



# FECAFOOT DISCIPLINARY CODE

## PRELIMINARY PART

### Article 1: Purpose

This code describes infringements of the rules in FECAFOOT regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organization and functioning of the bodies responsible for hearing such matters as well as the procedures to be followed before these bodies.

### Article 2: Scope of application: substantive law

This code shall apply to all matches and competitions organised by FECAFOOT. Beyond this scope, it also applies if the regulations of FECAFOOT are breached, where such breach is not punished by any body other than the FECAFOOT judicial bodies, CAF or FIFA.

### Article 3: Scope of application: individuals and corporate bodies

The following shall be subject to this code:

- members and affiliates of FECAFOOT;
- officials;
- players;
- match officials;
- licensed match agents and players' agents;
- anyone with an authorisation issued by FECAFOOT, especially with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by FECAFOOT;
- spectators.

### Article 4: Scope of application: time

This code shall apply to facts that have arisen after it has come into force. It shall also apply to previous facts if it is equally favourable or more favourable for the perpetrator

of the facts and if the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT are deciding on these facts after the code has come into force.

## Article 5: Definitions

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

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

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

Friendly match: a match organised by a football organisation, club or other person between teams chosen for the occasion and possibly belonging to different spheres of operation; the result has an effect only on the match or tournament in question and, in the case of representative teams, on the FIFA rankings.

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

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

Match officials: the referees, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by FECAFOOT to assume responsibility in connection with a match.

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

## Article 6: Gender and number

The generic masculine term used in this code for the purpose of concision applies to both genders; similarly, any term used in the singular applies to the plural and vice versa.

## PART ONE: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

### CHAPTER ONE: GENERALITIES

#### SECTION 1: CONDITIONS FOR SANCTIONS

## Article 7: Culpability

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements shall be punishable regardless of whether they were committed deliberately or negligently.

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

#### Article 8: Acts amounting to attempt

1. Acts amounting to any attempt shall also be punishable.

2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement. It shall determine the extent of the mitigation as it deems fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.

#### Article 9: Involvement

1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, shall also be punishable.

2. The body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.

### SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF SANCTIONS

#### Article 10: List of sanctions

The list of sanctions is that stipulated in article 80 of the FECAF00T Statutes, namely:

1) Common sanctions applicable to individuals and corporate bodies

Both individuals and corporate entities shall be punishable by the following sanctions:

- a) Warning;
- b) reprimand;
- c) fine;
- d) return of awards.

2) Sanctions applicable to individuals

The following sanctions are applicable only to individuals:

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

3) Sanctions applicable to corporate bodies

The following sanctions are applicable only to corporate entities:

- transfer ban;
- obligation to play a match without spectators;
- obligation to play a match on neutral territory;
- ban from playing in a particular stadium;
- annulment of the result of a match;
- exclusion from a competition;

- forfeiture;
- deduction of points;
- loss of match ;
- relegation to a lower division.

#### Article 11: Warning

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

#### Article 12: Reprimand

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

#### Article 13: Fine

1. The body that imposes the fine decides the amount, modalities and time limits for payment.
2. FECAFOOT clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on players and officials. The fact that the person on whom a fine is imposed has left FECAFOOT does not abrogate joint liability.

#### Article 14: Return of awards

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

#### Article 15: Caution

1. A caution ("yellow card") shall be a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of Laws of the Game).
2. Two cautions received during the same match shall incur an expulsion ("indirect" red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match. The two cautions that incurred the red card shall be rescinded.
3. 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 team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned shall be upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions shall be upheld.
4. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off ("direct" red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.

#### Article 16: Expulsion

1. An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its immediate surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless he is serving a stadium ban.

2. Expulsion shall take the form of a red card for players. The red card shall be regarded as "direct" if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it shall be regarded as "indirect" if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.

3. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.

4. An expulsion shall automatically incur suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or cancelled. The Homologation and Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

### **Article 17: Match suspension**

1. A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

2. Suspension shall be imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four matches or twenty-four months.

3. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played shall count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension shall only be considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.

4. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged, where appropriate, until the fine has been paid in full.

### **Article 18: Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench**

A ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench shall deprive someone of the right to enter a team's dressing rooms and/or stand in the area immediately surrounding the field of play, in particular, to sit on the substitutes' bench.

### **Article 19: Stadium ban**

A stadium ban shall prohibit someone from entering the confines of one or several stadiums.

### **Article 20: Ban on taking part in any football-related activity**

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

### **Article 21: Transfer ban**

A transfer ban shall prevent a club from registering any player during the period in question.

### **Article 22: Obligation to play a match without spectators**

The obligation to play a match behind closed doors shall require clubs to have a certain match played without spectators.

#### Article 23: Obligation to play a match on neutral ground

The obligation to play a match on neutral ground shall require clubs to have a certain match played in another field different from the usual field of play.

#### Article 24: Ban on playing in a particular stadium

A ban on playing in a certain stadium shall deprive clubs of the right to have their teams play in a certain stadium.

#### Article 25: Annulment of match result

The result of a match shall be annulled if the result obtained on the field of play is disregarded.

#### Article 26: Exclusion from a competition

Exclusion is the deprivation of the right of clubs to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

#### Article 27: Relegation to a lower division

A club may be relegated to a lower division.

#### Article 28: Deduction of points

A club may have points deducted from those already obtained in the current or a future championship.

#### Article 29: Forfeiture

1. Teams sanctioned with a forfeiture shall be considered to have lost the match by 3-0.
2. If the goal difference at the end of the match in question is greater than 3-0, the result on the pitch shall be upheld.

#### Article 30: Loss of match

Teams sanctioned shall be considered to have lost the match in question pursuant to modalities provided for in the General Regulations.

### SECTION 3: COMMON RULES

#### Article 31: Combined sanctions

Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in Chapter I (Generalities) and Chapter II (Special provisions) of this code may be combined.

#### Article 32: Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions

1. The body that pronounces a match suspension, a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, the

obligation to play a match without spectators, the obligation to play a match on neutral ground or a ban on playing in a certain stadium may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.

2. Partial suspension shall be permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six matches or six months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.

3. The body shall decide which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.

4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body shall subject the person sanctioned to a probationary period of from six months to two years.

5. If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension shall automatically be revoked and the sanction applied; it shall be added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.

6. The aforementioned provisions shall not be applicable to cases of doping offences.

#### Article 33: Time sanctions: calculation of time limit

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

### SECTION 4: DETERMINING THE SANCTION

#### Article 34: General rule

1. The body pronouncing the sanction shall decide its scope and duration.

2. Sanctions may be limited to specific competitions.

3. Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction shall always be defined.

4. The competent body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case when imposing the sanction.

#### Article 35: Repeated infringements

1. Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.

2. These provisions shall be subject to the special rules governing repeated doping infringements.

#### Article 36: Concurrent infringements

1. If several fines are pronounced against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the relevant body shall base the fine on the most serious offence committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent of the maximum sanction specified for that offence.

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

## SECTION 5: LIMITATION PERIOD

### Article 37: Limitation period for prosecution

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of two years. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.
2. Doping offences may not be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed.
3. Prosecution for corruption shall not be subject to a limitation period.

### Article 38: Commencement of the limitation period

The limitation period runs as follows:

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

### Article 39: Interruption

The limitation period shall be interrupted if, before it expires, the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee has commenced proceedings related to the infringement.

