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CAF Disciplinary Code (CDC)  
*Preamble*

**Article 1 OBJECT**

The disciplinary code consists of substantive and formal provisions which govern the penalisation of breaches of discipline.  
It regulates the organisation of the legal bodies and states the procedure to be followed before the Disciplinary Board and Appeal Board.  
It describes the infringements and determines the sanctions incurred.

**Article 2 SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

1. The present code applies to every disciplinary case and supersedes the regulations of every competition organised by CAF.

2. The following are subject to this code:

- a) national associations;
- b) members or duly authorized representatives of these associations,
- c) officials (inclusive of technical and support staff);
- d) Clubs
- e) players;
- f) match officials;
- g) anyone with an authorization from CAF, in particular with regard to an official activity (as agent or other), match, competition or other event organized by CAF;
- h) spectators.

3. This code applies to matters, brought forth before the Disciplinary Board, that have arisen before and after it came into force.

**Article 3 DISCIPLINARY POWER**

By participation in the various CAF competitions, all the persons referred to in article 2 para 2 above acknowledge and accept that they are bound by this code inclusive of any regulations relating to any specific CAF competitions as well as any directives issued by the CAF Secretariat on behalf of the CAF Executive Committee, inclusive of the Laws of the Game as issued by the International Football Association Board.

**Article 4 DEFINITIONS**

1. Post-match: the time between the final whistle from the referee and the team's departure from the confines of the stadium.

2. Pre-match: the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kick-off from the referee (kick off).

3. International match: a match between two teams belonging to different national associations (two clubs, one club and one national team or two national teams).

4. Friendly match: a match organised by a football organisation, club or other person between teams chosen, from players registered with associations, for the occasion and possibly

belonging to different spheres of operation; the score has an effect only on the match or competition in question and, in the case of national teams, on the FIFA rankings.

5. Official match: a match organised under the auspices of a football organisation for all of the teams or clubs in its sphere of operation; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.

6. Official: anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at a national association or club, regardless of his title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity; in particular, managers, coaches and medical staff are officials.

7. Match official: the referee, assistant referees, fourth referee, match commissioner, referee inspector, security officer, general coordinator and any other persons appointed by CAF or FIFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.

8. Regulations: the Statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of CAF.

9. FIFA Regulations: the Statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.

10. Disrepute: any action or deed committed by a person referred to in article 2 para 2 which the CAF Secretariat may determine will bring the game or the body into disgrace. Such matter will be referred to the Disciplinary Board.

11. Dangerous objects: shall include but shall not be limited to any object which may be construed as a dangerous and may be used either as a projectile or a weapon (defensive or otherwise) inclusive of any flammable or inflammable substance or compound whether same be in the form of a flare, cracker, laser or any object or material which may be utilized to disrupt the game of football as defined by the international football association board.

12. Any act mentioned in this code shall be considered as offenses committed by clubs and associations including offenses against commercial regulations and CAF Marketing rights.

## **CHAPTER I. ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE**

### **PART I: ORGANISATION**

#### *Section 1. Jurisdiction of CAF, national associations and other entities*

#### **Article 5 GENERAL RULE**

With regard to matches and competitions not organised by CAF, national associations, clubs and sports entities that organize matches for cultural, geographical, historical or other reasons are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. The scope of their decisions may be extended to have continental effect (cf. art. 71).

## *Section 2. Authorities and Bodies*

### **Article 6 THE REFEREE**

1. During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
2. These decisions are final.
3. The jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply (cf. art. 11).

### **Article 7 LEGAL BODIES**

1. The legal bodies of CAF are:
  - a) the Disciplinary Board;
  - b) the Appeal Board.
  - c) Ethics Committee
2. The decision-making powers of certain committees shall remain unaffected.

### **Article 8 COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORTS (CAS)**

Decisions taken by the Appeal Board shall be final and binding on all the parties concerned. This provision is subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) (art. 47 para.4 of the Statutes).

### **Article 9 SPORTS MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

The CAF Sports Medical Committee, or other bodies under its supervision, carries out the doping tests, analyses samples and examines medical certificates (cf. art. 138).

## *Section 3. The Disciplinary Board*

### **Article 10 GENERAL JURISDICTION**

The Disciplinary Board is authorised to sanction any breach of CAF Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body of the Confederation.

### **Article 11 SPECIFIC JURISDICTION**

The Disciplinary Board is responsible for:

- sanctioning infringements which may or may not have escaped the match officials' attention;
- sanctioning all offences which occur prior to, during, or after a fixture;
- rectifying obvious errors in disciplinary decisions based on referees' reports;
- extending the duration of suspensions incurred automatically by an expulsion;
- pronouncing additional sanctions to those imposed by the referee, such as a fine.

Sanctions may be taken after viewing a recording of the match.

## Article 12 JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMAN RULING ALONE

1. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Board may take the following decisions alone:
  - a) suspend a person for a maximum of three (3) matches or for a period of up to two (2) months;
  - b) impose a fine of up to twenty thousand USD (20.000)
  - c) settle disputes arising from challenges to members of the Disciplinary Board;
  - d) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 67)
2. Whenever the Disciplinary Board meets on such occasions as the final competition, the chairman or his representative, duly authorised as per the Chairman's written instructions, may take the decisions mentioned under para 1 on behalf of the Board.

### *Section 4. The Appeal Board*

## Article 13 JURISDICTION

The Appeal Board is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Board's, or other committee's decisions that the CAF Regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

## Article 14 JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMAN RULING ALONE

1. The Chairman of the Appeal Board may take the following decisions alone:
  - a) resolve disputes arising from challenges to members of the Appeal Board;
  - b) rule on appeals against decisions passed by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Board;
  - c) pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 67 )
2. Whenever the Appeal Board meets on such occasions as a final competition, the Chairman or his representative may decide to take the decisions mentioned under para. 1 on behalf of the Board

### *Section 5. Common rules for the legal bodies*

## Article 15 COMPOSITION

The Disciplinary Board and the Appeal Board shall be composed of a Chairman, a deputy Chairman and the number of members deemed necessary.

Members, deputy Chairman and Chairman are appointed by the Executive Committee of CAF for a period of four years.

