



The Football Federation of Belize

Disciplinary & Ethics Code 2019



Preamble

As a member of FIFA, the Football Federation of Belize (FFB) bears a special responsibility to safeguard the integrity and reputation of football within its jurisdiction and thus to contribute to the respective efforts of FIFA worldwide. The FFB constantly strives to protect the image of football, and especially that of the FFB, from jeopardy or harm as a result of illegal, immoral or unethical methods and practices. To this end, the present Code reflects the responsibility of the FFB to regulate matters of ethical conduct. The conduct of persons bound by this Code shall reflect the fact that they support the principles and objectives of the FFB as well as those of FIFA, CONCACAF as well as the entities subordinate to the FFB in every way and refrain from anything that could be harmful to these aims and objectives. They shall respect the significance of their allegiance to FIFA, the CONCACAF as well as the entities subordinate to the FFB, and represent them and behave towards them honestly, worthily, respectably and with integrity. They shall further respect the core value of fair play in every aspect of their functions. They shall assume social and environmental responsibility.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article	Contents	Page
	Definitions	12
	Preliminary	
1	Objectives	16
2	Scope of application: jurisdiction	16
3	Scope of application: natural and legal persons	17
4	Scope of application: time	
	Chapter One: Sanctions	18
	Section One: Types of Sanctions	
6	Culpability	18
7	Attempt	18
8	Involvement	19
9	Sanctions applicable to individuals	19
10	Sanctions applicable to Member Associations and Clubs	20
11	Warning	21
12	Fine	21
13	Caution	21
14	Expulsion	22
15	Match suspension	23
16	Ban from team dressing room and/or team bench	24
17	Stadium ban	24
18	Ban on taking part in any football-related activity	24
19	Full or partial stadium closure	25
20	Playing a match on neutral ground	25
21	Ban on playing in a particular stadium	26
22	Annulment of the result of a match	26
23	Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition	27

24	Relegation to a lower division	27
25	Deduction of points	27
26	Forfeit	27
27	Order that a match be replayed	28
28	Withdrawal of a title or award	28
29	Confiscation	28
30	Withholding of revenues	28
31	Prohibition on registering new players in FFB competition	28
32	Restriction on the number of players that a club may register for participation in FFB competitions	28
33	Withdrawal of licence to participate in FFB competition	29
34	Social work	29
Section Two: Common Rules Relating to Sanctions		
35	Suspension of implementation of sanctions	29
36	Time sanctions: calculation of time limit	29
37	Centralisation of sanctions	30
Section Three: Carrying Over and Canceling Cautions and Match suspensions		
38	Carrying over cautions	30
39	Carrying over match suspensions	31
Section Four: Determining the Sanction		
40	General rules	32
41	Recidivism	32
42	Concurrent infringements	33
43	Limitation period for prosecution	33
44	Commencement of limitation period	33
45	Completion of limitation period	33
46	Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions	33
Chapter Two: Offences		34
47	Minor infringements punishable by a caution	34
48	Serious infringements punishable by an expulsion	34

49	Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion	35
50	Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion undertaken against match officials	36
Section Two: Offences		
51	Bringing the game into disrepute	37
52	Brawl	37
53	Damage to property	38
54	Team misconduct	39
55	Inciting hatred and violence	39
56	Provoking the general public	40
57	Ineligibility	40
58	Abandonment	41
59	Discrimination	41
60	Threats	42
61	Coercion	43
62	Forgery and falsification	43
63	Doping	44
64	Failure to respect decisions	44
65	Organisation of matches	45
66	Liability for spectator conduct	46
67	Unlawfully influencing match results	47
68	Obligations of Member Associations and Clubs	49
69	Corruption	50
70	Betting	51

71	Integrity of conduct	52
72	Good governance and resources	53
73	Duty of neutrality, loyalty, and confidentiality	54
74	Duty to report any infringement	55
Chapter Three: Organisation		55
Section One: Jurisdiction		
75	General rule	55
76	Referee	57
77	Judicial bodies	57
78	Court of Arbitration for Sport	57
Section Two: FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee		
79	General jurisdiction	57
80	Specific jurisdiction	58
81	Jurisdiction of the Chairperson or member ruling alone	58
Section Three: FFB Appeal Committee		
82	Jurisdiction	59
83	Jurisdiction of the Chairperson or member ruling alone	59
Section Four: Common Rules for the Judicial Bodies		
84	Composition	60
85	Meetings	60
86	Chairperson	60
87	Secretariat	60
88	Independence	61
89	Incompatibility of office	61
90	Withdrawal	61
91	Confidentiality	62
92	Exemption from liability	62
Chapter Four: Procedure		63
Section One: Time Limits		
93	Calculation of time limits	63

94	Compliance with time limits	63
95	Pause of time limits	64
96	Extension of time limits	64
Section Two: Right to be Heard		
97	Right to be heard	65
98	Restrictions	65
Section Three: Evidence		
99	Types of evidence	66
100	Anonymous witnesses	66
101	Identification of anonymous witnesses	67
102	Evaluation of proof	68
103	Match Officials' reports	68
104	Burden of proof	68
105	Collaboration	69
Section Four: Oral Hearings, Deliberations, and Decision		
106	Request for oral hearing	69
107	Procedure for oral hearing	69
108	Deliberations	70
109	Deliberations without meeting	70
110	Decision	70
111	Form and content of the decision	71
112	Decision without grounds	71
113	Notification of decision	72
114	Form of notification	72
Section Five: Miscellaneous		
115	Representation and legal representation	72
116	Language	73
117	Obvious errors	73
118	Costs and expenses	73
119	Enforcement of decisions	73

Section Six: Procedural Rules specific to the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

120	Commencement	74
121	Investigation	74
122	Procedural rules for the Chairperson or member acting alone	76

Section Seven: Procedural Rules specific to the FFB Appeal Committee

123	Appeal	76
124	Standing to appeal	77
125	Time limit for appeal	77
126	Reasons for appeal	77
127	Appeal fee	78
128	Effect of appeal	78
129	Procedural rules for the Chairperson or member acting alone	78
130	Body of last instance	78

Section Eight: Court of Arbitration for Sport

131	Right to appeal	79
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Section Nine: Provisional Measures

131	Request	79
132	Procedure	80
133	Decision	80
134	Duration	80
135	Appeal	80

Section Ten: Extension of Sanction to have effect at Confederation level

136	Request	81
137	Conditions	82
138	Procedure	82
139	Decision	82
140	Effect	82
141	Appeal	83

Section Eleven: Review of Decisions

142	Review	83
Chapter Five: Enforcement		84
143	Scope of code, omissions, custom, doctrine, and jurisprudence	84
144	Specific disciplinary rules	84
145	FFB statutes	84
146	Adoption	85
Appendix 1: Scale of Fines for Spectator Misconduct		86
Appendix 2: Scale of Fines For Delay Kick-Off Offences		88

DEFINITIONS

In this FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Code, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

FFB	The Football Federation of Belize.
FFBAS	The FFB Administration System, the FFB's online competition management and registration system.
Club	A member of an Association (that is a member of FIFA) or a member of a League recognised by an Association that enters at least one team in a competition.
Code	This FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Code.
FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Regional Association.
Regional Association	The controlling body for football within a country or territory recognised by the FFB.
Intermediary	A natural or legal person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents Players and/or Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement.
International Match	A Match between two (2) teams affiliated to or representing different Regional Associations.
Match	<p>A football, futsal, or beach soccer match in its entirety (including a replayed and/or deferred match, extra time and penalty kicks).</p> <p>For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially closed to spectators.</p>

Match Officials	<p>Individually or collectively, any individual appointed to one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Referees (separately defined below); (ii) Head of Delegation; (iii) General Coordinator; (iv) Match Commissioner; (v) Referee Assessor; (vi) Referees; (vii) Media Officer; (viii) Security Officer; (ix) Medical Officer; (x) Technical Analyst; and, (xi) any other official designation which the FFB deems to be required.
Official	<p>Any board member (including the members of the Executive Committee), committee member, referee and assistant referee, coach, trainer and any other person responsible for technical, medical and administrative matters in FIFA, a Confederation, an Association, a League or a Club as well as any other persons obliged to comply with the FIFA Statutes (except players and intermediaries).</p>
Player	<p>A football player licensed by an Association.</p>

Referee	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official, fifth official, or timekeeper.
Stadium	<p>Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) the media tribune; (v) concessions areas; (vi) commercial display areas; (vii) buildings; (viii) the field of play; (ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre; (x) any stands; and, (xi) any areas beneath the stands.

For the purposes of this Code, and provided the context so permits:

- (a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;
- (b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;
- (c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;
- (d) references to the FFB shall include its successors and permitted assigns.

