



# Guam Football Association

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## Disciplinary Code [Edition 2014]

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# PRELIMINARY TITLE

## GFA Disciplinary Code (GDC)

With specific reference to art. 14 par. 2 point. 2 lit (ii) of the GFA Statutes, the Executive Committee of the Guam Football Association (GFA) enforces the following Code.

### Article 1 Object

This code describes infringements of the rules in GFA regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organization and function of the bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these bodies.

### Article 2 Scope of application: substantive law

This code applies to every match and competition organized by GFA. It also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of GFA are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping. It also applies to any breach of GFA regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

### Article 3 Scope of application: natural and legal persons

The following natural and legal persons are subject to this code:

- a) Direct and Indirect members of GFA;
- b) Members of Member Associations, and their affiliates;
- c) Clubs;
- d) Officials;
- e) Players;
- f) Match officials;
- g) Licensed match and players' agents;
- h) Anyone with an authorization from GFA, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by GFA;
- i) Spectators.

### Article 4 Scope of application: time

This code applies to facts that have arisen after it has come into force. It also applies to previous facts if it is equally favorable or more favorable for the perpetrator of the facts and if the judicial bodies of GFA are deciding on these facts after the code has come into force. By contrast, rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the coming into force of this code.

### Article 5 Definitions

1. **Post-match:** the time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the stadium.
2. **Pre-match:** the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.
3. **International match:** a match between two teams belonging to different associations (two clubs, one club, and one representative team or two representative teams).

4. **Friendly match:** a match organized by a football organization, 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 and, in the case of representative teams, on the GFA rankings.
5. **Official match:** a match organized under the auspices of a football organization 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.
6. **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.
7. **Match official:** the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by GFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
8. **GFA Regulations:** the statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of GFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.

**Article 6      Gender and number**

Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.



# PRELIMINARY TITLE

## CHAPTER I. GENERAL PART

### Section 1. Conditions for sanctions

#### **Article 7 Culpability**

- 1) Unless otherwise specified, infringements and punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately, recklessly or negligently.
- 2) Exceptionally, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral territory, or a certain stadium may be banned purely for safety reasons, without an infringement having been committed.

#### **Article 8 Acts amounting to attempt**

- 1) Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
- 2) In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. art 15 par 2).

#### **Article 9 Involvement**

- 1) Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable.
- 2) The body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine (art.15 par. 2).

### Section 2. Various sanctions

#### **Article 10 Sanctions common to natural and legal persons**

Both natural and legal persons are punishable by the following sanctions:

- a) Warning;
- b) Reprimand;
- c) Fine;
- d) Return of awards;
- e) Confiscation (cf. Article 62 par 4)

#### **Article 11 Sanctions applicable to natural persons**

The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:

- 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.

**Article 12 Sanctions common to legal persons**

The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:

- a) Transfer ban;
- b) Playing a match without spectators;
- c) Playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) Ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) Annulment of the result of a match;
- f) Exclusion from a competition;
- g) Defeat by forfeit;
- h) Deduction of points;
- i) Demotion to a lower division.

**Article 13 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 14 Reprimand**

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

**Article 15 Fine**

- 1) A fine is issued in US dollars (USD). It shall be paid in the same currency.
- 2) For any other league or match(es), the fine shall not be less than **USD25**, or in the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than **USD50**, and not more than **USD10,000**.
- 3) The body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.
- 4) The Members of GFA are jointly liable for fines imposed on representative team players and officials. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players and officials. The fact that the person subject to the fine has left a club or the Member Association of GFA does not cancel out joint liability.

**Article 16 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 17 Caution**

- 1) A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behavior of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
- 2) Two cautions received during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match (cf. art. 18 par 4). The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.

- 3) If a player receives a caution in three (3) separate matches of the same GFA competition, he is automatically suspended from next match in that competition unless the rules or regulations of that competition provide otherwise.

The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the Disciplinary Committee is final.

