



**FECAFOOT
DISCIPLINARY CODE**

FECAFOOT

Adopted by the FECAFOOT General Assembly of 13 July 2021

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1: Purpose

This Code describes infringements of the rules in FECAFOOT regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organization and functioning of the FECAFOOT judicial bodies responsible for making decisions and the procedures to be followed before the said bodies.

Article 2: Scope of application: substantive law

(1) This Code shall apply to every match and competition organized by FECAFOOT and to matches and competitions in association football that do not fall under the jurisdiction of member leagues and/or associations, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(2) This Code shall also apply to any breach of FECAFOOT's statutory objectives as well as of any FECAFOOT rule that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other FECAFOOT body.

Article 3: Scope of personal application

The following shall be bound by this Code:

- a. FECAFOOT member associations or leagues;
- b. members of associations, in particular the clubs;
- c. officials and persons exercising a function in FECAFOOT member associations or league;
- d. players;
- e. match officials;
- f. intermediaries;
- g. licensed match agents;
- h. anyone elected or assigned by FECAFOOT to exercise a function, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by FECAFOOT.

Article 4: Scope of temporal application

(1) This Code shall apply to all disciplinary offences committed following the date on which it comes into force.

(2) This Code shall also apply to all disciplinary offences committed prior to the date on which it comes into force, subject to any milder sanction that would apply under previous rules.

(3) Disciplinary proceedings instigated against someone who was bound by this Code (see Article 3) on the day the alleged disciplinary offence was committed shall not be abandoned by the FECAFOOT judicial bodies solely because the person involved is no longer under FECAFOOT's jurisdiction.

Article 5: Applicable law

The FECAFOOT judicial bodies shall base their decisions:

- a. primarily, on the FECAFOOT Statutes, FECAFOOT's regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, as well as on the statutes of its leagues and associations and the Laws of the Game; and
- b. subsidiarily, on Cameroonian law and any other law that the competent judicial body deems applicable.

Article 6: Disciplinary measures

(1) The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural and legal persons:

- a. warning;
- b. reprimand;
- c. fine;
- d. return of awards;
- e. withdrawal of a title.

(2) The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural persons only:

- a. suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period;
- b. ban from dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- c. ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- d. community football service.

(3) The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on legal persons only:

- a. transfer ban;
- b. playing a match without spectators;
- c. playing a match with a limited number of spectators;
- d. playing a match on neutral territory;
- e. ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- f. annulment of the result of a match;
- g. deduction of points;

- h. relegation to a lower division;
 - i. expulsion from a competition in progress or from future competitions;
 - j. forfeiture;
 - k. replaying a match;
 - l. implementation of a prevention plan.
- (4) Fines shall not be less than 500 000 CFA francs or more than 10 000 000 CFA francs.
- (5) Associations shall be jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The same shall apply to clubs in respect of their players and officials.
- (6) The disciplinary measures provided for in this Code may be combined.

Article 7: Directives

- (1) Directives shall require those affected by them to behave in a certain manner.
- (2) In addition to disciplinary measures, the FECAFOOT judicial bodies may issue directives stipulating the manner in which a disciplinary measure must be carried out, including the date and conditions on which the disciplinary measure shall be enforced.
- (3) The FECAFOOT judicial bodies or those of its leagues may also award compensation for damage where an association or club is liable for that damage on the basis of Article 8 or 16 of this Code.

Article 8: Responsibility

- (1) Unless otherwise specified in this Code, infringements shall be punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. In particular, associations and clubs may be responsible for the behaviour of their members, players, officials or supporters or any other person carrying out a function on their behalf, even if the association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence.
- (2) Acts amounting to attempt shall also be punishable.
- (3) Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned.

Article 9: Decisions of the referee

- (1) Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play shall be final and may not be reviewed by the FECAFOOT judicial bodies.
- (2) In cases where a decision by the referee involves an obvious error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalized), the FECAFOOT judicial bodies or

those of its leagues may only review the disciplinary consequences of that decision. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.

(3) A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions shall be admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.

(4) In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and his assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.

(5) The provisions of this Code relating to protests against match results affected by a referee's decision that was an obvious violation of a rule shall remain applicable.

Article 10: Limitation period for prosecution

(1) Infringements may no longer be prosecuted in accordance with the following periods:

- a. two years for infringements committed during a match;
- b. ten years for anti-doping rule violations (as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations), infringements relating to international transfers involving minors and match manipulation;
- c. five years for all other offences.

(2) The limitation period shall run 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 for a certain period, from the day on which it ended;
- d. from the day on which the decision of the FECAFOOT Dispute Resolution Chamber, the FECAFOOT Players' Status Committee, of the Conciliation and Arbitration Chamber (CAC) or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) becomes final and binding.

(3) The limitation periods set out above shall be interrupted by all procedural acts, starting afresh with each interruption.

PART II: OFFENCES

CHAPTER 1

INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

Article 11: Offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair-play

(1) Associations and clubs, as well as their players, officials and any other member and/or person exercising a function on their behalf, must respect the Laws of the Game, the FECAFOOT Statutes and FECAFOOT's regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.

(2) For example, anyone who acts in any of the following ways may be subject to disciplinary measures:

- a. violating the basic rules of decent conduct;
- b. insulting a natural or legal person in any way, especially by using offensive gestures, signs or language;
- c. using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;
- d. behaving in a way that brings the sport of football or FECAFOOT and its leagues into disrepute;
- e. actively altering the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits.

(3) The misconduct described in paragraphs 2b, 2c, 2d and 2e above shall also be subject to the disciplinary measures provided for in this Code if committed off the pitch (e.g. on social networks).

CHAPTER 2

DISORDERLINESS AT MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

Article 12: Misconduct of players and officials

(1) Players and officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly:

- a. one match for players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;
- b. at least one match or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;
- c. at least one match for officials who are sent off for dissent by word or action;
- d. at least one match for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, e.g. in order to be suspended for an upcoming match and to ultimately have a clean record;
- e. at least two matches for serious foul play;
- f. at least two matches for provoking spectators at a match by any means;

g. at least two matches or a specific period for acting with obvious intent to cause a match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting his error of judgement and thereby causing him to make an incorrect decision;

h. at least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault (punching, elbowing, head-butting, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc.) on an opponent or a person other than a match official;

i. at least four matches or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards a match official;

j. at least ten matches or an appropriate period of time for provoking or intimidating a match official;

k. at least 15 matches or an appropriate period of time for assaulting a match official (punching, elbowing, head-butting, kicking, biting, spitting, etc.).