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

1. Objectives

- 1.1. The principle objective of this Code is to ensure that the objectives of the FFB as set out in Article 2 of the FFB Statutes are respected.
- 1.2. This Code:
 - 1.2.1. describes infringements;
 - 1.2.2. determines the sanctions incurred for any infringement; and
 - 1.2.3. regulates the organisation, functions, and procedures of the judicial bodies responsible for making decisions regarding any infringement.

2. Scope of application: jurisdiction

- 2.1. This Code applies to:
 - 2.1.1. every Match organised by the FFB;
 - 2.1.2. every function or course organised by the FFB;
 - 2.1.3. every friendly international match and international competition requiring authorisation from the FFB;
 - 2.1.4. a Match Official being harmed physically or otherwise;
 - 2.1.5. any breach of the statutory objectives of the FFB, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping;
 - 2.1.6. any other football-related activity within Belize not directly related to a Match;
 - 2.1.7. any activity of an individual bound by this Code outside of their official function in football which constitutes unethical behaviour; and
 - 2.1.8. any breach of the FFB regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

3. Scope of application: natural and legal persons

3.1. The following natural and legal persons are subject to and bound by this Code:

3.1.1. Member Associations;

3.1.2. Members of Member Associations, and their affiliates;

3.1.3. Clubs;

3.1.4. Officials;

3.1.5. Players;

3.1.6. Match Officials;

3.1.7. Intermediaries;

3.1.8. anyone with an authorisation from the FFB, in particular with regard to a Match, competition, function, course, or other event organised by the FFB;

3.1.9. any candidate in an FFB election who is not an Official, Player, Match Official, Intermediary or has an authorisation from the FFB; and

3.1.10. spectators.

3.2. In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function during proceedings, the judicial body shall remain competent to render a decision.

3.3. In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function, the FFB may conduct an investigation and present the case to the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may suspend the proceedings or make a substantive decision.

4. Scope of application:time

- 4.1. This Code applies to infringements that have occurred after it has come into force.
- 4.2. This Code applies to infringements that have occurred prior to it coming into force if this Code is equally favourable or more favourable to the perpetrator of the facts. In other cases, the version of the Code in force at the time of the infringement is applicable.
- 4.3. Rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the Code coming into force, regardless of the timing of the infringement.

CHAPTER ONE: SANCTIONS

Section 1: Types of sanctions

5. Culpability

- 5.1. Unless otherwise specified, the principle of strict liability applies.
- 5.2. Therefore, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently.

6. Attempt

- 6.1. Acts amounting to attempt are punishable.
- 6.2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the judicial body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. Article 11).

7. Involvement

- 7.1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, may be sanctioned.
- 7.2. The judicial body will take into account the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. Article 11).

8. Sanctions applicable to individuals

- 8.1. The following sanctions may be imposed on individuals:

- 8.1.1. warning;
- 8.1.2. fine;
- 8.1.3. caution;
- 8.1.4. expulsion;
- 8.1.5. Match suspension;
- 8.1.6. ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;
- 8.1.7. ban from entering a Stadium;
- 8.1.8. ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- 8.1.9. withdrawal of a title or award;
- 8.1.10. confiscation; and
- 8.1.11. social work.

9. Sanctions applicable to Member Associations and Clubs

9.1. The following sanctions may be imposed on Member Associations and Clubs:

- 9.1.1. warning;
- 9.1.2. fine;
- 9.1.3. full or partial Stadium closure;
- 9.1.4. order to play a Match on neutral territory;
- 9.1.5. ban on playing in a particular Stadium;
- 9.1.6. annulment of the result of a Match;
- 9.1.7. disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;
- 9.1.8. defeat by forfeit;
- 9.1.9. deduction of points (for a current or future competition);
- 9.1.10. relegation to a lower division;
- 9.1.11. order that a Match be replayed;
- 9.1.12. withdrawal of a title or award;
- 9.1.13. confiscation;
- 9.1.14. withholding of revenues from an FFB competition;
- 9.1.15. prohibition on registering new Players in FFB competitions;
- 9.1.16. restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in FFB competitions;
- 9.1.17. withdrawal of a licence to participate in FFB competition; and
- 9.1.18. social work.

10. Warning

- 10.1. 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.

11. Fine

- 11.1. A fine is issued in Belize Dollars (BZD). Any fine shall be paid in BZD.
- 11.2. Any fine issued shall be:
- 11.2.1. not less than BZD 100. or in the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than BZD 50.; and
 - 11.2.2. not more than BZD 100,000.
- 11.3. The judicial body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.
- 11.4. Member Associations are jointly and severally liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual or Club.
- 11.5. Clubs are jointly and severally liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual.
- 11.6. The fact that an individual subject to a fine has ceased their role at their affiliated Club or Member Association or that a Club subject to a fine has ceased to exist or be affiliated to its Member Association does not cancel out joint and several liability.

12. Caution

- 12.1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction minor infringements as set out in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game (cf. Article 46).
- 12.2. Two (2) cautions received during the same Match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and automatic suspension from the next Match in the same competition (cf. Article 13.4). The two (2) cautions that caused the expulsion are rescinded.

- 12.3. If a Player receives a caution in two (2) separate Matches of the same FFB competition, he is automatically suspended from the next Match in that competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise.
- 12.3.1. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition.
- 12.3.2. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.
- 12.4. If an abandoned Match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that Match shall be annulled. If the Match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the teams shall be upheld.
- 12.5. Cautions issued in a Match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.
- 12.6. 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 previously received in the same Match is upheld.

13. Expulsion

- 13.1. An expulsion is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the team bench, during a Match. The individual who has been sent off may enter the stands unless he is serving a Stadium ban.
- 13.2. 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 (2) cautions.
- 13.3. An Official who has been sent off:
- 13.3.1. may give instructions to the person replacing him on the team bench. He shall ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play;
- 13.3.2. shall not be permitted to enter the team dressing room at half time; and
- 13.3.3. shall not be permitted to attend any official post-Match press conference as required in the relevant competition regulations.

- 13.4. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent Match, even if imposed in a Match that is later abandoned and/or forfeited. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

14. Match suspension

- 14.1. A Match suspension is a ban on taking part in a future Match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 14.2. An individual who is suspended in application of Article 14.1 is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s) and team bench.
- 14.3. An Official who is suspended in accordance with Article 14.1 shall not be permitted to:
- 14.3.1. communicate with his team Using electronic or any other means (e.g. hand signals) for the duration of a Match; and
 - 14.3.2. attend any official press conference as required in the relevant competition regulations.
- 14.4. The suspension is imposed in terms of Matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified in this Code, it may not exceed twenty-four (24) Matches or twenty-four (24) months.
- 14.5. If the suspension is to be served in terms of Matches, only those Matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, the suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended individual belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match.
- 14.6. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
- 14.7. A suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a Match is retroactively forfeited because a Player took part in a Match despite being ineligible (cf. Article 56). This also applies to the suspension imposed on the Player who took part in the Match despite being ineligible.

15. Ban from team dressing room and/or team bench

- 15.1. A ban from the team dressing room deprives an individual of the right to enter a team dressing room(s) and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 15.2. A ban from the team bench deprives an individual of the right to sit on the team bench before, during, and after a Match.
- 15.3. These sanctions may be combined.

16. Stadium ban

- 16.1. A Stadium ban prohibits an individual from entering a specific Stadium.
- 16.2. An individual may be banned from more than one (1) Stadium concurrently.

17. Ban on taking part in any football-related activity

- 17.1. A ban from taking part in any kind of football-related activity prohibits an individual from any involvement in Belizean football.
- 17.2. This includes without limitation:
 - 17.2.1. attending any Match in any FFB competition or competition organised by a Member Association;
 - 17.2.2. participating in any Match in any FFB competition or competition organised by a Member Association;
 - 17.2.3. attending or participating in any training activities connected to any Club affiliated to a Member Association or representative team of a Member Association;
 - 17.2.4. conducting any administrative duties connected to football, futsal, or beach soccer on behalf of a Club affiliated to a Member Association, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association; and

- 17.2.5. attending any function or course related to football, futsal, or beach soccer, whether hosted by the FFB, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association.

18. Full or partial Stadium closure

- 18.1. A Member Association or Club may be ordered to play a future Match with a full or partial Stadium closure.
 - 18.1.1. The judicial body shall order a partial Stadium closure in terms of percentage (e.g. 50% closure).
 - 18.1.2. Any partial Stadium closure shall not affect the allocation of tickets for away teams or the provision of an away team supporters' area.
- 18.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.
 - 18.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.
 - 18.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the misconduct which gave rise to the order occurred.
- 18.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in FFB or domestic competitions.