### Article 40: Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions

1. The limitation period for sanctions shall be five years.
2. The limitation period shall begin on the day on which the decision for sanction comes into force.

## CHAPTER II: SPECIAL PROVISIONS

### SECTION 1: INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

#### Article 41: Minor infringements

A player shall be cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game):

- unsporting behaviour, for example, rough play, dangerous play or pulling the opponent's jersey or part of his body;
- dissent by word or action against match officials (criticizing decisions, claims);
- persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
- delaying the restart of play;
- failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick;
- entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;

- deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission;
- simulation.

#### Article 42: Serious infringements

A player shall be sent off if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game):

- serious foul play, for example, the use of excessive force or brutal or rough play;
- act of brutality, for example, violent conduct, aggressiveness;
- spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball;
- denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by committing an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
- using offensive, insulting or abusive language;
- receiving a second caution in the same match.

### SECTION 2: DISORDERLINESS AT MATCHES AND COMPETITIONS

#### Article 43: Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred, any person sent off the field of play shall be suspended as follows:

- from at least one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
- from at least two matches for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);

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

#### Article 44: Misconduct against match officials, players, managers, coaches and spectators

Misconduct against match officials, players, managers, coaches and spectators shall be punishable as per the catalogue of sanctions appended to this code.

#### Article 45: Brawl

1. Involvement in a brawl shall be sanctioned with a suspension from at least six matches.

2. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl shall not be subject to punishment.

#### Article 46: Unidentified aggressors

If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the body shall sanction the club or association to which the aggressors belong.

#### Article 47: Team misconduct

1. A team shall be sanctioned for misconduct if it:

- has at least four players cautioned during the same match;

- has at least three players sent off during the same match;
- has several players who threaten or harass a match official.

2. The type of competition shall be taken into account in deciding the amount of the fine.

#### Article 48: Inciting hatred and violence

A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence shall be sanctioned with match suspension for at least one year and a fine to be determined by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee.

#### Article 49: Provoking the public

Anyone who provokes the public during a match shall be suspended for at least two matches and sanctioned with a fine to be determined by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee.

#### Article 50: Ineligibility

The ineligibility of players shall be governed by articles 123 and 137 of the General Regulations.

### SECTION 3: OFFENSIVE AND RACIST BEHAVIOUR

#### Article 5: Offensive behaviour

Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, shall be suspended from the match. If the perpetrator is a player, he shall be suspended from at least two matches; if it is a manager or an official, he shall be suspended from at least four matches. Furthermore, a fine and a ban from taking part in any football-related activity may be imposed.

#### Article 52: Racism

1. Anyone who publicly offends the dignity of a person especially through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin or manifests racist and/or inhuman behaviour towards a person shall be suspended from at least five matches at all levels. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine shall be imposed against him. If the perpetrator is a manager or an official, the minimum fine shall be at least CFAF 100,000.

2. If during a match, supporters of a team display banners carrying racist messages or manifest racist and/or inhuman behaviour, the body shall sanction the association or club supported by these spectators with a fine of at least CFAF 150,000 and oblige it to play its next official match without spectators.

3. Spectators who breach par. 1 of this article shall receive a stadium ban for at least two years.

4. Where players, association or club managers and spectators manifest in any way a racist or inhuman behaviour in breach of par. 1 of this article, the team to which these persons belong may, if aggravating circumstances so warrant, be deducted one point for

a first offence and two points for a second offence; a third offence shall result in relegation to a lower division. For matches in which no points are awarded, the team shall be disqualified from the competition, if identified.

5. A sanction meted out under these provisions may be mitigated and even suspended if the player, team, club or association concerned can prove that it was not responsible for the case in question or if it was motivated by other compelling reasons. The sanction may be reduced or suspended if the incidents were provoked in order to attract sanctions against a player, team, club or association, as provided for in this code. The exoneration procedure shall conform to this code.

#### SECTION 4: INFRINGEMENTS OF PERSONAL FREEDOM

##### Article 53: Threats

Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats shall be sanctioned with a fine of at least CFAF 50,000 and a match suspension. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 31 above, these sanctions may not be combined with others.

##### Article 54: Coercion

Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking a certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely shall be sanctioned with a fine of at least CFAF 50,000 and a match suspension. Notwithstanding the provisions of article 31 above, these sanctions may not be combined with others.

#### SECTION 5: FORGERY AND FALSIFICATION

##### Article 55:

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations shall be sanctioned with a minimum suspension of six matches.

2. If the perpetrator is a manager, the body shall pronounce a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least one year.

3. A minimum fine of CFAF 150,000 may also be imposed.

#### SECTION 6: CORRUPTION

##### Article 56:

1. Anyone who, acting on his own behalf or on behalf of third parties, offers, promises or grants an undue advantage to a FECAFOOT body, match official, player or manager with the aim of inciting him/it to violate the regulations of FECAFOOT, CAF or FIFA shall be sanctioned:

a) with a fine of at least CFAF 200,000,

b) with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, and

c) with a ban on entering any stadium.

2. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) shall be sanctioned in the same manner.
3. For serious cases and in case of repeated corruption, sanction 1(b) above may be pronounced for life.
4. In any case, the body shall order the confiscation of assets used in committing the infringement. These assets shall be used for football development programmes.

## SECTION 7: DOPING

### Article 57: Definition

1. Doping and doping offences are defined in the FIFA Doping Control Regulations.
2. These acts constitute doping whether detected during or out of a competition.

### Article 58: Therapeutic justification

1. Any player who consults a doctor and is prescribed treatment or medication for therapeutic reasons shall enquire whether the prescription contains prohibited substances or methods (cf. list in FIFA Doping Control Regulations).
2. If this is the case, the player shall request alternative medication or treatment.
3. If there is no alternative treatment, the player shall obtain a medical certificate explaining the circumstances. This certificate shall be submitted to the relevant body of FECAFOOT within 48 hours of the medical consultation. If a match takes place during this period, the certificate shall be forwarded to the relevant body before the match begins or be produced at the doping test. Beyond this time limit, no medical certificate shall be accepted.
4. The prohibited substance or treatment shall be considered justifiable only if endorsed by the relevant body of FECAFOOT.
5. These provisions shall be subject to FIFA Doping Control Regulations.

### Article 59: Sanctions

1. The following sanctions shall, in principle, apply to doping offences in accordance with Chapter II of FIFA Doping Control Regulations:

- Any violation of Chapter II.1 (the presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers), Chapter II.2 (use or attempted use of a prohibited substance or a prohibited method), Chapter II.3 (refusing, or failing without justification, to submit to sample collection), Chapter II.5 (tampering or attempting to tamper with a doping control test) and Chapter II.6 (possession of prohibited substances or methods) shall incur a two-year suspension for the first offence and a lifelong ban in the case of repeated violation.

- If any specified substances contained in the list of prohibited substances and methods (cf. appendix A of FIFA Doping Control Regulations) are detected, for which proof can be produced that the specific substances were not intended to enhance sporting

performance, at least a caution shall be given for the first offence and a two-year suspension in the case of repetition. A third offence shall incur a lifelong ban.

