



## **NZF DISCIPLINARY CODE**

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## **NZF Disciplinary Code**

### **1 Object and scope**

- 1.1 This is the NZF Disciplinary Code. This Code replaces NZF Regulation 7. All references in any NZF or Regional Association regulations to Regulation 7 shall be deemed to be reference to this Code, and any references to clauses within Regulation 7 shall be to the relevant provision within this Code.
- 1.2 This Code describes infringements of the rules in FIFA, NZF and Regional Associations regulations and codes, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organisation and function of the bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these bodies. The purpose of the Code is to ensure compliance by NZF with the Statutes and Regulations of FIFA, including ensuring that NZF has included in its Regulations the mandatory provisions as required by FIFA in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- 1.3 This Code applies to every match and competition organised by NZF or its Regional Associations. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a Match Official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of NZF or FIFA are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping. It also applies to any breach of NZF or Regional Associations regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other Judicial Body.
- 1.4 The following are subject to this Code:
  - 1.4.1 NZF;
  - 1.4.2 Regional Associations;
  - 1.4.3 Members of Regional Associations, in particular the Clubs;
  - 1.4.4 Officials;
  - 1.4.5 Players;
  - 1.4.6 Match Officials;
  - 1.4.7 Licensed match and Players' agents;
  - 1.4.8 Anyone with an authorisation from NZF, in particular with regard to a match, Competition or other event organised by NZF or a Regional Association;
  - 1.4.9 Spectators who are members of NZF.

### **2 Definitions**

- 2.1 The terms set out below are defined as follows:
  - 2.1.1 **Appeal Committee:** the Appeal Committee of NZF.
  - 2.1.2 **Club:** An Affiliated Member Club of NZF or a Regional Association, or of a Competition recognised by NZF or a Regional Association, that enters at least one team in a Competition.

- 2.1.3 **Code:** This Disciplinary Code of NZF.
- 2.1.4 **Competition:** Any competition, tournament or league administered by NZF or a Regional Association, including the pre-season, season proper, finals series and any post season tournament or knockout cup competition.
- 2.1.5 **Conclusion of the Season:** Occurs when competition matches of the Club team for which the Player normally plays have been completed.
- 2.1.6 **Disciplinary Committee:** The Disciplinary Committee of NZF.
- 2.1.7 **FIFA Regulations:** The statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.
- 2.1.8 **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 score has an effect only on the match or tournament in question.
- 2.1.9 **Judicial Body:** A body empowered by this Code or other NZF Statute, Code or Regulation to make disciplinary decisions, and includes a Competitions Administrator, a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.
- 2.1.10 **International Match:** A match between two teams belonging to different Member Associations (two Clubs, one Club and one representative team or two representative teams).
- 2.1.11 **Match Official:** The referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by NZF or a Regional Association to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
- 2.1.12 **NZF Regulations:** The Statutes and regulations of NZF.
- 2.1.13 **Match Report:** Any report submitted by a referee including a misconduct report or Match Report, including a report in the format provided in Annexure 2. For the sake of clarity, any reference to the Match Report shall include any report submitted by a Match Official.
- 2.1.14 **Match Venue:** the venue at which a football match is played, including the immediate confines, surrounds, entry and egress, and may include a stadium.
- 2.1.15 **Official Match:** A match organised under the auspices of a football organisation for all of the teams or Clubs in its sphere of operation; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
- 2.1.16 **Officials:** Anyone, with the exception of Players or Match Officials, performing an activity connected with football at an Association or Club, regardless of their 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.

- 2.1.17 **Playing Day:** The whole day (24 hour period) on which an Official Match is played. In the case of Futsal, Playing Day means one Official Match.
- 2.1.18 **Post-match:** The time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the Match Venue.
- 2.1.19 **Pre-match:** The time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the Match Venue and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.
- 2.1.20 **Regional Association Disciplinary Committee:** The Disciplinary Committee of a Regional Association.
- 2.1.21 **Working Day:** Monday to Friday of each week, excluding public holidays and the period from 24 December to 5 January each year.
- 2.2 Definitions contained in the Definitions section in the NZF Statutes apply to terms used in this Code.
- 2.3 Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

## **CHAPTER I: Disciplinary measures**

### **3 General**

- 3.1 Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently.
- 3.2 Exceptionally, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral territory or a certain stadium or Match Venue may be banned purely for safety reasons, without an infringement having been committed.
- 3.3 Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the Judicial Body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.
- 3.4 Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. The Judicial 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.

### **4 Sanctions common to natural and legal persons**

- 4.1 Both natural and legal persons are punishable by the following sanctions:
- 4.1.1 warning;
- 4.1.2 reprimand;
- 4.1.3 fine;
- 4.1.4 return of awards.

## **5 Sanctions applicable to natural persons**

5.1 The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:

- 5.1.1 caution;
- 5.1.2 expulsion;
- 5.1.3 match suspension;
- 5.1.4 ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
- 5.1.5 ban from entering a stadium or attending a Match Venue;
- 5.1.6 ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

## **6 Sanctions applicable to legal persons**

6.1 The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:

- 6.1.1 transfer ban;
- 6.1.2 playing a match without spectators;
- 6.1.3 playing a match on neutral territory;
- 6.1.4 ban on playing at a particular Match Venue;
- 6.1.5 annulment of the result of a match;
- 6.1.6 expulsion;
- 6.1.7 forfeit;
- 6.1.8 deduction of points;
- 6.1.9 relegation to a lower division.

## **7 Warning/Reprimand**

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

7.2 A reprimand is an official written pronouncement of disapproval sent to the person responsible for an infringement.

## **8 Fine**

8.1 A fine issued shall not be less than \$25. In the case of youth Competitions (as these are defined in Regional Association competition regulations), Players will be exempt from fines incurred as a result of receiving a yellow or red card.