19. Playing a Match on neutral ground

- 19.1. A Member Association or Club may be ordered to play a Match on neutral ground.
- 19.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association.
 - 19.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

19.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

19.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in FFB or domestic competitions. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the Club is affiliated, but may be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the opponent Club is affiliated.

20. Ban on playing in a particular Stadium

20.1. A ban on playing in a particular Stadium deprives the representative team of a Member Association or a Club of the right to play in a particular Stadium.

20.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.

20.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

20.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

20.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in FFB or domestic competitions.

21. Annulment of the result of a Match

21.1. An order that the result of a Match be annulled means that the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

22. Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition

- 22.1. A Member Association or Club may be disqualified from taking part in a competition in progress.
- 22.2. A Member Association or Club may be excluded from a future competition.
- 22.3. These sanctions may be combined.

23. Relegation to a lower division

- 23.1. A Club may be relegated to a lower division in its domestic competition.

24. Deduction of points

- 24.1. A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a competition in progress.
- 24.2. A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a future competition.
- 24.3. These sanctions may be combined.

25. Forfeit

- 25.1. Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are considered to have lost the Match by 3-0.
- 25.2. If the goal difference at the end of the Match in question is greater than 3-0, the result on the pitch is upheld.

26. Order that a Match be replayed

- 26.1. A Match may be ordered replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full due to the behaviour for which a representative team of a Member Association or Club is liable.

27. Withdrawal of a title or award

- 27.1. An order to return benefits received in particular sums of money and specific objects (e.g. trophies).

28. Confiscation

- 28.1. A confiscation order shall result in a specific object (e.g. monies, sports equipment) to be provided to the FFB.

29. Withholding of revenues

- 29.1. An order to withhold revenues is the forfeiture of any revenues owed as a result of participation and/or success in a competition.

30. Prohibition on registering new Players in FFB competition

- 30.1. A prohibition on registering new Players in FFB competition shall result in the relevant team not being permitted to register any new, additional, or replacement Players within a current and/or future registration period identified in the relevant competition regulations.

31. Restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in FFB competitions

- 31.1. A restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in FFB competitions shall result in the Club being permitted to register a number of Players in an FFB competition which is less than the maximum identified in the relevant competition regulations.

32. Withdrawal of licence to participate in FFB competition

- 32.1. An order for withdrawal of a license to participate in a FFB competition is an annulment of a decision of a club licensing authority in a Member Association to award a licence to a Club to participate in a future FFB competition.

33. Social Work

- 33.1. An individual, Club, or Member Association may be ordered to undertake social work as directed by the judicial body.

Section 2: Common rules relating to sanctions

34. Suspension of implementation of sanctions

- 34.1. The judicial body may suspend or partially suspend the implementation of a sanction.
- 34.2. For Match suspensions, suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six (6) matches or six (6) months.
- 34.3. By suspending or partially suspending the implementation of a sanction, the judicial body subjects the party sanctioned to a probationary period of between six (6) months and two (2) years.
- 34.4. If a party benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
- 34.5. In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this Article is not applicable.

35. Time sanctions: calculation of time limit

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

36. Centralisation of sanctions

36.1. Records of cautions, expulsions and Match suspensions are stored in FFBAS.

36.1.1. Following each Match, the FFB shall confirm in writing any disciplinary decisions undertaken by the Referee to the Member Association or Club concerned.

36.1.2. In the case of centralized final competitions, the FFB shall confirm in writing any disciplinary decisions undertaken by the Referee to the relevant Team Manager.

36.2. This communication serves only as a notice of confirmation: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic Match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent Matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the Member Association, Club or relevant Team Manager later than a Match in which a suspension is to be carried out.

Section 3: Carrying over and cancelling cautions and Match suspensions

37. Carrying over cautions

37.1. Cautions received during a competition are not carried over to another competition.

37.2. Cautions are carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may exceptionally depart from this before the start of a particular competition.

37.3. Upon its own initiative or upon request, the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion 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.

37.3.1. This may only be undertaken once in any competition.

37.3.2. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

38. Carrying over Match suspensions

- 38.1. As a general rule, every Match suspension is carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition.
- 38.2. Unless otherwise decided by a judicial body, Match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on an individual 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:
 - 38.2.1. FFB competitions for representative teams: to the representative team's next Match in FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA competition in the same category of football;
 - 38.2.2. FFB competitions subject to an age limit: to the representative team's next Match in the same age group in FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA competition in the same category of football. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to a higher age category in FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA competition in the same category of football;
 - 38.2.3. FFB club competitions: to the individual's next official Club Match in a continental competition in the same category of football;
 - 38.2.4. Friendly matches: shall be carried over to the next friendly match; and
 - 38.2.5. Non-official competitions for representative teams: if the regulations of such competitions refer to the Code, to the representative team's next Match in FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA competition in the same category of football.
- 38.3. If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is not required to participate in qualifying Matches and its next official Match in FFB, CONCACAF or FIFA competition is in that final competition, any Match suspension pronounced in accordance with Article 38.2 shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly Match in the same category of football.
- 38.4. In no case may a Match suspension resulting from several cautions issued to a Player in different Matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

Section 4: Determining the sanction

39. General rules

- 39.1. The judicial body pronouncing the sanction determines the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking account of both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
- 39.2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one (1) or more specific categories of Match or competition.
- 39.3. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
- 39.4. Disciplinary measures can be reduced or increased by the judicial body on the basis of the circumstances of the specific case.
- 39.5. For the avoidance of any doubt, the judicial body may, even where a minimum sanction is identified in the Code or relevant FFB regulations, choose to impose a sanction lower than the minimum after having considered all of the relevant circumstances in accordance with Article 39.4.

40. Recidivism

- 40.1. Unless otherwise specified, the judicial body may increase a sanction as it sees fit if an infringement has been repeated. Recidivism is an aggravating circumstance.
- 40.2. Subject to Articles 40.3 and 40.4, recidivism occurs if an offence is repeated by the same defendant within:
 - 40.2.1. one (1) year of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a one (1) Match suspension;
 - 40.2.2. three (3) years of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a two (2) Match suspension; and
 - 40.2.3. five (5) years of the previous offence in all other cases.
- 40.3. There is no time limit for recidivism if the previous offence was related to Match-manipulation or corruption.
- 40.4. This Article is not applicable to repeated anti-doping rule violations which are governed by the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations.

41. Concurrent infringements

- 41.1. Where more than one (1) infringement has been committed as a result of the same misconduct, the sanction shall be based on the most serious infringement, and increased as appropriate depending on the specific circumstances.

42. Limitation period for prosecution

- 42.1. Infringements committed during a Match cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of two (2) years.
- 42.2. The prosecution of anti-doping rule violations is subject to the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 42.3. Prosecution for Match-manipulation (cf. Article 66) or corruption (cf. Article 68) is not subject to a limitation period.
- 42.4. All other infringements cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of ten (10) years.

43. Commencement of limitation period

- 43.1. The limitation period runs as follows:
- 43.1.1. from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;
 - 43.1.2. if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed; and
 - 43.1.3. if the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.

44. Completion of limitation period

- 44.1. The limitation period is completed if the FFB commences proceedings before it has expired.

45. Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions

- 45.1. The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions is five (5) years.
- 45.2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

CHAPTER TWO: OFFENCES

Section 1: Disciplinary decisions made by the Referee

46. Minor infringements punishable by a caution

46.1. A Player is cautioned by the Referee during a Match if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 12 of the Code):

- 46.1.1. unsporting behaviour;
- 46.1.2. dissent by word or action;
- 46.1.3. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
- 46.1.4. delaying the restart of play;
- 46.1.5. failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
- 46.1.6. entering or re-entering the field of play without the Referee's permission; and
- 46.1.7. deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission.

47. Serious infringements punishable by an expulsion

47.1. A Player is sent off by the Referee if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 13 of the Code):

- 47.1.1. serious foul play;
- 47.1.2. violent conduct;
- 47.1.3. spitting at an opponent or any other person;

- 47.1.4. denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
 - 47.1.5. denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the Player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
 - 47.1.6. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures; and
 - 47.1.7. receiving a second caution in the same Match.
- 47.2. An Official is sent off by the Referee if he commits the following offence (cf. Law 5 of the Laws of the Game and Article 13 of the Code):
- 47.2.1. failing to conduct himself in a responsible manner.

48. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion

- 48.1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 13.4, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match suspension as follows:
- 48.1.1. one (1) Match for denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;
 - 48.1.2. at least one (1) Match for serious foul play;
 - 48.1.3. at least one (1) Match for Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/ or gestures (subject to Articles 50, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60);
 - 48.1.4. at least one (1) Match for failing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner (subject to Articles 50, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60);
 - 48.1.5. at least two (2) Matches for violent conduct (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking); and
 - 48.1.6. at least six (6) Matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.

