

WE CARE ABOUT FOOTBALL



**UEFA**  
**Disciplinary Regulations (DR)**

Edition  
2000

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**Union des associations  
européennes de football**



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## **UEFA Disciplinary Regulations**

**On the basis of Article 55 of the UEFA Statutes, the UEFA Executive Committee issues the following disciplinary regulations:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### ***Article 1 - Precept***

UEFA disciplinary law serves the realisation of the objects of UEFA, as per Article 2 of the UEFA Statutes. These regulations contain the substantive and formal provisions which govern the penalisation of breaches of duty.

#### ***Article 2 - Scope of application***

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

#### ***Article 3 - Subsidiary law***

In the absence of provisions in the present disciplinary regulations and other regulations, the organs for the administration of justice will take a decision according to recognised principles and in accordance with justice and fairness.

#### ***Article 4 - Disciplinary power***

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

### **PART ONE: DISCIPLINARY LAW**

#### ***A. General Provisions***

#### ***Article 5 - Principles of conduct***

<sup>1</sup> Member associations, and clubs, as well as their players, officials and members shall conduct themselves according to the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

<sup>2</sup> Anyone who uses sporting events for manifestations of a non-sporting nature breaches these principles.

### **Article 6 - Responsibility**

<sup>1</sup> Member associations and clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, members, supporters and any other persons exercising a function at a match at the request of the association or club.

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

### **Article 7 - Limitation**

<sup>1</sup> Prosecution is barred at the end of:

- a) one year for offences committed on the pitch or in its immediate vicinity
- b) 10 years for bribery and doping offences
- c) five years for all other offences.

<sup>2</sup> The instigation of proceedings interrupts the limitation.

<sup>3</sup> The period of limitation starts afresh at each interruption. Prosecution is, however, barred whenever more than half of the ordinary period of limitation as per paragraph 1 above has passed.

## **B. Facts**

### **Article 8 - Principles**

<sup>1</sup> Unsporting conduct, breaches of the Laws of the Game, as well as infringements of UEFA's Statutes, regulations, decisions and directives are penalised by means of disciplinary measures.

<sup>2</sup> Disciplinary measures provided for may be taken against member associations, clubs and individuals for offences before, during or after the match.

### **Article 9 - Repeated cautions**

<sup>1</sup> Disciplinary sanctions will be imposed for repeated cautions in different matches in the same category of competition in the same season. The specific competition regulations will apply with regard to the number of cautions involved, as well as the extent of the sanctions to be imposed.

<sup>2</sup> Cautions and suspensions may be combined with fines.

### **Article 10 - Misconduct of players**

<sup>1</sup> The following player sanctions apply for competition matches:

- a) Suspension for one competition match or for a definite period for:
  1. a second caution in the same match
  2. rough play
  3. repeated protests against the referee's decisions
  4. improper conduct

5. insulting players or others present at the match
  6. other unsporting acts
- b) Suspension for two competition matches or for a definite period for pestering or insulting the referee.
  - c) Suspension for three competition matches or for a definite period for assaulting players or others present at the match.
  - d) Suspension for five competition matches or for a definite period for serious assault.
  - e) Suspension for 10 competition matches or for a definite period for assaulting the referee.

<sup>2</sup> Suspensions may be combined with fines.

<sup>3</sup> Disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee was not able to see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision.

<sup>4</sup> In the event of serious offences, the suspension can be extended to include all competition categories.

### ***Article 11 - Other facts***

Disciplinary measures provided for in the present regulations may be taken against member associations or clubs if:

- a) a team, player, official or member conduct themselves in a grossly unsporting manner.
- b) a team continues to conduct itself improperly, even after several individual disciplinary sanctions have been imposed by the referee.
- c) spectators invade or attempt to invade the pitch, objects are thrown, fireworks ignited, or if order and discipline in the stadium area are otherwise not guaranteed.