- 4) If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
- 5) Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.
- 6) If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behavior 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 18 Expulsion**

- 1) An expulsion 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 he is serving a stadium ban.
- 2) Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behavior 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.
- 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 automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned and/or annulled. The Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

## **Article 19 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) An official or player who is suspended in application of par. 1 is automatically banned from the dressing rooms and substitutes bench in accordance with Article 20.
- 3) The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified in this Code, it may not exceed (24) twenty-four matches or (24) twenty-four months.
- 4) If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, 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.
- 5) If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
- 6) 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 (art. 55). This also applies to the match suspension imposed on the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.

**Article 20 Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes bench**

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.

**Article 20bis Ban from communication**

An official who is suspended in accordance with Article 19 par. 1 shall not communicate with his team or club, using electronic or any other means (hand signals etc) for the duration of match (including where applicable; extra time, determining the winner by penalty kicks) as defined in accordance with the relevant GFA competition regulations.

**Article 21 Stadium ban**

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

**Article 22 Ban on taking part 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 23 Transfer ban**

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

**Article 24 Playing a match without spectators**

The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires a Member Association or a club to have a certain match played without spectators.

**Article 25 Playing a match on neutral ground**

The obligation to play a match on neutral ground requires a Member Association or a club to have a certain match played in another country or in a different region of the same country.

**Article 26 Ban on playing in a particular stadium**

A ban on playing in a certain stadium deprives a Member Association or a club of the right to have its team play in a certain stadium.

**Article 27 Annulment of the result of a match**

The result of a match is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

**Article 28 Exclusion from a competition**

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

**Article 29 Demotion to a lower division**

A club may be demoted to a lower division.

**Article 30 Deduction of points**

A representative team or club may have points deducted in the current or a future GFA competition.

**Article 31 Forfeit**

Unless the rules or regulations of the competition provide otherwise:

- 1) Teams sanctioned with a forfeit are 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 is upheld.

**Section 3. Common rules**

**Article 32 Combined sanctions**

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

**Article 33 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions**

- 1) The judicial body that imposes a match suspension (cf. art. 19), a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench (cf. art. 20), a ban on taking part in any football-related activity (cf. art. 22), the obligation to play a match without spectators (cf. art. 24), the obligation to play a match on neutral ground (cf. art. 25) or a ban on playing in a certain stadium (cf. art. 26) may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.
- 2) Partial suspension is 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 judicial body decides 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 subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of anything from six months to two years.
- 5) If the 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.
- 6) In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this article is not applicable.

**Article 34 Time sanctions: calculation of time limit**

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

**Article 35 Centralization of sanctions**

- 1) Records of cautions, expulsions and match suspensions are stored in the central computer system of GFA. The Disciplinary Committee secretary confirms them in writing to the Member Association or club concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned.
- 2) This communication serves only as confirmation: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the Member Association, club or head of delegation concerned later.

**Section 4. Carrying over and cancelling cautions and match**

**Article 36 Carrying over cautions**

- 1) Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
- 2) They are, however, carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition unless the rules or regulations of the competition provide otherwise. The Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition. This provision is subject to art. 37.

**Article 37 Cancellation of cautions**

- 1) Upon its own initiative or at the request of a Member Association, the Disciplinary Committee may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion so as to restore the balance among several teams that have not played the same number of matches during the first round of a competition, or in other exceptional circumstances.
- 2) In any case, the committee may do this only once in any competition.
- 3) The Disciplinary Committee's decision is final.

**Article 38 Carrying over match suspensions**

- 1) As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition.
- 2) Unless otherwise decided by a judicial body, match suspensions in relation to an expulsion pronounced on a player outside of a competition (separate match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over as follows:
  - a) GFA competitions for representative teams shall be carried over to the representative team's subsequent official match;
  - b) GFA competitions subject to an age limit: carried over to the representative team's 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 next highest age category;

- c) GFA club competitions shall be carried over to the club's subsequent official match;
  - d) Friendly matches shall be carried over to the representative team's subsequent friendly match;
  - e) Competitions in which teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical etc.): if the regulations of these competitions refer to the GFA regulations for disciplinary sanctions, the suspension is carried over to the representative team's next official match;
- 3) If a representative team is hosting a final competition and is consequently not required to participate in qualifying matches to reach the final competition of this tournament and its next official match is in that final competition, any match suspension pronounced in accordance with par. 2 of this article shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly match.
  - 4) In no case may match suspensions resulting from several cautions issued to a player in different matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.
  - 5) Par. 2 likewise applies to suspensions pronounced against persons other than players.