(2) The misconduct described in paragraphs 1b, f, i and j above shall also be subject to the disciplinary measures provided for in this Code, despite the fact that the offence has been committed off the field of play (e.g. via social networks).

(3) If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those actually played by the respective team shall count towards execution of the suspension. It shall not be necessary for a player to be included on the team sheet for the respective match or competition in order for a match suspension to be considered served.

(4) A player or official who, in the context of a match (including pre- and post-match) or competition, publicly incites others to hatred or violence shall be sanctioned with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for no less than six months and with a minimum fine of 200 000 CFA francs. In serious cases, in addition to the above sanctions and in particular if the infringement is committed using social networks and/or the mass media (such as the print media, radio or television) or takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine shall be 500 000 CFA francs.

(5) If a team conducts itself improperly (for example, if individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players – three or more in the case of futsal – during a match), disciplinary measures may also be taken against the association or club concerned.

(6) Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed in all cases.

Article 13: Discrimination

(1) Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions (by any means whatsoever) on account of skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason, shall be sanctioned with a

suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.

(2) If one or more of an association's or club's supporters engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1 above, the association or club responsible shall be subject to the following disciplinary measures:

a. for a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least 500,000 CFA francs;

b. for reoffenders or if the circumstances of the case so require, implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a match, expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division.

(3) Individuals who have been the direct addressee of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the respective judicial body to make an oral or written victim impact statement.

(4) Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a match is abandoned by the referee because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the match shall be declared forfeited.

Article 14: Unplayed matches and abandonment

(1) If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable, the association or club shall be sanctioned with a minimum fine of 500 000 CFA francs. The match shall either be forfeited or replayed.

(2) Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

(3) Where a match was abandoned and is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. Where a match was abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and recommences at the minute at which play was interrupted, any caution issued before the match was abandoned shall remain valid for the remainder of the match. Where the match is not replayed, the caution received by the teams shall be upheld.

Article 15: Failure to respect decisions

(1) Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or FECAFOOT a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or a FECAFOOT or CAC decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another final (non-financial) decision rendered by a body or a committee of FECAFOOT, CAC or CAS:

- a. shall be fined for failing to comply with a decision; and
 - b. shall be granted a final deadline of 30 days in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the non-financial decision;
 - c. 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 transfer ban will be pronounced 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 transfer ban in the event of persistent failure, repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full transfer could be imposed or served for any reason;
 - d. in the case of associations, 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, additional disciplinary measures may be imposed;
 - e. in the case of natural persons, 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 any football-related activity for a specific period may be imposed. Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.
- (2) With regard to financial decisions passed by a body or committee of FECAFOOT, one of its leagues, CAC or CAS, disciplinary proceedings may only commence at the request of the creditor or any other affected party, who shall have the right to be notified of the final outcome of the said disciplinary proceedings.
- (3) If the sanctioned person disregards the final time limit, FECAFOOT and/or the relevant association (in cases involving clubs or natural persons) shall implement the sanctions imposed. A transfer ban or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may only be lifted before it has been fully served upon payment of the due amounts, with other disciplinary measures being reserved.
- (4) The sporting successor of a non-compliant party shall also be considered a non-compliant party and thus subject to the obligations under this provision. Criteria to assess whether an entity is to be considered as the sporting successor of another entity shall be, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition concerned.
- (5) Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a club or natural person by a judicial body or national dispute resolution chamber (NDRC), both duly recognized by FECAFOOT, shall be enforced by the condemned party or by the Secretariat General of FECAFOOT on behalf of the condemned party, in accordance with the principles established in this Article.

Article 16: Order and security at matches

- (1) Host clubs and associations shall be responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. They shall be liable for

incidents of any kind and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives, unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organization of the match. In particular, associations, clubs and licensed match agents who organize matches shall:

- a. assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FECAFOOT bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b. comply with and implement existing safety rules (FECAFOOT regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
- c. ensure the safety of the match officials and the 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 and around the stadiums and that matches are organized properly.

(2) All associations and clubs shall be liable for inappropriate behaviour on the part of one or more of their supporters as stated below and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organization of the match:

- a. invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play;
- b. throwing of objects;
- c. lighting of fireworks or any other objects;
- d. use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;
- e. use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event, particularly messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;
- f. acts of damage;
- g. causing a disturbance during national anthems;
- h. any other lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium.

Article 17: Doping

Doping shall be sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and this Code.

Article 18: Manipulation of football matches competitions

(1) Anyone who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match and/or competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least 5 000 000 CFA francs. In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.

(2) Where a player or official engages in behaviour described in paragraph 1 above, the club or association to which the player or official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different competition, provided the integrity of the competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.

(3) Persons bound by this Code must cooperate fully with FECAFOOT at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall therefore immediately and voluntarily report to the secretariat of the FECAFOOT Disciplinary Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition as described above. Any breach of this provision shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football-related activity and a fine of at least 1 000 000 CFA francs.

(4) The Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to investigate and adjudicate all conduct on and off the field of play in connection with the manipulation of football matches and competitions.

CHAPTER 3
OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 19: Duty to report

(1) Anyone bound by this Code shall immediately report to the secretariat of the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee any violation of, or attempt to violate, this Code by any third party.

(2) Anyone bound by this Code making an unfounded or irresponsible accusation shall be liable to sanctions.

Article 20: Duty to collaborate

(1) The parties shall act in good faith during the entire proceedings.

(2) The parties shall collaborate to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from the FECAFOOT judicial bodies.

(3) At the request of the judicial body, persons bound by 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.

(4) If the parties are dilatory in responding, the chairperson of the judicial body may, after warning them, impose disciplinary measures on them. The same principle shall apply to persons bound by this Code and witnesses.

(5) If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial body may nonetheless reach a decision on the case using the file in its possession.