The Chairman of each Board must have a legal background. He chairs over the meetings, and when absent, the deputy Chairman shall replace him.

## **Article 16 MEETINGS**

1. The Board meetings are deemed to be valid if a quorum of three (3) members is present. Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present. If the votes are equal, the Chairman has the casting vote.
2. At the request of the Chairman, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.
3. A minimum of three members from each Board will be invited to the meetings held during the African Cup of Nations final competition and other CAF competitions.

## **Article 17 SECRETARIAT**

1. The CAF Secretariat provides the legal bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at CAF headquarters.
2. It designates a member of the administration.
3. The Secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
4. The Secretariat attends to the recording and filing. Records of the decisions passed, together with the relevant files pertaining thereto, shall be kept for at least ten (10) years.
5. The Secretariat takes charge of publishing the decisions passed by the legal bodies of CAF in a suitable manner, such as on the internet. In exceptional circumstances, the Legal Board may choose not to publish certain decisions.

## **Article 18 OBJECTIVITY**

The legal bodies of CAF pass their decisions entirely independently. They shall render their decisions based on the prescriptions of CAF and FIFA and act according to their conscience; in particular they shall not receive instructions from any other body.

## **Article 19 RESTRICTION OF OFFICE**

Members of the legal bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee or a standing committee of CAF.

## **Article 20 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

At the commencement of all meetings, members shall declare any conflict of interest.

A member of a legal body may not stay in the meeting room during the Board's deliberations when the case discussed concerns himself or his national association, a club, an official, a player of that association. The same applies if he is directly involved in the outcome of the matter.

In the event of a conflict referred to above, the member declaring such conflict shall be substituted by implementing the provisions of article 70 para 1 in order to maintain the quorum.

In the case of a dispute, the decision of the Chairman shall be final and binding.

Proceedings that have involved someone to whom an objection has been raised will be considered null and void.

#### **Article 21 CONFIDENTIALITY**

1. Members of the legal bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts of the case, contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).

2. Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public.

#### **Article 22 EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY**

Except in the case of serious misdemeanour, which is proved, neither the members of the legal bodies of CAF nor the secretariat may be made liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

### **PART II: PROCEDURE**

#### *Section 1. General rules*

##### **Subsection 1. Time limits**

#### **Article 23 CALCULATIONS**

1. Time limits to which the parties (whether directly or indirectly involved) shall adhere commence the day after they have received the relevant disciplinary decision.

2. Time limits to which other persons shall adhere commence four (4) days after receipt of the document by the national association responsible for forwarding it.

3. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of residence of the person required to comply with the document by a certain deadline, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.

#### **Article 24 COMPLIANCE**

1. The time limit has been met only if:

- the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit;
- the document is sent to CAF Secretariat, to its addressor an Egyptian post office no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit, the postal office's stamp will be decisive;

- if the document is sent by telefax, courier, email (proof of delivery to be provided), the time limit has been met if the document reaches the Secretariat on the last day of the time limit.

2. Parties are not permitted to observe time limits by sending electronic mail.

3. In the case of appeals, the deposit demanded (cf. art. 58 para. 1) is considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to CAF's account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

#### **Article 25 INTERRUPTION**

1. Time limits shall be interrupted by public holidays in the country of the person or body being sanctioned.

2. In certain circumstances, special procedures may apply.

#### **Article 26 EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITS**

1. The chairman may extend the time limits, upon request.

2. A time limit may not be extended more than twice.

#### **Article 27 NON-COMPLIANCE**

The non-compliance with the time limit leads to the loss of right to the procedure in question.

#### **Subsection 2. Right to a defence**

#### **Article 28 CONTENTS**

1. The parties can defend themselves before any decision is passed.

2 They may, in particular:

- a) refer to the file;
- b) present their argument in fact and in law;
- c) request production of proof;
- d) be involved in the production of proof;
- e) obtain a final decision.

#### **Article 29 RESTRICTIONS**

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

2. In certain circumstances, special procedures may apply.

### **Subsection 3. Burden of proof**

#### **Article 30 MANNER OF PROOF**

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

#### **Article 31 ABSOLUTE DISCRETION REGARDING PROOF**

1. The legal bodies will:
  - have absolute discretion regarding proof;
  - take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the legal bodies and the secretariat;
  - decide on the basis of their personal circumstances.

#### **Article 32 MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTS**

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

#### **Article 33 ONUS OF PROOF**

1. The onus of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on CAF.
2. In the doping procedure, it is the responsibility of the person who has received an adverse analytical finding to prove their innocence. The onus of proof rests on that person.

### **Subsection 4. Assistance**

#### **Article 34 PRINCIPAL**

1. The parties may arrange to be assisted.
2. The parties are free to mandate their own assistance and representation.

## **Subsection 5. Language used in proceedings**

### **Article 35 LANGUAGES**

1. The languages used in proceedings are the three official languages of CAF (French, English and Arabic). The legal body and the parties may choose any one of these languages.
2. Decisions are passed in one of the official languages of CAF. Efforts will be made to use the national association's first language, wherever possible.
3. If the language used in a decision is not the mother tongue of the person concerned, the national association to which the person belongs will be responsible for translating it.

## **Subsection 6. Notification**

### **Article 36 NOTICES**

1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
2. Copies of other documents emanating from the Disciplinary Board, the Appeal Board, their Chairmen or the secretariat will be sent to every party.
3. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the national association concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. These documents are considered to have been notified properly to the ultimate addressee four (4) days after notification of the documents to the national association.
4. Any and all decisions rendered by the disciplinary or Appeal Board may be publicized by the secretariat.

### **Article 37 FORM: GENERAL RULE**

1. Decisions are legally binding and shall be notified by telefax, email, courier and/or registered letter.
2. Other documents are communicated only by telefax or electronic mail.
3. In certain circumstances, the special provisions set out in article 38 may apply.

### **Article 38 FORM: SPECIAL CASES**

1. If a party is present, a decision may be taken in his presence and may be communicated to him orally. Such decision will then be confirmed to him by telefax within thirty (30) days.
2. Orders for provisional measures shall be notified by telefax only.
3. Time limitations do not begin until the decision has been notified.