## Section 5. Determining the sanction

### Article 39 General rule

- 1) The body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it.
- 2) Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of match or competition.
- 3) Unless otherwise specified, the duration of a sanction is always defined.
- 4) The body shall take account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.

### Article 40 Repeated infringements

- 1) Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction to be imposed as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
- 2) These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated anti-doping rule violations.

### Article 41 Concurrent infringements

If several sanctions may be applied are pronounced against someone as a result of related infringements, the relevant body may impose the sanction only on the most serious infringement committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent of the maximum sanction of specified for that infringement.

## Section 6. Limitation period

**Article 42 Limitation period for prosecution**

- 1) Infringements committed during a match cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of two years.
- 2) Anti-doping rule violations cannot be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed.
- 3) Prosecution for corruption (cf. art. 62) is not subject to a limitation period.
- 4) All other infringements cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of ten years.

**Article 43 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 44 Interruption**

The limitation period is interrupted if the Disciplinary Committee commences proceedings before it has expired.

**Article 45 Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions**

- 1) The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions is five years.
- 2) The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

CHAPTER II. SPECIAL PART

Section 1. Infringements of the Laws of the Game

**Article 46 Minor infringements**

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of this code):

- a) Unsporting behavior;
- b) Dissent by word or action;
- c) Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
- d) Delaying the restart of play;
- e) Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
- f) Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
- g) Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.



### **Article 47 Serious infringements**

A player is sent off if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of this code):

- h) Serious foul play;
- i) Violent conduct;
- j) Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- k) Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
- l) 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;
- m) Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
- n) Receiving a second caution in the same match (art. 17 par 2).

## **Section 2. Disorderliness at matches and competitions**

### **Article 48 Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials**

- 1) Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, any recipient of a direct red card shall be suspended as follows:
  - a) one match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
  - b) at least one match for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
  - c) at least one match for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official (subject to art. 53, 54 and 57-60);
  - d) at least two matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
  - e) at least six matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
  - f) at least two matches for threatening with serious bodily harm an opponent or a person other than a match official.
- 2) A fine may also be imposed in all cases.
- 3) The right is reserved to punish an offence in accordance with art. 77 a) of the GFA Disciplinary Code.

### **Article 49 Misconduct against match officials**

- 1) Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:
  - a) at least four matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official (subject to

art. 53, 54 and 57-60);

b) at least six months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;

c) at least six months for spitting at a match official.

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

3) The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with art. 77 a).

#### **Article 50 Brawl**

1) Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least four matches and a fine of **USD100**.

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

#### **Article 51 Unidentified aggressors**

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

#### **Article 52 Team misconduct**

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly.

In particular:

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

b) a fine of at least **USD300** 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.

#### **Article 53 Inciting hatred and violence**

1) A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than **six** months and with a minimum fine of **USD300**.

2) In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be **USD500**.

#### **Article 54 Provoking the general public**

Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for two matches and sanctioned with a minimum fine of **USD100**.

**Article 55 Ineligibility**

- 1) If a player is fielded in an official match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match (cf. art. 31) and paying a minimum fine of **USD50**.
- 2) If a player is fielded in a friendly match despite being ineligible, his team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of **USD50**.

**Article 56 Abandonment**

- 1) If a team refuses to play a match or to continue playing one which it has begun, it will be sanctioned with a minimum fine of **USD100** and will, in principle, forfeit the match (cf. art. 31).
- 2) In serious cases, the team will also be disqualified from the competition in progress.

**Section 3. Offensive and racist behavior**

**Article 57 Offensive behavior and fair play**

Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behavior is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions in accordance with art. 10 ff.

**Article 58 Discrimination**

- 1) a) Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigrating words or actions concerning race, color, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least **USD250** shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least **USD500**.
- b) Where several persons (officials and/or players) from the same club simultaneously breach par. 1 a) 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 demotion to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.
- 2) a) Where supporters of a team breach par. 1 a) at a match, a fine of at least **USD150** shall be imposed on the club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
- b) 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.
- 3) Spectators who breach par. 1 a) of this article shall receive a stadium ban of at least two years.