- Any violation of Chapter II.7 (trafficking in prohibited substance) or Chapter II.8 (administration of a prohibited substance or method) shall incur a suspension of at least four years. If the player concerned with the action of the person at fault is under the age of 21 and the substance detected is not a specified substance, a lifelong ban shall be imposed on the perpetrator.

- Any violation of Chapter II.4 (failure to provide the required information on the whereabouts of players or their availability for testing) shall incur a suspension of at least three months and no more than two years.

2. If the suspect can prove in each individual case that he bears no significant fault or negligence, the sanction may be reduced, but only by up to half of the sanction applicable under par. 1; a life ban may not be reduced to less than eight years.

3. If the suspect can prove in an individual case that he bears no fault or negligence, the sanction otherwise applicable under the terms of paragraph 1 becomes irrelevant.

4. If help given by a suspect leads to the exposure or proof of a doping offence by another person, the sanction may be reduced, but only by up to half of the sanction applicable under paragraph 1; a lifelong ban may not be reduced to less than eight years.

5. If more than one player from the same team is sanctioned for doping offences, the team may also be sanctioned. The team may have points deducted and in a final competition the team may be excluded from the final standings. Moreover, the association or club of the team concerned may also be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

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

### **Article 60: Repeat testing**

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

### **Article 61: Procedure**

The formal and technical aspects of the doping control procedure shall comply entirely with FIFA Doping Control Regulations.

### **Article 62: Players' obligation**

1. Every player taking part in competitions or other events organized by FECAFOOT, or in training leading to such competitions or events, shall agree to undergo any tests conducted by the relevant bodies of FECAFOOT.

2. He shall agree to tests being conducted so as to detect the presence of any prohibited substances or to establish the use of any prohibited methods.

### **Article 63: Government sanctions against doping**

Even if a state body imposes sanctions for a doping offence, the legal bodies of FECAFOOT shall still review the case and decide whether to impose a sanction in line with this code.

## Article 64: Sanctions imposed by other sports bodies

Any legally binding sanction imposed by another international sports federation or national anti-doping organisation that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FECAFOOT.

## SECTION 8: FAILURE TO RESPECT DECISIONS

### Article 65: Financial decisions

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, coach or club) a sum of money in full or in part, even though instructed to do so by a judicial body of FECAFOOT:

- a) shall be fined at least CFAF 50,000 for failing to comply with the instructions of the body that instructed him to do so;
- b) shall be granted a final grace period by the judicial bodies of FECAFOOT within which to pay the amount due;
- c) (only for clubs:) shall be warned and threatened with deduction of points or relegation to a lower division, in the case of non-payment within the final deadline. A transfer ban may also be pronounced.

2. If the club disregards the final deadline, the sanctions threatened shall be implemented.

3. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed, in accordance with the financial regulations.

4. A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against any individual.

## SECTION 9: RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

### Article 66: Organisation of matches

Associations or clubs that organise matches shall:

- a) assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the FECAFOOT bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b) comply with and implement existing safety rules and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
- c) ensure the safety of players and officials of the visiting team;
- d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- e) ensure discipline in stadiums and the immediate surroundings as well as the proper organisation of matches.

## Article 67: Non-compliance

1. Any member association or club that fails to fulfil its obligations as stipulated in article 68 shall be fined in accordance with the financial regulations.
2. In the case of a serious infringement of article 66 b) and c), additional sanctions may be imposed by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, notably a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground.
3. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed.

## Article 68: Liability for spectator conduct

1. The home association or home club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious misconduct.
2. The visiting association or visiting club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium are regarded as the visiting association's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.
3. Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing objects, displaying banners with insulting inscriptions, chanting offensive slogans and invading the pitch.
4. The liability described in paragraphs 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.

## Article 69: Other obligations

Associations or clubs shall also:

- a) actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
- b) ensure that no one is involved in the management of a club or an association, who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, corruption, forgery etc.) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

## SECTION 10: Unlawfully influencing match results

### Article 70:

Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics shall be sanctioned with a match suspension or with a fine of at least CFAF 500,000. The body shall also pronounce a ban on taking part in any football-related activity; in serious cases, a lifetime ban shall be imposed.

## SECTION 11: FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SPORTING ETHICS

### Article 71: Undermining sports ethics

1) Any club or person referred to in article 2 of the general regulations, laying a charge, shall be punished if he fails to back his accusation with substantial presumption or *prima facie* evidence.

2) Any insulting or contemptuous term, any outrageous expression, any allegation or attribution of a fact that undermines the honour or consideration of the Federation, its Leagues or managers, made by persons referred to in the preceding paragraph, shall be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, without prejudice to penal sanctions that may be incurred.

### Article 72: Concealment and fraud

1) A minimum suspension of two years shall be pronounced by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee against any player:

- a) who falsifies or attempts to falsify his identity, the signature or photograph affixed on the licence, his date of birth or in the case of a medical certificate, the forms and stamps of the Federation or the legal body;
- b) who, on his licence application form, did not mention the former club, or wrote "NIL", or gave vague answers to questions asked.

2) Managers who are perpetrators or accomplices of infringements referred to in 1) above shall incur sanctions stipulated in article 80 of the Statutes.

3) If the club is involved in such an infringement, it loses by sanction the match in which the player took part at the time of discovery of the infringement.

4) The opposing team may only benefit from point(s) deducted if it has objections formulated in compliance with the principles of this code.

## SECTION 12: ABSENCE DURING TRIAL GAME

### Article 73:

1) Any club that advises one of its players not to participate in training, in a test match or trial game or an international match shall be punished by one of the sanctions stipulated in article 80 of the statutes. The manager(s) responsible shall be punishable with suspension by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee.

2) Any player referred to in article 143 of the General Regulations who fails to justify his absence or unavailability shall equally be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee. The sanction could include the temporary or definite suspension of the operation of the contract binding him to his club if it is a professional player or the temporary or definite withdrawal of the licence if it is an amateur player.

## **SECTION 13 – INFRINGEMENT OF SPORTS OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

**Article 74:** Regardless of the sanction of loss of match specified in article 137 of the General Regulations, infringements of sports or administrative regulations shall be as follows:

### *I) Non-respect of age category and the absence of upgrading*

**Article 75:** In the cases enumerated in articles 52 and 58 of the General Regulations, a fine whose amount is specified in appendix 2 shall be imposed by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee on a player guilty of an offence, **provided he was not subject to any valid proviso.**

### *II) Playing in a team not affiliated to the Federation*

#### **Article 76:**

1) In the event of infringement of article 48 of the General Regulations, the following sanctions shall be applied by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee:

- automatic suspension of the validity of the licence ;
- formal notice sent to the player by the Secretary General or by the Secretary of the League concerned, as the case may be.

2) If no response is received from the player within fifteen days, or if he continues to play football under conditions prohibited by article 48 of the General Regulations, the Secretary General or the League concerned shall pronounce the exclusion of the player, as appropriate.

### *III) Signing of several applications for licence by players and breach of contract*

#### **Article 77:**

1) Any player referred to in articles 39(6) and 47 of the General Regulations who signs more than one application for licence during the same season shall be punished with a minimum suspension of one (1) year by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee.

2) As concerns qualification, and if the infringement is only detected during the next season, this suspension shall be extended to at least two (2) years, without prejudice to the relevant provisions in article 46 of the General Regulations.

3) The sanction takes effect from its date of notification.

