by the competent body 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA. Similarly, the competent authority could agree with FIFA to confer its competence on FIFA.

AMENDMENT

6.

The FIFA judicial bodies reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of this Code in particular, doping, match-fixing and discrimination – that fall within the jurisdiction of confederations, associations or other sports organisations if deemed appropriate and if no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation, member association or sports organisation 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or in case the relevant confederation, member association or sports organisation agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the relevant matter on FIFA.

30 (7) New

Granting res iudicata effect to prior decisions of the FIFA disciplinary bodies

Recent jurisprudence of the Swiss Federal Tribunal and CAS have pointed to the fact that decisions from FIFA bodies (incl. FIFA's judicial bodies or the Football Tribunal) are not vested with res iudicata effect, being considered mere acts of an association. This, in turn, opens the door for parties to disciplinary proceedings to re-file complaints, protests, etc. even when FIFA's judicial bodies have already issued a prior final decision on the matter. This new provision aims to create a binding effect on previous decisions of FIFA's judicial bodies, so as to avoid parties (re-)filing abusive complaints in matters that have already been resolved in a final manner by those bodies.

NEW

7

The FIFA judicial bodies shall not deal with cases that have been previously subject to a final decision by another FIFA body involving the same party or parties and the same cause of action. In such cases, the claim shall be deemed inadmissible.









Impartiality and independence of

the members of the FIFA judicial

bodies

Reference to the required impartiality of the members of the FIFA judicial bodies has been added to the article (thus not being limited to independence only).



CLARIFICATIONS

The article has been amended to: include reference to the impartiality of the members of the FIFA judicial bodies; provide for the disclosure by a member of any legitimate grounds to question their independence or impartiality; and include the possibility for a party to challenge the appointment of a member (and define the scope of such challenge).



WORDING

AMENDMENT

1.

The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FIFA judicial bodies shall be impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations.

2

Members of the FIFA judicial bodies may not decide on a matter where there are legitimate grounds for questioning their independence or impartiality and/or if there is a conflict of interest. They shall disclose any circumstance which may give rise to any such ground.

3

Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairperson immediately.

4.

If the circumstances give rise to legitimate doubts over the independence or impartiality of a member of the FIFA judicial body, a party is entitled to challenge said member at the latest two days prior to the relevant date on which the judicial body is called to decide on a matter.

5.

The chairperson shall decide on any such challenge. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member present shall decide on such challenge.

35 former 32

Investigation proceedings

The 2019 FDC does not contain any guidelines or general principles governing investigation procedures.

This has been addressed by adding a new paragraph aimed at increasing legal certainty, thereby providing a clear legal basis for investigation proceedings conducted by FIFA or the integrity experts (disciplinary inspectors).

This new paragraph lays down the general principle that FIFA may initiate ex officio any investigation into possible infringements falling within the competence of the Disciplinary and/or the Appeal Committee.

For the sake of clarity, the FDC now also sets out a non-exhaustive list of means that FIFA, including integrity experts (disciplinary inspectors), may use in investigations.

NEW

6.

The general principles that will apply to investigations are the following:

- a) FIFA may investigate possible offences falling within the scope of this Code.
- b) In principle, when an investigation is initiated, the parties concerned are informed. This does not apply where such notification is not deemed appropriate. Such investigations are conducted by means of written inquiries, engaging with third parties such as forensic companies and, where necessary, the questioning of individuals. Other investigative procedures may also be employed, including but not limited to on-site inspections, document requests and the procurement of expert opinions. An investigation may be reopened if new evidence or facts emerge which imply that an offence falling within the scope of this Code may have been committed