**Section 4. Infringements of personal freedom**

**Article 59 Threats**

Anyone who intimidates or seeks to intimidate a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least **USD200** and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from art. 32, in that they may not be combined with others.

**Article 60 Coercion**

Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure or seeks to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least **USD200** and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from art. 32, in that they may not be combined with others.

**Section 5. Forgery and falsification**

**Article 61 [only]**

- 1) Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document or a document containing false information to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a fine of **USD300**.
- 2) If the perpetrator is a player, a suspension of at least six matches will be pronounced.
- 3) If the perpetrator is an official, a player's 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.
- 4) A club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in par. 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 club concerned.
- 5) A club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in par. 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.

**Section 6. Corruption**

**Article 62 [only]**

- 1) Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of GFA, a match official, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate the regulations of GFA will be sanctioned:
  - a) With a fine of at least **USD300**,
  - 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) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
- 3) In serious cases and in the case of repetition, sanction 1b) may be pronounced for life.
- 4) In any case, the body will order the confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for football development programs.

**Section 7. Doping**

**Article 63 Definition**

Doping is prohibited. Doping and anti-doping rule violations are defined in the AFC Anti-Doping Regulation and sanctioned in accordance with the AFC Anti-Doping Regulations and the GFA Disciplinary Code.

## Section 8. Failure to respect decisions

### Article 64 [only]

- 1) Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or GFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of GFA or CAS (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee or an instance of GFA or CAS:
  - a) will be fined at least **USD100** for failing to comply with a decision;
  - b) will be granted a final deadline by the judicial bodies of GFA in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the (non-financial) decision;
  - c) (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.
- 2) If the club disregards the final time limit, the relevant association shall be requested to implement the sanctions threatened.
- 3) If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
- 4) A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.
- 5) Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this article shall be lodged with CAS directly

## Section 9. Responsibilities of clubs and associations

### Article 65 Organization of matches

Clubs that organize matches shall:

- a) assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the GFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA & AFC & GFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
- c) ensure the safety of match officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- e) ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadiums and immediate surroundings and that matches are organized properly.

### Article 66 Failure to comply

- 1) Any club that fails to fulfill its obligations in accordance with art. 65 shall be fined.
- 2) In the case of a serious infringement of art. 65, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban (cf. art. 26) or ordering a team to play on neutral ground (cf. art. 25).

- 3) The right is reserved to impose certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (cf. art. 7, par. 2).

#### **Article 67 Liability for spectator conduct**

- 1) The 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.
- 2) The 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. 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 missiles, displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
- 4) The liability described in par. 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.

#### **Article 68 Other obligations**

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 clubs 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.
- c) Bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its players and officials and to ensure that all players and officials registered and/or fielded during the competition are eligible to play.

### **Section 10. Unlawfully influencing match results**

#### **Article 69 [only]**

- 1) 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 a ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least **USD300**. In serious cases, a lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be imposed.
- 2) In the case of a player or official unlawfully influencing the result of a match in accordance with par. 1, the club to which the player or official belongs may be fined. Serious offences may be sanctioned with exclusion from a competition, demotion to a lower division, a points deduction and the return of awards.

## **SECOND TITLE. ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE**

### **CHAPTER I. ORGANIZATION**

#### **Section 1. Jurisdiction of GFA, Member Associations and other organizations**

##### **Article 70 General rule**

- 1) With regards to matches and competitions not organized by GFA (cf. art. 2), clubs and sports organizations that organize matches for cultural, geographical, historical or other reasons (cf. art 38 par. 2e) are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have effect at confederation level (cf. art. 136 ff.).
- 2) The judicial bodies of GFA reserves the right to sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of GFA (cf. final part of art. 2) if clubs, and other sports organizations fail to prosecute serious infringements or fail to prosecute in compliance with the fundamental principles of law.
- 3) Clubs and other sports organizations shall notify the judicial bodies of GFA of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of GFA (cf. final part of art. 2).

##### **Article 71 Friendly matches between two representative teams**

- 1) Any disciplinary action to be taken at friendly matches between two representative teams from different Member Associations is the responsibility of that club to which the sanctioned player belongs. However, in serious cases, the Disciplinary Committee may intervene ex officio.
- 2) The club shall inform GFA of the sanctions pronounced.
- 3) GFA ensures compliance with the sanctions by means of this code.