### *IV) Non-compliance with the minimum number of "managers" licences*

**Article 78:** Clubs which, prior to the commencement of the second phase of the season, have not met the obligation of registering the minimum number of "Managers Licences" as stipulated in article 19 of the general regulations shall be punished by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, for each licence lacking and for each day of the return phase, with a fine equal to twice the transfer price of this licence, mentioned in the financial regulations.

#### *V) Match form*

Article 79: Any club that does not comply with the provisions pertaining to match form as stipulated in article 119 of the general regulations shall be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee with a fine specified in appendix 2.

#### *VI) Recruiting a foreign player without the authorization of the Federation*

Article 80: Any club that enlisted the services of a foreign player without an exit certificate shall be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee with a fine whose minimum amount is laid down in the financial regulations, without prejudice to the sanction stipulated in article 87(7) of the General Regulations.

#### *VII) Recruiting a player from another club without the authorisation of the Federation*

Article 81:

1) Any club that enlists the services of a player loaned to another club without the express authorization of the latter shall be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee with a fine whose minimum amount is laid down in the financial regulations.

2) The player shall be punished with a minimum suspension of three months as from the date of notification of the sanction if the infringement was committed during the season or upon resumption of the competition if it was committed during the rest period.

#### *VIII) Playing a match against a foreign club without authorization*

Article 82:

1) Any club that plays a match against a foreign team without authorization or did not request the relevant authorization at the required time shall be sanctioned by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee with a fine whose amount is laid down in the financial regulations.

2) Members of the bureau of the League to which the infringement is attributed shall be punished by the Executive Committee.

#### *IX) The use of an occasional or assumed name by a club*

Article 83: Any club that violates article 26 prohibiting the use of an occasional or assumed name without prior authorisation shall be sanctioned with a fine whose minimum amount is laid down in the financial regulations.

### SECTION 14: ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE

#### *SUBSECTION I - PLAYER SENT OFF THE FIELD OF PLAY*

##### *Paragraph 1 - Sanction*

Article 84:

1) Any player expelled from the field of play by the referee during a match of an official competition shall automatically be suspended from the next official match of the same competition.

2) Three cautions issued against a player during a competition shall lead to his suspension from the next match of the same competition.

3) Three expulsions of a player during a competition shall lead to his suspension for the rest of the season.

### ***Paragraph 2 - Additional sanctions***

Article 85:

1) Automatic suspension of a player expelled may not be confused with more serious sanctions that may be imposed after investigation and judgment by the competent judicial body.

2) These additional sanctions shall bear either on a certain consecutive number of matches actually played, or on a given period of time whose commencement and expiry shall be laid down in the decision, with extreme dates included.

### ***Paragraph 3 - Modalities for serving a suspension***

Article 86:

1) Suspension must be served in official matches actually played in the same type of competition and in the same category of team (first, reserve, corporate, etc). The match or matches to be taken into account are those of the official competition sequel to the expulsion. Additional sanctions pronounced must be served under the same conditions.

2) - a) The expression "*actually played*" means a match that was played to its normal end, including extra time.

- b) If the match was interrupted as a result of bad weather or because the pitch was declared unfit for play, the suspended player may not include this aspect in calculating the period of time.

- c) If this interruption was due to incidents that led the referee to decide as such, the player suspended may include the match in calculating his sanction, with the precision that if the competent body ruled in favour of a replay, he may not take part in it.

3)- a) Sanctions pronounced by the competent body after match officials' reports, or after the hearing of a case in accordance with the modalities of article 155 of the general regulations, shall be applicable only as from the Monday following the pronouncement of the decision.

- b) This time limit is not applicable to additional sanctions further to the automatic sanction consequent upon an exclusion, which must be served consecutively and without discontinuity after the notification of the decision. The same applies to aggravating sanctions that may be pronounced by the appellate jurisdictions.

### ***Paragraph 4 - Fines for caution or expulsion***

Article 87:

1) The competent body shall impose the following sanctions on clubs:

- a fine whose amount is laid down in the financial regulations, for any player issued a caution during a match;
- a double fine for any player who received a second caution during the same match or was sanctioned with immediate expulsion.

2) The application of these fines is not exclusive of subsequent additional pecuniary sanctions imposed pursuant to chapter III of the catalogue of sanctions for unsporting behaviour, which is appended to this code.

***Paragraph 5 - Disciplinary hearing***

Article 88: The Executive Committee, the Secretary General, or the Provincial Council may request its judicial bodies, even in the absence of referees' or match officials' report, to start examining the file of players guilty of brutality that led to the incapacitation of the opponent.

***Paragraph 6 - Enforcement of law and order on the field***

Article 89: In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of articles 21(1), (2) and 114(4) of the general regulations, the competent disciplinary bodies may impose the following sanctions:

- a fine whose minimum amount is laid down in the appendix;
- suspension from the stadium;
- loss of match.

***Paragraph 7: Suspended licensed player participating in a friendly match***

Article 90: If a licensed player who has been suspended for a period equal to at least six months takes part as a player or assumes an official function during a friendly match, the club to which the player belongs shall be sanctioned with a fine whose amount is laid down in the financial regulations, while the licensed player shall subsequently be punished by the competent judicial body with a new sanction.

***Paragraph 8 - A club suspended***

Article 91: A club suspended by the Federation may not take part in any official or friendly match and shall be considered as having declared forfeiture for all official matches it will have to play during the period of suspension.

***SUBSECTION II - OTHER INFRINGEMENTS***

***Paragraph I - Infringements concerning clubs***

*1) Non-payment of amounts owed the Federation*

Article 92:

1) The non-payment by club committee members of amounts due to the Federation and to bodies placed under its authority may lead to their names being struck off the roll by the competent disciplinary body.

2) In any case, these clubs may undertake a new commitment in competitions organized by the Federation only if they pay the totality of these sums.

### *II) Covert practices by clubs*

#### Article 93:

1) Any club found guilty of cheating or abandonment of a match with the aim of favouring or penalizing another club shall, with regard to the championship and its subsequent tournaments, automatically be relegated by two divisions by the competent disciplinary body.

2) As regards cup matches, the club shall be disqualified for the rest of the competition and suspended for the next season of the same competition.

### *III) Club forfeiture*

#### Article 94:

1) Any club that declares forfeiture under conditions stipulated in article 132(5) of the general regulations shall be sanctioned with a fine whose amount is laid down in the financial regulations.

2) Besides, the club in question loses not only the match which is the subject of the forfeiture, but equally loses three points in its general ranking, or is disqualified if it is a cup match or a competition subject to the knock-out system.

#### Article 95:

1) Any club guilty of two forfeitures in a championship during the same sports season shall be declared general forfeiture for the rest of the matches of the said championship and automatically relegated by two divisions.

2) The team that is subject to automatic general forfeiture shall constitute part of the quota of clubs likely to be relegated.

3) The President whose club declared forfeiture during his tenure may not, as from the date of notification of the said forfeiture and within five years, be a member of the steering committee of another affiliated club or a body of the Federation or of its specialized leagues.

### *IV) Failure to present licences*

Article 96: Any club that fails to present the licences of its players to the referee in accordance with article 122 of the general regulations shall be sanctioned by the competent disciplinary body with a fine whose amount is laid down in the financial regulations.

