



**CONTROL AND  
DISCIPLINARY  
BODY**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Introduction 1      Precept**

DCL disciplinary law serves the realisation of the object of DCL, as part 'Introduction 2' of the DCL Statutes. These regulations contain the substantive and formal provisions which govern the penalisation of breaches of duty.

### **Introduction 2      Scope of application**

The present disciplinary regulations apply for the treatment of all disciplinary cases.

### **Introduction 3      Disciplinary power**

DCL's member association, clubs, as well as their players and officials and members, submit to DCL's disciplinary power, are bound by and recognise the DCL Statutes, as well as all regulations and decisions issued by DCL, and observe the Law of the Game as issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).

### **Introduction 4      Subsidiary Law**

In the absence of specific provisions in the present disciplinary regulations and other regulations, the disciplinary body will take decision on the basis of recognised legal principles and in accordance with the justice and fairness.

## **PART ONE: Disciplinary Law**

### *A. General Provisions*

#### **Article 1 – Principles of conduct**

Members associations, clubs, as well as their players, officials and members, shall conduct themselves according to the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

For example, a breach of these principles is committed by anyone:

- a) Who engages in or attempts to engage in active or passive bribery and/or corruption;
- b) Whose conduct is insulting or otherwise violates the basic rules of decent conduct;
- c) Who uses sporting events for manifestations of a non-sporting nature;
- d) Whose conduct brings the sport of football, and DCL in particular, into disrepute;
- e) Who does not comply with instructions given by the referee or delegate;
- f) Who culpably reports for a match late or not at all;
- g) Who culpably causes a match to be interrupted or abandoned or who is responsible for its interruption or abandonment;
- h) Who lists on the match sheet a player who is not eligible to play;
- i) Who commits any other act likely to exert an improper influence on the progress and/or the result of a match.

#### **Article 2 - Responsibility**

Members associations and clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, members, supporters and any other persons exercising a function at a match on behalf of the association or club.

#### **Article 3 – Limitation**

Prosecution is barred at the end of:

- a) One year for offences committed on the pitch or
- b) in its immediate vicinity;
- c) Two years for bribery and/or corruption

- d) Five years for all other offences.

The instigation of proceedings interrupts the limitation.

### *B. Offences*

#### **Article 4 – Principles**

Unsporting conduct, breaches of the Laws of the Game, as well as infringements of DCL Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives are penalised by means of disciplinary measures.

Disciplinary measures provided for may be taken against member associations, clubs and individuals for offences before, during or after the match.

#### **Article 5 – Expulsion and accumulated cautions**

Unless the disciplinary body decides otherwise, a player sent off the field or an officials expelled from the technical area is automatically suspended for the next match of the competition in which the expulsion occurred.

#### **Article 6 – Misconduct of players**

The following player sanctions apply for competitions matches:

- a) Suspension for one competition match or for a specified period for:
  - 1. A second caution in the same match,
  - 2. Rough play,
  - 3. Repeated protests against or failure to comply with the referee's orders,
  - 4. Insulting players or others present at the match,
  - 5. Unsporting conduct,
  - 6. Provoking spectators,
  - 7. Playing when not eligible to do so;
- b) Suspension for one competition match or for a specified period for pestering or insulting any match officials;
- c) Suspension for one competition match or for a specified period for acting with the obvious intent to cause any match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting his error of judgement and thereby causing him to make an incorrect decision;
- d) Suspension for one competition match or for a specified period for assaulting players or others present at the match;

- e) Suspension for two competition matches or for a specified period for serious assault;
- f) Suspension for two competition matches or for a specified period for assaulting any match official.

If the match is abandoned or awarded by default, the offences listed above will still be punishable.

Disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee did not see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision.

In the event of serious offences, the suspension can be extended to include all competition categories.

### **Article 7 – Disciplinary measures against member associations and clubs**

The following disciplinary measures may be imposed against member associations and clubs in accordance with Article 31 of the Statutes:

- a) Warning,
- b) Reprimand,
- c) Fine,
- d) Deduction of points,
- e) Awarding of a match by default,
- f) Withdrawal of a title or award

### **Article 7bis – Awarding of a match by default**

Any team against which a match is awarded by default will be deemed to have lost the match 0-3. If the goal difference is equal to or higher than 3, the actual result of the match played stands.