#### **Section 2. Authorities**

##### **Article 72 Referee**

- 1) During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
- 2) These decisions are final.
- 3) In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply (cf. art 77).

##### **Article 73 Judicial bodies**

The judicial bodies of GFA are the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee.

##### **Article 74 Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

Certain decisions passed by the Appeal Committee may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (cf. art. 5 of the GFA Statues and art. 128 of this code).

**Article 75 GFA Medical**

In compliance with the GFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the relevant GFA Medical body, carries out the doping test, analyses of samples and examination of medical certificates.

**Section 3. Disciplinary Committee**

**Article 76 General Jurisdiction**

The GFA Disciplinary Committee is authorized to sanction any breach of the GFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.

**Article 77 Specific Jurisdiction**

The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

- a) Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
- b) Rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
- c) Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (cf. art 18, par. 4);
- d) Pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

**Article 78 Jurisdiction of the chairman or member ruling alone**

The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee or a member designated by the chairman may take the following decisions alone.

- a) Suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months;
- b) Pronounce a fine of up to **USD500**;
- c) Rule on a request to extend a sanction (art. 136);
- d) Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
- e) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 129).

In the case of a member designated by the chairman, this jurisdiction can only be exercised where it is essential for the timeliness or integrity of a competition during the period of the competition.

**Section 4. Appeal Committee**

**Article 79 Jurisdiction**

The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that GFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

**Article 80 Jurisdiction of the chairman or member ruling alone**

The chairman of the Appeal Committee or a member designated by the chairman may take the following decisions alone:

- a) Decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction (art. 141);



- b) Resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;
- c) Rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee and other decisions passed by the chairman or member of the Disciplinary Committee in case of ruling alone (art. 78);
- d) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. art. 129).

In the case of a member designated by the chairman, this jurisdiction can only be exercised where it is essential for the timeliness or integrity of a competition during the period of the competition.

## Section 5. Common rules for the judicial bodies

### Article 81 Composition

- 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.
- 2) The Executive Committee appoints the chairman and the deputy chairman of each committee from among the members for the same period of four years.
- 3) The chairman of each committee shall have legal qualifications.

### Article 82 Meetings

- 1) The committee meetings are deemed to be valid if at least three members are present.
- 2) At the behest of the chairman, the secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.

### Article 83 Chairman

- 1) The chairman conducts the meetings and delivers the decisions which this code empowers him to take.
- 2) If the chairman is unable to attend, the deputy chairman replaces him. If the deputy chairman is unable to attend, the longest-serving member replaces him.

### Article 84 Secretariat

- 1) The general secretariat of GFA provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary staff at GFA headquarters.
- 2) The general secretariat of GFA designates the secretary to the judicial bodies.
- 3) The secretary takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
- 4) The secretary takes care of the filing. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least ten years.

**Article 85 Independence**

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

**Article 86 Incompatibility of office**

The members of the judicial bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee or a standing committee of GFA.

**Article 87 Withdrawal**

- 1) Members of the judicial bodies of GFA must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.
- 2) This applies in the following cases (among others):
  - 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;
  - c. If he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.
- 3) Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately. The parties involved may also raise an objection to a member they believe to be biased.
- 4) The chairman shall decide on any such claim of bias.
- 5) Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairman has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

**Article 88 Confidentiality**

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

**Article 89 Exemption from liability**

Neither the members of the judicial bodies of GFA nor the secretariat may be made liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

## CHAPTER II. PROCEDURE

### Section 1. General Rules

#### Subsection 1. Time Limits

##### Article 90 Calculation

- 1) Time limits to which the Member Associations shall adhere commence the day after they have received the relevant document.
- 2) Time limits to which other persons shall adhere commence four days after receipt of the document by the Member Association responsible for forwarding it, except when the document is also or solely sent to the person concerned or his legal representative. If the document was also or solely sent to the parties or their legal representatives, the time limit commences on the day after receipt of the document in question.
- 3) If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the person required to comply with the document by a certain deadline, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.