### *V) Numbering of jerseys*

Article 97: Any club whose jerseys are not numbered in a legible manner from 1 to 35 shall be sanctioned by the competent disciplinary body with a fine whose amount is specified in the financial regulations.

*VI) Late arrival in the stadium*

Article 98: Any club that violates the provisions of article 133(2) of the general regulations related to arrival in the stadium shall be sanctioned by the competent disciplinary body with a fine whose amount is specified in the financial regulations.

**Paragraph 2 – Infractions concerning officials**

*I) Absence of a referee at a match*

Article 99:

1) Any official who fails to justify his absence at a match shall be punished with suspension from three (3) matches by the competent disciplinary body.

2) In case of repeated absence, he shall incur a suspension from nine (9) matches.

*II) Late arrival in the stadium*

Article 100: Any official who fails to comply with the provisions of article 113(2) of the general regulations pertaining to arrival in the stadium shall be punished with a suspension from three (3) matches by the competent disciplinary body.

*III) Offences related to official documents*

Article 101: Any official who fails to forward documents within the time limit stipulated in article 117(3) of the general regulations shall be sanctioned with suspension from three (3) matches.

Article 102: Any official found guilty of alterations in documents under conditions specified in article 117(2) of the general regulations shall be punished with suspension from three (3) matches by the competent disciplinary body.

*IV) Technical faults*

Article 103:

1) A technical fault duly established against a referee shall lead to his suspension from three (3) official matches by the competent disciplinary body, as from the date of notification of the sanction.

2) A second technical fault duly established against the same referee during the same season shall lead to his demotion to a lower division.

PART TWO: ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE

CHAPTER ONE: ORGANISATION

SECTION 1: AUTHORITIES

Article 104: Referee

1. During matches, disciplinary decisions shall be taken by the referee.

2. These decisions shall be final.

3. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies shall apply.

#### Article 105: Judicial bodies

The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT are the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee.

#### Article 106: Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

Certain decisions passed by the Appeal Committee may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon.

### SECOND PART: JUDICIAL BODIES

#### Article 107: The Different bodies

The judicial bodies of FECAFOOT shall be:

- the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee ;
- the Appeal Committee;
- the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon.

### CHAPTER 1: ORGANISATION AND FUNCTION

#### SECTION I: COMMON RULES FOR THE JUDICIAL BODIES

#### Article 108: Composition

1°) - The President of the Executive Committee appoints the members of the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee for a period of two (2) years renewable.

2°) - Each of the committees referred to in (1) above is comprised as follows:

- A Chairman;
- A vice Chairman;
- 1 Rapporteur;
- 4 members.

3°) - The Secretary General of FECAFOOT may attend meetings of the judicial bodies in an advisory capacity.

#### Article 109: Meeting venue

1°) - All judicial bodies shall meet at the headquarters of the Federation.

2°) - Exceptionally, they may meet at another venue after prior authorization from the President of FECAFOOT.

#### Article 110: Meetings

1°) - At the behest of the Chairman of the body concerned, the General Secretariat of FECAFOOT shall convene members to each meeting. If the chairman is absent, the deputy chairman, or in his absence, the longest serving member, shall convene the meeting.

2°) - The chairman shall conduct proceedings. If the chairman is unavoidably absent, the vice chairman shall deputize. If the vice chairman cannot attend, the longest serving of the members present shall deputize.

3°) - The rapporteur shall take down the minutes and decisions of meetings.

4°) - Decisions shall be passed by an absolute majority (50% + 1) of votes cast by members present. In case of a tie, the Chairman of the meeting shall have the casting vote.

5°) - Judicial bodies' deliberations shall be deemed valid only if at least four (4) of their members are present.

#### Article 111: Secretariat

1°) - The General Secretariat of FECAFOOT shall take care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten (10) years.

2°) - The General Secretariat shall ensure that decisions passed by the judicial bodies are adequately publishing, for example, via internet. If exceptional circumstances so require, it may refuse to publish particular decisions.

#### Article 112: Independence

1°) - The judicial bodies shall pass their decisions entirely independently in application of the regulations in force.

2°) - A member of another FECAFOOT body may not stay in the meeting room during the judicial bodies' deliberations unless they have explicitly summoned him to attend.

#### Article 113: Incompatibility of office

1°) - The members of the judicial bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee of FECAFOOT or to a provincial, divisional or sub-divisional bureau.

2°) - Club managers, players, referees and coaches with valid licences may not be members of a judicial body.

3°) - No one may simultaneously become member of more than one judicial body.

#### Article 114: Withdrawal

1°) - Members of the judicial bodies must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their integrity, especially in the following cases:

- a) if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
- b) if he is associated with any of the parties.

2°) - Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately.

#### Article 115: Confidentiality

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

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

3°) - Any infringement of the provisions referred to in (1) above shall incur the exclusion of its perpetrator from the judicial body.

#### Article 116: Sanctions

The main sanctions that may be imposed by the judicial bodies of the Federation in case of any dispute brought to its hearing, or in the event of any type of infringement, are enumerated in article 80 of the statutes.

#### Article 117: Right of access to the stadium

Members of the judicial bodies have free right of access to all stadiums used for the organisation of competitions. To this end, a card is issued to them.

#### Article 118: Session allowances

1°) - The duties of members of the judicial bodies shall be discharged free of charge.

2°) - However, members of the judicial bodies have a right to session allowances whose amount and payment modalities shall be specified by the Executive Committee.

### SECTION II: DUTIES OF JUDICIAL BODIES

#### Article 119: Homologation and Disciplinary Committee

The homologation and disciplinary committee shall rule on:

- the homologation of first division matches of the national championship and matches of the cup of Cameroon as from the 16<sup>th</sup> finals;
- cases arising from the non-application of the laws of the game by an official, which are reported by a team, the match commissioner or a member of the Federation;
- disputes arising from the eligibility and participation of players in a match as well as the application of regulations of national competitions;
- appeals against decisions taken by the provincial homologation and disciplinary committee, apart from those relating to discipline and ethics;
- cases arising from the enforcement of law and order on the field;
- cases of indiscipline by players, coaches, managers, referees, commissioners, supporters, spectators or any other person accomplishing a mission within a club or organ, body or League of the Federation;

- serious violations of sports ethics by club managers, players, coaches or referees;
- serious breach of discipline that undermines the honour, image, reputation or consideration of football, the Federation or one of its officials, attributable to any person under its jurisdiction;
- any disputes arising from the execution of local contracts signed between players and clubs;
- any disputes arising from the local transfer of players;
- the sanction of match officials;
- appeals lodged against decisions taken by provincial homologation and disciplinary committees.

#### Article 120: Appeal Committee

The Appeal committee has jurisdiction to:

- rule, in the third and last instance, on decisions arrived at by provincial homologation and disciplinary committees;
- rule, in the second and last instance, on decisions taken at the first instance by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee, with the exception of decisions reserved for the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon;
- rule, in the second and final instance, on decisions taken by the Players' Status Committee.

### SECTION III: COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR FOOTBALL OF CAMEROON

Article 121: The organization, duties and operating rules of the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon shall be laid down by a special instrument.

#### CHAPTER 2: PROCEDURE

##### SECTION I: GENERAL RULES

###### *Subsection 1 - Right to be heard*

#### Article 122: Principle

1°) - The parties shall be heard before any decision is passed.