8.2 The Judicial Body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.

8.3 Unless otherwise provided for in this Code, Clubs are jointly and severally liable for fines imposed on Players and Officials. The fact that a natural person has left a Club does not cancel out joint liability.

## **9 Return of awards**

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

## **10 Caution**

10.1 A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a Player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).

10.2 Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next Playing Day (cf. provision 11.4). The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.

10.3 Unless otherwise specified in the relevant Competition Regulations a Player accumulating the number of single cautions below in the same Season shall automatically receive the corresponding Playing Day(s) suspension. The Player shall be suspended from all football until the team for which the Player received the majority of the cautions has played the required number of Playing Days or matches:

10.3.1 five single cautions shall result in a one Playing Day suspension;

10.3.2 a further two single cautions (seven in total) shall result in an additional Playing Day suspension; and

10.3.3 a further two single cautions (nine in total) shall result in a further Playing Day suspension.

10.4 A Player accumulating a total of ten cautions in the same Season shall be required to appear before the relevant Disciplinary Committee. The relevant Disciplinary Committee may impose a further sanction which may be one or all of a reprimand; a fine; a suspension.

10.5 The Regional Association shall forthwith, on receipt of the fifth, seventh and ninth caution, notify the Player's Club in writing that the Player has received the fifth, seventh or ninth caution and that they are suspended in accordance with the above provisions.

10.6 Clubs and Players shall be deemed to have knowledge of their disciplinary records and failure to receive notification pursuant to provision 10.5 shall not be a defence or excuse for not observing the mandatory period of suspension.

10.7 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 are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.

10.8 Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

- 10.9 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 they have previously received in the same match is upheld.

## **11 Expulsion**

- 11.1 An expulsion (i.e. sending off) is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless they are serving a Match Venue ban.
- 11.2 Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
- 11.3 An Official who has been sent off may, prior to leaving the field of play and its surroundings, give instructions to the person replacing them on the substitutes' bench. They shall, however, ensure that they do not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
- 11.4 An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled and/or forfeited. The relevant Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

## **12 Match suspension**

- 12.1 A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or matches and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- 12.2 An Official who is suspended in the application of provision 12.1 is automatically banned from the dressing rooms in accordance with provision 13.1.
- 12.3 A suspension is imposed in terms of Playing Days, matches or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four Playing Days, twenty-four matches or twenty-four months.
- 12.4 If the suspension imposed is expressed in terms of Playing Days or number of matches, the suspension shall continue until the team that the suspended person was playing or otherwise involved with when the suspension was imposed has played on each of the required number of Playing Days, or played each of the matches, unless otherwise specified in the Competition's regulations. Only those matches actually played count towards the serving of a suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of provision 37), a suspension is only 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.
- 12.5 A Player's suspension from one Competition does not preclude a non playing participation in another Competition. For example a Player under suspension in one Competition would not, unless determined as a consequence of the relevant Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee decision, be precluded from coaching, refereeing or managing another team in another Competition.
- 12.6 Under no circumstances can a Player avoid a suspension either by transfer or by changing age group or Competition.

12.7 A match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a match is retroactively forfeited because a Player took part in a match despite being ineligible (provision 34). This also applies to the match suspension imposed on the Player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.

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

### **13 Other disciplinary sanctions**

13.1 **Ban from dressing rooms/substitutes benches:** A ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' benches deprives someone of the right to enter a team's dressing rooms and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench.

13.2 **Match Venue ban:** A Match Venue ban prohibits someone from entering the confines of one or several Match Venues or precinct of a Match Venue.

13.3 **Ban from taking part in football-related activity:** A person may be banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (administrative, sports or any other). Where a sine die suspension is imposed such suspension must be for a minimum period of one year and must, within 5 working days of final determination, be advised in writing to NZF. A sine die suspension may only be lifted by the Disciplinary Committee.

13.4 **Transfer ban:** A transfer ban prevents a Club from registering any Player during the period in question.

13.5 **Playing a match without spectators:** The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires a Regional Association or a Club to have a certain match played without spectators.

13.6 **Playing a match on neutral ground:** The obligation to play a match on neutral ground requires a Regional Association or a Club to have a certain match played in another Match Venue.

13.7 **Ban on playing in a particular Match Venue:** A ban on playing in a certain Match Venue deprives a Regional Association or a Club of the right to have its team play in a certain Match Venue.

13.8 **Annulment of match result:** The result of a match is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

13.9 **Expulsion from a Competition:** Expulsion is the deprivation of the right of a Regional Association or a Club to take part in the current and/or a future Competition.

13.10 **Relegation:** A Club may be relegated to a lower division.

13.11 **Deduction of points:** A Club may have points deducted in the current or a future Competition.

13.12 **Forfeit:** A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three, the result on the pitch is upheld.

#### **14 Replay of a match**

- 14.1 A match may be replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which a Regional Association or a Club is liable.

#### **15 Combined sanctions**

- 15.1 Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in this Code may be combined.

#### **16 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions**

- 16.1 The Judicial Body that pronounces a match suspension (cf. provision 12), a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench (cf. provision 13.1), a ban on taking part in any football-related activity (cf. provision 13.3), the obligation to play a match without spectators (cf. provision 13.5), the obligation to play a match on neutral ground (cf. provision 13.6) or a ban on playing in a certain Match Venue (cf. provision 13.7) may consider whether to suspend partially the implementation of the sanction (also known as a good behaviour bond).
- 16.2 Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six Playing Days, six matches or six months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
- 16.3 The Judicial Body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
- 16.4 By suspending implementation of the sanction, the Judicial Body subjects the suspended person to a probationary period of anything from six months to two years.
- 16.5 If the suspended person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.
- 16.6 Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this provision is not applicable [*c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 33.6, mandatory*].