##### Article 91 Compliance

- 1) The time limit has been met only if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.
- 2) The document must be submitted to the relevant body or mailed to its address no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.
- 3) If the document is sent by telefax, the time limit has been met if the document reaches the body on the last day of the time limit and the original document reaches it within another five days.
- 4) In the case of appeals, the deposit demanded (cf. art. 123) is considered to have been paid in time if the payment has irreversibly been made to GFA's account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

##### Article 92 Interruption

- 1) Time limits are interrupted:
  - a) During the period starting two (2) days before the GFA Congresses and up to two (2) days after;
  - b) During the period starting two (2) days before the EAFF or AFC competition on Guam and up to two (2) days after except for facts arising during the final competition and facts which have occurred before but which may have repercussions on the final competition.
  - c) The periods when the GFA Main Office is officially closed. The exact dates of the closure will be announced to the Member Associations via a circular.
- 2) Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

##### Article 93 Extension

- 1) The chairman may extend the time limits he has set, upon request. The time limits fixed in this code may not, however, be extended.

- 2) A time limit may not be extended more than twice and, the second time, only in exceptional circumstances.
- 3) If the chairman refuses to extend the time limit, the applicant will be granted two extra days. In emergencies, the chairman may announce his negative decision to the applicant orally.

### **Subsection 2. Right to be heard**

#### **Article 94 Contents**

- 1) The parties shall be heard before any decision is passed.
- 2) They may, in particular:
  - a) Refer to the file;
  - b) Present their argument in fact and in law;
  - c) Request production of proof;
  - d) Be involved in the production of proof;
  - e) Obtain a reasoned decision.
- 3) Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

#### **Article 95 Restrictions**

- 1) 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.
- 2) Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

### **Subsection 3. Proof**

#### **Article 96 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, expert opinions and audio or video recordings.

#### **Article 97 Evaluation of proof**

- 1) The judicial bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.
- 2) They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat (cf. art. 110).
- 3) The standard of proof shall be of comfortable satisfaction of the members.

**Article 98 Match officials' reports**

- 1) Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
- 2) 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 99 Burden of proof**

- 1) The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on GFA.
- 2) 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 his body.

**Subsection 4. Representation and assistance**

**Article 100 [only]**

- 1) The parties may arrange to have legal representation.
- 2) If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.
- 3) The parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.

**Subsection 5. Language used in proceedings**

**Article 101 [only]**

- 1) The language used in all proceedings shall be English.
- 2) GFA may, if necessary, use the services of an interpreter.

**Subsection 6. Notification of decisions**

**Article 102 Addressees**

- 1) All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
- 2) Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the club concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the club (cf. art. 90).
- 3) If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to AFC. Doping decisions passed by the Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and AFC. GFA will announce anti-doping rule violations within 30 days.

**Article 103 Form**

Decisions communicated by telefax and/or email shall be legally binding. Alternatively, decisions may be communicated by registered letter or hand delivery with signed acknowledgment of receipt, which shall also be legally binding.

**Subsection 7. Miscellaneous**

**Article 104 Obvious errors**

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

**Article 105 Costs and expenses**

- 1) Costs and expenses related to the appeals proceedings may be imposed by the judicial body on the unsuccessful party.
- 2) If there is no unsuccessful party, they shall be borne by GFA.
- 3) If considered fair to do so, they may be split among several parties.
- 4) The judicial body that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated and the relevant amounts are stipulated by the chairman. These rulings are not subject to appeal.
- 5) The chairman may exceptionally decide to curtail or dispense with costs and expenses.

**Article 106 Enforcement of decisions**

Decisions come into force as soon as they are communicated.

**Article 107 Baseless proceedings**

Proceedings may be closed if, among other reasons:

- a) The parties reach an agreement;
- b) A party declares bankruptcy;
- c) They become baseless.

**Section 2. Disciplinary Committee**

**Subsection 1. Commencement of proceedings and investigation**

**Article 108 Commencement of proceedings**

- 1) Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio.
- 2) Any person or body may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of GFA to the judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing.
- 3) Match officials are obliged to report infringements which have come to their notice.

**Article 109 Investigation**

The secretariat carries out the necessary preliminary investigation ex officio under the chairman's guidance.