2°) – The parties may, in particular:

- refer to the file;
- present their argument in fact and in law;
- request production of proof;
- be involved in the production of proof.

#### Article 123: Restrictions

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

### *Subsection 2: Proof*

#### **Article 124: Various types of proof**

1°) - Any type of proof may be produced.

2°) - Proof that violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected.

3°) - The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, match commissioners and referee inspectors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence and expert opinions.

#### **Article 125: Unrestricted appraisal of proof**

1°) - The bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.

2°) - They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings.

3°) - They decide on the basis of their personal convictions.

#### **Article 126: Match officials' reports**

1°) - Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.

2°) - However, proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.

3°) - If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play. The match commissioner's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

#### **Article 127: Burden of proof**

1°) - The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the Federation.

2°) - In the case of a doping offence, it is incumbent upon the suspect to produce the proof necessary to clear himself of the accusation.

3°) - In the case of a contract or transfer, the burden of proof rests with the plaintiff.

### *Subsection 3: Representation and assistance*

#### **Article 128: Principle**

1°) - The parties may arrange to have legal representation at their own cost.

2°) - If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.

3°) - Assistance and representation are free.

#### *Subsection 4: Language used in proceedings*

##### Article 129: Principle

1°) - Languages used in proceedings are English and French.

2°) - If the language used is not the mother tongue of one of the parties, the Federation will provide an interpreter.

#### *Subsection 5: Notification and decisions*

##### Article 130: Addressees

1°) - All the parties shall be notified of the decisions.

2°) - Copies of other documents from the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee shall be sent to all the parties.

3°) - Decisions and other documents intended for players, coaches or club officials are addressed to the clubs concerned. These documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four (4) days after communication of the documents to the club.

##### Article 131: Notification modalities

1°) - Decisions are communicated by telephone, registered mail, fax or signed out.

2°) - The other documents are communicated only by fax transmission.

3°) - The communication of decisions by electronic mail is not permitted.

#### *Subsection 7: Enforcement of decisions*

##### Article 132: Entry into force of decisions

1°) - Decisions come into force immediately if they are not subject to appeals or if this code so specifies.

2°) - Subject to cases referred to in (1) above, decisions become enforceable upon the expiry of the time limit for appeal.

#### *Subsection 8: Time limit for appeal*

##### Article 133: Calculation

1°) - Time limits to lodge appeals against a decision run from the date of receipt of the document by the party concerned, subject to the provisions of article 130(3) above.

2°) - If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday, the time limit will expire on the next working day.

##### Article 134: Compliance with time limit

1°) - The time limit for appeal must be complied with, under pain of foreclosure.

2°) – The time limit has been met if the appeal document reaches the General Secretariat of FECAFOOT or a post office no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.

3°) - If the document is sent by fax, the time limit has been met if the appeal document reaches the General Secretariat before midnight on the last day of the time limit and the original document reaches it within another five (5) days.

4°) – The time limit for appeal is not complied with if the document is submitted to the General Secretariat by electronic mail.

## SECTION II: HOMOLOGATION AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### *Subsection 1: Commencement of proceedings and investigation*

#### Article 135: Commencement of proceedings

1°) - Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio.

2°) - Any person or body may report to the judicial bodies conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of the Federation. Such complaints shall be made in writing.

3°) - Match officials shall be obliged to report infringements which have come to their notice.

#### Article 136: Investigation

The rapporteur of the Committee carries out the necessary investigation ex officio.

#### Article 137: Collaboration by the parties

1°) - The parties are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information from the rapporteur.

2°) - Whenever deemed necessary, the rapporteur verifies the parties' versions of the facts.

3°) - If the parties are dilatory in responding, the Chairman of the Committee may, after warning them, impose a fine of CFAF 30,000 (thirty thousand).

4°) - If the parties fail to collaborate and if there is no other means of obtaining the required information, the Committee will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

### *Subsection 2: Oral statements, deliberations and decisions*

#### Article 138: Oral statements

1°) - In principle, there are no oral statements at the Committee.

2°) - However, the Committee may arrange for oral statements to be heard, to which all the parties must be summoned. Oral statements are always heard behind closed doors.

#### Article 139: Deliberations

1°) - The Disciplinary Committee deliberates behind closed doors.

2°) - If any oral statements have been heard, they will immediately be followed by deliberations.

3°) - Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances

4°) - The Chairman decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.

5°) - The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairman, who always speaks last.

#### Article 140: Passing the decision

1°) - Decisions shall be passed by a simple majority of the members present.

2°) - Every member present shall vote.

3°) - In case of equal votes, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

#### Article 141: Form and contents of the decision

1°) - The decision shall contain:

- a) the composition of the Committee;
- b) the names of the parties;
- c) a summary of the facts;
- d) the legal reasons for the decision;
- e) the provisions on which the decision was based;
- f) the terms of the decision;
- g) notice of the channels for appeal.

2°) - Decisions are signed by the Chair and the rapporteur.

#### Article 142: Costs of proceedings

The party that lodges an appeal against a decision of a provincial homologation and disciplinary committee must pay a sum of CFAF 50,000 (fifty thousand).

### SECTION III: APPEAL COMMITTEE

#### Article 143: Contestable decisions

All decisions of the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee and the players' status committee may be subject to appeal before the Appeal Committee.

#### Article 144: Eligibility to appeal

1°) - Any individual or corporate entity who is affected by a decision passed by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee may lodge an appeal before the Appeal Committee.

2°) - Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, managers, coaches or any other licensed person.

3°) - The Secretary General of FECAFOOT may appeal against all decisions taken by the Homologation and Disciplinary Committee.

#### Article 145: Time limit for appeal

An appeal must be lodged within 10 (ten) days of notification of the contested decision unless otherwise specified by special instruments.

#### Article 146: Grounds for appeal

1°) - The appellant must submit his petition of appeal in triplicate.

2°) - The petition shall include the claims, the reasons and necessary means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative.

#### Article 147: Cost of proceedings

1°) - Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall deposit the sum of CFAF 150,000 (one hundred and fifty); otherwise, the appeal shall be rejected.

2°) - This formality is not required if the appeal is lodged by the Secretary General of FECAFOOT.

#### Article 148: Effects of appeal

1°) - An appeal shall be subject to transfer of jurisdiction.

2°) - The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

#### Article 149: Sequence in proceedings leading up to the decision

1°) - Articles 135 to 141 above shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the procedure to be followed.

2°) - Decisions shall be signed by the chairman and rapporteur.

3°) - Decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the party contesting them.

#### Article 150: Continuation of the proceedings

1°) - The Appeal Committee rules in principle, as a body in the second instance.

2°) - Some of its decisions are likely to be appealed against at the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon.

## SECTION IV: COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR FOOTBALL OF CAMEROON

### Article 151: Duties and proceedings

The decisions of judicial bodies likely to be appealed against, as well as the procedure to be followed at the Court of Arbitration for Football of Cameroon shall be laid down by a special instrument.

## SECTION V: SPECIAL PROCEDURES

### *Subsection 1: Emergency*

#### Article 152: Procedure

1°) – In case of emergency, the rapporteur of a judicial body shall organise deliberations and decision-making via telephone conference call, video-conference or through any other means of communication.

2°) - In case of emergency, the provisions of article 138(2) above are not applicable.