*Subsection 7. Various rules*

**Article 39 IDENTITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDINGS**

A legal body may rectify any identity or administrative recording brought to its notice at any stage after the appropriate hearing, with the exception of decisions made by the referee in the interpretation in the Laws of the Game.

**Article 40 COSTS AND EXPENSES**

1. Costs and expenses shall be paid by the unsuccessful party or as determined by the Board.
2. If there is no unsuccessful party, they will be borne by CAF.
3. The Board that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses will be allocated. The amounts are stipulated by the chairman, against which no appeal may be made.
4. The chairman may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.

**ARTICLE 41 IMPOSITION OF DECISIONS**

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

**Article 42 CLOSING OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

Proceedings may be closed if:

- a) the parties reach an agreement;
- b) a party declares bankruptcy;
- c) it becomes baseless.

*Section 2. Disciplinary Board*

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

**Article 43 COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS**

1. Disciplinary infringements are automatically prosecuted.
2. Any person or authority may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the Regulations of CAF to the legal bodies. Complaints shall be made in writing.
3. Match officials are obliged to expose in writing, in or attached to their official reports, infringements which have come to their notice.

#### **Article 44 PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION**

The Secretariat carries out the necessary preliminary investigation ex officio under the Chairman's guidance. The investigation period shall not exceed six (6) months.

#### **Article 45 COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

1. The parties are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information from the legal bodies.
2. The parties cannot, under any circumstance, refuse to give information or produce the documents requested by the secretariat or the legal bodies.
3. Whenever deemed necessary, the secretariat verifies the parties' versions of the facts.
4. If the parties do not collaborate in their response, the Chairman of the legal body may impose a fine of up to five thousand US Dollars (\$5 000) fifteen (15) days after first warning them.
5. If the parties fail to collaborate and there is no other means of obtaining the information requested, the legal bodies will decide the case, using the file in their possession.

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

#### **Article 46 PRINCIPLES**

The Disciplinary Board decides on the basis of the file, inclusive of official reports, documents and recordings presented in conformity to art. 30 and 32 of the present code.

#### **Article 47 ORAL STATEMENTS**

No oral statements may be taken or heard, unless specifically called for by the Chairman. Request for oral statements must be addressed to the CAF Secretariat.

#### **Article 48 PROCEDURE**

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

#### **Article 49 DELIBERATIONS**

1. The Disciplinary Board deliberates behind closed doors. The Chairman may upon request allow observers into a hearing by invitation only, but his decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

2. If any oral statements have been heard, they will immediately be followed by deliberations.
3. They are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
4. The Chairman decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.
5. The members present express their opinion in the order set out by the Chairman, who always speaks last.
6. The secretary who has prepared the case participates in the meetings of the Board without the right to vote.

#### **Article 50 PASSING THE DECISION**

1. Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
2. Every member present shall vote, and shall not be allowed to abstain.
3. If the votes are equal, the Chairman has the casting vote.

#### **Article 51 FORM AND CONTENTS OF THE DECISION**

1. The decision contains:
  - a) the composition of the Board;
  - b) the designation of the parties;
  - c) the summary of the facts;
  - d) the legal reasons for the decision;
  - e) the provisions on which the decision was based;
  - f) the terms of the decision;
  - g) right to appeal.
2. The decisions are signed by the Chairman of Board or by the Secretary General of CAF.

#### **Article 52 PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

The rules governing the Disciplinary Board similarly apply whenever the Chairman decides alone.

#### *Section 3. Appeal Board*

#### **Article 53 RIGHT TO APPEAL**

An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Board against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Board or a standing committee, which the Regulations do not deem as final, unless the sanction pronounced is:

- a) a warning;

- b) a reprimand;
- c) a suspension for less than three (3) matches or of up to two (2) months within a particular season;
- d) a fine of less than (\$5.000) five thousand US Dollars.

#### **Article 54 ELIGIBILITY TO APPEAL**

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

#### **Article 55 TIME LIMIT FOR APPEAL**

1. The party intending to appeal shall announce his intention in writing within three (3) days of notification of the decision.
2. Reasons for the appeal shall then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days, commencing upon the expiry of the first time limit of three (3) days.
3. The announcement of the intention to appeal shall be sent directly to CAF Secretariat. The petition of appeal shall, however, be forwarded to CAF via the national association. The appellant must make sure that the petition of appeal has been forwarded within the time limit.
4. The national association receiving the petition of appeal shall forward it immediately to CAF Secretariat. The decisive time for complying with the time limit for lodging this petition is the date it reaches CAF (dated acknowledgement of receipt) or an Egyptian postal office stamp.

#### **Article 56 GROUNDS FOR COMPLAINT**

1. The appellant may contest any decision of fact with the exception of the Laws of the Game as applied by the referee.
2. If the contested decision concerns failure to comply with a decision passed by a CAF body ordering someone to pay a certain sum of money to another person (cf. art. 148), the appellant may not question any financial decision.

#### **Article 57 PETITION OF APPEAL**

1. The appellant shall submit his petition of appeal in triplicate.
2. The petition shall include the necessary conclusions, reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative, subject to art. 54 para. 2.

#### **Article 58 DEPOSIT**

1. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall deposit the amount of three thousand USD (3,000\$) to CAF's bank account before expiry of the time limit of seven (7) days to formalise the appeal (cf. art. 55 para. 2).
2. The appeal is invalid without this relevant deposit within the relevant time limit frames.
3. The deposit will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case.
4. CAF will retain the deposit if the appellant loses the case in law or in substance.
5. If the appeal is considered to be frivolous or vexatious, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit, as determined by the Chairman.

#### **Article 59 EFFECTS OF THE APPEAL**

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

#### **Article 60 SEQUENCE IN PROCEEDINGS LEADING UP TO THE DECISION**

1. Articles 44 to 51 apply similarly to the procedure to be followed.
2. The decisions are signed by the Chairman or the Secretary General of CAF.
3. Decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the person contesting them.

#### **Article 61 CONCLUSION TO THE PROCEEDINGS**

1. The Appeal Board rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.
2. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) (cf. art. 45 para. 4 of the Statutes).

#### **Article 62 PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE APPEAL BOARD**

The rules governing the Appeal Board similarly apply whenever the Chairman of the Board decides alone.