Article 21: Forgery and falsification

(1) Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document will be sanctioned with a fine and a ban of at least six matches or for a specific period of no less than 12 months.

(2) An association or a club may be held liable for an act of forgery or falsification by one of its officials and/or players.

Article 22: Forfeit

(1) If a player is fielded in a match despite being ineligible, the team to which the player belongs will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of 500 000 CFA francs. The player may also be sanctioned.

(2) A team sanctioned with a forfeiture is considered to have lost the match 3-0 in 11-a-side football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer. If the goal difference at the end of the match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the pitch shall be upheld.

(3) If ineligible players are fielded in a competition, the FECAFOOT judicial bodies, taking into consideration the integrity of the competition concerned, may impose any disciplinary measures, including a forfeiture, or declare the club or association ineligible to participate in a different competition.

(4) The Disciplinary Committee shall also have the capacity to act *ex officio*.

(5) Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

CHAPTER 4 **IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

Article 23: Enforcement of sanctions

- (1) The limitation period to enforce disciplinary measures shall be five years.
- (2) The limitation period shall begin on the day on which the final decision comes into force.

Article 24: Determining the disciplinary measure

- (1) The judicial body shall determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
- (2) Disciplinary measures may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
- (3) When determining the disciplinary measure, the judicial body shall take into account all relevant factors of the case, including any assistance of and substantial cooperation by the offender in uncovering or establishing a breach of any FECAFOOT rule, the circumstances and the degree of the offender's guilt and any other relevant circumstances.
- (4) In exercising its discretionary powers, the relevant judicial body may scale down the disciplinary measure to be imposed or even dispense with it entirely.

Article 25: Recidivism

- (1) Recidivism shall occur if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed after notification of the previous decision within:
 - a. one year of the previous offence if that offence was sanctioned with a suspension of up to two matches;
 - b. two years of the previous offence if that offence related to order and security;
 - c. ten years of the previous offence if that offence related to match manipulation or corruption;
 - d. three years of the previous offence in all other cases.
- (2) Recidivism shall count as an aggravating circumstance.
- (3) Recidivism in doping matters shall be subject to the rules of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

Article 26: Suspension of implementation of disciplinary measures

- (1) The relevant judicial body may decide to fully or partially suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure.
- (2) Persons bound by this Code shall have a duty to cooperate with other associations to forward and notify them of documents or to provide information related to and/or required for domestic disciplinary proceedings. If an association fails to cooperate in this way, it may lead to sanctions as provided under this Code.
- (3) Member leagues and associations shall inform FECAFOOT of the disciplinary measures they take.
- (4) The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT and its leagues shall reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious offences falling within the scope of this Code.

PART III
ORGANIZATION AND COMPETENCE

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 27: General rule

- (1) The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT and its leagues shall be competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction conduct within the scope of application of this Code.
- (2) Leagues, associations and other sports organizations shall be responsible for investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning conduct in their respective jurisdictions.
- (3) FECAFOOT shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to matches and competitions is organizes.
- (4) Persons bound by this Code shall have a duty to cooperate with other associations to forward and notify them of documents or to provide information related to and/or required for domestic disciplinary proceedings. If an association fails to cooperate in this way, it may lead to sanctions as provided under this Code.
5. Member leagues and associations shall inform FECAFOOT of the disciplinary measures they take.
6. The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT and its leagues shall reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of this Code that fall under the jurisdiction of FECAFOOT.

Article 28: Composition of FECAFOOT judicial bodies

(1) The FECAFOOT judicial bodies shall be the following:

- the Federal Homologation and Discipline Commission;
- the National Chamber for Dispute Resolution;
- the Ethics Committee;
- the Appeals Committee;

(2) The FECAFOOT General Assembly shall, upon the recommendation of the FECAFOOT Executive Committee, elect the chairperson, deputy chairperson, rapporteur and members of the FECAFOOT judicial bodies for a period of four years.

Article 29: Independence

(1) The chairperson, deputy chairperson, rapporteur and members of the FECAFOOT judicial bodies shall fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FECAFOOT statutes.

(2) Members of the FECAFOOT judicial bodies must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality and/or if there is a conflict of interests.

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

(4) The chairperson shall decide on any claim of bias. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in his absence, the longest-serving member present shall decide on such claim.

Article 30: Meetings

(1) At the request of the committee chairperson, deputy chairperson or, in his absence, the longest-serving member available, the secretariat shall convene the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.

(2) A meeting may take place with a single judge.

(3) The chairperson, deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the single judge shall conduct the meetings and pass the decisions that this Code empowers him to take.

Article 31: Confidentiality

- (1) The members of the FECAFOOT judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (including the facts of the case, the contents of deliberations and decisions taken).
- (2) The opening of proceedings as well as decisions already notified to the parties concerned may be made public by FECAFOOT.
- (3) Any person who is required to participate in or is subject to a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary proceedings must keep such information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body explicitly stipulates otherwise in writing. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.
- (4) In the event of a breach of this Article by a member of a judicial body, the relevant member shall be suspended from the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee until the next FECAFOOT General Assembly.

Article 32: Secretariat

- (1) The FECAFOOT secretariat general shall provide the FECAFOOT judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at the FECAFOOT headquarters. The FECAFOOT judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.
- (2) The secretariat shall assume the administrative tasks and shall participate, together with the rapporteur, in the drafting of minutes of meetings and decisions.
- (3) The secretariat shall manage the case files. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten years.
- (4) The secretariat shall keep records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions, which shall be stored in FECAFOOT's central data storage system. The secretariat of the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee shall confirm such sanctions in writing to the association or club concerned. To ensure that the relevant records are complete, leagues shall inform FECAFOOT of all sanctions that have been pronounced during their own competitions and that are likely to be carried over to a FECAFOOT competition.
- (5) The secretariat shall be responsible for the necessary investigation ex officio.

Article 33: Exemption from liability

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

Article 34: Time limits

- (1) Time limits to which the associations shall adhere commence the day after they have received the relevant document.
- (2) Official holidays and non-working days shall be included in the calculation of time limits. Time limits shall be interrupted from 20 December to 5 January inclusive.
- (3) Time limits applicable to persons bound by this Code shall commence on the day after receipt of the relevant document.
- (4) When a time limit expires on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, it shall be carried forward to the next working day.
- (5) Where a time limit is not observed, the defaulter shall lose the procedural right in question.
- (6) Time limits laid down by this Code may not be extended.

