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# UEFA Fair Play Regulations

Edition 2015

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## Preamble

The following regulations have been adopted on the basis of Articles 23(1) and 50(1) of the *UEFA Statutes*.

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# I – General Provisions

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## Article 1 Scope of application

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- 1.01 These regulations apply whenever expressly referred to by specific regulations governing a UEFA competition.
- 1.02 They govern:
- a. the fair play assessment at UEFA competitions (Chapter II);
  - b. the fair play awards (Chapter III).

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## Article 2 Purpose

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- 2.01 In order to emphasise that fair play and respect are an essential component of football and vital to its successful promotion and development, these regulations aim to foster sporting attitudes and conduct among players, team officials and spectators, thereby increasing the enjoyment of all those involved in the game.

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## Article 3 Definitions

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- 3.01 In the context of these regulations, the following definitions apply:
- a. fair play: means acting according to ethical principles which, in particular, oppose the concept of sporting success at any price, promote integrity and equal opportunities for all competitors, and emphasise respect of the personality and worth of everyone involved in a sporting event.
  - b. team official: coach, assistant coach or other team staff;
  - c. referee team: referee, assistant referees, additional assistant referees (if any) and fourth official.
- 3.02 In these regulations, the use of the masculine form refers equally to the feminine.

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## II – Fair play assessment at UEFA competitions

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### Article 4 Fair play rankings

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- 4.01 In its efforts to promote fair play, each season UEFA assesses the fair play shown at UEFA competition matches played between 1 July and 30 June (representative and club teams) in order to establish association fair play rankings.

### Article 5 Fair play criteria and assessment procedure

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- 5.01 The UEFA match delegate assesses the fair play of the players, team officials and spectators against the following five criteria as set out in Articles 6 to 10:
- red and yellow cards;
  - respect for opponents;
  - respect for the referee team;
  - behaviour of team officials;
  - behaviour of spectators.
- 5.02 The UEFA match delegate completes his fair play assessment form after the match in consultation with the referee and, where applicable, the referee observer.

### Article 6 Red and yellow cards

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- 6.01 Each team starts with 10 points and has 1 point deducted for each yellow card its players are shown and 3 points for each red card. This can result in a negative score.
- 6.02 If a player is sent off as a result of being shown two yellow cards, 3 points are deducted for the sending off and none for the initial caution.
- 6.03 If a player is sent off having been shown a yellow card and a direct red card, points are deducted for both (1+3).

### Article 7 Respect for opponents

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- 7.01 Each team is awarded points from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 10 for showing respect to the opponents.
- 7.02 Players are expected to respect their opponents and ensure that their team mates and all other members of the team act in the spirit of fair play.
- 7.03 Negative conduct otherwise punished by means of a yellow or red card may be taken into consideration depending on the seriousness of the offence.
- 7.04 The following positive attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- efforts to gain time (e.g. bringing the ball quickly back into play, even when in a winning position);
  - helping an opponent to stand up;

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- c. helping an injured opponent;
  - d. shaking hands with opponents at the end of the match;
  - e. congratulating opponents;
  - f. extraordinary gestures of fair play (e.g. informing the referee if a corner or throw-in should have gone to the other team).
- 7.05** The following negative attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- a. time-wasting;
  - b. tactics based on foul play;
  - c. play-acting and simulation of injury;
  - d. insulting opponents;
  - e. provoking a mass confrontation;
  - f. serious fouls against opponents;
  - g. spitting at an opponent;
  - h. physical aggression towards an opponent (e.g. head butt, punch);
  - i. racism and other discrimination.

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## **Article 8    Respect for the referee team**

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- 8.01** Each team is awarded points from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 10 for showing respect to the referee team.
- 8.02** Players are expected to respect the referee team as people, as well as the decisions they take.
- 8.03** The following positive attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- a. accepting the referee's decisions without discussion;
  - b. shaking hands with the referee team at the end of the match;
  - c. respecting distances imposed for free-kicks;
  - d. respecting timings (e.g. countdown to kick-off).
- 8.04** The following negative attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- a. arguing with a member of the referee team;
  - b. ironically applauding a member of the referee team;
  - c. encircling a member of the referee team;
  - d. verbal abuse or offensive gesture towards a member of the referee team;
  - e. physical abuse of a member of the referee team.

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## **Article 9    Behaviour of team officials**

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- 9.01** Each team is awarded points from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 10 for the behaviour of the team officials.
- 9.02** Team officials are expected to respect the referee team and the opposing players and team officials, and to instruct their players to behave in a manner which is fair and honest.