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

#### **Article 63 JURISDICTION**

1. The Statutes of CAF stipulates which decisions passed by the legal bodies of CAF may be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

2. CAS does not hear appeals on:
  - violations of the Laws of the Game;
  - suspensions of up to four (4) matches or three (3) months;
  - decisions taken by an arbitration duly established by an independent association.
3. An appeal to CAS shall strictly adhere to the provisions of article 51 of the CAF Statutes.

#### *Section5 . Special procedures*

#### **Subsection 1. Provisional measures**

#### **Article 64 PRINCIPLE**

1. If an infringement appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough, the Chairman of the legal body may make in an emergency situation, a provisional finding which may include the altering or revoking of a sanction already imposed.
2. In similar circumstances, he may take other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a mandatory sanction.
3. He will take action upon request or ex officio.

#### **Article 65 PROCEDURE**

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

#### **Article 66 DECISION**

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

#### **Article 67 DURATION OF PROVISIONAL MEASURES**

1. Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than thirty (30) days.
2. This period may be extended only once by twenty (20) days.
3. If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

## **Article 68 APPEAL OF PROVISIONAL MEASURES**

1. An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be taken before the Chairman of the Appeal Board.
2. The time limit for lodging the appeal is two (2) days commencing from the notification of the decision.
3. The petition of appeal shall be sent directly to CAF by telefax within the same time limit.
4. The appeal does not have a suspensive effect.

## **Article 69 DECISION**

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

## **Article 70 EMERGENCIES**

1. If circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision taking to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or any other similar method.
2. The secretary takes minutes as if it were a chaired meeting.

### **Subsection 2. Extending sanctions to have continental effect**

## **Article 71 REQUEST**

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular, corruption, manipulation of match results, physical assault of a match official, forgery, betting or violation of the rules governing age limits. The national associations, clubs, and other organising sports entities shall request CAF to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have continental effect. It is recorded that CAF may also request an extension of its sanctions through FIFA.
2. The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the club and the national association concerned.
3. If the legal bodies of CAF discover that national associations, clubs and other sports entities have not requested a decision to be extended to have continental effect, even though it should have been, these bodies may themselves pass a decision.

## **Article 72 CONDITIONS**

The sanction will be extended if:

- a) the person sanctioned has been cited properly;
- b) he has had the opportunity to state his case;
- c) the decision has been notified properly;

- d) the decision complies with the regulations of FIFA and CAF;
- e) extending the sanction does not conflict with public order and accepted standards.

#### **Article 73 PROCEDURE**

The Chairman makes his decision after consulting two (2) members of the Disciplinary Board, in principle, with or without oral statements, using only the file furnished by the administration.

#### **Article 74 DECISION TO EXTEND THE SANCTION**

1. The Chairman may only ascertain that the conditions of article 72 have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the decision.
2. He either grants or refuses to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

#### **Article 75 EFFECT**

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

#### **Article 76 APPEAL OF EXTENSION OF SANCTION**

1. The body requesting extension of the sanction and/or the person affected by it may appeal against it.
2. A reasoned appeal shall be lodged within four (4) days of receipt of notification of the decision.
3. Any grounds for complaint may only refer to the terms set out in articles 71 and 72. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the initial decision.

#### **Subsection 3. Procedure to be followed in combating doping**

#### **Article 77 ANTI-DOPING PROCEDURE**

1. The anti-doping procedure is governed by the FIFA Doping Control Regulations for FIFA and CAF competitions.
2. Tests may be conducted in conjunction with other sports federations.
3. National associations shall ensure that tests and sanctions conform to the relevant FIFA and CAF regulations (Doping Control Regulations and the Disciplinary Code).

## **Article 78 PLAYERS' OBLIGATIONS**

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

## **Article 79 GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS AGAINST DOPING**

If a government authority sanctions a player for a doping offence, the legal bodies of CAF will examine whether any further disciplinary sanctions need to be imposed.

## **Article 80 DOPING SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS**

1. Sanctions for doping offences imposed by any other confederation or international sports federation are automatically recognised by CAF.
2. As soon as they come into force in accordance with the regulations of the confederation or international sports federation concerned, these sanctions have the same effect as those imposed by CAF.
3. The person sanctioned may object to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Board on the basis that the initial decision for the sanction did not comply with the conditions set out in article 72, and request CAF not to recognise it.

### **Subsection 4. Review of decisions**

## **Article 81 CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURE FOR A REVISION**

1. If a party discovers facts or means of proof that were not known to the body that took the decision, it may request the body to review its decision. If the legal body accepts the new evidence, the case shall be reopened and re-examined.
2. Such a review is subordinate to any other possible channels of appeal.
3. A request for a review shall be made within ten (10) days of discovering the fact or means of proof the cost shall be paid by the appellant.

## **CHAPTER II. DISCIPLINARY LAW**

### **PART 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### *Section 1. Principles and responsibility*

## **Article 82 PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

National associations, clubs, officials and members, as well as their players, shall respect the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and ethics.

#### **Article 83 RESPONSIBILITY**

1. National associations, clubs and officials are responsible for ensuring that the game is not brought into disrepute in anyway whatsoever by the conduct of their players, officials, members, supporters, spectators (especially using dangerous objects and/or lasers ) and any other persons exercising a function at a match at the request of the association or club.

2. The host association or club is responsible for order and security both inside and around the stadium before, during and after the match. It is liable for incidents of any kind, and can be rendered subject to disciplinary measures.

3. The visiting association or visiting club is responsible for the conduct of its own group of supporters. Spectators occupying the away sector specifically or the demarcated sectors of a stadium are regarded as the visiting association's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.

#### *Section 2. Conditions for sanctions*

#### **Article 84 CULPABILITY**

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately, negligently or unintentionally.

2. Exceptionally, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral territory, or a certain stadium may be banned purely for safety reasons, without an infringement having been committed.

#### **Article 85 ACTS AMOUNTING TO IMPROPER CONDUCT**

1. Acts amounting to improper conduct are punishable.

2. In the case of acts amounting to improper conduct, the legal body shall reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (cf. art. 91 para. 2).

#### **Article 86 INFRINGEMENT**

1. Anyone who knowingly takes part in an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable whether by infringing the code or the commercial rights of CAF.