Article 35: Evidence, evaluation of evidence and standard of proof

- (1) Any type of proof may be produced.
- (2) The competent judicial body shall have absolute discretion regarding the evaluation of evidence.
- (3) The standard of proof to be applied in FECAFOOT disciplinary proceedings shall be the comfortable satisfaction of the competent judicial body.

Article 36: Burden of proof

- (1) The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements shall rest on the FECAFOOT judicial bodies.
- (2) Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall bear the burden of proof of this fact. During the proceedings, the party shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which the party is aware at that time, or of which the party should have been aware by exercising due care.
- (3) For anti-doping rule violations, the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations shall apply.

Article 37: Witnesses

- (1) Witnesses shall tell the absolute and whole truth and shall answer the questions put to them in good faith and to the best of their knowledge.

(2) The parties shall be responsible for ensuring the appearance of the witnesses requested by them and to pay all costs and expenses in connection with their appearance.

Article 38: Anonymous participants in proceedings

(1) When a person's testimony in proceedings conducted in accordance with this Code could lead to threats on his person or put him or any person particularly close to him in physical danger, the chairperson of the competent judicial body or the deputy chairperson may order, inter alia, that:

- a. the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;
- b. the person not appear at the hearing;
- c. the person's voice be distorted;
- d. the person be questioned outside the hearing room;
- e. the person be questioned in writing;
- f. all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

(2) If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this Code if:

- a. the parties and their legal representatives have had the opportunity to ask questions to the person concerned in writing; and
- b. the members of the relevant judicial body have had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of his identity and to assess his identity and record in full.

(3) Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of any person granted anonymity under this provision or any information that could be used to identify such person.

Article 39: Identification of anonymous participants in proceedings

(1) To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties.

Such identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the competent judicial body alone, the deputy chairperson and/or the members of the competent judicial body present and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

(2) The minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

- (3) The parties shall receive a brief notice which:
- a. confirms that the person concerned has been formally identified; and
 - b. contains no details that could be used to identify such person.

Article 40: Match officials' reports

Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials shall be presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.

Article 41: Representation and assistance

(1) Subject to Article 42 of this Code, the parties shall be free to have legal representation at their own cost, in which case a duly signed power of attorney must be submitted.

(2) Where they are not required to appear personally, a party may be represented.

Article 42: Legal aid

(1) In order to guarantee their rights, individuals bound by this Code who have insufficient financial means may request legal aid from FECAFOOT for the purpose of proceedings before the FECAFOOT judicial bodies.

(2) Applicants for legal aid must submit reasoned requests and supporting documents.

(3) The secretariat shall establish a list of pro bono counsel.

(4) According to each applicant's needs, and subject to prior written confirmation by FECAFOOT, legal aid may be provided as follows:

- a. the applicant may be waived from payment of the costs of proceedings;
- b. pro bono counsel may be selected by the applicant from the list provided by the secretariat;
- c. the applicant's own reasonable travel and accommodation costs and those of witnesses and experts he calls to testify may be covered by FECAFOOT, including the travel and accommodation costs of any pro bono counsel selected from the list provided by the secretariat.

(5) The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall decide on requests for legal aid. Such decisions shall be final.

(6) Further conditions and requirements associated with legal aid and pro bono counsel may be communicated by circular letter.

Article 43: Language used in proceedings

(1) The languages used in proceedings shall be the two official languages of FECAFOOT (English and French). The FECAFOOT judicial bodies and the parties may choose to communicate in any of these languages.

(2) Decisions shall be rendered in any of the two official languages of FECAFOOT.

Article 44: Communication with parties

(1) All of the parties shall be notified of decisions.

(2) Communications from the secretariat shall be sent to the email address specifically provided to the secretariat by the party concerned and/or via registered letter. Emails and registered letters shall be valid and binding means of communication and shall be deemed sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.

(3) The parties and associations must ensure that their contact details (e.g. address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.

(4) Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials shall be addressed to the association concerned on condition that it forwards the decisions and documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, they shall be considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee the day after receipt of the document by the relevant association. Failure by the association to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this Code.

Article 45: Costs and expenses

(1) Costs and expenses shall be borne by the party that has been sanctioned, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

(2) The costs of proceedings before the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee shall be borne by FECAFOOT, except in protest cases, when they shall be borne by the defeated party.

(3) Where no party is sanctioned, the costs and expenses shall be borne by FECAFOOT. Should a party generate unnecessary costs on account of its conduct, costs may be imposed upon it, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.

(4) The judicial body that rules on the substance of the matter shall decide how costs and expenses shall be allocated and the relevant amounts shall be stipulated

by the chairperson of the relevant judicial body. The decision shall not be subject to appeal.

(5) Each party shall bear its own costs, including the costs of its own witnesses, representatives, legal advisers, interpreters and counsel, subject to Article 42 of this Code.

Article 46: Protests

(1) Associations and their clubs shall be entitled to lodge protests. Protests must reach the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee in writing, indicating the relevant grounds, within 24 hours of the end of the match in question.

(2) The 24-hour time limit may not be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of the competition, the corresponding competition regulations may shorten the protest deadline accordingly.

(3) The protest lump sum fee shall be 200 000 CFA francs. It must be paid when the protest is lodged and shall be reimbursed only if the protest is admitted in full.

(4) A protest shall be admissible only if it is based on:

a. an ineligible player's participation in a match as a consequence of that player not fulfilling the conditions defined in the relevant FECAFOOT regulations;

b. an unfit field of play, as long as the referee was informed as soon as the problem was reported or observed (whether in writing before the match, or orally by a team captain, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, during the match);

c. an obvious error by the referee as defined in Article 9 of this Code, in which case the protest may be directed only at the disciplinary consequences of the referee's obvious error.

Article 47: Effects of decisions

(1) Decisions shall come into force as soon as they are notified.

(2) Cautions, expulsions and automatic match suspensions shall have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the notification reaches the association, club or head of delegation concerned later.