#### **17 Centralisation of sanctions**

- 17.1 Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in GOALNET.
- 17.2 Regional Associations shall:
- 17.2.1 Enter records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions into GOALNET; and
- 17.2.2 Forthwith notify the relevant Club concerned of any cautions, expulsions and match suspensions.
- 17.3 Sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the confirmation reaches the Players or Club, or is recorded, later, or not at all.

- 17.4 To ensure that the relevant records are complete, Regional Associations shall inform NZF of all sanctions that have been pronounced during their own Competitions and which are likely to be carried over to a NZF Competition or future Competitions organised by NZF, and vice versa.

## **18 Carrying over cautions**

- 18.1 At the Conclusion of the Season all single cautions accumulated by any Player shall not be carried forward into the following Season.

## **19 Carrying over match suspensions**

- 19.1 As a general rule, every match suspension (of Players and other persons) is served in the Competition in which it was imposed, except:

19.1.1 where the next match is a cup competition match, the suspension will be served in that cup competition match; or

19.1.2 where the match suspension is imposed in a cup competition match, the suspension will be served in the next Competition match.

- 19.2 Any period of suspension which remains outstanding at the Conclusion of the Season shall be carried over into the following Season to be served during the Competition in which it was imposed. Suspensions imposed during a Competition subject to an age limit shall be carried over to the next Official Match in the same age group. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the Competition with the next highest age category.

- 19.3 Notwithstanding provisions 19.1 and 19.2, a match suspension may carry over into another Competition if that Competitions regulations provide for this to occur.

- 19.4 If a suspension carried over at the Conclusion of the Season shall extraordinarily disadvantage the Player in the following season, the Player may appeal to the relevant Disciplinary Committee for that Judicial Body to determine the Competition in which the remaining suspension is to be served. In all cases, due consideration shall be given to:

19.4.1 the schedule of Official Matches in the following season; and

19.4.2 the teams that the suspended Player primarily plays for; and

19.4.3 the sporting integrity of the relevant Competitions.

- 19.5 Provision 19 likewise applies to suspensions pronounced against persons other than Players.

## **20 Determining the Sanction**

- 20.1 The Judicial Body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of the sanction.

- 20.2 Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or Competition.

- 20.3 The Judicial Body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.

## **21 Repeated infringements**

- 21.1 Unless otherwise specified, the Judicial Body may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
- 21.2 These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated anti-doping rule violations.

## **22 Concurrent infringements**

- 22.1 If several fines are pronounced against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the relevant Judicial 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.
- 22.2 The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more Match Venue bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.
- 22.3 The Judicial Body that determines the fine in accordance with provision 22.1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine.

## **23 Limitation period for prosecution**

- 23.1 Anti-doping rule violations may not be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed. [*c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 42.2, mandatory*]

## **CHAPTER II: Infringements of the laws of the game**

### **24 Minor infringements**

- 24.1 A Player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and provision 10 of this Code):
- 24.1.1 unsporting behaviour;
  - 24.1.2 dissent by word or action;
  - 24.1.3 persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
  - 24.1.4 delaying the restart of play;
  - 24.1.5 failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
  - 24.1.6 entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
  - 24.1.7 deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
- 24.2 Where a Player is cautioned (yellow card) in terms of the Laws of the Game, the Player or the Player's Club shall be liable to a fine of \$25 in respect of each single caution received unless otherwise specified in the Competition Regulations. The primary responsibility for the payment of a fine rests with the Player's Club and, the Club may, at its discretion pay the fine

on the Player's behalf. All fines will be imposed and retained by the Player's Regional Association or NZF where appropriate.

## **25 Serious infringements**

25.1 A Player is sent off if they commit any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game):

25.1.1 serious foul play (offence codes R1, R2, or R3);

25.1.2 violent conduct (offence code R11);

25.1.3 spitting at an opponent or any other person (offence code R4);

25.1.4 denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within their own penalty area) (offence code R6);

25.1.5 denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the Player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick (offence code R5);

25.1.6 using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (offence code R7 or R8);

25.1.7 receiving a second caution in the same match (provision 10.2) (offence code R9).

25.2 Where a Player is sent off in accordance with provisions 25.1.2 and/or 25.1.3, the Match Official must complete an Match Report and send it to the relevant Regional Association.

25.3 Where a Player has received a second caution, and in addition to being sent off and receiving the suspension specified in provision 10.2 above, the Player or the Player's Club shall be fined \$75 unless otherwise specified in the Competition Regulations. The primary responsibility for the payment of a fine rests with the Player's Club and, the Club may, at its discretion pay the fine on the Player's behalf. All fines will be imposed by the Player's Regional Association or NZF where appropriate.

## **26 Misconduct against opponents or persons other than Match Officials**

26.1 Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with provision 11.4, any recipient of a direct red card for misconduct against opponents or persons other than Match Officials shall be suspended as follows:

26.1.1 at least one Playing Day for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);

26.1.2 at least two Playing Days for violent conduct (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;

26.1.3 at least six Playing Days for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;

- 26.1.4 one Playing Day for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
- 26.1.5 at least one Playing Day for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official (including using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures);
- 26.2 Where a Player has been sent off for such misconduct, and in addition to the periods of suspension specified above, the Player or the Player's Club shall be fined \$75 (inclusive of administration levies and GST where applicable) unless otherwise specified in the Competition Regulations. This fine is in addition to and not in substitution for any fine received for an earlier caution in the same match unless otherwise specified in the Competition Regulations.
- 26.3 The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with provision 59.4.2.