ARTICLE	© OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
36 New	Integrity experts for disciplinary proceedings With regard to disciplinary matters, as well as for ethics matters, FIFA can entrust the investigations to an integrity expert (also known as a disciplinary inspector), who can also intervene on behalf of FIFA in appeal proceedings before the Appeal Committee. The Integrity Experts will take on the tasks and duties currently performed by the FIFA general secretariat, thus allowing the latter to focus more on training and prevention, as well as on coordination with public enforcement authorities.	The idea is that the FIFA general secretariat could appoint a special investigator (also known as an integrity expert) to look into various disciplinary-related matters. The investigators would be selected from a list and divided into different fields of expertise, e.g. match-fixing, doping, disciplinary matters, sexual abuse, etc. In order to create the above list, a public tender containing the conditions and different profiles desired, as well as the hourly rate, would be published by way of circular.	1. The secretariat may appoint an integrity expert to support the necessary investigations into potential breaches of FIFA regulations. 2. The appointed integrity expert may request the opening of disciplinary proceedings and propose that disciplinary measures be imposed on member associations, clubs and individuals. 3. The integrity experts shall remain impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FIFA Governance Regulations. The requirements and conditions of their appointment as well as of their role are set in accordance with the relevant circular letter on this subject. The term as integrity expert shall be limited to
			four years. A list of integrity experts shall be submitted to the FIFA Council for approval.
38 (1) former 34 (1)	Time limits The article has been amended to provide clarification with regard to the starting point and ending of time limits.	 An example is drawn below for the sake of clarity. Communication sent by FIFA on 1 March 2023 with a six-day deadline; The time limit would commence on 2 March 2023 (i.e. Day 1 in the counting), the last day being 7 March 2023. Any action performed as from 8 March 2023 at 00.00 CET would be considered outside the relevant time limit. 	1. Time limits shall commence the day after the notification of the relevant document. Time limits are deemed to have been complied with if the relevant action has been completed by midnight (Central European Time) at the latest on the last day of the stipulated deadline.
40 former 40	Match officials' reports This article related to the evidentiary value of the match officials' reports and thus needed to be relocated together with the articles related to evidence and proof.	To improve the structure of the code, the article has been moved so that it comes after the article relating to the standard of proof.	RELOCATION Former article 40
47 former 43	Languages The FIFA official languages have recently been amended in the FIFA Statutes (additional languages being included).	The article has been amended in view of the changes to the FIFA Statutes, clarifying which languages (English, French and Spanish) would be used in proceedings before the FIFA judicial bodies.	1. The languages used in proceedings are English, French and Spanish. The FIFA judicial bodies and the parties may choose to communicate in any of these languages. 2. Decisions are passed in any of the aforementioned languages.



ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE (BURDOSE	CLADIFICATIONS	A-Z WORDING
48 (4) former 44 (4)	Time limits Clarification has been provided with respect to time limits and proceedings concerning communications not directly addressed to a party.	Examples are drawn below for the sake of clarity. 1. Association acting on behalf of a player: • Communication sent by FIFA to the association on 1 March 2023; • Communication considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee on 2 March 2023; 2. Email address of the party is unknown: • Communication sent by FIFA to the association on 1 March 2023; • Communication considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee on 5 March 2023.	AMENDMENT 4. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the association concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the association acts on behalf of the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee on the day after the notification to the respective association. In the event that the email address of the party concerned is unknown and the documents have been sent to the association concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after the notification of the document to the respective association. Failure by the association to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this Code.
54 former 51	Minimum content of the grounds of a decision This new article intends to provide clarity and transparency with regard to the content of the grounds so that the party can understand the reasoning of the relevant judicial body.	The elements that should be included in the grounds of a decision have been listed in the code. NB: Straightforward cases should have a simple format.	A. A motivated decision shall include at least: a) a brief summary of the facts, which does not need to include every single contention; b) the article(s) infringed; c) the considerations that are relevant to the potential breach of the FIFA regulations; and d) the criteria used to determine the possible sanction.
54 (7) former 51 (6)	Terms for doping-related decisions In principle, doping-related decisions are issued directly with the grounds. However, FIFA may depart from this requirement in case of urgency or special circumstances.	In urgent cases or where special circumstances require it, the relevant FIFA judicial body may decide to issue the terms of the decision first and the grounds subsequently.	7. Doping-related decisions are issued with grounds. In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the relevant judicial body may notify the party of only the terms of the decision, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall then be notified within 60 days.







Commencement of disciplinary

proceedings

imposition of sanctions.

The article has been amended inter alia to reflect the introduction of the integrity expert who will in particular be entitled to recommend the opening of disciplinary proceedings and the

In addition, several FIFA departments and instances have been renamed. For comprehension purposes, the article has been amended to reflect these changes.



CLARIFICATIONS

The notion of "Integrity Expert" has been included in the article. The terms "FIFA body, committee, subsidiary, instance or by the FIFA administration" replace the limited reference to "FIFA TMS".

Besides "article 15" has been changed into "article 21" to reflect the relocation of said article.



WORDING

AMENDMENT

1.

Proceedings are opened by the secretariat of the Disciplinary Committee:

- a) on the basis of match officials' reports;
- b) where a protest has been lodged;
- c) at the request of the FIFA Council;
- d) at the request of the Integrity Expert
- e) at the request of the Ethics Committee;
- f) on the basis of a report filed by a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary, instance or by the FIFA administration;
- g) on the basis of article 21 of this Code:
- h) on the basis of documents received from a public authority;
- i) ex officio.

55 (2) former 52 (2)

Initiation of investigation process by FIFA

The 2019 FDC did not explicitly provide for the possibility for FIFA to initiate investigations.

The amendment is aimed at providing legal certainty by establishing a statutory legal basis for FIFA to (i) initiate investigations and/or (ii) appoint the (newly created) integrity experts.

AMENDMENT

2

Any person or body may report any conduct that is considered incompatible with FIFA regulations to the FIFA judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing. FIFA may initiate investigations and appoint an integrity expert to investigate any such complaint.

56 former 53

Possibility to refer cases directly to the Appeal Committee

Urgent cases may be directly referred to the Appeal Committee based on a decision of the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy. Such a referral to the Appeal Committee is also possible where it is deemed appropriate in view of the circumstances of a case.

When dealing with a specific case, the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee (or their deputy) may decide to (directly) refer it to the Appeal Committee.

In such circumstances, the party concerned would be informed accordingly.

NEW

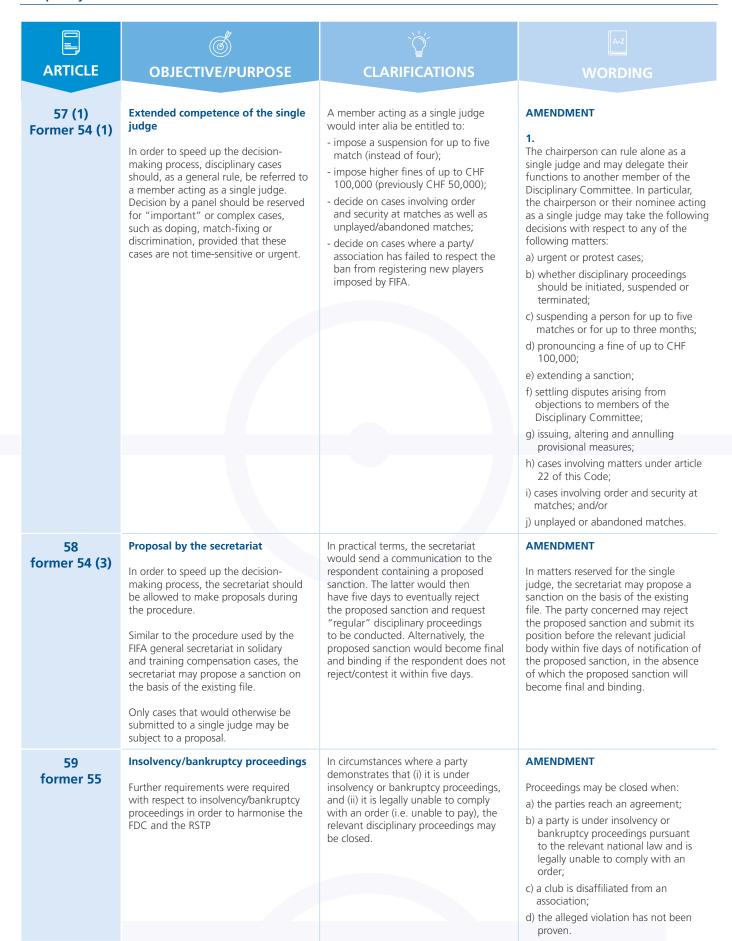
3.

If deemed appropriate, the chairperson or their deputy may refer a case, regardless of the matter involved, directly to the Appeal Committee for consideration and decision.











ARTICLE	objective/purpose	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
60 (1) former 56 (1)	Jurisdiction of the Appeal Committee As previously mentioned, cases may be directly referred to the Appeal Committee based on a decision of the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy. The relevant provision related to the jurisdiction of the Appeal Committee was therefore amended accordingly.	The article has been amended in order to reflect the possibility for the Chairperson (or their deputy) of the Disciplinary Committee to refer a case directly to the Appeal Committee.	AMENDMENT 1. The Appeal Committee is competent to decide on appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that FIFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body, as well as on cases referred by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy for consideration and decision.
60 (7) former 56 (7)	Inadmissibility of appeals Additional clarification were included in relation to the procedural steps that may result in the inadmissibility of an appeal.	The article has been amended to emphasise that not observing deadlines will end up in an appeal being declared inadmissible.	7. The appeal is not admissible if any deadline and/or any of the abovementioned requirements are not met.
64 former 60	Procedural issues before the Appeal Committee Any procedural issues related to an appeal before the FIFA Appeal Committee, in particular the	If an appeal appears not to meet the requirements of art. 60 and/or art. 61 (former art. 56 and/or art. 57 of the 2019 FDC), the appeal would be submitted to the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee in order for this	AMENDMENT The chairperson (or in their absence, the deputy chairperson) of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:
	admissibility of the appeal, should be decided by the chairperson before going into the merits.	issue to be resolved and decided before any analysis of the merits of the appeal.	a) on a preliminary procedural issue related to the appeal, including the admissibility of the appeal;
			 b) in urgent or protest cases; c) on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction; d) to resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
			e) on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;
			f) issue, alter and annul provisional measures;
			g) in cases where the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is a fine of up to CHF 500,000 or a suspension from playing or carrying out a function for up to five matches or a period of time up to 12 months; and/or
			h) at the request of the parties.



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ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
66 former 62	Player serving a match suspension While in practice, the same modalities were applied for players than for officials, the 2019 FDC did not contain any clear provision on how a player should serve a match suspension.	The article has been amended to provide clarification on what players serving a match suspension are or are not allowed to do.	 A player who is serving a match suspension: a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded; b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, before or during the match, attend the warmup, or sit on the team bench. After the final whistle, a suspended player may join their team in the dressing room; c) is not entitled to attend the postmatch press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.
66 (3) former 62 (2)	Official sent off or serving a match suspension Clarification has been provided with respect to officials being sent off or serving a match suspension.	More specifically, the article has been amended to reflect that the restrictions on an official sent off or serving a match suspension only apply prior to and during the match. In other words, after the end of the match, the official would be entitled to "enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, or communicate with or contact any person involved in the match".	3. An official who has been sent off or is serving a match suspension: a) may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded; b) shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, or communicate with or contact any person involved in the match – in particular, players or technical staff – by any means whatsoever prior to or during the match; c) is not entitled to attend the postmatch press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.
67 (4) former 63 (1)	Direct red card and previous yellow cards For the sake of clarity, the article has been slightly amended.	The reference of being "guilty of a sending-off offence" has been removed and replaced by being "sent off as a result of a direct red card".	4. If a person is sent off as a result of a direct red card, any other caution they have previously received in the same match is upheld.
68 (1) former 64 (1)	Based on the wording of art. 64 (2) of the 2019 FDC, in circumstances where the Disciplinary Committee decides to cancel the cautions before a specific round of a competition (ex. the playoffs, next round or phase), the cautions that led to a match suspension (e.g. two cautions in two different matches) would be cancelled and the suspension lifted. To avoid the above situation that is contrary to the spirit of the article, the latter has been slightly amended.	By adding the words "or a suspension", it is now clear that single yellow cards can be cancelled during a competition, but that any suspension resulting from yellow (or red) cards would remain in place.	1. The Disciplinary Committee may, at its own discretion and on its own initiative or at the request of a confederation, cancel cautions that have not resulted in a sending-off or a suspension by means of a decision not subject to appeal.





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ARTICLE	OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE	CLARIFICATIONS	WORDING
69 (2) former 65 (2)	Carrying over match suspensions The reference to the FIFA Confederations Cup became obsolete as this competition no longer exists.	The reference to the FIFA Confederations Cup has been removed.	AMENDMENT Lit. c) has been removed.
70 (1) former 66 (1)	Worldwide extensions – serious infringements In order to ensure that sanctions imposed on an individual for sexual abuse or harassment can be extended worldwide, this notion has been added to the list of examples contained in the relevant article.	The article has been amended to include "sexual abuse or harassment" amongst the serious infringements requiring a worldwide extension of the related sanction pronounced by the associations, confederations or other organising sports bodies.	1. If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment, the associations, confederations, and other organising sports bodies shall request that the Disciplinary Committee extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect (worldwide extension).
70 (3) former 66 (3)	Worldwide extensions – requirements In order to ensure the transparency of proceedings, the associations/ confederations or organising sports bodies concerned must inform the accused of the request made to FIFA to extend the decision worldwide.	Prior to requesting the FIFA Disciplinary Committee to extend a sanction to have worldwide effect, the relevant authority would be required to inform the accused of such intended request.	AMENDMENT 3. The request shall be submitted and enclose a true copy of the decision. It shall include the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the club and the association concerned as well as evidence that the person concerned has been informed that the sanction will be submitted for a worldwide extension.
72 former 68	Languages The FIFA official languages have recently been amended in the FIFA Statutes (additional languages being included).	The article has been amended in view of the changes to the FIFA Statutes, clarifying in which languages (English, French and Spanish) the FDC would be published.	 AMENDMENT This Code exists in English, French and Spanish. In the event of any discrepancy between the three texts, the English version is authoritative.
76 former 72	Enforcement of CAS ordinary awards The relevant paragraph related to failure to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings has been moved to the article related to failure to respect decisions.	The new article is self-explanatory	RELOCATION Paragraph 2 has deleted and relocated to art. 21.







ARTICLE

Annexe 1

New



OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

List of sanctions

In order to ensure greater predictability for stakeholders, in particular those involved in disciplinary proceedings, a list of predefined sanctions for various offences is included.



CLARIFICATIONS

The annexe provides a list of sanctions related to various offences that would "usually" be imposed by the respective judicial body.

However, for the sake of clarity, the respective judicial body may deviate from this list and may impose different sanctions where appropriate.

Such list may also serve as a basis for the Secretariat in relation to the proposals (art. 58).



WORDING

NEW

New annexe created