2. The legal body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved by reducing the sanction as it sees fit. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (cf. art. 91 para. 2).

### *Section 3. Disciplinary measures*

#### **Article 87 GENERAL PRINCIPLE**

National associations, clubs and officials who willfully, unintentionally or negligently violate the provisions of the CAF Statutes, Regulations and the decisions of the competent bodies, or who behave in an unsporting, unethical or unreasonable manner may be penalized in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

### *Section 4. Various sanctions*

#### **Article 88 SANCTIONS COMMON TO NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS**

1. Against natural and legal persons:

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

2. For natural persons:

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

3. For legal persons:

- (a) ban on registering new players;
- (b) playing a match behind closed doors;
- (c) playing a match on neutral territory;
- (d) ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- (e) annulment of the result of a match;
- (f) exclusion;
- (g) awarding of a match by default;
- (h) deduction of points.

#### **Article 89 WARNING**

A warning is a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary rule allied with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.

#### **Article 90 REPRIMAND**

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

#### **Article 91 MONETARY SANCTION**

1. The fine is issued in American dollars (USD). It shall be paid in the same currency.

2. Any fine imposed for whatsoever sanction shall not be less than one thousand US Dollars (\$1.000). In the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than five hundred US Dollars (\$500). The fine may not exceed three hundred thousand US Dollars (\$300.000).

3. The legal body that pronounces the sanction decides the terms and time limits for payment. If the fine is added to a match suspension, it shall be paid before the suspension has ended.

4. National associations are liable for fines imposed on national team players and officials. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a club or national association does not cancel out joint liability.

#### **Article 92 FORFEITURE OF AWARDS**

1. The person required to return an award shall return all of the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.).

2. The money received shall always be returned in full. The legal body pronouncing the sanction decides any interest that may be due as it sees fit.

#### **Article 93 CAUTION**

1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. law 12 of the Laws of the Game).

2. Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card, cf. art. 127. n) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match (cf. art. 94 para. 4). The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.

3. The following incur automatic suspension from the subsequent match:

a) two (2) cautions received in two (2) different matches of the same competition in U-17 competitions organised by CAF;

b) two (2) cautions received in two (2) different matches of the same competition in other championships subject to age limits organised by CAF;

c) two (2) cautions received in two (2) different matches of the same competition in every other championship; including friendly competitions.

4. The Disciplinary Board may extend the duration of this suspension (cf. par. 3).

5. If an abandoned match is to be replayed in its entirety, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by both teams are upheld.

6. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.

#### **Article 94 EXPULSION**

1. An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.
2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards (cf. art. 93 para. 2).
3. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
4. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or cancelled.  
The Disciplinary Board may extend the duration of the suspension.

#### **Article 95 MATCH SUSPENSION**

1. A suspension from a match is a suspension on taking part in a future match or competition or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
2. The player who has been suspended shall not be included on the players' list for inclusion in the match. Contravention of this will lead to a monetary sanction of five thousand USD (5,000\$) and a forfeit of the match (cf. art. 149) if the player takes part in a match.
3. The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four (24) matches or two (2) years.
4. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension.
5. If a suspension is combined with a fine, it may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
6. If a match sanction and a duration sanction are both imposed on a player, the duration sanction is expunged first.

#### **Article 96 BAN FROM DRESSING ROOMS AND/OR SUBSTITUTES' BENCHES**

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

#### **Article 97 STADIUM BAN**

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

#### **Article 98 BAN ON PERFORMING ANY FOOTBALL RELATED ACTIVITY**

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

#### **Article 99 PREVENTION FROM REGISTERING OR TRANSFERRING PLAYERS**

This ban prohibits a club from registering new players and from transferring players to other clubs as long as any issue having provoked the sanction is not resolved.

#### **Article 100 PLAYING A MATCH WITHOUT SPECTATORS**

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

#### **Article 101 PLAYING ON NEUTRAL GROUND**

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

#### **Article 102 BAN ON PLAYING AT A PARTICULAR STADIUM**

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

#### **Article 103 ANNULMENT OF THE RESULT OF A MATCH**

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

#### **Article 104 EXCLUSION FROM A COMPETITION**

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

#### **Article 105 AWARDING OF A MATCH BY DEFAULT**

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

#### **Article 106 DEDUCTION OF POINTS**

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

## *Section 5. Common rules*

### **Article 107 COMBINED SANCTIONS**

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

### **Article 108 PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANCTION**

1. The legal body that pronounces a match suspension, a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench, a ban on performing any football related activity, as well as performing any function, or a ban on playing in a certain stadium can examine whether it is possible to partially suspend the implementation of the sanction.
2. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six (6) matches or six (6) months within a season, and if the circumstances generally allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
3. The body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of not less than one (1) year.
5. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically annulled and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
6. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. In the case of doping offences, this provision is non-applicable.

### **Article 109 TIME SANCTIONS: CALCULATION OF TIME LIMIT**

Rest periods during or between seasons are not included in the duration of time sanctions.

### **Article 110 LIMITATION PERIOD OF SANCTIONS**

1. The limitation period for sanctions is five (5) years.
2. The limitation period begins from the day on which the decision is implemented.

### **Article 111 CENTRALISATION OF SANCTIONS**

1. Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in the central computer system of CAF. The Disciplinary Board secretariat confirms them in writing to the national

association or club concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned.

2. This confirmation serves only as notification: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the national association, club or head of delegation concerned at a later date.

## **Section 6. Carrying over and cancelling cautions and match suspensions**

### **Article 112 CARRYING OVER CAUTIONS**

1. Cautions received during one CAF competition are not carried over to another competition.
2. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary Board may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to article 114.
3. Cautions received in official friendly matches shall not be carried over to official CAF or FIFA matches.