3°) - The rapporteur takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

### *Subsection 2: Extension of sanctions to have worldwide effect*

#### Article 153: Request

1°)- If the infringement is serious, in particular doping, corruption, manipulation of match results, misconduct against match officials, forgery or violation of the provisions governing age limits, FECAFOOT shall request FIFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect.

2°) - The request of FECAFOOT shall be submitted in writing to FIFA and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of his club.

#### Article 154: Effects

If FIFA upholds the request to extend a sanction, the sanction imposed by FECAFOOT shall have the same effect in each member association of FIFA as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them.

### *Subsection 3: Doping control procedure*

#### Article 155: Principle

The control procedure is laid down by the FIFA Doping Control Regulations.

### *Subsection 4: Review*

#### Article 156: Principle

1°) - If a party discovers facts or types of proofs that were unknown to the judicial body at the time it took its decision, it may request the said body to review its decision, without prejudice to the available channels of appeal.

2°) – The request for review, accompanied with the sum of CFAF 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) shall be submitted at the General Secretariat of FECAFOOT within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.

### PART THREE: MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

#### Article 157: Amendment of the disciplinary code

Any project to amend this disciplinary code shall be presented in writing, either by the President of FECAFOOT or by one-third of members of the Executive Committee.

#### Article 158: Cases not provided for

Cases not provided for in this disciplinary code shall be determined by the Executive Committee, in pursuance of the applicable instruments and regulations of associations to which FECAFOOT is affiliated.

#### Article 159: Coming into force

This disciplinary code comes into effect as from 10 March 2007, date of its adoption by the General Assembly.

It shall be published in English and French.

Prince NDOKI MUKETE,  
RAPPORTEUR

IYA MOHAMMED,  
PRESIDENT

## APPENDIX

## **SCHEDULE OF MINIMUM SANCTIONS AGAINST UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR DURING A MATCH**

### **Article 1: Purpose**

- 1) This disciplinary code sets out the schedule of disciplinary sanctions imposed on players, coaches, managers and officials guilty of infringements on the laws of the game or violation of the general regulations in force laid down by **FIFA** and **FECAFOOT**.
- 2) This schedule fixes the minimum sanction to be incurred for each type of offence committed.
- 3) However, for infringements referred to in articles 5 to 8 and 14 to 17 of this appendix, the corresponding maximum sanction is equal to twice the sanction set forth by the schedule.
- 4) The disciplinary body reserves the possibility of converting into match suspensions any sanction whose duration of suspension does not exceed three (3) months.

### **CHAPTER 1: PLAYER**

#### **Article 2: Cautionable offences**

*Definition.* Cautionable offences are those laid down in the laws of the game in force.

##### **A – During the match:**

A booking received during a match shall be confirmed.

A second booking received during another match shall lead to suspension from one match, with suspended sentence.

A third booking received during a different match shall lead to suspension from one match.

*Observation.* No limitation period shall be required between two cautions.

At the end of the season, confirmed cautions and match suspensions with suspended sentence following a second caution, shall be quashed.

##### **B – Before or after the match:**

Any cautionable offence during the said match shall be sanctioned as follows:

Suspension from 1 match.

Any repeated offence committed within a time limit less than or equal to one month, shall lead to suspension from 2 matches.

*Observation:* The one-month limitation period shall be calculated from date to date – as from the effective date of the suspension - regardless of the rest periods.

### **Article 3: Sending-off offences**

*Definition:* Sending-off offences are those set out in the laws of the game in force.

#### **A – During the match:**

- The sending off of a player shall automatically be sanctioned with a suspension from at least one match. Each repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to three months shall automatically be sanctioned with suspension from at least 2 matches.
- If a player is sent off three times during a competition, he shall be suspended from the rest of the competition.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

Suspension from at least 2 matches

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to three months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

*Observation:* The three-month limitation period is calculated from date to date – as from the effective date of the suspension - regardless of the rest periods.

### **Article 4: Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language against an official**

*Definition:* Officials are those who act as referee, assistant referee, fourth referee or match commissioner during an official match or a match organized in accordance with the general regulations.

#### **A – During the match:**

Suspension from at least 2 matches notwithstanding sanctions linked to the exclusion of the player.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

*Observation:* The six-month limitation period is calculated from date to date – as from the effective date of the suspension. It takes into account the rest period.

## **Article 5: Offensive or disgusting gestures – verbal threats**

### **1) – Directed at an official:**

#### **A – During the match:**

Suspension from at least 2 matches notwithstanding sanctions linked to the exclusion of the player.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

Suspension from at least 2 matches.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

### **2) – Against a player- official – coach – spectator**

#### **A – During the game:**

Suspension from at least 2 matches notwithstanding sanctions linked to the exclusion of the player.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.
  
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

Observation: The six-month limitation period is calculated from date to date – as from the effective date of the suspension. It takes into account the rest period.

## **Article 6: Deliberate pushing – attempted assault(s) – spitting**

### **1) – Against an official**

#### **A – During the game:**

- Six-month suspension to be served in full, and which could be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction likely to be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
  
- In case of further offence within the year of re-qualification: 1-year suspension that cannot be reduced.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- 1 year suspension to be served in full, and which could be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction likely to be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of further offence within the year of re-qualification: 2-year suspension that cannot be reduced.

## **2) – Against a manager – coach – spectator**

### **A – During the game:**

- Suspension from at least 3 matches, notwithstanding sanctions linked to the exclusion of the player.
- In case of repeated offence within three months: suspension from at least 5 matches.

### **B – Before or after the match:**

- Suspension from at least 4 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within six months: suspension from at least 6 matches.

## **3) – Against a player**

### **A – During the match:**

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within three months: suspension from at least 4 matches.

### **B – Before or after the match:**

- Suspension from at least 3 matches.
- In case of subsequent offence within six months: suspension from at least 5 matches.

*Observation: The year of re-qualification is calculated from date to date, as from the effective date of the suspension. The limitation period is calculated from date to date, as from the effective date of the suspension. It takes into account the rest period.*

## **Article 7: Deliberate assault not causing injury, duly ascertained by a medical certificate**

### **1) – Against an official**

The gravity of the circumstances of a wrongful act against an official shall be appraised by the Disciplinary Committee and shall incur, for the club of the player(s) at fault, the loss of the match by a sanction (0 goal for, 3 goals against) as well as a deduction of 1 to 4 points.

### **A – During the match:**

The player guilty of the wrongful act shall be sanctioned as follows:

- 1-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

- In case of subsequent offence within the year of re-qualification: at least 2-year suspension with request for the extension of this sanction to the other sports federations.

## **B – Before or after the match:**

### Minimum:

- 2-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of subsequent offence within two years of the date of re-qualification: 5-year suspension with request for the extension of this sanction to the other sports federations.

In case of non-assistance, the captain(s) of the club(s) concerned shall be sanctioned with suspension from 4 matches if the latter had the material possibility of intervening during the incidents and did not act accordingly.

## **2) – Against a player – manager – coach or spectator**

The player at fault shall be punished as follows:

- Suspension from at least 3 matches, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of subsequent offence within two years of the date of re-qualification: suspension from at least 4 matches.

Observation: The year of re-qualification is calculated from date to date as from the effective date of the suspension.