48.2. A fine of at least \$200 BZD. shall be imposed in all cases.

48.3. If a judicial body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article 79.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and, subject to the circumstances, Article 48.1 and 48.2 may apply.

49. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion undertaken against Match Officials

49.1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 13.4, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match suspension as follows:

49.1.1. at least four (4) Matches for Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures towards a Match Official (subject to Articles 50, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60);

49.1.2. at least six (6) months for violent conduct (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking) undertaken towards a Match Official; and

49.1.3. at least twelve (12) months for spitting at a Match Official.

49.2. A fine of at least \$200 BZD. shall be imposed in all cases.

49.3. If a body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article 79.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and, subject to the circumstances, Article 49.1 and 49.2 may apply.

Section 2: Offences

50. Bringing the game into disrepute

50.1. Any party whose conduct brings the game into disrepute has committed an offence.

Penalty: subject to the gravity of the offence.

50.2. Conduct that brings the game into disrepute includes without limitation:

50.2.1. insulting someone in any way;

50.2.2. violating the principles of fair play;

50.2.3. engaging in unsporting behaviour.

50.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.

50.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

51. Brawl

51.1. Involvement in a brawl is an offence.

51.1.1. Any individual who has tried merely to prevent a brawl, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl, shall not be deemed to be involved in a brawl.

Penalty: for an individual, suspension of at least six (6) Matches;
for a Member Association or Club, fine of at least \$500 BZD.

51.2. Notwithstanding Article 51.1.1, any individual who deliberately enters the field of play during a brawl regardless of culpable conduct has committed an offence.

Penalty: suspension of at least two (2) Matches.

51.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

52. Damage to property

52.1. Causing damage to property before, during, or after a Match is an offence.

52.2. Where property is damaged inside a team dressing room or team bench area, it is presumed that such damage was undertaken by an individual affiliated to the relevant team assigned to that team dressing room or team bench area. The party may produce evidence to rebut the presumption, which shall be determined on the balance of probabilities.

52.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.

Penalty: for an individual, fine of at least \$200 BZD., plus cost of damage caused;
for a Member Association or Club, fine of at least \$500 BZD. plus cost of damage caused.

52.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

53. Team misconduct

- 53.1. Any team of which at least five (5) individuals for football or at least three (3) individuals for futsal or beach soccer have been sanctioned (caution or expulsion) by the Referee during a Match has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of \$500 BZD. per expulsion and BZD 100 per caution, unless specified differently within the Competition Regulations or Disciplinary Circular (cf. Article 144).

- 53.2. Any team where several individuals threaten or harass Match Officials or other persons during a Match has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.

- 53.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

54. Inciting hatred and violence

- 54.1. Anyone who publicly incites others to hatred or violence has committed an offence.

Penalty: for a Player, Match Official or individual in a team delegation
Match suspension of at least twelve (12) months; and
fine of at least \$500 BZD (at least \$1500 BZD. in aggravated cases).

for any other individual
ban on all football-related activity for at least twelve (12) months; and fine
of at least \$500 BZD. (at least \$1 500 BZD. in aggravated cases).

for a Member Association or Club
fine of at least \$1000 BZD. (at least \$3,000 BZD. in aggravated cases);
and
any other sanctions as listed in the Code.

- 54.2. The offence is aggravated where the infringement is committed Using the mass media, social media, or if it takes place on a Match day in or around a Stadium.
- 54.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

55. Provoking the general public

- 55.1. Anyone who provokes the general public during a Match has committed an offence.

Penalty: for a Player, Match Official or individual in a team delegation
suspension of two (2) Matches; and fine of at least \$300 BZD.

for any other individual
ban on all football-related activity for at least thirty (30) days; and fine of at least \$300 BZD.

for a Member Association or Club
fine of at least \$1200 BZD.

- 55.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

56. Ineligibility

- 56.1. If a Player is fielded in a Match despite being ineligible, his team has committed an offence.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and
fine of at least \$100 BZD.

- 56.2. If a team fields more than one (1) Player who is ineligible in a Match, the fine shall be multiplied by the number of ineligible Players who participated in the relevant Match.
- 56.3. If the offence is discovered after the completion of a competition, the judicial body may additionally order that the team be excluded from a future competition or the deduction of points from a future competition.

- 56.4. The offence is aggravated if the ineligible Player(s) is (are) fielded in an FFB competition subject to an age limit.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and
 fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
 (if applicable) withdrawal of title or awards; and
 disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from
 a future competition.

57. Abandonment

- 57.1. If a team refuses to play a Match or to continue playing one which has begun, it has committed an offence.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and
 fine of at least \$250 BZD.

- 57.2. In serious cases, the offence is aggravated.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and
 fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
 disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from
 a future competition.

58. Discrimination

- 58.1. Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, skin colour, gender, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth, sexual orientation, or ethnic, national, or social origin has committed an offence.

Penalty: for an individual:
 ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2)
 months; and
 fine of at least \$250 BZD.

for a Club or Member Association:
 an order to play at least one (1) future Match without spectators; and
 fine of at least \$500 BZD.

- 58.2. The offence is aggravated where several persons from the same Club or Member Association simultaneously commit the offence.

Penalty: for a Club or Member Association:
fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and deduction of three (3) points for the current or future competition; or (in the case of a Match or competition in which no points are awarded) disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

- 58.3. The offence is aggravated where supporters of a team commit the offence.

Penalty: for a Club or Member Association:
fine of at least \$500 BZD.

for a spectator:
Stadium ban of at least two (2) years.

- 58.4. In any other type of aggravated offence, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

59. Threats

- 59.1. Anyone who intimidates a Match Official with serious threats has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$200 BZD.; and suspension
of at least two (2) Matches.

- 59.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

60. Coercion

- 60.1. Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$200 BZD.; and suspension
of at least two (2) Matches.

- 60.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

61. Forgery and Falsification

- 61.1. Anyone who, in football-related activities:

61.1.1. forges a document; or

61.1.2. falsifies an authentic document; or

61.1.3. uses a forged or falsified document,

to deceive in legal relations has committed an offence.

Penalty: for a Player:
fine of at least \$200 BZD.; and suspension
of at least six (6) Matches.

for any other individual:
fine of at least \$200 BZD.; and
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least twelve
(12) months.

- 61.2. A Member Association or Club may be held jointly liable for an offence committed by any affiliated individual.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
(in appropriate circumstances) disqualification from a competition in
progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

- 61.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his Member Association or Club shall be held liable for the offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from
a future competition.

- 61.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

62. Doping

- 62.1. The commission of any Anti-Doping Rule Violation as pronounced within the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations in force at the relevant time is an offence.

Penalty: in accordance with the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations.

63. Failure to respect decisions

- 63.1. Anyone who fails to:

63.1.1. pay a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of FFB or a subsequent CAS appeal decision; or

63.1.2. comply with a non-financial decision passed by a body, a committee or an instance of FFB or a subsequent CAS appeal decision; or

63.1.3. respect the disciplinary decision of a Referee to expel him from a Match, has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$1000 BZD.

- 63.2. The non-compliant party will be granted a final deadline by the judicial body in which to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision.

- 63.3. Anyone who fails to comply with a final deadline issued by a judicial body as set out in this Article has committed an aggravated offence.

Penalty: for an individual:

ban on football-related activity for at least six (6) months (first offence);

ban on football-related activity for at least twelve (12) months (repeat offences);

for a Club or Member Association:

deduction of points from a current or future competition (first offence);

disqualification from a current competition or expulsion from a future competition (second offence).

- 63.4. The non-compliant party will be granted another final deadline by the body in which to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision. Failure to comply shall result in the offence pursuant to Article 63.3 being committed again.
- 63.5. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this Article shall be directly lodged with CAS.

64. Organisation of Matches

- 64.1. Any Member Association or Club that fails to fulfil any of its obligations relating to the organisation of Matches has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.

- 64.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.
- 64.3. A Member Association or Club that hosts Matches shall:
- 64.3.1. assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the FFB bodies of those that are especially high-risk;

- 64.3.2. comply with and implement existing safety rules (e.g. FIFA & FFB regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the Match and if incidents occur;
- 64.3.3. ensure the safety of Match Officials, Players and Officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- 64.3.4. keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively; and
- 64.3.5. ensure that law and order is maintained in the Stadium and immediate surroundings and that Matches are organised properly.

65. Liability for spectatorconduct

- 65.1. Improper conduct undertaken by spectators is an offence.

- 65.1.1. Improper conduct includes, without limitation, violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, the use of insulting, religious and political messages or images in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, and/or invading the pitch or other restricted areas.
- 65.1.2. The home Member Association or home Club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
- 65.1.3. The visiting Member Association or visiting Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight. Supporters occupying the away sector of a Stadium are regarded as the visiting Member Association or visiting Club supporters, unless proven to the contrary.