## **27 Misconduct against Match Officials**

- 27.1 Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with provision 11.4, any recipient of a direct red card for misconduct against Match Officials shall be:
- 27.1.1 at least four Playing Days for unsporting conduct (including but not limited to using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures) towards a Match Official (offence code R13);
- 27.1.2 at least six months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a Match Official (offence code R14);
- 27.1.3 at least 12 months for spitting at a Match Official.
- 27.2 A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
- 27.3 Where a Player is sent off in accordance with provisions 27.1, the Match Official must complete a Match Report and send it to the relevant Regional Association.
- 27.4 The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with provision 59.4.2.

## **28 Other Misconduct**

- 28.1 Where a Player commits a second or subsequent sending off offence in the same game (Offence code R12) then:
- 28.1.1 the Player shall be automatically suspended until such time as the relevant Disciplinary Committee has met and a final decision conveyed;
- 28.1.2 the Player may be required to attend in person a meeting of the relevant Disciplinary Committee; and
- 28.1.3 the Player shall observe such penalties which may be imposed by the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 28.2 Where a Player is sent off in accordance with provisions 28.1, the Match Official must complete a Referee Report and send it to the relevant Regional Association.

28.3 Where a person has been cited for behaving in an irresponsible manner (Offence code R10) then the person shall observe such penalties which may be imposed by the relevant Disciplinary Committee.

## **29 Brawl**

29.1 Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six Playing Days. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

## **30 Unidentified aggressors**

30.1 If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the person(s) responsible, the Judicial Body may sanction the Club or Regional Association to which the aggressors belong.

## **31 Team misconduct**

31.1 Disciplinary measures may be imposed on Regional Associations and Clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:

31.1.1 a fine may be imposed where the referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion);

31.1.2 a fine of at least \$200 may be imposed where several Players or Officials from the same team threaten or harass Match Officials or other persons. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences.

## **32 Inciting hatred and violence**

32.1 A Player or Official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than twelve months and with a minimum fine of \$200.

32.2 In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio, television or the internet) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a Match Venue, the minimum fine will be \$200.

## **33 Provoking the general public**

33.1 Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for two Playing Days and sanctioned with a minimum fine of \$200.

## **34 Ineligibility**

34.1 If a person takes part in an Official Match despite being ineligible, their team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of \$25.

34.2 If a person takes part in a Friendly Match despite being ineligible, their team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of \$25.

### **35 Unplayed match and abandonment**

- 35.1 If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which a Regional Association or a Club is liable, the Regional Association or the Club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of \$200. The match will either be forfeited (cf. provision 13.12) or replayed (cf. provision 14).
- 35.2 In serious cases, additional sanctions pursuant to provision 6 may be imposed on the Regional Association or Club concerned.

### **36 Offensive behaviour and fair play**

- 36.1 Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions.

### **37 Discrimination [c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 58, mandatory]**

- 37.1 Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five Playing Days. If the person responsible is a Match Official then the period of suspension will be for at least eight Playing Days. Furthermore, a Match Venue ban and a fine of at least \$200 shall be imposed. If the person responsible is an Official, the fine shall be at least \$500.
- 37.2 Where several persons (Officials and/or Players) from the same Club or Regional Association simultaneously breach provision 37.1) or there are other aggravating circumstances, the team concerned may be deducted three points for a first offence and six points for a second offence; a further offence may result in relegation to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the Competition.
- 37.3 Where supporters of a team breach provision 37.1 at a match, a fine of at least \$200 shall be imposed on the Regional Association or Club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
- 37.4 Serious offences may be punished with additional sanctions, in particular an order to play a match behind closed doors, the forfeit of a match, a points deduction or disqualification from the Competition.
- 37.5 Spectators who breach provision 37.1 shall receive a Match Venue ban of at least two years.

### **38 Threats**

- 38.1 Anyone who intimidates a Match Official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least \$500 and a Playing Day suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from provision 15, in that they may not be combined with others.

### **39 Coercion**

- 39.1 Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder them in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least \$500 and a Playing Day suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from provision 15, in that they may not be combined with others.

#### **40 Forgery and falsification**

- 40.1 Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document will be sanctioned with a fine.
- 40.2 If the person responsible is a Player, a suspension of at least six matches will be pronounced.
- 40.3 If the person responsible is an Official, a Players' agent or a match agent, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least twelve months will be pronounced.
- 40.4 A Regional Association may be held liable for an infringement as defined in provision 40.1 committed by one of its officials and/or Players. In such a case, an expulsion from a Competition may be pronounced in addition to a fine for the Association concerned.
- 40.5 A Club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in provision 40.1 committed by one of its Officials and/or Players. In such a case, an expulsion from a Competition and/or a transfer ban may be pronounced in addition to a fine for the Club concerned.

#### **41 Corruption**

- 41.1 Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a Judicial Body of NZF or a Regional Association, a Match Official, a Player or an Official on behalf of themselves or a third party in an attempt to incite it or them to violate the regulations of FIFA or NZF will be sanctioned in accordance with the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations.

#### **42 Doping** *[c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 63, mandatory]*

- 42.1 Doping is prohibited. Doping and anti-doping rule violations are defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations and sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations.