Article 48: Provisional measures

(1) The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or his designated representative, shall be entitled to pronounce provisional measures where these are deemed necessary to ensure the proper administration of justice, to maintain

sporting discipline or to avoid irreparable harm, or for reasons of safety and security. He shall not be obliged to hear the parties.

(2) Provisional measures pronounced by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or his representative may be appealed against in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Code. However, the appeal must reach FECAFOOT in writing and with grounds within three days of notification of the contested measure, without the condition of payment of any appeal fee. The chairperson of the Appeals Committee, or his designated representative, shall decide on such appeals as a single judge. Such decisions shall be final.

(3) A provisional measure may apply for up to 90 days. The duration of any such measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or his designated representative, may exceptionally extend the validity of a provisional measure by up to 90 days.

Article 49: Conciliation and Arbitration Chamber / Court of Arbitration for sport

Decisions taken by the Appeals Committee may be appealed against before the Conciliation and Arbitration Chamber (CAC) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), in accordance with the provisions of this Code and Article 73 of the FECAFOOT Statutes.

CHAPTER 2 **DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

Article 50: Convocation, rights of the parties, hearings, decisions, communication and confidentiality

(1) As a general rule, there shall be no oral statements and the FECAFOOT judicial bodies shall rule on the basis of the file in its possession.

(2) However, at the reasoned request of one of the parties or at the discretion of the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the competent judicial body (or the single judge), a hearing may be arranged to be held, to which all the parties shall be summoned.

(3) Unless this Code specifies otherwise, the parties may submit written statements, examine the case file and order copies of the case file before any decision is reached.

(4) Hearings shall be recorded and archived. Parties shall not be given access to recordings of hearings. However, if a party claims that procedural rules in its favour have been breached during a hearing, the chairperson of the competent judicial

body, or his designated representative, may allow that party to have access to the recording. Recordings shall be destroyed after five years.

(5) The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT may hold hearings and take decisions in the absence of one or all of the parties.

(6) Where different proceedings are opened against the same party, club or individual, the competent judicial body may combine the cases and issue one comprehensive decision.

(7) Hearings of the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT shall not be open to the public, except in cases of anti-doping rule violations by individuals if duly requested by the defendant and approved by the chairperson of the relevant judicial body or his designated representative. In cases of match manipulation, the relevant chairperson or his designated representative shall be free to decide about a public hearing. The chairperson or his designated representative shall decide at his own discretion if and under what conditions a public hearing may take place.

(8) At any time prior to the meeting set up to decide the case by the relevant judicial body, a party may accept responsibility and request the judicial body of FECAFOOT to impose a specific sanction. The judicial body of FECAFOOT may decide on the basis of such request or render a decision which it considers appropriate in the context of this Code.

(9) All communications concerning a party, club or individual (including notifications of proceedings against them and the issuing of the decisions taken by the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT) shall be addressed to the party concerned, which must then, where applicable, inform the club or the individual in person. The secretariat shall send all such communications by FECAFOOT or its judicial bodies by email.

(10) An association, club or individual shall also send communications to FECAFOOT by email.

Article 51: Decisions

(1) Decisions shall be passed by a single judge or by a simple majority of the members present. In case of a tie, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

(2) The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT may take decisions via personal meetings, teleconference, videoconference or any other method.

(3) In principle, the decisions of the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT shall be handed without reasons, and only the decisions shall be notified to the parties, who

shall be informed that they have ten days from that notification to request, in writing, a reasoned decision. Failure to make such a request shall result in the decision becoming final and binding, and the parties being deemed to have waived their right to lodge an appeal.

(4) Where reasoned decision is requested within the stipulated time limit, the time limit for lodging an appeal shall start running only upon notification of the reason. Only the parties to which a decision is addressed may request the reason.

(5) Any appeal lodged before notification of the reasoned decision shall be regarded exclusively as a request for reason.

(6) Doping-related decisions shall always be issued with reasons.

(7) The Secretariat General of FECAFOOT shall publish decisions issued by the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT. Where a decision contains confidential information, FECAFOOT may decide, ex officio or at the request of a party, to publish an anonymized or redacted version.

(8) The request for a reasoned decision shall not affect the enforceability of the decision, which shall take effect as soon as it is notified, with the exception of payment orders.

(9) The competent judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in the decision at any time.

CHAPTER 3 **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

Article 52: Commencement of proceedings

(1) Proceedings shall be 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 members of the Council;
- d. at the request of the Ethics Committee;
- e. on the basis of reports submitted by FECAFOOT;
- f. on the basis of Article 15 of this Code;
- g. on the basis of documents received from a public authority;
- h. ex officio.

(2) Any person or authority may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of FECAFOOT to the FECAFOOT judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be in writing.

Article 53: Jurisdiction

(1) The Homologation and Disciplinary Committee shall be competent to sanction any breach of FECAFOOT regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of other bodies.

(2) The Disciplinary Committee shall, in particular, be 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 a sending-off;
- d. pronouncing additional sanctions.

Article 54: Jurisdiction of single judges

(1) The chairperson of the committee may rule alone as a single judge and may delegate his

duties to another member of the Disciplinary Committee. In particular, the chairperson or his designated representative acting as a single judge may take decisions with respect to any of the following matters:

- a. urgent or protest cases;
- b. deciding whether disciplinary proceedings shall be initiated, suspended or terminated;
- c. suspending a person for up to four matches or for up to three months;
- d. pronouncing a fine of up to 1 000 000 CFA francs;
- e. ruling on extending a sanction;
- f. settling disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
- g. pronouncing, altering and annulling provisional measures;
- h. cases involving matters under Article 15 of this Code;
- i. other infringements that are punishable with a fine only.

(2) The secretariat, under the guidance of the chairperson or the deputy chairperson, shall be responsible for assigning cases to single judges. Proceedings before a single judge shall be conducted in accordance with this Code.

(3) In matters reserved for the single judge, the chairperson of the committee or his alternate may propose a sanction on the basis of the existing file before the disciplinary proceedings even commence. The party concerned may reject the proposed sanction and request the commencement of disciplinary proceedings within five days of notification of the proposed sanction, in the absence of which the sanction shall become final and binding. Should disciplinary proceedings be opened, the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, which shall not include the single judge proposing the sanction, shall determine the appropriate disciplinary

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measure in accordance with this Code. The proposed sanction shall become null and void and shall not be taken into consideration by the Disciplinary Committee.