## **Article 8: Deliberate assault causing injury and leading to inability to work**

### **1) – Against an official**

The player guilty of the wrongful act shall be sanctioned as follows:

- 3-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of subsequent offence within two years of the date of re-qualification: lifetime ban and request for the extension of the sanction to the other sports federations.

The gravity of the circumstances of the wrongful act perpetrated against an official shall be appraised by the Disciplinary body and shall incur, for the club(s) of the player(s) guilty of the offence, the loss of the match by a sanction (0 goal for, 3 goals against) as well as a deduction of 1 to 5 points.

In case of non-assistance, the captain(s) of the club(s) concerned shall be sanctioned with suspension from 4 to 6 matches if the latter had the material possibility of intervening during the incidents and never did so.

## **2) – Against a player – manager – coach or instructor**

Suspension from 8 matches to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

In case of subsequent offence within two years of the date of re-qualification: one-year suspension.

**N.B:** Any infringement specified in chapter 1, articles 12 to 18, committed within the confines of the stadium by any person may be sanctioned by the disciplinary body.

## **CHAPTER 2 – MANAGERS AND COACHES**

### **Article 9: Prohibitions**

1) All bans mentioned in this chapter shall entail:

a) ban on players;

b) ban on discharging any official duty, from sitting on the substitutes' bench and from having access to the dressing rooms of referees.

2) For all sanctions referred to in this chapter, the time limit for repeated offence shall be calculated from date to date – as from the effective date of the suspension – without taking into account the subsequent rest periods.

### **Article 10: Misconduct against an official, not incurring exclusion from the substitutes' bench**

#### **A – During the match:**

The official or coach at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

Call to order.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: suspension from at least 1 match.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

Any post-match misconduct whose gravity would have been sanctioned with a warning if it occurred during the match shall be penalised as follows:

- Suspension from at least 1 match.

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: suspension from at least 2 matches.

### **Article 11: Repeated misconduct against an official, incurring exclusion from the substitutes' bench**

The manager or coach at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to two months: at least one-month suspension or suspension from at least 4 matches.

## **Article 12: Excessive or abusive use of language against an official**

### **A – During the match:**

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to three months: at least one-month suspension or suspension from at least 4 matches.

### **B – Before or after the match:**

Any excessive or abusive use of language out of the field of play and whose gravity would have been sanctioned with exclusion if it were used during the said match shall be punished as follows:

- At least one-month suspension or suspension from at least 4 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to three months: at least 2-month suspension or suspension from at least 8 matches.

## **Article 13: Use of insulting language against an official**

### **A – During the match:**

The manager or coach at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least 2-month suspension or suspension from at least 8 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: at least 3-month suspension or suspension from at least 12 matches.

### **B – Before or after the match:**

- At least 3-month suspension or suspension from at least 12 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to six months: at least 4-month suspension.

## **Article 14: Threats – aggressive attitude and offensive gestures**

### **1) – Against an official**

#### **A – During the match:**

The offending manager or coach shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least 3-month suspension.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: 4-month suspension to be served fully.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- At least 4-month suspension.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: 7-month suspension to be served fully.

## **2) – Against a player – Manager – Instructor or Coach**

### **A – During the match:**

The manager, instructor or coach at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- Suspension from at least 4 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: at least 2-month suspension or suspension from at least 8 matches.

### **B – Before or after the match:**

- Suspension from at least 6 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: at least 3-month suspension or suspension from at least 12 matches.

## **Article 15: Deliberate pushing – attempted assault – spitting**

### **1) – Against an official**

#### **A – During the match:**

6-month suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

Any repeated offence during the year of re-qualification shall automatically lead to at least 1-year suspension.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- 1-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased to an additional suspended sentence depending on the circumstances of the incident.
- In case of repeated offence during the year of re-qualification: 2-year suspension to be served fully.

### **2) – Against a player – manager – instructor or coach**

#### **A – During the match:**

The manager or coach at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- At least 2-month suspension or suspension from at least 8 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: at least 3-month suspension or suspension from at least 12 matches.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- 3-month suspension or suspension from 12 matches, to be served in full, and likely to be increased to a further suspended sentence depending on the circumstances of the incident.
- In case of repeated offence during the year of re-qualification: 6-month suspension to be served fully.

## **Article 16: Deliberate assault not causing injury, duly ascertained by a medical certificate**

### **1) – Against an official**

#### **A – During the match:**

The offending manager, instructor or coach shall be sanctioned as follows:

- 2-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- Any repeated offence within two years of re-qualification: at least 5-year suspension.

The gravity of the circumstances of the wrongful act against an official shall be appraised by the Disciplinary body and shall incur, for the club of the coach(es) and manager(s) guilty of the offence, the loss of the match by a sanction (0 goal for, 3 goals against) as well as a deduction of 1 to 4 points.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- 3-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of repeated offence within two years of re-qualification: at least 6-year suspension.

The gravity of the circumstances of the wrongful act against an official shall be appraised by the Disciplinary body and shall incur, for the club of the coach(es) and manager(s) at fault, the loss of the match by a sanction (0 goal for, 3 goals against) as well as a deduction of 1 to 4 points.

### **2) – Against a player – manager or coach**

#### **A – During the match:**

The offending manager or coach shall be sanctioned as follows:

- 3-month suspension or suspension from 12 matches, to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to three months: at least 1-year suspension.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

- 6-month suspension, to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one year: at least 2-year suspension.

## **Article 17: Assault(s) causing injury, and leading to inability to work**

### **A – Against an official**

The gravity of the circumstances surrounding the wrongful act against an official shall be appraised by the disciplinary body. In any case, it shall entail, for the club or coach or manager at fault, the loss of the match by a sanction (0 goal for, 3 goals against), a minimum deduction of 5 points and a further deduction of point(s) that could possibly lead to relegation. In any case, the perpetrator of the offence shall be sanctioned as follows:

- 5-year suspension to be served in full, and likely to be increased – as per the appraisal of the facts – to a sanction that could be accompanied by a suspended sentence.
- In case of repeated offence within the year of re-qualification: lifetime ban.

### **2) – Against a player – manager or coach**

- At least 1-year suspension.

In case of repeated offence within two years: at least 2-year suspension.

## **CHAPTER 3: OFFICIALS**

### **Article 18: Misconduct against a player, manager or official**

#### **A – During the match**

The official at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- Call to order.

In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: suspension from at least 1 match.

#### **B – Before or after the match:**

The official at fault shall be sanctioned as follows:

- Suspension from at least 1 match

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: suspension from at least 2 matches.

### **Article 19: Abusive or insulting language, aggressive attitude; threat, offensive or provocative gesture(s) against a player, manager, coach or official**

#### **A – During the match**

- Suspension from at least 2 matches.

- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: at least 1-month suspension or suspension from at least 4 matches.

**B – Before or after the match:**

- At least 2-month suspension or suspension from at least 8 matches.
- In case of repeated offence within a time limit less than or equal to one month: 4-month suspension.

**Article 20: Pushing, assault and spitting at a player, manager, coach or official**

**A – During the match**

At least 6-month suspension, likely to be increased, as per the appraisal of the facts, to a sanction that may be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

**B – Before or after the match:**

At least 1-year suspension, likely to be increased - as per the appraisal of the facts - to a sanction that may be accompanied by a suspended sentence.

**PRINCE NDOKI MUKETE,  
RAPPORTEUR**

**IYA MOHAMMED,  
PRESIDENT**