Penalty: please refer to Appendix 1.

- 65.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the liability described in Articles 65.1.2 and 65.1.3 includes Matches played on neutral territory.

66. Unlawfully influencing Match results

66.1. Anyone who conspires to influence or manipulate the result of a Match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics has committed an offence.

66.1.1. The requesting or support of any such influence or manipulation, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 66.1.

66.1.2. There is no influence or manipulation if the individual intends to obtain or secure an advantage exclusively within the context of a Match.

Penalty: fine of at least \$1,000 BZD.; and
a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two
(2) years.

66.2. In the case of an aggravated offence, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

66.3. The Club or Member Association to whom the individual is affiliated may be also held jointly and severally liable for any offence committed pursuant to Article 66.1.

Penalty: fine of at least \$5000 BZD.; and/or
disqualification from a current competition or exclusion from a future
competition; and
(where applicable) withdrawal of a title or award.

66.4. The provision to anyone of special knowledge or otherwise not publicly available information that may impact on the integrity of any football Match or competition, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, is an offence.

66.4.1. The requesting or support of any such provision, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 66.4.

Penalty: for a Player:
fine of at least \$250 BZD.; and suspension
of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual:
fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and suspension of
at least one (1) Match; or
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1)
month.

66.5. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

66.6. Association in a professional or sports-related capacity with an individual who has violated Article 66.1 or found in a criminal, disciplinary, or professional proceeding to have engaged in conduct which would have constituted a violation of Article 66.1 is an offence.

66.6.1. The disqualifying status of such individual shall be whichever is longer of:

66.6.1.1. the sanction issued due to a violation of Article 66.1; or

66.6.1.2. the criminal, disciplinary, or professional sanction imposed; or

66.6.1.3. five(5) years from the date of the criminal, disciplinary, or professional sanction imposed.

66.6.2. The association with a front or intermediary of an individual described in Article 66.6 of this Code shall be considered to be an association with that individual for the purposes of Article 66.6.

66.6.3. Anybody charged with an offence pursuant to Article 66.6 shall bear the burden of proving that their association with any individual described in Article 66.6 is not in a professional or sports-related capacity.

Penalty: for an individual:
 ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years.

for a Club or Member Association: fine
 of at least \$1,000 BZD.; and
 disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

66.7. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

67. Obligations of Member Associations and Clubs

67.1. Member Associations and Clubs shall:

- 67.1.1. actively vet the age of Players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
- 67.1.2. ensure that no-one is involved in their management who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (e.g. doping, corruption, forgery) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five (5) years; and
- 67.1.3. bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Players and Officials and to ensure that all Players and Officials registered and or fielded during a competition are eligible to play.

67.2. Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

68. Corruption

- 68.1. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body or judicial body of the FFB, a Match Official, a Player or an Official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite a violation of FFB regulations or obtain any other improper advantage has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years; and
confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement.

- 68.2. Anyone who solicits or accepts an unjustified advantage from an individual seeking to incite a violation of FFB regulations or obtain any other improper advantage, regardless of whether that advantage materializes, has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least \$500 BZD.; and
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least two (2) years; and
confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement.

- 68.3. The instruction of an intermediary or related party to offer, promise, grant, solicit, or accept an unjustified advantage shall fall within the scope of Article 68.1 or Article 68.2.

- 68.4. For either offence, where the offence is aggravated, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

- 68.5. For either offence, in the case of a repeated offence, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

69. Betting

69.1. Making any bets in relation to any Match or competition is an offence.

69.1.1. The requesting or support of any such betting, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 69.1.

Penalty: for a Player:
fine of at least \$1,000 BZD; and/or
suspension of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual:
fine of at least, \$1000 BZD; and suspension
of at least one (1) Match; or
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1)
month.

69.2. The provision to anyone of special knowledge or otherwise not publicly available information that is relevant to betting on any Match or competition, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, is an offence.

69.2.1. The requesting or support of any such provision, whether for one's own gain or for the gain of others, shall fall within the scope of Article 69.2.

Penalty: for a Player:
fine of at least \$1,000 BZD; and/or
suspension of at least one (1) Match.

for any other individual:
fine of at least \$1,000 BZD; and suspension
of at least one (1) Match; or
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least one (1)
month.

69.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

70. Integrity of Conduct

- 70.1. A party must use due care and diligence in fulfilling their duties.
- 70.2. A party must act with the highest degree of integrity, and particularly when making decisions, they must act with impartiality, objectivity, independence and professionalism.
- 70.3. A party must refrain from any act involving fraud or corruption.
- 70.4. A party must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of Belizean football.
- 70.5. A party or its representative(s) must not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any form of remuneration or commission, nor any concealed benefit or service of any nature, when negotiating deals of any kind when performing their duties.
- 70.6. A party may only give or receive tokens of consideration or friendship of nominal value, in accordance with prevailing local customs.
 - 70.6.1. Such tokens may not lead to the impartiality and integrity of the party, the FFB, or Belizean football being called into question.
 - 70.6.2. Any other form of token, object or benefit shall constitute a gift which shall not be accepted. Receipt of any such token, object, or benefit shall be immediately reported to the FFB.
 - 70.6.3. For the avoidance of doubt, the giving and receiving of cash is not permitted.
 - 70.6.4. For hospitality shown to a party, as well as those accompanying them, a sense of measure must be respected.
- 70.7. A party must avoid any situation that could lead to a conflict of interest.
 - 70.7.1. When performing an activity for the FFB or before being elected or appointed, a party bound by this Code shall disclose any personal interests that could be linked with their prospective activities.

70.7.2. Conflicts of interest arise if the party bound by this Code has, or appear to have, private or personal interests that could detract from their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for other parties bound by this Code, relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

70.7.3. A party bound by this Code shall not perform their duties in cases with an existing or potential conflict of interest. Such conflicts shall be immediately disclosed to the FFB.

70.8. A party must respect the integrity of others.

70.8.1. Harassment is forbidden. Harassment is defined as systematic, hostile, and repeated acts for a considerable duration, intended to isolate or ostracise a person and affect the dignity of the person.

70.8.2. Sexual harassment is forbidden. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances that are not solicited or invited. The assessment is based on whether a reasonable person would regard the conduct as undesirable or offensive. Threats, the promise of advantages and coercion are particularly prohibited.

70.9. Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

71. Good Governance and Resources

71.1. A party must refrain from utilising football resources for non-football and/or inappropriate purposes.

71.1.1. Football resources includes without limitation development monies or prize monies provided by the FFB to a Member Association or Club.

71.2. A party must ensure, where the FFB provides financial support to a Member Association or Club and where appropriate in accordance with their official role, that the use of these resources is clearly demonstrated in annual financial accounts.

71.2.1. The FFB may request and subject any such accounts to an independent audit by an expert of its choice.

71.3. A party must ensure that the promotion of their candidature for office in any Asian football election shall not denigrate the character of any other candidate.

71.3.1. FFB sponsors and FFB marketing partners are not permitted to support or promote any candidature for office. The relevant candidate shall be held liable for any support or promotion of their candidature for office by such third parties.

71.4. Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

72. Duty of neutrality, loyalty, and confidentiality

72.1. A party must ensure that in dealings with government institutions, national and international organisations, associations and groupings, they remain politically neutral.

72.2. Everyone bound by this Code has a fiduciary duty to the FFB.

72.3. A party must ensure that information of a confidential nature divulged to them while performing their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret if such information is given with the understanding or communication of confidentiality.

72.4. Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

73. Duty to report any infringement

73.1. Everyone bound by this Code has a duty to report to the FFB, without undue delay and unprompted, any conduct incompatible with this Code or any other FFB regulation.

73.2. The failure to comply with the duty to report conduct incompatible with this Code or any other FFB regulation is an offence.

Penalty: subject to the gravity of the incompatible conduct that was not reported.

73.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

CHAPTER THREE: ORGANISATION

Section 1: Jurisdiction

74. General rule

74.1. The scope of the jurisdiction of the FFB is set out in Article 2 of this Code.

74.2. With regard to friendly International Matches requiring authorisation from the FFB but not organised by the FFB (cf. Article 2), the relevant Member Association is responsible for enforcing sanctions against infringements that are undertaken by its Clubs, Players, Officials, and spectators.

74.2.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 136).

74.2.2. The FFB may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the FFB *ex officio* if the relevant Member Association fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.