#### **43 Failure to respect decisions** *[c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 64, mandatory]*

- 43.1 Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a Player, a coach or a Club) or NZF or Regional Association a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a Judicial Body, a committee or an instance of FIFA or a subsequent CAS appeal decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a Judicial Body, a committee or an instance of NZF or a Regional Association, or by CAS (subsequent appeal decision):

43.1.1 will be fined for failing to comply with a decision;

43.1.2 will be granted a final deadline by the Judicial Bodies of NZF and the Regional Association in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the (non-financial) decision;

43.1.3 (only for Clubs:) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, points will be deducted or relegation to a lower division ordered. A transfer ban may also be pronounced;

- 43.1.4 (only for Regional Associations) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, further disciplinary measures will be imposed. An expulsion from an NZF or Regional Association Competition may also be pronounced.
- 43.2 If a Club disregards the final time limit, NZF or the Regional Association shall implement the sanctions threatened.
- 43.3 If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
- 43.4 A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.
- 43.5 Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this provision shall be lodged with the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 43.6 Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a Club by a court of arbitration within New Zealand shall be enforced by NZF or the deciding Judicial Body that has pronounced the decision in accordance with the principles established in this Code and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations.
- 43.7 Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a natural person by a court of arbitration within New Zealand shall be enforced by NZF or by the natural person's new member Association if the natural person has in the meantime registered (or otherwise signed a contract in the case of a coach) with a Club affiliated to another member Association, in accordance with the principles established in this Code and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary provisions.

#### **44 Penalties for Non-Compliance with this Code**

- 44.1 Any Regional Association, Club or Match Official who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Code may be fined by NZF up to \$500 for each act of non-compliance.

### **CHAPTER III. Responsibilities of Clubs and Associations**

#### **45 Organisation of matches**

- 45.1 Regional Associations that organise matches shall:
- 45.1.1 assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify NZF of those that are especially high-risk;
  - 45.1.2 comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA Regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
  - 45.1.3 ensure the safety of Match Officials, Players and Officials of the visiting team during their stay;
  - 45.1.4 keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
  - 45.1.5 ensure that law and order are maintained in the Match Venues and immediate surroundings and that matches are organised properly.

#### **46 Failure to comply**

- 46.1 Any Regional Association that fails to fulfil its obligations in accordance with provision 45 shall be fined.
- 46.2 In the case of a serious infringement of provision 45, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground.
- 46.3 The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (cf. provision 3.2).

#### **47 Liability for spectator conduct**

- 47.1 The home Regional 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 disturbances.
- 47.2 The visiting Regional Association or visiting Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
- 47.3 Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
- 47.4 The liability described in provisions 47.1 and 47.2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final Competitions.

#### **48 Other obligations**

- 48.1 Regional Associations or Clubs, as relevant, shall also:
  - 48.1.1 actively vet the age of Players for Competitions that are subject to age limits;
  - 48.1.2 take reasonable steps to ensure that no-one is involved in the management of Clubs or the Regional Association itself 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.

#### **49 Unlawfully influencing match results**

- 49.1 Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics will be sanctioned in accordance with the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations.

## **CHAPTER IV: ORGANISATION AND PROCEDURE**

### **50 General rules as to jurisdiction**

- 50.1 NZF is responsible for imposing sanctions against infringements in relation to Competitions organised by NZF and in relation to other activity within NZF's jurisdiction except as expressed in the relevant Competition Regulations.
- 50.2 Regional Associations are responsible for imposing sanctions against infringements in relation to Competitions organised by the Regional Association and in relation to other activity within the Regional Association's jurisdiction.
- 50.3 NZF and the Regional Associations shall each appoint a Competition Administrator, who is responsible for imposing sanctions against infringements within their jurisdiction and/or for determining that the matter should proceed before the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 50.4 The Judicial Bodies of NZF reserve the right to sanction serious infringements if Regional Associations fail to prosecute serious infringements or fail to prosecute in compliance with NZF Statutes and regulations, or NZF otherwise requires.

### **51 Friendly matches between two representative teams**

- 51.1 Any disciplinary action to be taken in relation to Friendly Matches between two teams from different Regional Associations is the responsibility of that Regional Association to which the sanctioned Player belongs. However, in serious cases, the NZF Disciplinary Committee may intervene ex officio.
- 51.2 The Regional Associations shall inform NZF of the sanctions pronounced.

### **52 Referee**

- 52.1 During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee. Subject to the provisions of provision 59.4.3 these decisions are final.
- 52.2 Where an offence has occurred the referee shall submit to the offending Player's Regional Association, or NZF for any match under NZF jurisdiction, a copy of the Match Report, in the form provided in Annexure 2, or otherwise required by NZF, within three working days of the match. The report can be forwarded in paper or electronic format and must contain all information required by NZF.
- 52.3 Where a Match Report is not received within the set time period, the local Regional Association or NZF, where appropriate, may receive and action the Match Report provided the Player has not been prejudiced by the delay.
- 52.4 When a Player is ordered from the field, the Player will automatically be under suspension until the appropriate penalty is assessed from the Match Report. In the event that no Match Report is received then the Player who has been sent off will be suspended for the next Playing Day.

### **53 Judicial Bodies**

- 53.1 The Judicial Bodies of NZF are the NZF Competition Administrator, the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee and the Ethics Committee.

- 53.2 The Judicial Bodies of the Regional Associations are the Regional Associations Competition Administrators and the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee.

## **CHAPTER V: JURISDICTIONS**

### **54 Register of cautions**

- 54.1 NZF or the Regional Association where appropriate shall maintain a register of cautions, sanctions and/or suspensions in respect of every person for whom a Match Report has been received.

### **55 Competition Administrators jurisdiction**

- 55.1 The Competition Administrator of NZF or the Regional Association, as is relevant, will receive and review Match Reports. They will provide a copy of each Match Report to the relevant Player and/or the Club.
- 55.2 Where a Match Report sets out an offence for which there is a fixed sanction, the Competition Administrator will pronounce that sanction and notify the Player and/or Club of that sanction.
- 55.3 Where a Match Report sets out an offence for which there is a discretion as to sanction, or where the Competition Administrator becomes aware of conduct otherwise in breach of this Code, the Competition Administrator, acting in accordance with this Code, is authorised to impose the minimum sanctions and/or fine as relevant to the offence.
- 55.4 The Competitions Administrator may, instead of imposing the minimum sanction, decide that the matter will be determined by the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee (as is relevant), in which case the Competition Administrator will refer the matter to the Chairperson of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee or Disciplinary Committee (as is relevant), and advise the affected parties accordingly. There is no right of appeal from the decision to refer a matter to the relevant Disciplinary Committee.
- 55.5 Appeals from decisions of a Regional Association Competition Administrator are to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee and the provisions as to appeals shall apply. Appeals from decisions of the NZF Competition Administrator are to the Disciplinary Committee and the provisions as to appeals shall apply.