Where matches are played according to the cup (Knock-out) system, away goals awarded by default do not count double.

Except in the case of offences coming under Article 1, paragraph 2, letter (e) of the present regulations, a default result can be awarded against a team that fields an ineligible player only if the opposing team files a protest.

### *C. Disciplinary Measures and Directives*

### **Article 8 – Disciplinary measures against individuals**

The following disciplinary measures may be imposed against individuals in accordance with Article 32 of the UEFA Statutes:

- a) Warning,
- b) Reprimand,
- c) Fines,
- d) Suspension for a specified number of matches or for a specified of unspecified period,
- e) Suspension from carry out a function for a specified number of matches or for a specified or unspecified period,
- f) Ban on exercising any football-related activity,
- g) Withdrawal of a title or award.

#### **Article 8bis – Suspended sanction**

The following disciplinary sanctions may be suspended in part:

- a) Suspension for one or more matches or ban on exercising a function;
- b) If a further offence is committed during the probationary period, the disciplinary body may order the original sanction to be executed, in addition to disciplinary sanctions for the second offence.

#### **Article 9 – Confiscation**

The disciplinary body may order the confiscation of pecuniary benefits earned from the violation of DCL's rules and regulations.

In cases of suspected breaches of DCL's regulations, any organ for the Administration of justice may order the seizure of objects or substances for the purposes of investigation.

#### *D. Determination of sanctions*

#### **Article 10 – General principles**

The disciplinary body will determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed, according to the objective and subjective elements, taking account of both aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Subject to Article 2, paragraph 1 of

the present regulations, no disciplinary measures may be imposed in cases where the party charged bears no fault or negligence.

The disciplinary measures enumerated in Article 6 of the present regulations are standard sanctions. In particular circumstances, they can be either scaled down or increased.

If the party charged has committed multiple disciplinary offences, the disciplinary body assesses the sanction according to the most serious offence and increases it accordingly.

### **Article 11 – Recidivism**

Recidivism occurs if disciplinary measures have to be imposed within three years of previous offences.

Recidivism counts as an aggravating circumstance.

*E. Matches abandoned or not played*

### **Article 12 – Scope of disciplinary decisions taken by the referee, consequential sanctions**

Disciplinary decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and cannot be reviewed by the DCL disciplinary bodies.

Only the legal consequences of a disciplinary decision taken by the referee may be reviewed by the disciplinary bodies in cases where such a decision had involved an obvious error, such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised.

The provisions concerning protests apply in cases involving a breach of the relevant rules and regulations by the referee.

## **PART TWO: Disciplinary Procedure**

*A. Organisation and Competence*

### **Article 13 – Organs for the Administration of Justice**

The Organs for the Administration of Justice are:

- a) As disciplinary bodies



1. The Control and Disciplinary Body
2. The Appeals Body

#### **Article 14 – Composition**

The Control and Disciplinary Body is composed of a chairman and eight members. It elects two vice-chairmen from among its ranks.

It is authorised to take a decision if at least three members are present.

The Appeals Body is composed of a chairman and eight members. It elects one vice-chairman from among its ranks.

As a rule, the Appeals Body takes decision in the presence of three members. In cases of particular difficulty or a prejudicial nature, the chairman may expand the quorum to five judges.

#### **Article 15 – Judge sitting alone**

The chairman of the Control and Disciplinary Body or his nominee decides as a judge sitting alone if the sanction is limited to a warning, a reprimand, a fine of up to EUR 50, a player suspension or suspension from carrying out a function for up to two matches, as well as in urgent cases.

The chairman of the Appeals Body or his nominee can take a decision alone under clear factual and legal circumstances, in urgent cases, and at the joint request of the parties.

#### **Article 16 – Independence**

The disciplinary bodies are independent. Their members are bound exclusively by DCL's rules and regulations, the subsidiary law defined under Introduction 4 of the present regulations and their conscience.

#### **Article 17 – Abstention**

A member of a disciplinary body must abstain if he himself, his association or a club belonging to that association is directly concerned. In cases of doubt or dispute, the chairman or his nominee shall decide.