- 74.3. With regard to international competitions requiring authorisation from the FFB but not organised by the FFB (cf. Article 2), the Member Association and/or sports organisation that organise such competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction.
- 74.3.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 136).
- 74.3.2. The FFB may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the FFB *ex officio* if a Member Association and/or other sports organisation fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.
- 74.4. With regard to domestic Matches or competitions, the Member Association and/ or sports organisation that organise such Matches or competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction.
- 74.4.1. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. Article 136).
- 74.4.2. The FFB may investigate and sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the FFB *ex officio* if a Member Association and/or other sports organisation fails to prosecute, fails to prosecute in compliance with fundamental principles of law, or an adequate judgement cannot be expected given the specific circumstances.
- 74.5. Member Associations and other sports organisations shall notify the FFB of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the FFB that occur within their area of jurisdiction.

75. Referee

- 75.1. During Matches, disciplinary decisions are made by the Referee.
- 75.2. These decisions are final.
- 75.3. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may be enlivened (cf. Article 79).

76. Judicial bodies

- 76.1. The judicial bodies of the FFB (cf. Articles 18 and 56 of the FFB Statutes) are the:
 - 76.1.1. FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
 - 76.1.2. FFB Appeal Committee.

77. Court of Arbitration for Sport

- 77.1. Certain decisions passed by the FFB Appeal Committee may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport if such appeal is in accordance with the relevant Articles of the FFB Statutes and this Code.

Section 2: FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

78. General jurisdiction

- 78.1. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of FFB regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

79. Specific jurisdiction

79.1. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is responsible for:

- 79.1.1. sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;
- 79.1.2. rectifying obvious errors in the Referee's disciplinary decisions;
- 79.1.3. extending the duration of a Match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (cf. Article 13.4); and
- 79.1.4. pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

80. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone

80.1. The chairperson of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or a member designated by the chairperson, may make the following decisions alone:

- 80.1.1. suspend a person for up to three (3) Matches or for up to two (2) months;
- 80.1.2. pronounce a fine of up to \$1,000 BZD.;
- 80.1.3. rule on a request to extend a sanction (cf. Article 136);
- 80.1.4. settle disputes arising from objections to members of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (cf. Article 89);
- 80.1.5. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. Article 131);
- 80.1.6. in urgent cases on request, refer a case directly to the FFB Appeal Committee for its decision;
- 80.1.7. rule on any protest received pursuant to any competition regulations; and
- 80.1.8. cases arising under Article 104.

Section 3: FFB Appeal Committee

81. Jurisdiction

- 81.1. The FFB Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any decision of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee that FFB regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

82. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone

- 82.1. The chairperson of the FFB Appeal Committee or a member designated by the chairperson may make the following decisions alone:
- 82.1.1. decide on appeals against decisions passed by the chairperson or member of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee acting alone so long as such appeals are admissible (cf. Articles 80 and 122);
 - 82.1.2. decide on appeals against provisional measure decisions passed by the chairperson or member of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee acting alone (cf. Articles 80 and 131);
 - 82.1.3. decide on appeals against a decision to extend a sanction (cf. Article 141);
 - 82.1.4. resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the FFB Appeal Committee (cf. Article 89); and
 - 82.1.5. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. Article 131).

Section 4: Common rules for the judicial bodies

83. Composition

- 83.1. The FFB Congress elects the chairperson, deputy chairperson(s), and members of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the FFB Appeal Committee for a period of four (4) years on the recommendation of the FFB Executive Committee.
- 83.2. The chairperson and deputy chairperson of each judicial body shall have legal qualifications. The members of each judicial body shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

84. Meetings

- 84.1. Meetings are deemed valid if at least three (3) members are present.
- 84.2. At the behest of the chairperson, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.

85. Chairperson

- 85.1. The chairperson chairs each meeting and undertakes the decisions which this Code empowers him to make.
- 85.2. If the chairperson is unable to attend, the deputy chairperson replaces him. If the deputy chairperson is unable to attend, the longest-serving member replaces him.

86. Secretariat

- 86.1. The FFB General Secretariat provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at FFB headquarters.
- 86.2. The FFB General Secretary appoints the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries who shall be legally trained.

- 86.3. The secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
- 86.4. The secretariat takes care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten (10) years.

87. Independence

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

88. Incompatibility of office

- 88.1. The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong either to the FFB Executive Committee or any FFB Standing Committee.

89. Withdrawal

- 89.1. Members of the judicial bodies must recuse themselves from matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.
- 89.2. This applies, without limitation, in the following cases:
 - 89.2.1. if the member has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
 - 89.2.2. if the member is associated with any of the parties;
 - 89.2.3. if the member has the same nationality as the party implicated or any party central to the matter; and
 - 89.2.4. if the member has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.

- 89.3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairperson immediately.
- 89.4. Parties may raise an objection to any member they believe to be biased.
- 89.5. The chairperson shall decide on any such objection. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 89.6. Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairperson has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

90. Confidentiality

- 90.1. The members of the judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential.
- 90.2. Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public. This includes, without limitation, publishing such decisions online. Where appropriate, such decisions shall be redacted.

91. Exemption from liability

- 91.1. Neither the members of the judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any action or omission relating to any disciplinary procedure conducted pursuant to this Code.

CHAPTER FOUR: PROCEDURE

Section 1: Time limits

92. Calculation of timelimits

- 92.1. Time limits to which a party who has directly received a document shall adhere commence the day after receipt of the relevant document.
- 92.2. Time limits to which other parties shall adhere commence four (4) days after receipt of the relevant document by the Member Association responsible for forwarding it.
- 92.3. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the party required to comply, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.
- 92.4. In urgent cases, the chairperson of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or the FFB Appeal Committee (as appropriate) may shorten any deadlines under this Code.

93. Compliance with timelimits

- 93.1. Compliance occurs if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.
- 93.2. If the action required is the submission of a document, such document must be submitted to the relevant body no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.
- 93.3. Parties may submit documents by facsimile, electronic mail, or courier.
- 93.4. In the case of appeals, the appeal fee (cf. Article 126) is considered to be paid in time if the payment is irreversibly made to the nominated FFB account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.
- 93.5. Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a time and/or date in any communication or document issued by the FFB or any judicial body in connection with this Code shall be considered to be a reference to the time and/or date in Belmopan City, Cayo District.

94. Extension of timelimits

- 94.1. Time limits that have been set by the secretariat or the chairperson may be extended, upon request. The time limits fixed in this Code shall not be extended.
- 94.2. Any requests made under Article 95.1 must be made before expiry of the relevant time limit.
- 94.3. A time limit shall not be extended more than twice and, the second time, only in exceptional circumstances.
- 94.4. Any decision to extend or not extend a time limit is final and binding and not appealable.

Section 2: Right to be heard

95. Right to be heard

95.1. A party shall be given the opportunity to be heard before any decision is passed.

95.2. A party may, without limitation:

95.2.1. refer to the file;

95.2.2. present their argument in fact and in law;

95.2.3. request production of proof;

95.2.4. be involved in the production of proof; and

95.2.5. obtain a reasoned decision.

95.3. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

96. Restrictions

96.1. The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances shall be determined by the chairperson.

96.2. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

Section 3: Evidence

97. Types of evidence

97.1. Any type of evidence may be produced.

97.2. The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are inadmissible:

97.2.1. evidence that violates human dignity; and

97.2.2. evidence in a language other than English that is not accompanied by a certified translation.

97.3. The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are admissible:

97.3.1. reports from Match Officials;

97.3.2. testimonial or oral declarations from the parties and witnesses;

97.3.3. expert opinions; and

97.3.4. audio or video recordings.

98. Anonymous witnesses

98.1. When an individual's testimony could endanger his life or put him or his family or close friends in physical danger, the chairperson may order at the request of the FFB that:

98.1.1. the witness not be identified in the presence of the parties;

98.1.2. the witness not appear at the hearing; and

98.1.3. all or some of the information that could be used to identify the witness be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

98.2. In view of all the circumstances and in particular if no other evidence is available to corroborate that of the anonymous witness and if it is technically possible, the chairperson may exceptionally order, on his own initiative or at the request of one of the parties, that:

98.2.1. the voice of the witness be distorted;

98.2.2. the face of the witness be masked;

98.2.3. the witness be questioned outside the hearing room; and

98.2.4. the witness be questioned in writing through the chairperson.

98.3. Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of an anonymous witness or any information that could be used to identify an anonymous witness.

99. Identification of anonymous witnesses

99.1. To ensure their safety, anonymous witnesses shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties.

99.2. This witness identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the judicial body alone, or all the members of the judicial body together, and shall be recorded in minutes containing the witness's personal details.

99.3. These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

99.4. The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

99.4.1. confirms that the anonymous witness has been formally identified; and

99.4.2. contains no details that could be used to identify the anonymous witness.