Article 55: Closure of proceedings

Proceedings may be closed when:

- a. the parties reach an agreement;
- b. a party is under insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings in accordance with the relevant national law;
- c. a club is disaffiliated from an association;
- d. the alleged violation has not been proven.

CHAPTER 4 **APPEAL COMMITTEE**

Article 56: Jurisdiction

(1) The Appeal Committee shall be competent to rule on appeals against any of the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee that the regulations of FECAFOOT do not declare as final or referable to another body.

(2) The Appeal Committee shall also be competent to rule on appeals against decisions of the Ethics Committee and of the Electoral Committee, as set out in the Code of Ethics and the Electoral Code of FECAFOOT.

(3) The Appeal Committee shall also be competent to rule on appeals against the decisions of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly, the boards of directors of leagues and the general assemblies of leagues.

(4) Any party intending to lodge an appeal must inform the Appeal Committee of its intention to appeal in writing within three days of notification of the reasons of the decision.

(5) Some CNRL decisions, in particular those arising from disputes within member associations of FECAFOOT and/or its leagues.

(6) Within five days of expiry of the time limit for the declaration of appeal, the appellant must file, in writing, the appeal brief. This must contain the appellant's requests, an account of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of their expected testimony) and the appellant's conclusions. The appellant shall not be authorized to produce further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.

(7) In urgent cases and during final competitions, the chairperson of the committee may shorten the time limit for submission of the above-mentioned documents.

(8) The appeal fee shall be fixed by the Financial Regulation of FECAFOOT. It shall be paid upon submission of the appeal brief at the latest.

(9) The appeal shall not be admissible where any of the above-mentioned requirements have not been fulfilled.

Article 57: Standing to appeal

(1) Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Electoral Committee may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee, provided this party has a legally protected interest in filing the appeal.

(2) Associations and clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members.

Article 58: Deliberations and decisions

(1) The Appeal Committee shall deliberate behind closed doors.

(2) During appeal proceedings, the Appeal Committee shall have full power to review the facts and the law.

(3) The decision of the Appeal Committee shall suspend, amend or overturn the contested decision. In the case of a fundamental mistrial, the Appeal Committee may overturn the contested decision. In the event of serious procedural flaws, the Appeal Committee may overturn the contested decision and refer the case back to the body that took the decision for reassessment.

(4) Where the accused is the only party to have lodged an appeal, the sanction may not be increased.

(5) Where new disciplinary offences come to light while appeal proceedings are pending, they may be judged in the course of the same proceedings. In such a situation, the sanction may be increased.

Article 59: Jurisdiction of the Appeal Committee Chairperson ruling alone

The chairperson (or in his absence, the deputy chairperson) of the Appeal Committee may take decisions alone:

- a. in urgent or protest cases;
- b. in appeals against a decision to extend a sanction;
- c. in disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
- d. in appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;
- e. in appeals to pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures;
- f. in cases where the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is a fine of up to 2 000 000 CFA francs or a suspension of up to five matches or a period of up to 12 months;

- g. in cases where the appeal is clearly inadmissible;
- h. at the request of the parties.

Article 60: Effects of appeal

(2) The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect except with regard to a payment order.

(2) The chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in his absence, the longest-serving member available, may, on receipt of a reasoned request, award a stay of execution.

PART IV
SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Article 61: Expulsion and match suspension

(1) A player who has been sent off:

a. shall stay in the team dressing room or the doping control room, accompanied by a chaperone, until the names of the players selected for the doping test are communicated. The player may be allowed to sit in the stands, provided his integrity and security are safeguarded, he is not picked for doping control and is no longer wearing his football equipment;

b. shall not be entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

(2) 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 his security and integrity are safeguarded;

b. may 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;

c. may not attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.

(3) A sending-off shall automatically incur suspension from the subsequent match.

The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT or its leagues may impose additional match suspensions and other disciplinary measures.

(4) The automatic match suspension and any additional match suspension must be served, even if the sending-off is imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled, forfeited and/or replayed.

(5) Where a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of Article 22), a suspension shall be considered to have been served only where the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the circumstances that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.

(6) A match suspension shall be regarded as no longer pending where a match is retroactively forfeited because a player took part in a match despite being ineligible. This shall also apply to the match suspension imposed on the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.

Article 62: Carrying over cautions

(1) Where a player or an official receives a caution in two separate matches of the same FECAFOOT competition, he shall be automatically suspended from the next match in that competition. Such suspensions must be served before any other suspension. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee shall be final and binding.

(2) Cautions received during one competition shall not be carried over to another competition.

(3) They shall, however, be 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 shall be subject to Article 64 of this Code and to any derogating rules that FECAFOOT may issue for a specific competition.

(4) Where a person is guilty of a sending-off offence, any other caution he has previously received in the same match shall be upheld.

Article 63: Cancellation of cautions

(1) The Disciplinary Committee may, on its own initiative or at the request of a confederation, cancel cautions that have not resulted in a sending-off by means of a decision not subject to appeal.

(2) In any case, the committee may do this only once in any competition.

Article 64: Carrying over match suspensions

(1) As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) shall be carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.

(2) Where a national team is hosting a final competition and is consequently not required to participate in qualifying matches to reach the final competition of this

tournament and its next official match is in that final competition, any match suspension shall be carried over to the national team's next friendly match.

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

(4) Officials of a club or an association shall serve a match suspension with any club or association of which they are officials.

(5) Match suspensions carried over to another competition must be served by the person concerned, regardless of whether the status of that person has changed in the meantime – e.g. from player to official or vice versa.

Article 65: Extending sanctions to have worldwide effect

(1) Where the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to discrimination, the manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials or forgery and falsification, the associations, confederations, and other organizing sports bodies shall request the Disciplinary Committee to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect.

(2) Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another national or international sports association, national anti-doping organization or any other State body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FECAFOOT and, provided that the requirements described in this Code and in Article 71 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations are met, shall be automatically recognized by all confederations and associations.

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

(4) As a general rule, the chairperson of the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee shall rule without deliberations or orally hearing any of the parties, solely on the basis of the file in its possession.