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- 9.03** The following positive attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- accepting the referee's decisions without discussion;
  - shaking hands with the other team's officials;
  - having no more than one team official standing in the technical area during the match.
- 9.04** The following negative attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- arguing with a member of the referee team;
  - refusing to shake hands with the other team's officials;
  - team official being sent off;
  - verbal abuse of a player, a member of the referee team or another team official;
  - physical abuse of a player, a member of the referee team or another team official;
  - coach not fulfilling his media obligations.

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## **Article 10 Behaviour of spectators**

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- 10.01** Each team is awarded points from a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 10 for the behaviour of its spectators. This criterion can only be assessed if a substantial number of fans of the team concerned are present.
- 10.02** Spectators are expected to encourage their teams by singing and shouting and to create a positive atmosphere in the spirit of fair play. They must respect each other, the players and team officials and the referee team. The spectators should acknowledge the other team's performance, even in defeat, and must in no way intimidate or frighten the opposing team, the referee team or opposing supporters.
- 10.03** The following positive attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- applauding the opposition;
  - fan choreography;
  - supportive songs despite disappointing score;
  - standing ovation for an opponent (e.g. when substituted).
- 10.04** The following negative attitudes are taken into consideration (non-exhaustive list):
- one or more spectators running onto the pitch;
  - insulting chants;
  - using or throwing pyrotechnics;
  - using laser pointers;
  - violence inside or in the immediate vicinity of the stadium (e.g. against opposition fans, police or stewards);
  - racism and discrimination.

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## Article 11 Overall fair play scores

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- 11.01 Each team's fair play score for a match is obtained by adding up its score for each criterion and dividing this total (maximum 50) by the number of criteria evaluated (5, or 4 if spectator behaviour is not assessed).
- 11.02 At the end of the season, each association's overall fair play score is obtained by adding up all its teams' fair play scores and dividing the total by the number of matches those teams played.
- 11.03 Overall fair play scores are calculated to three decimal places and not rounded up.

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## III – Fair play awards

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### Article 12 Categories and rankings

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- 12.01 Awards are given every year to the associations ranked highest in the following three categories:
- overall fair play: the association with the highest overall fair play score;
  - improvement in overall fair play score from one season to the next: the association whose overall fair play score has improved the most since the previous season;
  - behaviour of spectators: the association with the highest final score for this criterion.
- 12.02 The association ranked highest in each of the three categories is awarded prize money to donate to amateur or professional clubs of its choice, for fair play or respect-themed projects. The Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee decides on the amount of prize money awarded.
- 12.03 To be included in the fair play rankings for any given season, an association must be represented in a minimum number of fair play assessments between 1 July and 30 June. This minimum is calculated by dividing the total number of matches at which fair play assessments were conducted in the season in question by the total number of UEFA member associations represented.
- 12.04 If the supporters, players or officials of a representative or club team engage in serious negative behaviour that tarnishes the image of football before, during or after a UEFA competition match, whether inside or outside the stadium, the UEFA Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee, may exceptionally decide to exclude the association concerned from the fair play rankings for the season concerned; such a decision is final. An association excluded from the fair play rankings will not be eligible for next season's award for improvement in overall fair play (see Paragraph 12.01 (b)).

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### Article 13 Conditions

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- 13.01 No association may be granted more than one award, even if it wins in more than one category of awards.
- 13.02 If the same association is ranked highest for overall fair play and in either or both of the other two categories, it wins the overall fair play award and the association or associations ranked second in the other category or categories win(s) the other(s). If the same association is ranked highest for progression in overall fair play and behaviour of spectators, it receives the award for progression in overall fair play and the next best-placed association in the behaviour of spectators ranking takes the award in that category.

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13.03 If two or more associations are ranked joint highest, the association ranked higher in the previous season's overall fair play assessment wins the award in the category concerned.

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## IV – Final Provisions

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### Article 14 Authoritative version

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- 14.01 If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English, French or German versions of these regulations, the English version prevails.

### Article 15 Adoption, entry into force, abrogation and modification

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- 15.01 These regulations were adopted by the UEFA Executive Committee at its meeting on 29 June 2015 and come into force on 1 July 2015.
- 15.02 They replace the UEFA Fair Play regulations (Edition 2015) that were approved on 4 December 2014 and came into force on 1 May 2015.

For the UEFA Executive Committee:

Michel Platini  
President

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General Secretary

Prague, 29 June 2015







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