### **Article 113 CANCELLATION OF CAUTIONS**

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

### **Article 114 CARRYING OVER MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

1. As a general rule, every suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
2. Match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:
  - a) African Cup of Nations: carried over to the national team's subsequent official match;
  - b) CAF competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the national team's subsequent official match, regardless of the type of competition (whether subject to an age limit or not);
  - c) Champions League / Confederation Cup: carried over to the club's subsequent official match in an official inter-clubs competition;
  - d) FIFA Club World Championship: carried over to the confederation's club competition;
  - e) Continental club competitions leading to qualification for the FIFA Club World Championship: carried over to this championship;

f) Continental club competitions leading to the Super Cup: the club's subsequent official match in an inter-clubs continental competition;

3. Expulsions received in official friendly matches shall not be carried over to official CAF or FIFA matches.

### *Section 7. Determining the sanction*

#### **Article 115 GENERAL RULE**

1. The legal body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it.
2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more certain categories of match and competition.
3. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
4. When deciding the sanction, the legal body will take account of all of the circumstances of the case, in particular the age of the person sanctioned and his record.

#### **Article 116 REPEATED INFRINGEMENTS**

1. Unless otherwise specified, the legal body shall increase the sanction to be pronounced by half (in the arithmetic calculations, computation shall be rounded up).
2. The following are considered as repeated infringements:
  - a) one (1) red card [punishable infringement] preceded by two (2) yellow cards issued during the same competition;
  - b) two (2) yellow cards issued in two (2) different matches [punishable infringement].preceded by two (2) other yellow cards issued in two (2) other matches during the competition in question;
  - c) two (2) yellow cards issued in two (2) different matches [punishable infringement] preceded by one (1) red card in the same competition;
  - d) one (1) yellow card [punishable infringement] preceded by one (1) red card also preceded by one (1) yellow card in the competition in question;
  - e) one (1) red card [punishable infringement] preceded by another red card in the same competition.
3. In CAF inter-clubs competitions, a second red card constitutes a repeated infringement, a third red card or a six (6) yellow cards leads to the suspension for the duration of the competition, and any parts of the following year's competition depending upon the decision of the Disciplinary Board.

At the end of the group stage of the inter-clubs competitions, cautions not leading to a suspension are cancelled. It is specifically recorded that cautions received and suspensions purged shall count towards repeated infringements if a player receives two cautions or an expulsion during the semi-finals or final stage.

4. The sanction may be increased only once by half whenever this provision applies.

5. These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated doping infringements.

#### **Article 117 INFRINGEMENTS AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. If the victim of an infringement is a match official, the sanction to be pronounced will be increased by half (in the arithmetic calculations, computation shall be rounded up).

2. This rule does not apply to infringements, which, by definition, can only be committed against match officials (cf. art. 133 and 134).

#### **Article 118 CONCURRENT INFRINGEMENTS**

1. If someone incurs several fines as the result of one or several infringements, the legal body imposes the fine envisaged for the most serious infringement and may increase it according to circumstances but not by more than half of the maximum envisaged for this infringement.

2. The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two (2) or more match suspensions, two (2) or more stadium bans, etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.

3. The body that applies para. 1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine (cf. art. 91).

### **Section 8. Limitation period on disciplinary sanctions**

#### **Article 119 DURATION**

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two (2) years. Other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten (10) years

2. Infringements provided for in section 7 of the special part (doping) may not be prosecuted after a lapse of eight (8) years.

3. Prosecution for corruption is not subject to a limitation period.

#### **Article 120 COMMENCEMENT OF THE LIMITATION PERIOD**

The limitation period for infringements runs as follows:

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

#### **Article 121 INTERRUPTION**

The limitation period is suspended if the Disciplinary Board reaches a decision before it has expired.

## PART II. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

### *Section 1. Physical assault*

#### **Article 122 PHYSICAL INJURY**

1. A player who deliberately assaults someone physically or damages his health will be suspended for at least four (4) matches. An official who commits such an infringement will be suspended for at least eight (8) matches.
2. In any case, the legal body will impose a minimum fine of five thousand USD (5,000\$).

#### **Article 123 VIOLENCE**

1. A player who deliberately assaults someone, but without harming him physically or damaging his health, will be suspended for at least two (2) matches. An official who commits such an infringement will be suspended for at least four (4) matches.
2. If a person assaults someone by spitting at him, he will be suspended for at least six (6) matches.
3. In any case, the body will also impose a fine amounting to at least five thousand USD (5,000\$).

#### **Article 124 VIOLENT CONDUCT**

1. Involvement in violent conduct is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six (6) matches.
2. The scope of the suspension extends to all official international matches.
3. Anyone who has tried to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

#### **Article 125 UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS**

1. If, in the case of a group of people involved in violence, the instigator(s) cannot be identified, the legal body will sanction the captain and the club or national association to which the aggressors belong. The person sanctioned may be reprieved by naming the guilty person(s) to the Disciplinary Board.
2. If, in the case of a group of people involved in violence, it is not possible to identify the instigator(s), the Disciplinary Board will sanction the club or association to which the aggressors belong.

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

#### **Article 126 MINOR INFRINGEMENTS**

A player is cautioned if he commits one of the following infringements:

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

#### **Article 127 SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS**

A player is sent off if he commits one of the following infringements:

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

#### **Article 128 MISCONDUCT AGAINST PLAYERS OR PERSONS OTHER THAN MATCH OFFICIALS**

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 94 par. 4, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:

- a) at least one (1) match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
- b) at least two (2) matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
- c) at least two matches for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;
- d) at least three (3) matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
- e) at least six (6) matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.

2. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.

#### **Article 129 Misconduct against match officials**

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 94 par. 4, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:

- a) at least four (4) matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official,
- b) at least six (6) months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;
- c) at least 12 months for spitting at a match official.

2. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.

## Article 130 TEAM'S MISCONDUCT

1. The following constitute misconduct by a team and are sanctioned by a maximum fine of fifteen thousand US Dollars (\$15.000)
  - a) when four (4) players are cautioned during one match;
  - b) when three (3) players are sent off during one match;
  - c) when three (3) players are cautioned + one (1) player (or more) are expelled during one match;
  - d) when several players together make threats or show force against a match official.
2. When determining the amount of the fine, the type of competition shall be taken into account.