#### **Article 18 – Competence**

The Control and Disciplinary Body handles disciplinary cases arising from the Statutes, regulations and decision of DCL which do not fall within the competence of another committee or body. It decides on eligibility to play.

The Appeal Body is competent to hear appeals against decisions of the Control and Disciplinary Body in accordance with Article 28 of the present regulations.

#### *B. Parties*

### **Article 19 – Parties**

The parties comprise:

- a) DCL
- b) The accused or the individual/body directly concerned
- c) The individual/body entitled to protest and the opponent to the protest.

The individual/body directly concerned is the individual/body on whom/which the disciplinary measures have direct consequences.

### **Article 20 – Languages**

In written and International Sign Communication proceedings, the parties shall use English or International Sign Communication languages.

#### *C. General Provisions*

### **Article 21 – Representation**

Members associations, clubs, players and officials can be represented.

Representatives must prove their authority by means of signed power of attorney.

The disciplinary body in question will decide on issues of representation.

#### *D. Control and Disciplinary Body Proceedings*

### **Article 22 – Instigation of proceedings**

The instigation of proceedings is announced in writing to the parties concerned, in particular:

- a) On the basis of official reports,
- b) If a protest had been lodged,
- c) For reported violations of DCL's Statutes, regulations and decisions,

d) At the request of the DCL President.

If proceedings are instigated against individuals, the disciplinary body notifies the member association or club concerned, who are bound to inform the individual concerned in person. Notification is not necessary for expulsions from the field of play.

### **Article 23 – Declaration of protest**

Member associations and their club are entitled to protest. The party protested against and the disciplinary body have party status.

Protest must reach the Control and Disciplinary Body in writing, stating the reasons, within 24 hours of a match.

This 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of a competition, the corresponding competition regulations can shorten the protest deadline appropriately.

### **Article 24 – Reasons for protest**

A protest is directly against the validity of a match result. It is based on a player's eligibility to play, a decisive breach of the regulations by the referee, or any other major incident influencing the match result.

Protests concerning the state of the field of play must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant official before the match. If the state of field of play becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, as well as the captain of the opposing team, orally without delay.

Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

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

### **Article 25 – Clarification, deliberations**

As a rule, the Control and Disciplinary Body clarifies the facts of the cases in a summary manner, on the basis of the official reports. It can summon further evidence, provided that doing so will not delay the proceedings unduly.

Exceptionally, the body can hear the accused.

The body may deliberate and decide via videoconference or any other similar method.

### **Article 26 – Decision**

The Control and Disciplinary Body decides on:

- a) The halting of proceedings,
- b) Acquittals,
- c) Convictions,
- d) The dismissal or acceptance of protests.

Those concerned are notified of decisions by the disciplinary body in writing. Disciplinary measures against individuals are communicated only to the member association or club concerned.

If measures are pronounced pursuant to Article 7 and 8 of the present regulations, the notification contains a brief summary of the grounds, as well as the verdict and notice of the right to appeal. The notification is issued by email or fax.

#### *E. Appeals Body Proceedings*

### **Article 27 – Appeals**

The Appeals Body deals with appeals lodged against decision of the Control and Disciplinary Body.

### **Article 28 – Admissibility**

Appeals against decision taken by the Control and Disciplinary Body are admissible, except in the case of:

- a) A warning,
- b) A reprimand,
- c) Match suspension or suspension from carrying out a function for one competition match.

If the Control and Disciplinary Body combines measures, an appeal is admissible if one of the measures exceeds the above exceptions. In this case, the Appeals Body examines the overall measure.

### **Article 29 – Power to appeal**

The parties directly concerned and DCL have the power to appeal.

If a player, official or member of a member association or club is concerned, his member association or club alone cannot lodge an appeal, but may only do so with his written consent.

### **Article 30 – Deadlines/Fee**

Appeals must be lodge with the DCL Administration in writing, for the attention of the Appeals Body, within three days of the dispatch of the contested decision. They must be substantiated in writing within a further six days of the appeal's receipt being acknowledged.

If these deadlines are not observed, the chairman will decide not to enter into the appeal. The deadlines stipulated in paragraph 1 above cannot be extended.