**Article 110 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 judicial bodies.
- 2) Whenever deemed necessary, the secretariat verifies the parties' versions of the facts.
- 3) If the parties are dilatory in responding, the chairman of the judicial body may, after warning them, impose a fine of up to **USD500**.
- 4) If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

**Subsection 2. Oral statements, deliberations, decision**

**Article 111 Oral statements, principles**

- 1) As a general rule, there are no oral statements and the Disciplinary Committee decides on the basis of the file.
- 2) At the request of one of the parties, the body may arrange for oral statements to be heard, to which all the parties shall be summoned.
- 3) Oral statements are always heard behind closed doors.

**Article 112 Oral statements, procedure**

- 1) The chairman decides on the sequence of the oral statements.
- 2) Once the hearing of evidence has ended, the chairman allows the person against whom proceedings are being conducted a final opportunity to speak.
- 3) The oral statements terminate with the parties' closing statement.

**Article 113 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 deliberations.
- 5) The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairman, who always speaks last.

**Article 114 Passing the decision**

- 1) Subject to Art. 117 and 127, decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
- 2) Every member present shall vote.

- 3) If votes are equal, the chair has the casting vote.

#### **Article 115 Form and contents of the decision**

- 1) Without prejudice to the application of article 116 below, the decision contains:
  - a) The composition of the committee;
  - b) The names of the parties;
  - c) A summary of the facts;
  - d) The grounds of 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) The decisions are signed by the General Secretary.

#### **Article 116 Decisions without grounds**

- 1) The judicial bodies may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten 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 coming into force.
- 2) If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.
- 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.

#### **Article 117 [only]**

The rules governing the Disciplinary Committee apply the same way whenever the chairman or member decides alone.

### **Section 3. Appeal Committee**

#### **Article 118 Contestable decisions**

An appeal may be lodged to the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the sanction imposed is:

- a) A warning;
- b) A reprimand;
- c) A suspension for less than three matches or of up to two months;
- d) A fine of less than **USD500** imposed on a club or of less than **USD250** in other cases.



- e) Decisions passed in compliance with art. 64 of this code.

**Article 119 Eligibility to appeal**

- 1) Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance and has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision may lodge an appeal to the Appeal Committee.
- 2) Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned.

**Article 120 Time limit for appeal**

- 1) Any party intending to appeal must inform the GFA Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three days of notification of the decision.
- 2) Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing within a further time limit of seven days. This seven-day period begins after the first deadline of three days has expired.
- 3) If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.
- 4) In urgent cases, the chairman may shorten the deadline for the submission of the reasons for appeal.
- 5) The Member Association receiving the petition of appeal shall forward it immediately to GFA.

**Article 121 Grounds for appeal**

The appellant may object to inaccurate representation of the facts and/or wrong application of the law.

**Article 122 Petition of appeal**

- 1) The appellant shall submit his petition of appeal in triplicate.
- 2) The petition shall include the claim as well as the reasons and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative, subject to art. 119 par. 2.

**Article 123 Deposit**

- 1) Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall transfer an appeal fee of **USD50** to GFA's bank account before expiry of the time limit of seven days to formalize the appeal.
- 2) If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.
- 3) This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if he wins the case. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who loses the case are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed to him. If the deposit is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.
- 4) If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the deposit.

**Article 124 Effects of appeal**

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

**Article 125 Sequence in proceedings leading up to the decision**

- 1) The sequence in proceedings is determined as described in this code.
- 2) The decisions are signed by the General Secretary.
- 3) Decisions may not be amended to the detriment of the party contesting them.

**Article 126 Continuation of the proceedings**

- 1) The Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.
- 2) The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for sport (CAS) as set out in art. 128.

**Article 127 Proceedings before the chairman or member of the Appeal Committee acting alone**

The rules governing the Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman or member of the committee decides alone.

**Section 4. Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**

**Article 128 [only]**

The GFA Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies of GFA may be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

**Section 5. Special procedures**

**Subsection 1. Provisional measures**

**Article 129 General rule**

- 1) If an infringement appears to have been committed and a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough, the chairman of the judicial body may, in emergencies, provisionally pronounce, alter or revoke a sanction.
- 2) In similar circumstances, he may take other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
- 3) He will take action upon request or ex officio.

**Article 130 Procedure**

- 1) The chairman shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time.
- 2) He is not obliged to hear the parties.

**Article 131 Decision**

- 1) The chairman delivers his decision immediately.

- 2) That decision may be implemented immediately.

#### **Article 132 Duration**

- 1) Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than 30 days.
- 2) This period may be extended only once by 20 days.
- 3) If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

#### **Article 133 Appeal**

- 1) An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged before the chairman of the Appeal Committee.
- 2) The time limit for lodging the appeal is two days commencing from the communication of the decision.
- 3) The petition of appeal shall be sent direct to GFA Main Office by hardcopy or electronic mail within the same time limit.
- 4) The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

#### **Article 134 Approval of appeal**

The appeal will be admitted if the facts stated in the contested decision are inaccurate or if the law has been violated.

#### **Subsection 2. Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting**

##### **Article 135 [only]**

- 1) If the circumstances so require, the secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-taking to be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or any other similar method.
- 2) Art. 111 par. 2 is, in this case, not applicable.
- 3) The secretary takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

#### **Subsection 3. Extending sanctions to have effect at confederation level**

##### **Article 136 Request**

- 1) If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to doping (cf. art. 63), unlawfully influencing match results (cf. art. 69), misconduct against match officials (cf. art 49), forgery and falsification (cf. art 61) or violation of the rules governing age limits (cf. art. 68 a), the Member Associations, and other organizing sports bodies shall request GFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have effect at confederation level.
- 2) Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another international sports association, national anti-doping organization or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by GFA and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by GFA to have effect at confederation level.

- 3) The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has sanctioned and that of the club and the Member Association concerned.
- 4) If the judicial bodies of GFA discover that Member Association and other sports organizations have not requested a decision to be extended to have effect at confederation level, these bodies may themselves pass a decision.

#### **Article 137 Conditions**

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

- a) The person sanctioned has been cited properly;
- b) He has had the opportunity to state his case;
- c) The decision has been communicated properly;
- d) The decision complies with the regulations of GFA;
- e) Extending the sanction does not conflict with public order and accepted standards of behavior.

#### **Article 138 Procedure**

- 1) The chairman makes his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing of any of the parties, using only the file.
- 2) He may exceptionally decide to summon the parties concerned.

#### **Article 139 Decision**

- 1) The chairman is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of art. 137 have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the decision.
- 2) He either grants or refuses to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

#### **Article 140 Effect**

- 1) A sanction imposed by a Member Association has the same effect in each Member Association of GFA as if the sanction has been imposed by any one of them.
- 2) If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have effect at confederation level, any decision regarding extension shall always be based on the content of the Member Association's current decision.

#### **Article 141 Appeal**

- 1) The provision of art. 119ff. shall apply, subject to par. 2 of this article, to any appeal lodged against a decision passed in accordance with art. 139.
- 2) Any grounds for complaint may only refer to the terms set out in art. 136 and 137. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the initial decision.

**Subsection 4. Review**

**Article 142 [only]**

- 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 favorable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.
- 2) A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.
- 3) The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the enforcement of the decision.

**Article 143 Intentionally omitted**

**Article 144 Scope of the code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence**

- 1) This code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.
- 2) If there are any omissions in this code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with the association's custom or, in the absence of custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down if they were acting as legislators.
- 3) During all their operations, the judicial bodies of GFA draw on settlements already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

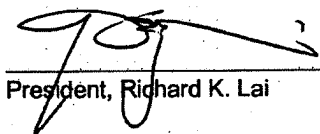
**Article 145 GFA Statutes**

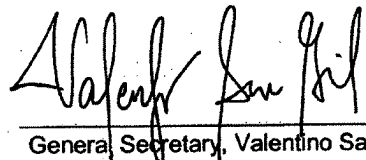
To the extent that this Disciplinary Code is inconsistent with the GFA Statutes, the GFA Statutes shall prevail.

**Article 146 Adoption and enforcement**

- 1) The GFA Executive Committee adopted this code on 15 August 2014.
- 2) This code comes into force on 01 September 2014.
- 3) Amendment of this code came into effect 01 January 2015.

**For the GFA Executive Committee:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Richard K. Lai

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Secretary, Valentino San Gil

Amendment 28 February 2015 – Article 17.5