100. Evaluation of proof

- 100.1. The judicial bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
- 100.2. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat.
- 100.3. The standard of proof shall be to the comfortable satisfaction of the members, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made.
- 100.4. The relevant standards of proof in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations are set out in the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations.

101. Match Officials' reports

- 101.1. Facts contained in Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
- 101.2. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of a Match Officials' report may be provided.
- 101.3. 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 report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play and the Match Commissioner report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

102. Burden of proof

- 102.1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the FFB.
- 102.2. The burden of proof in the case of a protest rests on the protesting party.
- 102.3. Any party that asserts a fact has the burden of proving it.
- 102.4. The relevant evidentiary burdens in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations are set out in the FFB Anti-Doping Regulations.

103. Collaboration

- 103.1. Everyone subject to this Code is obliged to collaborate to establish facts if requested by the secretariat. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information.
- 103.2. The chairperson of the judicial body, upon the application of the secretariat, may impose a fine of up to \$500 BZD. or a ban on football-related activity of up to two (2) months, on anyone who is dilatory in responding to a request for collaboration.
 - 103.2.1. The chairperson may hear any such application *ex parte*.
- 103.3. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

Section 4: Oral hearings, deliberations and decision

104. Request for oral hearing

- 104.1. As a general rule, there are no oral hearings and the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee decides on the basis of the file.
- 104.2. A party may request for an oral hearing. The chairperson shall decide on any such request. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.
- 104.3. Oral hearings are always conducted behind closed doors.

105. Procedure for oral hearing

- 105.1. The chairperson decides on the procedure of any oral hearing.
- 105.2. Once the hearing of evidence has ended, the chairperson allows the person against whom proceedings are being conducted a final opportunity to speak.
- 105.3. The oral hearing terminates with this closing statement.

106. Deliberations

- 106.1. The FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee deliberates behind closed doors.
- 106.2. If an oral hearing has occurred, it will immediately be followed by deliberations.
- 106.3. Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 106.4. The chairperson decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.
- 106.5. The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairperson, who always speaks last.
- 106.6. The Secretary or Deputy Secretary have consultative powers only.

107. Deliberations without meeting

- 107.1. If the circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-making to be conducted via telephone conference, video conference or any other similar method.
- 107.2. In such cases, the party shall not be permitted to request an oral hearing.
- 107.3. The secretariat takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

108. Decision

- 108.1. Subject to Articles 80 and 82, decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote.
- 108.2. Every member present shall vote.
- 108.3. If votes are equal, the chairperson has the casting vote.

109. Form and content of the decision

109.1. Without prejudice to the application of Article 111 below, the decision contains:

- 109.1.1. the composition of the committee;
- 109.1.2. the names of the parties;
- 109.1.3. a summary of the facts;
- 109.1.4. the grounds of the decision;
- 109.1.5. the provisions on which the decision was based;
- 109.1.6. the terms of the decision; and
- 109.1.7. notice of the channels for appeal.

109.2. The decisions are signed by the Secretary or a Deputy Secretary.

110. Decision without grounds

110.1. The judicial bodies may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten (10) days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding and not appealable.

110.2. If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.

110.3. If the parties do not request the grounds of a decision, a short explanation of the decision shall be recorded in the case files.

111. Notification of decision

- 111.1. All parties are notified of the decisions.
- 111.2. Decisions and other documents intended for Players, Clubs and Officials are addressed to their affiliated Member Association on condition that it immediately forwards the relevant decisions and documents to the parties concerned.
 - 111.2.1. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four (4) days after communication of the documents to the Member Association (cf. Article 92).
- 111.3. If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be notified to FIFA. Doping decisions passed by the FFB Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and FIFA. The FFB will publicly announce Anti-Doping Rule Violations within thirty (30) days.

112. Form of notification

- 112.1. Decisions shall be communicated by facsimile, email, or registered letter to be legally binding.

Section 5: Miscellaneous**113. Representation and legal representation**

- 113.1. A party may be legally represented.
- 113.2. If a party is not required to appear personally, they may be represented or legally represented.
- 113.3. Parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.
- 113.4. In all cases, parties must provide written authorisation to be represented or legally represented.

114. Language

- 114.1. The language used in all proceedings shall be English.
- 114.2. The judicial bodies may use the services of an interpreter. The costs of interpretation shall be borne by the party requiring the interpreter.

115. Obvious errors

- 115.1. A judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in its decisions at any time.

116. Costs and expenses

- 116.1. Costs and expenses related to proceedings may be imposed by the judicial body on the unsuccessful party.
- 116.2. If there is no unsuccessful party, they shall be borne by the FFB.
- 116.3. If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several parties.
- 116.4. The judicial body that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated and the relevant amounts are stipulated by the chairperson. These decisions are final and binding and not appealable.
- 116.5. The chairperson may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.

117. Enforcement of decisions

- 117.1. Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated.

Section 6: Procedural rules specific to the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

118. Commencement

118.1. Disciplinary proceedings may be opened by the FFB administration:

118.1.1. *ex officio*;

118.1.2. on the basis of official reports;

118.1.3. where a protest has been lodged in accordance with the relevant competition regulations;

118.1.4. at the request of the FFB President, FFB Executive Committee, or the FFB General Secretary;

118.1.5. on the basis of documents received from a public authority; or

118.1.6. where a complaint has been filed.

118.2. Any person or body may report any conduct considered incompatible with FFB regulations. Such complaints shall be made in writing.

118.3. Match Officials are obliged to report infringements which have come to their notice.

119. Investigation

119.1. Prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings, the secretariat shall carry out the necessary preliminary investigation *ex officio* on the basis of the information received pursuant to Article 119.

119.2. If the secretariat deems that there is no *prima facie* case, it may close the preliminary investigation without opening disciplinary proceedings.

- 119.3. If the secretariat deems that there is a *prima facie* case, it shall open disciplinary proceedings.
- 119.3.1. The secretariat may offer an administrative resolution with the party prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings and subject to the relevant competition regulations.
- 119.3.2. If accepted by the party, such administrative resolution must be subsequently approved by the chairperson of the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or by a member designated by the chairperson and recorded in FFBAS.
- 119.3.3. Should the chairperson not approve the administrative resolution, disciplinary proceedings shall be opened.
- 119.3.4. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external resources to assist in any investigation.
- 119.4. The secretariat shall inform the party that disciplinary proceedings have been opened.
- 119.5. Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is a case, it shall forward charges of misconduct and the full case file to the party and provide the party with an opportunity to be heard.
- 119.5.1. The content of the full case file may be restricted in accordance with Article 97.
- 119.6. Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is no case, disciplinary proceedings shall be closed.
- 119.6.1. Disciplinary proceedings may be closed, if, among other reasons, the parties reach an agreement or a party declares bankruptcy.
- 119.6.2. If disciplinary proceedings have been closed, the secretariat may reopen the investigation if new facts or evidence are discovered within the limitation period for prosecution.
- 119.7. The Secretary or Deputy Secretaries shall prosecute the case on behalf of the FFB before the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 119.7.1. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external counsel to prosecute the case on behalf of the FFB.

120. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone

- 120.1. The procedural rules governing the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairperson or member decides alone.

Section 7: Procedural rules specific to the FFB Appeal Committee**121. Appeal**

- 121.1. An appeal may be lodged to the FFB Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, except:

- 121.1.1. where the sanction imposed is:

121.1.1.1. a warning;

121.1.1.2. a suspension for less than three (3) Matches or of up to two (2) months;

121.1.1.3. a fine of less than \$500 BZD imposed on a Member Association or a Club;

121.1.1.4. a fine of less than \$2,500 BZD imposed on all other legal or natural persons; or

- 121.1.2. those decisions:

121.1.2.1. passed in compliance with Article 63 of this Code; or

121.1.2.2. which this Code sets out are final and binding.

- 121.2. No appeal is admissible if a party does not request the issuance of a motivated decision in accordance with Article 111.

122. Standing to appeal

122.1. Anyone who:

122.1.1. has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance; or

122.1.2. has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision, may lodge an appeal to the FFB Appeal Committee.

122.2. Member Associations may appeal against decisions sanctioning any party affiliated to it. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

122.3. Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their Players or Officials. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

123. Time limit for appeal

123.1. Any party intending to appeal must inform the FFB Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three (3) days of notification of the decision.

123.2. Reasons for the appeal with evidence must be provided in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days. This seven (7) day period begins after the first deadline of three (3) days has expired.

123.3. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

123.4. In urgent cases, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for the submission of the reasons for appeal.

123.5. Any Member Association receiving a petition of appeal from any party affiliated to it shall forward it immediately to the FFB Appeal Committee.

124. Reasons for appeal

124.1. In its reasons for appeal, an appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.

125. Appeal fee

- 125.1. All appeals shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$500. BZD (non-inclusive of bank charges). The appeal fee shall be transmitted to the nominated FFB account before the expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.
- 125.2. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.
- 125.3. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.
- 125.4. If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the appeal fee.