(5) The chairperson may exceptionally decide to summon the parties concerned.

(6) The chairperson shall be restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of this Article have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the initial decision.

(7) The chairperson shall either grant or refuse to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

(8) A sanction imposed by the association or a league shall have the same effect in each member association of FECAFOOT as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them.

Article 66: Review

(1) A review may be requested before the competent judicial body after a legally binding decision has been passed, where a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.

(2) A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.

(3) The limitation period for submitting a request for review shall be one year after the decision has become final and binding

PART V **FINAL PROVISIONS**

Article 67: Official Languages

(1) This Code shall exist in the two official languages of FECAFOOT (English and French).

(2) In the event of discrepancy in instruments drafted in both languages, recourse shall be had to a committee of experts.

Article 68: Gender and number

Terms referring to natural persons shall be applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular shall apply to the plural and vice versa.

Article 69: Specific disciplinary rules

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

Article 70: Specific prohibitions

All associations shall also ensure that no one is involved in the management of a club or an association who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

Article 71: Adoption and enforcement

(1) This Code, drafted in English and French, was adopted by the General Assembly of FECAFOOT at its extraordinary session of 13th July 2021.

(2) It shall enter into force immediately upon adoption.

Yaounde on 13 July 2021

Benjamin Didier BANLOCK

SEIDOU MBOMBO NJOYA

SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRESIDENT

**LIST OF MINIMUM SANCTIONS FOR
UNSPORTING CONDUCT DURING A MATCH**

Article 1: Purpose

- (1) This Disciplinary Code establishes the list of sanctions imposed on players, coaches, managers and officials found guilty of infringements of the rules of the game and the general regulations in force issued by FIFA and FECAFOOT.
- (2) The list fixes the minimum sanction imposed for each type of offence.
- (3) However, the maximum sanction for the offences referred to in Articles 5 to 8 and 14 to 17 of this Code shall be equal to or double that provided for on this list.
- (4) The disciplinary body reserves the right to convert into match suspension any sanction whose eventual suspension period does not exceed three months.

**CHAPTER 1
PLAYERS**

Article 2: Cautionable offences

Definition: Cautionable offences shall be those defined by the laws of the game in force.

A - During a match

Cautions imposed during a match shall be confirmed.

A second caution received during a different match shall result in a match suspension.

A third caution received during a different match shall result in a match suspension.

Remark: No limitation period shall be required between cautions. At the end of the season, confirmed cautions and match suspensions imposed after a second caution shall be cancelled from the file.

B - Out of a match

Any cautionable offence that was committed during a match shall be sanctioned as follows:

- a 1-match suspension;

- repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month shall result in a two-match suspension.

Remark: The one-month limitation period shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of suspension, excluding breaks.

Article 3: Offences punishable by expulsion

Definition: Offences punishable by expulsion shall be those defined by the laws of the game in force.

A - During a match

The minimum and automatic sanction for the expulsion of a player shall be a 1-match suspension. Each repeated offence committed within a time limit of up to three months shall attract a minimum and automatic sanction of a two-match suspension.

Three expulsions imposed on a player during a competition shall result in suspension for the rest of the competition.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 2-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to three months: at least 4-match suspension.

Remark: The 3-month limitation period shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of suspension, excluding breaks.

Article 4: Offensive words (or gestures) to a match official

A - During a match

- At least a 2-match suspension, the sanctions for expulsion of the player notwithstanding;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 2-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-match suspension.

Remark: The 6-month limitation period shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of suspension. It shall include breaks.

Article 5: Obscene gestures, verbal threats

(1) Towards an official:

A - During a match

- At least a 2-match suspension, the sanctions for expulsion of the player notwithstanding;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 2-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-match suspension.

(2) Towards a player, an official, a coach or a spectator

A - During a match

- At least a 2-match suspension, the sanctions for expulsion of the player notwithstanding;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least 2-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least 4-match suspension.

Remark: The 6-month limitation period shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of suspension. It shall include breaks.

Article 6: Unintentional stampede, attempted assault(s) and spitting

(1) Towards an official

A - During a match

- A mandatory 6-month suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence during the year of reclassification: a mandatory 1-year suspension.

B - Out of a match

- A mandatory 1-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence during the year of reclassification: a mandatory 2-year suspension.

(2) Towards a manager, a coach or a spectator

A - During a match

- At least a 3-match suspension, the sanctions for expulsion of the player notwithstanding;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of three months: at least a 5-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 4-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of three months: at least a 6-match suspension.

(3) Towards a player

A - During a match

- At least a 2-match suspension. In case of repeated offence within a time limit of three months: at least a 4-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 3-match suspension;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of six months: at least a 5-match suspension.

Remark: The year of reclassification shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of the suspension. The limitation period shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of the suspension. It shall include breaks.

Article 7: Unintentional assault(s) resulting in injury duly established by a medical certificate

(1) Towards an official

The seriousness of the circumstances of the punishable act with respect to the official shall be submitted the Disciplinary Committee for appraisal and shall result, with respect to the club or player(s) found guilty, in loss of the match by penalty (0 goal for and 3 goals against) as well as a 1- to 4-point deduction.

A - During a match

A player found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- a mandatory 1-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended.
- in case of repeated offence during the year of reclassification: a mandatory 2-year suspension, together with a request for extension of the sanction to all the other FIFA-affiliated federations.

B - Out of a match

At least:

- A mandatory 2-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;
- In case of repeated offence during the two years following the date of reclassification: 5 years, together with a request for extension of the sanction to all the other FIFA-affiliated federations.
- In case of non-assistance, the captain(s) of the club(s) concerned shall be sanctioned with a mandatory 4-match suspension where it was materially possible for them to intervene at the time of the incidents.

(2) Against a player, a manager, a coach or a spectator

The player found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- A mandatory 3-match suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence within the two years following the date of reclassification: at least a 4-match suspension.

Remark: The year of reclassification shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of the suspension.