### **56 Party's right to have matter considered by Disciplinary Committee/Regional Association Disciplinary Committee**

- 56.1 Notwithstanding the powers of the Competition Administrator in provision 55, a person who is alleged to have breached this Code may request that a matter be considered directly by the Disciplinary Committee or the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, as appropriate, as the Judicial Body of first instance, where:

56.1.1 They allege that there has been a case of mistaken identity; or

56.1.2 They have been suspended for more than four Playing Days.

## **57 Regional Associations Disciplinary Committee jurisdictions**

- 57.1 The jurisdictions contained in provisions 58 and 59 below shall apply to Regional Association Disciplinary Committees in relation to determinations of sanctions against infringements in relation to Competitions organised by the Regional Association and other activity within the Regional Association's jurisdiction.
- 57.2 The composition of a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of the relevant Regional Association.
- 57.3 Appeals from a decision of a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall be to the Disciplinary Committee and the provisions as to appeals shall apply.

## **58 Disciplinary Committee Jurisdiction**

- 58.1 The Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of NZF Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another Judicial Body.
- 58.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall determine such penalty as it deems suitable, subject to the minimum suspension relevant to the offence.
- 58.3 If any person fails to attend the meeting of a Disciplinary Committee then such case may be dealt with in their absence. The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the person of its decision in writing.
- 58.4 The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:
- 58.4.1 Determining sanctions at levels above the jurisdiction of the Competition Administrator;
  - 58.4.2 Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;
  - 58.4.3 Rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
  - 58.4.4 Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion.
- 58.5 For there to have been an obvious error in the referee's disciplinary decision pursuant to provision 58.4.3 above:
- 58.5.1 A disciplinary decision to issue a yellow card or a red card must have been made by the Referee; and
  - 58.5.2 The decision must clearly have been a wrong decision, for instance a correct decision against the wrong Player, or mistaken identity; and
  - 58.5.3 It must not have been a discretionary decision by a Referee as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or red card.
- 58.6 Appeals from a decision of a Disciplinary Committee shall be to the Appeal Committee and the provisions as to appeals shall apply.

## **59 Jurisdiction of the Chairperson ruling alone**

- 59.1 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
- 59.1.1 Suspend a person for up to three Playing Days or three matches or for up to two months;
  - 59.1.2 Pronounce a fine of up to \$250;
  - 59.1.3 Rule on extending a sanction;
  - 59.1.4 Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee; and/or
  - 59.1.5 Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.
- 59.2 Notwithstanding the above jurisdiction, the Chairperson may instead refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee, and convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.

## **60 Appeal Committee**

- 60.1 The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that NZF Regulations do not declare as final or referable to another Judicial Body.
- 60.2 The Chairperson of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:
- 60.2.1 decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction;
  - 60.2.2 resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
  - 60.2.3 rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - 60.2.4 pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.
- 60.3 Notwithstanding the above jurisdiction, the Chairperson may instead refer the matter to the Appeal Committee.
- 60.4 Appeals to the Appeal Committee are by way of a rehearing and the Appeal Committee may substitute its decision for that of the Disciplinary Committee in its discretion.

## **CHAPTER VI: JUDICIAL BODIES GENERAL**

### **61 Composition**

- 61.1 The Executive Committee appoints the members of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee for a period of four years. It designates the number of members deemed necessary for the committees to function properly.
- 61.2 The Executive Committee appoints the Chairperson of each committee from among the members for the same period of four years.

61.3 The Disciplinary Committee will convoke a plenary session to designate two deputy Chairpersons from among the members present by a simple majority for the same period of four years. The candidates are not entitled to vote. The Chairperson of the Appeal Committee shall appoint a deputy Chairperson.

61.4 The Chairperson of each committee shall have legal qualifications.

61.5 Each Judicial Body may appoint a secretary who may be present during meetings and deliberations, to take minutes or perform other relevant duties.

## **62 Committee Meetings**

62.1 A quorum for the purposes of Disciplinary Committee meetings shall be three members. The Disciplinary Committee may allow attendance at its meetings via telephone conference, videoconference, email or any other similar method and may conduct its deliberations using these methods.

62.2 A quorum for the purpose of Appeal Committee meetings shall be three members. The Appeal Committee may conduct its meetings via telephone conference, videoconference, email or any other similar method.

62.3 The Chairperson conducts the meetings and delivers the decisions which this Code empowers them to take.

62.4 If the Chairperson is prevented from attending, the deputy Chairperson replaces them. If the deputy Chairperson is prevented from attending, the longest-serving member replaces them.

## **63 Independence**

63.1 The Judicial Bodies pass their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other Judicial Body.

63.2 The Judicial Bodies shall determine who may be present during their deliberations.

63.3 The members of the Judicial Bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee, or a standing committee of NZF or a Regional Association.

63.4 Subject to any particular requirements in this Code, Judicial Bodies are entitled to set their own procedures.

## **64 Withdrawal**

64.1 Members of a Judicial Body must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality. Failure to decline may result in the member being stood down from participation in the meeting by the Chairperson. If the member concerned is the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson may stand the Chairperson down.

64.2 This applies in the following cases (among others):

64.2.1 if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;

64.2.2 if the member is associated with any of the parties;

64.2.3 if the member has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.