### ***Article 12 - Doping***

If a player uses banned substances or methods from the UEFA list, the disciplinary measures provided for in the present regulations may be taken against the player, other implicated individuals, and jointly responsible associations and clubs.

## ***C. Disciplinary Measures and Directives***

### ***Article 13 - Definitions***

<sup>1</sup> The organs for the administration of justice impose disciplinary measures and issue directives.

<sup>2</sup> Disciplinary measures are sanctions on the conduct to be disciplined. They may be combined.

#### **Article 14 - Disciplinary measures against member associations and clubs**

<sup>1</sup> The following disciplinary measures may be imposed against member associations and clubs in accordance with Article 52 of the Statutes:

- a) a caution
- b) a reprimand
- c) a fine
- d) the annulment of the result of a match
- e) the order that a match be replayed
- f) the deduction of points
- g) the awarding of a match by default
- h) the ordering of a ban on the use of a stadium
- i) the ordering of a ban on producing a TV signal for one or more matches, and/or ordering that a television signal be ceded free of charge, or in return for payment, for one or more matches
- j) the ordering of the playing of a match in a third country
- k) disqualification from competitions in progress and/or exclusion from future competitions

<sup>2</sup> If a match is awarded by default, the result 3-0 applies, and away goals do not count double. If the goal difference is higher than 3, the result of the match actually played stands. If, after normal playing time, both teams have scored the same number of goals in both legs, under consideration of the awarding of the match by default, the team in whose favour the match is awarded by default goes through to the next round.

<sup>3</sup> If an offence of a racist nature is committed, any stadium ban rightly imposed may take the form of a match or matches having to be played behind closed doors.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Article 15 - Disciplinary measures against individuals**

The following disciplinary measures may be imposed against individuals in accordance with Article 53 of the Statutes:

- a) a caution
- b) a reprimand
- c) a fine
- d) suspension for a specified number of matches or for a specified or unspecified period
- e) suspension from carrying out a function for a specified or unspecified period

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<sup>1</sup>adopted following the Executive Committee decision of 14.12.2000

### **Article 16 - Confiscation**

The organs for the administration of justice may order the confiscation of pecuniary benefits earned from the violation of UEFA's rules and regulations.

### *D. Fixing of Penalties*

### **Article 17 - General principles**

<sup>1</sup> The organs for the administration of justice determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed, according to the objective and subjective elements, under consideration of incriminating and exonerating factors.

<sup>2</sup> The disciplinary measures enumerated in Article 10 are standard penalties. In particular circumstances, they can be either scaled down or extended.

<sup>3</sup> If a player is suspended for expulsion from the field of play, any caution issued in the same match counts as an aggravating circumstance. The caution is considered offset by the suspension.

### **Article 18 - Recidivism**

<sup>1</sup> Recidivism occurs if disciplinary measures have to be imposed within five years of a previous offence.

<sup>2</sup> Recidivism counts as an aggravating circumstance.

### **Article 19 - Expiry of cards in competitions for national representative teams**

<sup>1</sup> Cautions and pending yellow-card suspensions from qualifying-competition matches (preliminary rounds) involving national representative teams (Article 48, paragraph 2a) of the UEFA Statutes) expire on completion of the competition in question. They are not carried forward to the final round.

<sup>2</sup> Cautions from group matches in final rounds expire on completion of the group stage, and are not carried forward to the subsequent stages.

<sup>3</sup> Cautions and pending yellow-card suspensions from the final round expire at the end of the competition concerned.

### **Article 20 - Expiry of cards in club competitions**

<sup>1</sup> Cautions and pending yellow-card suspensions from club competition matches (Article 48, paragraph 2b) of the UEFA Statutes) expire at the end of the season, which runs from 1 August of one year until 31 July of the following year.

<sup>2</sup> If club competition matches take place before 1 August, these will count as falling within the season starting 1 August.

## **PART TWO: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

### *A. Organisation and Jurisdiction*

#### **Article 21 - Organs for the Administration of Justice**

The organs for the administration of justice are:

- a) the Control & Disciplinary Body
- b) the Appeals Body

#### **Article 22 - Election**

Chairmen and members are elected by the UEFA Executive Committee, but may not belong to either this body or to any UEFA committee as stipulated in Article 35 of the Statutes.

#### **Article 23 - Composition**

<sup>1</sup> The Control & Disciplinary Body is composed of a chairman and nine (9) members. The chairman and members elect three vice-chairmen from among their ranks. As a rule, the body takes decisions in the presence of all members, but is authorised to take a decision if at least three members are present.

<sup>2</sup> The Appeals Body is composed of a chairman and four (4) permanent members, as well as seven (7) substitute members. The chairman and four permanent members elect two vice-chairmen from their ranks. As a rule, the body takes decisions in the presence of five members, but in urgent cases, the chairman can decree a three-member quorum. The chairman designates the members and his substitute for each case.

#### **Article 24 - Independence**

The organs for the administration of justice are independent. Their members are bound solely by the UEFA rules and regulations, the subsidiary law defined under Article 3 of the present regulations and their conscience.

#### **Article 25 - Abstention**

A member of an organ for the administration of justice abstains in cases directly implicating him/herself, his or her association or a club belonging to that association. In case of doubt, the chairman shall decide.

#### **Article 26 - Jurisdiction**

<sup>1</sup> The Control & Disciplinary Body handles disciplinary cases arising from the Statutes, regulations and decisions of UEFA which do not fall within the competence of another committee or body. It decides on eligibility to play.

<sup>2</sup> The Appeals Body is authorised to hear appeals against decisions of the Control & Disciplinary Body in accordance with Article 46 of the present regulations.

## ***B. Parties***

### ***Article 27 - Parties***

<sup>1</sup> The parties comprise:

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

<sup>2</sup> The individual/body directly concerned is the individual/body on whom/which the disciplinary measures have direct consequences.

### ***Article 28 - Languages***

In written and oral proceedings, the parties use one of UEFA's official languages.

### ***Article 29 - Disciplinary Inspector***

<sup>1</sup> Disciplinary inspectors represent UEFA in disciplinary proceedings.

<sup>2</sup> The UEFA Executive Committee appoints the necessary number of disciplinary inspectors.

<sup>3</sup> Disciplinary inspectors can lodge appeals against decisions taken by the Control & Disciplinary Body.

<sup>4</sup> The UEFA Executive Committee, the UEFA President, the UEFA Chief Executive, or the Organs for the Administration of justice can request disciplinary inspectors to conduct investigations.

## ***C. General Provisions***

### ***Article 30 - Convocation and chairmanship***

<sup>1</sup> The organs for the administration of justice are convened by the chairmen.

<sup>2</sup> The chairman chairs the meeting, which takes place in UEFA's official languages. Members of the organs may request the assistance of an interpreter.

### ***Article 31 - Office***

<sup>1</sup> The UEFA Administration places an office and the necessary staff at the disposal of the disciplinary bodies at UEFA's headquarters, and appoints a secretary to the organs.

<sup>2</sup> The secretary is the administrator, and takes the minutes of meetings.

### **Article 32 - Representation**

- <sup>1</sup> Member associations, clubs, players and officials can be represented.
- <sup>2</sup> UEFA is represented by a disciplinary inspector.
- <sup>3</sup> Representatives must prove their authority by means of a signed power of attorney.
- <sup>4</sup> The organs for the administration of justice decide on issues of representation.

### **Article 33 - Deadlines**

- <sup>1</sup> The time limit begins on the date after that on which it is announced in writing. It is considered respected if acted upon by 24.00 hours CET (Central European Time) on the deadline date.
- <sup>2</sup> If a deadline is not respected, the defaulter loses the right to the proceedings in question.
- <sup>3</sup> On receipt of a substantiated request, the chairman can extend a deadline.
- <sup>4</sup> The present regulations define deadlines and/or time limits which cannot be extended.

### **Article 34 - Majority**

- <sup>1</sup> The organs for the administration of justice decide by a simple majority, with no abstentions.
- <sup>2</sup> Members are bound to secrecy.

### **Article 35 - Announcement of decisions**

The organs for the administration of justice may order a decision to be published. The UEFA Administration decides in what form it will be published.

## ***D. Investigations***

### **Article 36 - Scope**

- <sup>1</sup> On the instructions of the UEFA Executive Committee, the UEFA President or the UEFA Chief Executive, a disciplinary inspector investigates violations of the UEFA Statutes, regulations and decisions.
- <sup>2</sup> Such investigations are conducted by written inquiries and the interrogation of witnesses. Other investigatory procedures can also be resorted to, such as expert opinions, close inspection, and documents.
- <sup>3</sup> The disciplinary inspector can appoint a member of the UEFA staff to act as secretary to the investigation.

### **Article 37 - Closing of Investigations**

If the disciplinary inspector is of the view that no disciplinary offence has taken place, he or she requests that the investigation be closed. The UEFA President or the UEFA Chief Executive orders the closing of the investigation.

### **Article 38 - Minutes**

The disciplinary inspector shall take minutes of investigatory proceedings.

### **Article 39 - Re-Opening of Investigations**

<sup>1</sup> A halted investigation can be re-opened if new evidence or facts emerge which indicate a disciplinary offence on the part of the accused.

<sup>2</sup> The investigation is re-opened at the decision of the UEFA President or the UEFA Chief Executive.

### *E. Control & Disciplinary Body Proceedings*

### **Article 40 - Instigation of Proceedings**

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings are instigated in writing only, and in particular:

- a) On the basis of the official reports on disciplinary infringements.
- b) Following the lodging of protests.
- c) Following reported violations of UEFA's Statutes, regulations and decisions.
- d) At the request of the UEFA President or the UEFA Chief Executive, for violations of the principles of loyalty, integrity and sporting convictions.

<sup>2</sup> The parties are notified of the instigation of proceedings in writing. If proceedings are instigated against individuals, the member association or club concerned is notified.

### **Article 41 - Protests**

<sup>1</sup> Protests are dealt with by the Control & Disciplinary Body.

<sup>2</sup> Protests must reach the UEFA Administration in writing, stating the reasons, within 24 hours of a match.

<sup>3</sup> This 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of the competition, the corresponding competition regulations can shorten the protest deadline appropriately.

<sup>4</sup> The protest fee is CHF 500.

<sup>5</sup> Protests concerning the state of play of the pitch must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant officials before the match. If the state of play of the pitch becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, as well as the captain of the other team, orally without delay.

<sup>6</sup> Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

<sup>7</sup> Documents of direct concern to the protest are submitted to the opposing party for its reaction and account.

<sup>8</sup> The Control & Disciplinary Body can instruct a disciplinary inspector to conduct further investigations.

### **Article 42 - Clarification**

<sup>1</sup> As a rule, the Control & Disciplinary Body clarifies the facts of the case, on the basis of the reports of the referee, assistant referees and match delegate. It can summon further evidence, provided that doing so will not delay the proceedings unduly.

<sup>2</sup> Exceptionally, the body can hear the accused orally.

### **Article 43 - Decision**

<sup>1</sup> The Control & Disciplinary Body decides on:

- a) the halting of proceedings
- b) acquittals
- c) convictions
- d) the dismissal or acceptance of protests

<sup>2</sup> Those concerned are notified of decisions by the disciplinary office in writing. Disciplinary measures against individuals are communicated only to the member association or club concerned.

<sup>3</sup> If measures are pronounced, the notification contains a brief summary of the grounds, as well as the verdict and notice of the right to appeal. The notification is issued by fax.

### **Article 44 - Costs**

<sup>1</sup> The costs of proceedings of the Control & Disciplinary Body are, as a rule, borne by UEFA. In cases of protest, they are borne by the defeated party.

<sup>2</sup> Costs caused abusively are charged to the fallible party.

## **F. Appeals Body Proceedings**

### **Article 45 - Appeals**

The Appeals Body deals with appeals lodged against decisions of the Control & Disciplinary Body.

### **Article 46 - Admissibility**

<sup>1</sup> Appeals against decisions taken by the Control & Disciplinary Body are admissible, except in the case of:

- a caution
- a reprimand
- a fine of up to CHF 5,000.-
- suspension on carrying out a function for one competition match

<sup>2</sup> If the Control & Disciplinary Body combines measures, an appeal is admissible if one of the measures exceeds the above exceptions. In this case, the Appeals Body examines the overall measure.

### **Article 47 - Effect**

An appeal has no delaying effect, except in the case of fines or in cases of confiscation.

### **Article 48 - Right of appeal**

<sup>1</sup> Those concerned and UEFA are authorised to appeal.

<sup>2</sup> If a player, official or member of a member association or club is concerned, his or her member association or club alone cannot lodge an appeal, but must do so with the written consent of the individual concerned.

<sup>3</sup> UEFA is represented by a disciplinary inspector, who can appeal in favour of or against the individual or body concerned.

### **Article 49 - Deadlines / Fee**

<sup>1</sup> Appeals must be lodged with the UEFA Administration in writing, for the attention of the Appeals Body, within three days of the dispatch of the contested decision. They must be substantiated in writing within further six days of the appeal being lodged.

<sup>2</sup> The appeals fee is CHF 1,000.-, payable on submission of the grounds of appeal at the latest. UEFA is exempt from this fee.

<sup>3</sup> If these deadlines are not respected, the chairman will decide not to enter into the appeal. The deadlines stipulated in paragraph 1 above cannot be extended.

<sup>4</sup> In urgent cases, the chairman can shorten the deadline for the submission of the grounds for appeal.

### **Article 50 - Content of the pleadings**

The pleadings of the appeal contain:

- a) the legal request
- b) an account of the facts
- c) the evidence

### **Article 51 - Identical requests**

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

### **Article 52 - Replies to an appeal**

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

### **Article 53 - Presence of the parties**

<sup>1</sup> The chairman sets a date for the hearing without delay.

<sup>2</sup> The parties are entitled to attend the hearing until the verdict is discussed.

<sup>3</sup> In the absence of one of the parties, the Appeals Body can also hold the hearing and take a decision.

### **Article 54 - Evidence**

<sup>1</sup> Evidence comprises:

- a) Official reports
- b) Control & Disciplinary Body dossier
- c) examination of witnesses
- d) examination of the accused and the parties
- e) close inspection
- f) requested records and documents
- g) expert opinions

<sup>2</sup> The Appeals Body can summon further evidence.

<sup>3</sup> The chairman decides on the examination of witnesses.

### **Article 55 - Consultation of dossiers**

The parties are entitled to examine the dossier or to order copies at their expense.

### **Article 56 - Oral hearings**

<sup>1</sup> Hearings are conducted orally.

<sup>2</sup> Each party is entitled to address the hearing twice.

### **Article 57 - Deliberations**

The Appeals Body deliberates behind closed doors.

### **Article 58 - Decision**

<sup>1</sup> Within the framework of the appeal, the Appeals Body examines the case both factually and legally.

<sup>2</sup> The decision confirms, amends or lifts the contested decision.

<sup>3</sup> If an appeal is lodged in the favour of the accused, the decision cannot be amended to the disadvantage of the accused.

### **Article 59 - Costs**

<sup>1</sup> The costs of the proceedings include all expenses of the Appeals Body. In accordance with the outcome of the proceedings, they are shared among the parties at fair discretion.

<sup>2</sup> The appeals fee is either charged or reimbursed.

<sup>3</sup> Costs caused abusively are charged to the fallible party, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.

### **Article 60 - Notification of the decision**

<sup>1</sup> The chairman notifies the parties of the decision orally and with brief grounds. It is subsequently issued in writing.

<sup>2</sup> In special cases, the verdict can be announced later in writing.

**Article 61 - Referral back to the Control & Disciplinary Body**

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

**Article 62 - Legal force**

Decisions of the Appeals Body are final, and become effective when announced.

**PART THREE: EXECUTION**

*A. General Provisions*

**Article 63 - Competence**

The UEFA Administration executes the decisions of the organs for the administration of justice.

It may order the member association concerned to execute a final disciplinary decision.

**Article 64 - Competition categories**

Match suspensions refer to a certain category of competition, with a distinction made between UEFA competitions for:

- a) club teams,
- b) national representative teams

**Article 65 - Enforceability**

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

**Article 66 - Ordinary execution of suspensions**

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

**Article 67 - Extraordinary execution of suspensions**

<sup>1</sup> If a suspension cannot be served in accordance with Article 66 of the present regulations for age-related reasons, it will be served in the following sequence:

- a) in the European Under-17 Championship
- b) in the European Under-19 Championship
- c) in the European Under-21 Championship
- d) in the European Championship

<sup>2</sup> If a suspension cannot be served in the women's competitions in accordance with Article 66 of the present regulations, it will be served in the following sequence:

- a) in the European Women's Under-19 Championship
- b) in the European Women's Championship
- c) in the competition stages of the Women's World Championship which come under UEFA's disciplinary authority

<sup>3</sup> A player who is suspended for a certain match is not entitled to take part in a UEFA competition match for national representative teams that is taking place the day before, on the same day as, or the day after the match for which he or she is suspended.

<sup>4</sup> In exceptional cases, the UEFA Administration decides on the special serving of suspensions.

### **Article 68 - Limitation**

<sup>1</sup> Executions are barred:

- a) for suspensions from UEFA competitions:
  - after five years for one-season suspensions
  - after eight years for two-season suspensions
  - after 10 years for all other disciplinary measures
  
- b) for stadium bans:
  - after five years for bans of one or two matches
  - after eight years for bans of three or four matches
  - after 10 years for bans in excess of four matches
  
- c) for the suspension of players and other individuals:
  - after three years for one-match suspensions
  - after six years for suspensions of two to six matches
  - after eight years for suspensions in excess of six matches

<sup>2</sup> The limitation on execution begins on 1 August after the season in which the disciplinary measure was imposed. The time limit comprises a specified number of years, calculated according to the UEFA season, i.e. from 1 August of one year to 31 July of the following year.

### **Article 69 - Safeguarding of enforcement**

Member associations are jointly liable for fines and the collection of pecuniary benefits and procedural costs imposed on their clubs or on players, officials and members of clubs, provided that the organs for the administration of justice issue directives to this effect in accordance with Article 54, paragraph 3 of the Statutes.

## *B. Special Provisions*

### ***Article 70 - Adoption duty***

FIFA and UEFA mutually adopt final disciplinary measures in the case of:

- a) Doping offences, match rigging or similar violations of the rules of football.
- b) Serious excessive conduct on the part of players, officials on the field of play, in particular assaults on the referee.
- c) Stadium bans – application of the ban in accordance with the given circumstances for one or both categories of competition (club competitions and/or competitions for national representative teams).
- d) Isolated cases, if the case files are shared mutually.

## **FINAL CLAUSES**

### ***Article 71 - Equal treatment of men and women***

The use of the masculine form in these regulations refers also to the feminine, with the exception of Article 67, paragraph 1

### ***Article 72 - Cancellation of the previous Disciplinary Regulations***

The disciplinary regulations of 15 July 1998 are no longer effective.

### ***Article 73 - Effective date***

The present disciplinary regulations come into force on 15 September 2000.

### ***Article 74 - Transitional provisions***

Disciplinary offences which occurred before the present regulations came into force will be subject to the previous disciplinary regulations.

### ***Article 75 - Authentic text***

Should the various language versions differ, the English text is authentic.







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