Article 8: Unintentional assault(s) resulting in incapacity to work

(1) Towards an official, the guilty player shall be sanctioned as follows:

- A mandatory 3-match suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence during the two years following the date of reclassification: life ban from any football-related activity and request for extension of the sanction to all the other FIFA-affiliated federations. The seriousness of the circumstances of the punishable act with respect to the official shall be submitted the disciplinary body for appraisal, and shall result, with respect to the club or player(s) found guilty, in loss of the match by penalty (0 goal for and 3 goals against) as well as a 1- to 5-point deduction. In case of non-assistance, the captain(s) of the club(s) concerned shall be sanctioned with a mandatory 4- to 6-match suspension where it was materially possible for them to intervene at the time of the incidents.

(2) Towards a player, a manager, coach or an instructor

- A mandatory 8-match suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended.

- In case of repeated offence within the two years following the date of reclassification: a 1-year suspension.

N.B: The disciplinary body may sanction any offence provided for in Chapter 1, Articles 2 to 8, committed within the stadium by any person.

CHAPTER 2
MANAGERS AND COACHES

Article 9: Bans

(1) All the bans referred to under this Chapter in Articles 11 to 17 shall involve those on:

a. playing;

b. discharging official duties, sitting on the substitutes' bench and going into the referees' dressing room.

(2) For all the sanctions referred to in this Chapter, the time limit for repeated offence shall be calculated from date to date, starting from the effective date of the suspension, excluding any breaks.

Article 10: Improper conduct towards a match official not resulting in expulsion from the substitutes' bench

A - During a match

The manager or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

Warning

In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month, at least a mandatory 1-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

Any improper conduct out of a match and whose seriousness had been sanctioned with a warning where it occurred during the match shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 1-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month: at least a mandatory 2-match suspension.

Article 11: Repeated improper conduct towards an official not resulting in expulsion from the substitutes' bench

A manager or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a mandatory 2-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to two months: at least a 1 month or 4-match suspension.

Article 12: Offensive words to a match official

A - During a match

- At least a 2-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to two months: at least a 1 month or 4-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

Any offensive words spoken out of a match and whose seriousness had been sanctioned with expulsion(s) where they were uttered during the match shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 1-month or 4-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to three months: at least a 2-month or an 8-match suspension.

Article 13: Abusive words to a match official

A - During a match

A manager or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 2-month or an 8-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 3-month or 12-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- at least a 3-month or 12- match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to six months: at least a 4-month suspension.

Article 14: Threats, aggressive attitude and obscene gesture(s)

(1) Against an official

A - During a match

A manager or a coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 3-month suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: a mandatory 5-month suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 4-month suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: a mandatory 7-month suspension.

(2) Against a player, a manager, an instructor or a coach

A - During a match

A manager, or instructor or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 4-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: at least a 2 month or an 8-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- At least a 6-match suspension.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: at least a 3- month or 12-match suspension.

Article 15: Intentional stampede, attempted assault(s), spitting

(1) Against an official

A - During a match

A mandatory 6-month suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended.

Any repeated offence within the year of reclassification will automatically result in at least a 1-year suspension.

B - Out of a match

- A mandatory 1-year suspension that could be increased by an additional suspended sentence, depending on the circumstances of the incident;
- In case of repeated offence during the year of reclassification: a mandatory 2-year suspension.

(2) Against a player, a manager, an instructor or a coach

A - During a match

A manager or manager found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least a 2-month or an 8-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: at least a 3 month or 12-match suspension.

B - Out of a match

- A mandatory 3-month or 12-match suspension that could be increased by an additional suspended sentence, depending on the circumstances of the incident;
- In case of repeated offence during the year of reclassification: a mandatory 6- month suspension.

Article 16: Involuntary assault(s) not resulting in injury duly established by a medical report

(1) Against an official

A - During a match

A manager, instructor or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- A mandatory 2-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;
- In case of repeated offence within the two years following reclassification: at least a 5-year suspension. The seriousness of the circumstances of the punishable act shall be submitted to the disciplinary body for appraisal, and shall result, with respect to the club or its coach(es) or manager(s) found guilty, in loss of match by penalty (0 goal for and 3 goals against) as well as a 1- to 4-point deduction.

B - Out of a match

- A mandatory 3-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;
- In case of repeated offence within the two years following reclassification: at least a 6-year suspension. The seriousness of the circumstances of the punishable act shall be submitted to the disciplinary body for appraisal, and shall result, with respect to the club or its coach(es) or manager(s) found guilty, in loss of match by penalty (0 goal for and 3 goals against) as well as a 1- to 4-point deduction.

(2) Against a player, a manager or a coach

A - During a match

A manager or coach found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- A 3-month or 12-match suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to three months: at least a 1-year suspension.

B - Out of a match

- A mandatory 6-month suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one year: at least a 2-year suspension.

Article 17: Assault and battery resulting in incapacity to work

A - Towards an official

The seriousness of the circumstances of the punishable act shall be submitted to the disciplinary body for appraisal. In any case, it shall result, with respect to the club, the coach or manager found guilty, in loss of the match by penalty (0 goal for and 3 goals against), a minimum 5-point deduction, a deduction of more points being likely to result in relegation. In any event, it shall result, with respect to the person found guilty, in:

- A mandatory 5-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that may be suspended;

- In case of repeated offence within the year of reclassification: life ban from carrying out any football-related activity.

B- Towards a player, manager or coach

- At least a 1-year suspension.

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of two years: at least a 2-year suspension.

CHAPTER 3 **OFFICIALS**

Article 18: Improper conduct towards a player, a manager or an official

A – During a match

An official found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- Warning;

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month: at least a 1-match suspension.

B – Out of a match

An official found guilty shall be sanctioned as follows:

- at least a 1-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month: at least a 2- match suspension.

Article 19: Offensive and abusive words, aggressive attitude, threats and obscene or provocative gesture towards a player, a manager, a coach or an official

A – During a match

- A least a 2-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month: at least a 1- month or 4-match suspension.

B – Out of a match

- At least a 2-month or 8-match suspension;
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit of up to one month: a 4-month suspension.

Article 20: Stampedes, assaults, spitting towards a player, a manager, a coach or an official

A – During a match

- At least a 6-month suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that could be suspended.

B – Out of a match

- At least a 1-year suspension that could be increased, depending on the assessment of the facts, by a sentence that could be suspended.

CAMEROON FOOTBALL FEDERATION

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