In urgent cases, the chairman can shorten the deadline for the submission of the grounds for appeal.

### **Article 31 – Content of the pleadings**

The pleadings of the appeal contain:

- a) The legal request,
- b) An account of the facts,
- c) The evidence,
- d) Legal conclusions.

### **Article 32 – Reply to the appeal / Cross-appeal**

The chairman notifies the opposing party of the appeal. Replies to the appeal must be submitted within the deadline set by the chairman, which cannot be extended.

The reply to the appeal can include the declaration of a cross-appeal. The procedural regulations of the appeal apply to the cross-appeal.

The chairman sets a deadline by which time the appellant must reply to the cross-appeal. This deadline cannot be extended.

The cross-appeal is dropped if the appeal is retracted or declared inadmissible.

### **Article 33 – Identical requests**

If the requests of the parties are identical, the Appeals Body complies with the request, provided that it not obviously inappropriate.

#### **Article 34 – Participation of the parties**

The chairman sets a date for the hearing without delay.

The parties attend the hearing until the verdict is discussed. The chairman may, upon reasoned request, release a party from participation.

In the absence of one of the parties, the Appeals Body can also hold the hearing and take a decision.

#### **Article 35 – Evidence**

The chairman takes evidence on relevant facts.

Evidence comprises:

- a) Official reports,
- b) Control and Disciplinary records,
- c) Examination of witnesses,
- d) Examination of the parties,
- e) Close inspection

The Appeals Body can summon further evidence.

The chairman decides in the preliminary proceedings on the examination of witnesses.

#### **Article 36 – Witnesses**

All persons subject to DCL jurisdiction are obligated to comply with a summons to appear as a witness.

An administrative penalty can be imposed on anyone failing to comply with a summons.

#### **Article 37 – Hearings**

Appeals are dealt with in the form of hearings.

Each party is entitled to plead its case twice. The chairman decides on the sequence of the pleadings.

If the first party to plead waives its right to plead for a second time, the pleading process is terminated.

If appeals proceeding are adjudicated upon by a judge sitting alone, the chairman may dispense with a hearing.

#### **Article 38 – Deliberations**

The Appeals Body deliberates behind closed doors.

#### **Article 39 – Decision**

Within the framework of the appeal, the Appeals Body examines the case both factually and legally.

The decision confirms amends or lifts the contested decision.

If the accused is the only party to have filed an appeal or if the Disciplinary body appeals in favour of the accused, the punishment cannot be increased.

If new disciplinary offences come to light while appellate proceedings are pending, they can be judge in the course of the same proceedings.

#### **Article 40 – Notification of the decision**

The chairman notifies the parties of the decision orally and with brief grounds. It is subsequently issued in writing.

In special cases, the verdict can be announced later in writing.

#### **Article 41 – Referral back to the Control and Disciplinary Body**

In the case of a fundamental mistrial, the Appeals Body can lift the decision, and refer the case back to the Control and Disciplinary Body for reassessment.

### **PART THREE: Enforcement**

#### *A. General Provisions*

#### **Article 42 – Competence**

The DCL Administration has the competence to enforce the decisions of the disciplinary bodies.

It may order the member associated concerned to enforce a decision.

The disciplinary body concerned may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors at any time.

#### **Article 43 – Enforceability**

Disciplinary measures and directives are enforceable immediately, except for those of a financial nature.

#### **Article 44 – Ordinary enforcement of suspensions**

Suspensions are served in the same competition, unless they apply to all domestic league matches.

A team manager/coach who is suspended from carrying out his function may follow the match, for which he is suspended from the stands only. He is not allowed in the dressing room, tunnel or technical area before and during the match nor is he allowed to get contact with his team.

Suspensions imposed on a player/coach apply to both his capacity as a player and as a coach.

#### *B. Special Provisions*

#### **Article 45 – Recognition of the sanctions of other authorities**

Sanctions imposed by a member association may be extended to DCL competition at the request of the member association concerned, particularly in cases of serious offences committed within their jurisdiction.

The request must be made in writing to DCL and be accompanied by all documentation relates to the case.

An extension will be grated when the decision on which the request is based complies with the general principles of law and with DCL's regulations.

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