126. Effects of appeal

- 126.1. An appeal results in the case being reviewed de novo by the FFB Appeal Committee.
- 126.2. An appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

127. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone

- 127.1. The procedural rules governing the FFB Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairperson or member decides alone.

128. Body of last instance

- 128.1. The FFB Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.
- 128.2. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport as set out in Article 130.

Section 8: Court of Arbitration for Sport

129. Right to appeal

- 129.1. The FFB Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 129.2. The relevant competition regulations may contain further stipulations.

Section 9: Provisional measures

130. Request

- 130.1. Upon request, the chairperson of a judicial body may provisionally pronounce, alter, or revoke a sanction:
 - 130.1.1. if an infringement appears to have been committed;
 - 130.1.2. a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough; and
 - 130.1.3. in an emergency.
- 130.2. In similar circumstances, the chairperson may issue other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
- 130.3. A request to provisionally pronounce, alter, or revoke a sanction issued by the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be lodged:
 - 130.3.1. only after receipt of the motivated decision (cf. Article 111);
 - 130.3.2. simultaneously with an intention to appeal (cf. Article 124); and
 - 130.3.3. within the same time limit for the submission of an intention to appeal (cf. Article 124).
- 130.4. Any provisional measure pronouncing, altering, or revoking a sanction issued by the FFB Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be automatically annulled if the simultaneous appeal fails to be admitted or is withdrawn.

131. Procedure

- 131.1. The chairperson shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time.
- 131.2. The chairperson is not obliged to hear the parties.

132. Decision

- 132.1. The chairperson delivers his decision immediately.
- 132.2. That decision shall be implemented immediately.

133. Duration

- 133.1. Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than sixty (60) days.
- 133.2. This period may be extended only once by thirty (30) days.
- 133.3. If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

134. Appeal

- 134.1. An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged before the chairperson of the FFB Appeal Committee.
- 134.2. The time limit for lodging the appeal is two (2) days commencing from the notification of the decision.
- 134.3. The reasons for appeal shall be sent to the FFB within the same time limit.
 - 134.3.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted
- 134.4. The appeal fee of \$500 BZD. (non-inclusive of bank charges) shall be transmitted to the nominated FFB account within the same time limit.
 - 134.4.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

134.4.2. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.

134.5. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

Section 10: Extension of sanction to have effect at Confederation level

135. Request

135.1. If an infringement is serious, a Member Association or other organising sports body shall request the FFB to extend the sanctions they have imposed to have effect at confederation level.

135.1.1. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another international sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by the FFB and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by the FFB to have effect at confederation level.

135.2. The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy of the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the Member Association and/or (if relevant) Club concerned.

135.3. If the judicial bodies discover that Member Associations and other sports organisations have not requested a decision to be extended to have effect at confederation level, they may pass a decision without a request.

136. Conditions

136.1. The request for sanctions to be extended will be approved if:

- 136.1.1. the person sanctioned has been cited properly;
- 136.1.2. the person sanctioned has had the opportunity to state their case (with the exception of provisional measure decisions);
- 136.1.3. the decision has been communicated properly;
- 136.1.4. the decision complies with FFB regulations; and
- 136.1.5. the decision complies with fundamental legal principles.

137. Procedure

137.1. The chairperson makes his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing any of the parties, Using only the file.

137.2. The chairperson may exceptionally decide to orally hear the parties concerned.

138. Decision

138.1. The chairperson is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of Article 137 have been fulfilled. The chairperson may not review the substance of the decision.

138.2. The chairperson either grants or refuses the request to have the sanction extended.

139. Effect

139.1. An extended sanction has the same effect in each Member Association as if it had imposed the sanction.

139.2. If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have effect at confederation level, any decision regarding extension shall always be based on the content of the current decision and subject to any decision on appeal.

140. Appeal

- 140.1. An appeal against a decision extending a sanction to have effect at confederation level may be lodged before the FFB Appeal Committee.
- 140.2. The provisions of Articles 123-129 shall apply, subject to Article 141.3 below.
- 140.3. The grounds for appeal shall only refer to the conditions for extension set out in Articles 136 and 137.
- 140.4. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the extended decision.

Section 11: Review of decisions

141. Review

- 141.1. A review may be requested after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.
- 141.2. A request for review shall be made within ten (10) days of discovering the reasons for review.
- 141.3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one (1) year after the enforcement of the decision.
- 141.4. The decision on the request for review shall be made by the chairperson of the judicial body who made the legally binding decision. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.

CHAPTER FIVE: ENFORCEMENT

142. Scope of the Code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence

- 142.1. This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.
- 142.2. If there are any omissions in this Code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with legal custom or, in the absence of legal custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down as if they were acting as legislators.
- 142.3. The judicial bodies shall draw upon precedents already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

143. Specific disciplinary rules

- 143.1. Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a final FFB competition. They may depart from the rules stipulated within this Code.
- 143.2. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating teams in accordance with the relevant competition regulations.

144. FFB Statutes

- 144.1. To the extent that this Code is inconsistent with the FFB Statutes, the FFB Statutes shall prevail.

145. Adoption

145.1. The FFB Congress adopted this Code on the __7__ day of __December__ 2019

145.2. This Code comes into force on __8__ day of __December__ 2019

For the FFB Executive Committee


President




General Secretary



APPENDIX 1: SCALE OF FINES FOR SPECTATOR MIS CONDUCT

- 1.1. This scale of fines is to be read in accordance with Article 65 of the Code.
- 1.2. This scale relates to non-aggravated, first-time offences.
- 1.3. An offence is aggravated, without limitation, where:
 - 1.3.1. the number of objects utilised or persons involved (as appropriate) in the commission of the offence is higher than the corresponding highest number in the penalty section below;
 - 1.3.2. an object utilised to commit the offence strikes a Player, Official, Match Official, or any other individual in attendance at a Match;
 - 1.3.3. the offence involves an attempt to physically harm an individual;
 - 1.3.4. as a result of the offence, an individual is physically harmed;
 - 1.3.5. as a result of the offence, damage occurs to any object related to the Match;
 - 1.3.6. the offence involves an element of racism, nationalism, or any other type of discrimination in violation of Article 3 of the FFB Statutes; and
 - 1.3.7. it is not the first offence committed by the spectators affiliated to the relevant Member Association or Club.
- 1.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

APPENDIX 2: SCALE OF FINES FOR DELAY KICK-OFF OFFENCES

- 1.1. This scale of fines is to be read in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in competition regulations or the Competition Operations Manual.
- 1.2. This scale relates to non-aggravated, first-time offences.
- 1.3. An offence is aggravated, without limitation, where the delay:
 - 13.1. was caused by the failure of the necessary number of ambulances or medical staff being in place at the appropriate times;
 - 13.2. was caused by a floodlight failure;
 - 13.3. was caused by a security failure;
 - 13.4. was more than five (5) minutes in length;
 - 13.5. caused the FFB to suffer commercial losses; or
 - 13.6. is not the first offence committed by the relevant team.
- 1.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

Delay	Penalty
0:01 – 1:59 minutes	\$200 BZD
2:00 – 2:59 minutes	\$500 BZD
3:00 – 3:59 minutes	\$800 BZD
4:00 – 4:59 minutes	\$1,000 BZD
5:00 minutes ++	Aggravated offence.

Improper Conduct	Penalty
Violence towards persons or objects	Any sanctions as listed in the Code subject to the gravity of the offence.
Letting off incendiary devices or fire	\$500 BZD. (one device); \$1,000 BZD. (between two and five inclusive); \$20,000 BZD (between six and ten inclusive).
Flashing lasers	\$2,000 BZD per identified flash (maximum of five).
Throwing missiles:	
Water bottle or aluminum can (filled)	BZD \$500. (between one and ten inclusive);
Water bottle or aluminum can (empty)	\$200.00 BZD (between one and ten inclusive);
Stones	\$500. BZD (between one and five inclusive);
Plastic/paper cups	\$200. BZD (between one and ten inclusive);
Any other item	\$500 BZD (between one and ten inclusive);
Any combination of the above	\$1,000. BZD. (between one and ten inclusive).
Displaying insulting, religious, or political slogans in any form.	\$1,000. BZD per banner (maximum of five).
Uttering insulting words or sounds:	Subject to the gravity of the offence.
Pitch invasion	\$500. BZD (one person); \$1,000. BZD. (between two and five persons).
Flying of drones	\$500 BZD. (one drone).
Any other type of misconduct	Subject to the gravity of the offence.

- 1.5. Where an offence results in the delay of the Match, the scale fine shall be compounded with an additional \$100. BZD per minute of delay.