64.3 Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the Chairperson immediately. The parties involved may also raise an objection to a member they believe to be biased or unable to be impartial.

64.4 The Chairperson shall decide on any such claim of bias. If the member concerned is the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall decide on any such claim of bias.

64.5 Proceedings that have involved someone whom the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

## **65 Confidentiality**

65.1 The members of the Judicial Bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts of the case, contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).

65.2 Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public.

## **66 Exemption from liability**

66.1 Except in the case of gross culpability, the members of the Judicial Bodies are not liable for any acts or omissions relating to the discharge of their duties.

## **CHAPTER VII: JUDICIAL BODIES' PROCESSES**

### **67 Time Limits**

67.1 Where a time limit is imposed in or pursuant to this Code, it must be complied with no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.

67.2 Parties are permitted to observe time limits by sending electronic mail.

67.3 In the case of appeals, the appeal fee (cf. provision 88) is considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to NZF or the Regional Association's account (as relevant) by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

### **68 Evidence**

68.1 A Judicial Body may receive any evidence that it thinks fit whether or not it is otherwise admissible in a court of law.

68.2 The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, Match Officials, match commissioners and referee inspectors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and audio or video recordings.

### **69 Match Officials' reports**

69.1 Facts contained in Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.

69.2 Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.

69.3 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 Match 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.

## **70 Proof in anti-doping rule violations**

70.1 In the case of an anti-doping rule violation, it is incumbent upon the suspect to produce the proof necessary to reduce or cancel a sanction. For sanctions to be reduced, the suspect must also prove how the prohibited substance entered their body. *[c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 99.2, mandatory]*

## **71 Representation**

71.1 The parties may have legal representation.

## **72 Notification of decisions**

72.1 All of the parties are notified of the decision of the Judicial Body. NZF shall also be notified of all decisions of Judicial Bodies and may in its discretion make them publicly available.

72.2 The Judicial Body may make copies of its decisions available to the relevant Match Official, in its discretion.

72.3 Decisions and other documents intended for Players, Clubs and Officials are addressed to the Regional Association or Club concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned.

72.4 If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Doping decisions passed by the Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). FIFA will announce anti-doping rule violations within 30 days *[c.f. FIFA Disciplinary Code, article 102.3, mandatory]*.

## **73 Obvious errors**

73.1 A Judicial Body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors at any time.

## **74 Costs and expenses**

74.1 A Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, or the Appeals Committee may at its discretion award that costs and expenses of the proceedings be paid by the unsuccessful party. If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several parties.

## **75 Enforcement of decisions**

75.1 Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated. Communication may be by way of telephone, email, post or in person.

## **CHAPTER VIII: DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES**

### **76 General**

76.1 The powers and processes of the Disciplinary Committee in this Chapter shall also be the powers and processes of a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee as appropriate. The powers and processes of a Competition Administrator in this Chapter shall also be the powers and processes of a Regional Association Competition Administrator as appropriate.

### **77 Commencement of proceedings**

77.1 Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio.

77.2 Any person or body may report conduct that they or it considers incompatible with the Statutes or Regulations of NZF or the Regional Associations to the Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee. Such complaints shall be made in writing within 5 working days or the timeframe specified in the Competition Regulations, whichever is the earliest.

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

### **78 Provision of information by the parties**

78.1 The parties are obliged to provide information to the Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee in order to assist with establishment of the facts. Parties shall comply with requests for information from a Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee within the timeframe specified.

78.2 If the parties do not respond within the timeframe specified, the Competition Administrator or the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine of up to \$100.

### **79 Oral statements, principles and procedure**

79.1 Decisions of the Competition Administrator are made on the basis of the file.

79.2 Subject to the right to elect a hearing contained in this provision decisions of the Disciplinary Committee are made on the basis of the file.

79.3 A person or Club wishing to be heard in person by the Disciplinary Committee shall within three working days of the Club's receipt of the Match Report (identifying the issue to be considered) or notification that the Competition Administrator has referred the incident in accordance with provision 55.4, request NZF or the Regional Association, in writing, to convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee. Such request must clearly state the reasons for the hearing.

79.4 The costs of attendance at the Disciplinary Committee shall be met by the individual concerned. The person however may attend by teleconference or videoconference in accordance with provision 62. The person concerned may be accompanied by a support person who may be an Official of their Club who may give evidence or make a plea on behalf of that person.

### **80 Passing the decision**

80.1 Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.

80.2 Every member present shall vote. If votes are equal, the chair has the casting vote.

### **81 Form and contents of the decision**

81.1 Without prejudice to the application of provision 82 below, decisions will contain:

81.1.1 the composition of the committee;

81.1.2 the names of the parties;

81.1.3 a brief summary of the facts;

81.1.4 the grounds of the decision;

81.1.5 the provisions on which the decision was based;

81.1.6 the terms of the decision;

81.1.7 notice of the channels for appeal.

81.2 The decisions are signed by the Chairperson. This may be by way of electronic signature.

### **82 Decisions without grounds**

82.1 The Disciplinary Committee may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. Should this occur, then at the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have five working days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding.

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

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

### **83 Proceedings before the Chairperson acting alone**

83.1 The rules governing the Disciplinary Committee and the Regional Association Disciplinary Committees apply in the same way whenever the Chairperson decides alone, except that where a Chairperson acts alone the determination will be made on the basis of the file.

## **CHAPTER IX: APPEALS**

### **84 Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee**

84.1 An appeal may be lodged with the Disciplinary Committee against any decision passed by a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is:

84.1.1 a suspension for fewer than three Playing Days or three matches or of up to two months; and/or

84.1.2 a fine of up to \$1,000.

84.2 An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is:

84.2.1 a suspension for fewer than three Playing Days or three matches or of up to two months; and/or

84.2.2 a fine of up to \$1,000.