### *Section 3. Offensive behaviour*

## Article 131 OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR

1. Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, will be sanctioned with a match suspension. If the perpetrator is a player, he will be suspended from at least two (2) matches; if he is an official, he will be suspended from at least four (4) matches.
2. If the victim of the attack is CAF itself or one of its bodies, or officials, the duration of the suspension will be doubled; the sanction applies at least to all official international matches. A minimum fine of ten thousand US Dollars (\$10.000) shall be pronounced.
3. If spectators display banners bearing racist slogans at a match, the body will sanction the national association or the club which these spectators support with a fine of at least fifteen thousand US Dollars (\$15.000) and force it to play its next official international match[es] without spectators.

## ARTICLE 132 RACISM

1. Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, or perpetrates any other racist and/or contemptuous act, will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches at every level. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least ten Thousand US Dollars (\$10.000) will be imposed on the perpetrator. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine will be at least twenty thousand US Dollars (\$20.000).
2. If spectators display banners bearing racist slogans, or are guilty of any other racist and/or contemptuous behaviour at a match, the appropriate body will impose a sanction of at least twenty thousand US Dollars (\$20.000) on the association or club that the spectators concerned support and force it to play its next official match without spectators. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or the other association or club, the host association or club will be sanctioned accordingly.
3. Any spectator who is guilty of any of the offences specified under par. 1 and/or 2 of this article will be banned from entering any stadium for at least two years.

4. If any player, association or club official or spectator perpetrates any kind of racist or contemptuous act as described by par. 1 and/or 2 of this article, three points will automatically be deducted from the team concerned, if identifiable, after the first offence. In the case of a second offence, six points will automatically be deducted, and for a further offence, the team will be relegated.

In the case of matches without points, the team concerned, if identifiable, will be disqualified.

5. Sanctions imposed on the basis of this article may be reduced or even disregarded if the player, team, club or association concerned can prove that it was not or was only minimally responsible for the offences in question or if other major reasons justify it, particularly if the offences were provoked intentionally to cause a player, team, club or association to be sanctioned in accordance with this article. The procedure for assessing mitigating circumstances shall be governed by this code.

#### *Section 4. Intimidation*

##### **Article 133 THREATS**

Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least ten thousand US dollars (\$10.000) and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from article 107, in that they may not be combined with others.

##### **Article 134 FORCE**

Anyone who uses violence or threats to put pressure on a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least ten thousand US dollars (\$10.000) and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from article 107, in that they may not be combined with others.

#### *Section 5. Forgery and falsification*

##### **Article 135 SANCTION AGAINST FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION**

1. Anyone who, during any football related activity, creates a false document, forges a document, makes a false claim in a document with potentially legal repercussions or uses a forged document to deceive others will be sanctioned with a suspension for at least six (6) matches.

2. If the perpetrator is an official, the body will pronounce a ban on performing any football related activity for a period of at least one (1) year.

3. The legal body may also pronounce a fine of at least ten thousand US dollars (\$10.000).

## *Section 6. Corruption*

### **Article 136 SANCTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

1. Anyone who offers promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of CAF, a match official, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate CAF Regulations will be sanctioned:
  - a) with a fine of at least twenty Five Thousand US Dollars (25 000),
  - b) with a ban on performing any football related activity,
  - c) with a ban on entering any stadium;
2. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised, accepting an unjustified advantage or betting) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
3. In serious cases and in a case of repetition, a life sanction may be imposed.
4. In any case, the legal body will pronounce confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for the football development programs.

## *Section 7. Doping*

### **Article 137 DEFINITION**

1. Doping is defined as:
  - a) the use of an expedient (substance or method) that is potentially harmful to players' health and/or capable of enhancing their performance;
  - b) the existence of a prohibited substance in the body of a tested player, the discovery of the use or attempted use of such a substance or the discovery of the application or attempted application of a prohibited method;
  - c) a refusal to undergo a test;
  - d) any behaviour likely to prevent or interfere with a planned test;
  - e) the act of concealing, changing or eradicating the biological environment in which tests are held.
2. These acts constitute doping whether detected during or out of a competition.

### **ARTICLE 138 THERAPEUTIC JUSTIFICATION**

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

4. The treatment will only be considered justifiable if endorsed by the relevant body of CAF.
5. These provisions are subject to the FIFA Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition.

#### **Article 139 SANCTIONS FOR DOPING**

1. The following sanctions will, in principle, apply to doping offences in accordance with Chapter II of the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition:
  - a) Any violation of Chapter II.1 (The presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers), Chapter II.2 (Use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method), Chapter II.3 (Refusing, or failing without compelling justification, to submit to sample collection), Chapter II.5 (Tampering or attempting to tamper with any part of a doping control test) and Chapter II.6 (Possession of prohibited substances and methods) shall incur a two-year suspension for the first offence and a lifelong ban in the case of repetition.
  - b) If any specified substances contained in the list of prohibited substances and methods (cf. Annex A of the Doping Control Regulations for FIFA Competitions and Out of Competition) are detected, for which proof can be produced that the specified substances were not intended to enhance sporting performance, at least a caution shall be given for the first offence and a two-year suspension in the case of repetition. A third offence shall incur a lifelong ban.
  - c) Any violation of Chapter II.7 (Trafficking in any prohibited substance or prohibited method) or Chapter II.8 (Administration of a prohibited substance or method) shall incur a suspension of at least four years. If any of the players concerned are under the age of 21, and the offence does not involve a specified substance, a lifelong ban shall be imposed on the perpetrator.
  - d) Any violation of Chapter II.4 (Failure to provide the required information on the whereabouts of players or their availability for testing) shall incur a suspension of at least three months and no more than two years.
2. If the suspect can prove in each individual case that he is not guilty either of serious misconduct or culpable negligence, both from an objective and subjective point of view, the sanction may be reduced, but only by up to half of the sanction applicable under par. 1; a lifelong ban may not be reduced to less than eight years.
3. If the suspect can prove in each individual case that he is not guilty either of misconduct or negligence, both from an objective and subjective point of view, the sanction otherwise applicable under the terms of par. 1 becomes irrelevant.
4. If help given to a suspect leads to the exposure or proof of a doping offence by another person, the sanction may be reduced, but only by up to half of the sanction applicable under the terms of par. 1; a lifelong ban may not be reduced to less than eight years.
5. If more than one player from the same team is sanctioned for doping offences, the team may also be sanctioned. The team may have points deducted and in a final competition the team's results may be annulled. The club or the association of the team concerned may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions.
6. A fine may also be imposed in all cases.

#### **Article 140 INTERFERING WITH A DOPING TEST/ UNDERMINING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF DOPING TESTS**

1. Anyone who is not made to undergo a doping test (either because he is not a player or because he has not been summoned, even though a player) and who interferes with the administration of a test will be sanctioned with a fine of at least ten thousand USD (10,000\$).
2. If a player fails to appear for a doping test in compliance with the FIFA regulations in force or if he refuses to undergo a test, he will be sanctioned as if he had been tested positive as set out in article 1 para.1.
3. The same applies if the player manipulates a test by using masking agents designed to conceal evidence.

#### **ARTICLE 141 REPEAT TESTING**

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

#### **Article 142 PLAYERS' OBLIGATIONS**

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

#### **Article 143 FACILITATING DOPING**

1. An official who urges, suggests, authorises, permits, tolerates or facilitates in any other way the use of prohibited substances or methods will be suspended from all football related activities for a period of at least two (2) years and fined a minimum of twenty thousand US Dollars (\$20.000).
2. If any of the players concerned are under the age of 21, the sanction will be doubled.

#### **Article 144 ORGANISED DOPING**

1. If doping has been organised in such a way as to involve players and/or officials from any team, the club/the national association will be sanctioned with a fine of at least forty thousand US dollars (\$40,000) and, if applicable, the team will immediately be disqualified from the competition in progress; if deemed appropriate, the team may also be excluded from one or more future competitions.
2. If any of the players concerned are under the age of 21, the sanction will be doubled.
3. This is subject to sanctions imposed on players and officials as a result of the application of other provisions in this section.

#### **Article 145 TRAFFICKING**

1. Anyone involved in trafficking prohibited substances will be banned from all football related activities for a period of no less than five (5) years and be fined a minimum of one hundred thousand US Dollars (\$100.000)
2. If a player under the age of 21 or an official is affected by the trafficking, the sanction will be doubled.

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

#### **Article 146 INCITING**

1. A player or official who openly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than one (1) year and with a minimum fine of twenty thousand US dollars (\$20.000).
2. In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be fifty thousand US dollars (\$50.000) and the suspension one (1) year at least.

#### **Article 147 PROVOKING THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

1. Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for three (3) matches and sanctioned with a minimum fine of ten thousand US dollars (\$10,000).
2. Any individual or group of individuals who display or express in any manner or form a political, religious, racial or offensive message shall be subject to sanctions.

#### **Article 148 ABANDONMENT**

1. If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of twenty thousand US dollars (\$20 000) and will, in principle, forfeit the match.
2. In serious cases, the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.
3. This is subject to the provisions of the competitions' regulations.

#### **Section 9. Failure to respect the decisions of a legal body**

#### **Article 149 PENALTY PAYMENTS**

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) a sum of money in full, even though instructed to do so by a body of CAF:
  - a) will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of five thousand USD ( 5,000\$) for failing to comply with the instructions issued by the legal body that imposed the payment;

b) will be given a final time limit by the legal bodies of CAF in which to settle the debt;  
c) if it is a club, it will be warned and threatened with deduction of points or a ban from registering or transferring players if it has not paid by the final time limit.

2. If the club disregards the final time limit, the legal body will request the national association concerned to implement the threat.

3. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owned.

4. A ban from any football related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.

#### **Article 150 NON-ELIGIBLE**

1. If a player takes part in an official match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match (cf. art. 105) and paying a minimum fine of ten thousand USD ( 10,000\$).

2. If a player takes part in a friendly match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match (cf. art. 105) and paying a minimum fine of five thousand USD (5,000\$).

### **Section 10. National associations' responsibilities**

#### **Article 151 SECURITY FOR ORGANISATION OF MATCHES**

1. National associations that organise matches shall:

a) assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the CAF bodies of those that are especially high-risk;

b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA and CAF Regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match;

c) ensure the safety of players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;

d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;

e) ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadia and immediate surroundings and that matches are organized properly.

f) Ensure that all dangerous objects and/or lasers are not allowed in the stadium or in the areas surrounding it by conducting searches of spectators.

2. National associations are held responsible for the behaviour of their supporters (especially with regard to throwing missiles and invading the pitch) and auxiliary staff.

#### **Article 152 OTHER OBLIGATIONS**

National associations shall also:

a) actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;

b) ensure that no one is involved in national football management who is being prosecuted for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, corruption, forgery etc.) or who has been prosecuted for such action in the past five (5) years.

#### **Article 153 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH OBLIGATIONS**

1. Any national association that fails to comply with the obligations contained in the provisions of this section will be sanctioned with a fine.
2. In the case of a serious infringement as set out in article 150 para. 1 al. b) and c), the body may impose other sanctions, such as a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground-
3. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed.

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

#### **Article 154 SANCTION**

Anyone who conspires to distort the result of a match in a manner incompatible with sporting ethics will be sanctioned with a match suspension and a minimum fine of ten thousand USD (10 000\$). The legal body will also pronounce a ban on performing any football related activity; in serious cases this sanction will apply for life.

### **CHAPTER III COMPLEMENTARY AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 155 AUTHORITATIVE TEXT**

1. The present code is drafted in the official languages of CAF (French, English and Arabic).
2. If there is any discrepancy in text, the French version shall be authoritative.

#### **Article 156 SUBSIDIARY LAW**

In the absence of provisions in the present disciplinary code, the legal bodies will take a decision according to the FIFA Disciplinary Code and recognized principles in accordance with justice and fairness. During their entire operations, the legal bodies of CAF draw on settlements already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

#### **Article 157 EQUALITY AMONGST GENDERS**

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

The above disciplinary code was issued by the CAF Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of CAF Statutes.

Article 158 ADOPTION AND APPLICATION

1. The CAF Executive Committee adopted this code on June 08<sup>th</sup> 2014.
2. The present code came into force 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

Issa Hayatou  
President

Handwritten signature of Issa Hayatou in black ink, featuring a large loop on the left and a vertical stroke on the right.

Hicham El Amrani  
Secretary General

Handwritten signature of Hicham El Amrani in black ink, consisting of several overlapping horizontal and curved strokes.

Cairo, December 2014