## **85 Eligibility to appeal**

85.1 Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance Judicial Body may lodge an appeal.

## **86 Time limit for appeal**

86.1 Any party intending to appeal must inform the Judicial Body appealed to of its intention to do so in writing within seven working days of notification of the decision, including reasons for the appeal.

86.2 If these requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.

86.3 The party appealing shall forward a copy immediately to the relevant Competition Administrator.

## **87 Grounds for appeal**

87.1 Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee or Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall be by way of rehearing. The provisions as to oral statements in provision 79 apply.

87.2 Appeals to the Appeal Committee shall be by way of rehearing. There are no oral statements and the Appeal Committee decides on the basis of the file.

## **88 Appeal in writing**

88.1 Appeals shall be submitted in writing.

88.2 The appeal shall include the reasons for the appeal and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or their representative.

## **89 Appeal fee**

89.1 Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer the appeal fee to the bank account of NZF or the relevant Regional Association before expiry of the time limit for submitting the reasons for appeal.

89.2 Appeal fees are:

89.2.1 For appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, \$125 plus GST.

89.2.2 For appeals to the Disciplinary Committee, \$250 plus GST.

89.2.3 For appeals to the Appeal Committee, \$500 plus GST.

89.3 If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal will not be heard.

89.4 This amount may be reimbursed in whole or in part to the successful appellant.

## **90 Effects of appeal**

90.1 An appeal does not operate as a stay of the earlier decision, except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

## **91 Appeals from the Appeal Committee**

91.1 Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee may be appealed to the Sports Tribunal NZ or to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, as specified in the NZF Statutes.

## **CHAPTER X: SPECIAL PROCESSES**

### **92 Provisional measures**

92.1 If a decision by a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or the Appeal Committee cannot be taken early enough, the Chairperson of the relevant Judicial Body may, under urgency, provisionally pronounce, alter or revoke a sanction.

92.2 In similar circumstances, the Chairperson may take other provisional measures at their discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.

92.3 The Chairperson will take action upon request or ex officio.

92.4 The Chairperson shall make their decision based on the evidence available at the time. They are not obliged to hear the parties.

92.5 The Chairperson delivers their decision immediately. That decision is implemented immediately.

### **93 Duration of provisional measures**

93.1 Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than 20 working days. This period may be extended only once by 15 working days.

93.2 If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

### **94 Appeal against decision on provisional measures**

94.1 An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged with the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee.

94.2 The time limit for lodging the appeal is two working days commencing from the communication of the decision.

94.3 The appeal shall be sent direct to NZF within the same time limit.

94.4 The appeal shall not stay the effect of the decision appealed from.

## **95 Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting**

95.1 The Judicial Body may in its discretion arrange for deliberations and decision-taking to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference, email or any other similar method.

## **96 Review**

96.1 A review may be requested after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.

96.2 A request for review shall be made within five working days of discovering the reasons for review. A request for review shall be to the Judicial Body that made the original decision.

96.3 The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the enforcement of the decision.

## **97 Adoption and enforcement**

97.1 The NZF Executive Committee adopted this Code on **12 March 2015**

97.2 This Code comes into force on **12 March 2015**

## ANNEXURE 1 – CAUTION AND SEND OFF CODES

### CAUTION CODES

- Y1 Unsporting Behaviour - Reckless foul
- Y2 Unsporting Behaviour - Handball
- Y3 Unsporting Behaviour - Holding an opponent
- Y4 Unsporting Behaviour - Breaking up a promising opposition attack
- Y5 Encroachment when play is restarted with a free kick, corner kick or throw-in
- Y6 Shows dissent by word
- Y7 Shows dissent by gesture
- Y8 Persistently infringing the Laws of the Game
- Y9 Delaying the restart of play
- Y10 Acts in a manner which shows a lack of respect for the game
- Y11 Entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- Y12 Leaving the field of play without the referee's permission
- Y13 Unsporting Behaviour - Simulation
- Y14 Use a deliberate trick to pass the ball to the goalkeeper to circumvent the Law
- Y15 Unsporting actions after scoring a goal
- Y16 Unsporting behaviour by a substitute
- Y17 Dissent by a substitute
- Y18 Delaying the restart of play by a substitute
- Y19 Provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play

### SEND OFF CODES

- R1 **(25.1.1)** Serious Foul Play - Striking an opponent
- R2 **(25.1.1)** Serious Foul Play - Kicking an opponent
- R3 **(25.1.1)** Serious Foul Play - Tackling an opponent
- R4 **(25.1.3)** Spitting at an opponent
- R5 **(25.1.5)** Law 12 Offence - Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity
- R6 **(25.1.4)** Handball Offence - Denying an obvious goal or goal scoring opportunity
- R7 **(25.1.6)** Offensive, insulting, abusive language
- R8 **(25.1.6)** Offensive, insulting, abusive gestures
- R9 **(10.2)** Second caution
- R10 Behaving in an irresponsible manner

- R11 **(25.1.2)** Violent Conduct
- R12 **(28.1)** Commits a sending off offence having already been sent off
- R13 **(27.1.1)** Offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official
- R14 **(27.1.2)** Violent Conduct – Assault of a Match Official
- R15 Send-off not previously specified

## **ANNEXURE 2 – MATCH REPORT**

The Referee Report can be forwarded in paper or electronic format and shall state:

- The date and venue of the game; and
- The club of the offending player; and
- The first name, surname, and shirt number of the player; and
- The Law of the Game that has been broken;
- The nature of the offence and the relevant offence code as provided for in Annexure 1; and
- A clear statement of all the circumstances surrounding the offence will also be required for offences classified R4 and R10 to R15 inclusive (Annexure 1).

The form of the Referee Report shall be as follows: