

NZF DISCIPLINARY CODE



**New Zealand
Football**

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NZF Disciplinary Code

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 Object and scope

- 1.1 This Code describes infringements of the rules in FIFA, NZF and Regional Association's regulations and codes, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organisation and function of the Judicial 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The following are subject to this Code:
- 1.3.1 NZF;
 - 1.3.2 Regional Associations;
 - 1.3.3 Members of Regional Associations, in particular the Clubs;
 - 1.3.4 Officials;
 - 1.3.5 Players;
 - 1.3.6 Match Officials;
 - 1.3.7 Licensed match and Players' agents;
 - 1.3.8 Anyone with an authorisation from NZF, in particular with regard to a Match, Competition or other event organised by NZF or a Regional Association;
 - 1.3.9 Spectators who are members of NZF.

2 Applicable Law

- 2.1 The Judicial Bodies base their decisions:
- 2.1.1 primarily, on the NZF Regulations, including this Code, as well as any directives and decisions issued or otherwise endorsed by NZF from time to time;
 - 2.1.2 where not obviously in conflict with any of the above, on the FIFA Statutes as well as FIFA's regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, and the Laws of the Game; and
 - 2.1.3 on New Zealand law.

3 Directives

- 3.1 Directives require those affected by them to behave in a certain manner.
- 3.2 In addition to disciplinary measures, the Judicial Bodies may issue directives stipulating the manner in which a disciplinary measure must be carried out, including the date and conditions on which the disciplinary measure is enforced.
- 3.3 The Judicial Bodies may also award compensation for damage where a Regional Association or Club is liable for that damage on the basis of provision 4.

4 Responsibility

- 4.1 Unless otherwise specified in this Code, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. In particular, Regional Associations and Clubs may be responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Officials, members, or supporters or any other person carrying out a function on their behalf even if the entity concerned is neither at fault nor negligent to such infringements.
- 4.2 Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
- 4.3 Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned.

5 Decisions of the Referee

- 5.1 Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and may not be reviewed by the Judicial Bodies unless there is an Obvious Error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised), for certainty an Obvious Error does not extend to a challenge to the interpretation of a decision by a referee on the field.
- 5.2 If a Judicial Body accepts on the basis of sufficient verifiable evidence that an Obvious Error has occurred it may review the disciplinary consequences of such error only. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.
- 5.3 In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the Match Officials did not see the event in question.

6 Limitation period for prosecution

- 6.1 Infringements may no longer be prosecuted in accordance with the following periods:
 - 6.1.1 two years for infringements committed during a Match;
 - 6.1.2 ten years for anti-doping rule violations (as defined in the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations), infringements relating to international transfers involving minors, and Match manipulation;
 - 6.1.3 five years for all other offences.
- 6.2 The limitation period runs as follows:
 - 6.2.1 from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

- 6.2.2 if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;
 - 6.2.3 if the infringement lasted for a certain period, from the day on which it ended;
 - 6.2.4 from the day on which the decision of the Judicial Body or the Sports Tribunal becomes final and binding.
- 6.3 The limitation period runs as follows:
- 6.3.1 The limitation periods set out above are interrupted by all procedural acts, starting afresh with each interruption.

CHAPTER II: OFFENCES

7 Offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play

- 7.1 NZF, Regional Associations and Clubs, as well as their Players, Officials, Match Officials and any other member and/or person carrying out a function on their behalf must, respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the FIFA Regulations (including the FIFA Code of Ethics as amended from time to time), NZF Regulations (including the Code of Conduct as amended from time to time) and all directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions of FIFA and NZF, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.
- 7.2 For example, anyone who acts in any of the following ways may be subject to disciplinary measures:
- a) violating the basic rules of decent conduct;
 - b) insulting a natural or legal person in any way, especially by using offensive gestures, signs or language;
 - c) using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;
 - d) behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or NZF into disrepute;
 - e) actively altering the age of Players shown in the National Registration System, or otherwise, for the purposes of entering such Players in Competitions that are subject to age limits.
- 7.3 For the avoidance of doubt a person will be subject to disciplinary measures, in accordance with this Code, for breaching the Code of Conduct.

8 Misconduct of Players and Officials

- 8.1 Players and Officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly (also see table in Annexure 1):
- a) One Playing Day for Players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity;
 - b) At least one Playing Day for Players and/or Officials who are sent off for unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;
 - c) At least one Playing Day for Officials who are sent off for dissent by word or action;
 - d) At least one Playing Day for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, e.g. in order to be suspended for an upcoming Match and to ultimately have a clean record;
 - e) At least one Playing Day for serious foul play;

- f) At least two Playing Days for provoking spectators at a Match by any means;
 - g) at least two Playing Days for acting with obvious intent to cause a Match Official to make an incorrect decision or supporting their error of judgement and thereby causing them to make an incorrect decision;
 - h) At least three Playing Days for assault, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc., an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;
 - i) At least four Playing Days for unsporting behaviour (including but not limited to using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action (s)) towards a Match Official;
 - j) At least ten Playing Days for intimidating or threatening a Match Official;
 - k) At least 12 months for assaulting a Match Official, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc.
- 8.2 The misconduct described in paragraph 1 b), f), i) and j) is also subject to the respective sanctions of this Code, despite the fact that the offence has been committed off the field of play (e.g. via social networks etc.).
- 8.3 Additional disciplinary measures – including fines – may also be imposed in all cases by the relevant Judicial Body.

9 Discrimination

- 9.1 Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions (by any means whatsoever) on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason, shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least ten Playing Days or a specific period at least as similar in length, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.
- 9.2 If one or more of a Regional Association's or Club's supporters engage in the behaviour described in provision 9.1, the Regional Association or Club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures:
- a) For a first offence, playing a Match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least \$500 shall be imposed on the Regional Association or Club concerned;
 - b) For reoffenders or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more Matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a Match, expulsion from a Competition or relegation to a lower division may be imposed on the Regional Association or Club concerned.
- 9.3 Individuals who have been the direct addressee of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the respective Judicial Body to make an oral or written victim impact statement.
- 9.4 Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a Match is abandoned by the referee because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the Match shall be declared forfeited.

10 Multiple Misconduct

10.1 Where a Player or Official commits a second or subsequent sending off offence in the same game (Offence code R12) then:

10.1.1 they shall be automatically suspended until such time as the relevant Judicial Body has met and a final decision conveyed;

10.1.2 they may be required to attend in person a meeting of the relevant Judicial Body; and

10.1.3 they shall observe such penalties which may be imposed by the relevant Judicial Body.

11 Irresponsible Behaviour

11.1 Where an Official has been cited for behaving in an irresponsible manner (Offence code R13), the Match Official must include details of the relevant irresponsible behaviour in an Incident Report and send it to the relevant Regional Association or NZF as relevant. The person shall observe such penalties which may be imposed by the relevant Judicial Body.

12 Brawl

12.1 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.

13 Team misconduct

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

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

13.1.2 a fine of at least \$200 may be imposed where several Players and/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.

14 Inciting hatred and violence

14.1 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.

14.2 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 \$500.

15 Ineligibility

15.1 If a person takes part in an Official Match despite being ineligible, their team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the Match and paying a fine of \$75 or any greater amount if specified in the relevant Competition (or Regional Association's) Regulations.

15.2 If a person takes part in a Friendly Match despite being ineligible, their team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the Match and paying a fine of \$25 or any greater amount if specified in the relevant Competition (or Regional Association's) Regulations.

15.3 For the purposes of this clause 15, the meaning of "taking part in an Official Match" and "Friendly Match" means taking to the field and playing in the Official Match and/or Friendly Match respectively and does not include only being on the Start List of and not taking to the field and playing in the Official Match and/or Friendly Match respectively.

16 Unplayed Match and abandonment

16.1 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 or replayed.

16.2 In serious cases, additional sanctions pursuant to provision 6 may be imposed on the Regional Association or Club concerned.

17 Manipulation of football Matches and Competitions (Match-Fixing)

17.1 Anyone (Player, Official or Match Official) who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a Match and/or Competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least NZD 100,000. In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.

17.2 If a Player, Official or Match Official engages in behaviour described in provision 17.1, the Club or Regional Association to which the Player, Official or Match Official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the Match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different Competition, provided the integrity of the Competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.

17.3 If a Player, Official or Match Official engages in behaviour described in provision 17.1, they may also be subject to sanctions in accordance with the NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations.

17.4 Persons bound by this Code must cooperate fully with NZF at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall immediately and voluntarily report such information to the NZF Disciplinary Committee.

18 Forgery and falsification

18.1 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.

18.2 If the person responsible is a Player, a suspension of at least six Matches will be pronounced.

18.3 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.

- 18.4 A Regional Association may be held liable for an infringement as defined in provision 18.1 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 Regional Association concerned.
- 18.5 A Club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in provision 18.1 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.

19 Doping

- 19.1 Doping is sanctioned in accordance with the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations.

CHAPTER III: SANCTIONS

20 Sanctions common to natural and legal persons

- 20.1 Both natural and legal persons are punishable by the following sanctions:
- 20.1.1 warning;
 - 20.1.2 reprimand;
 - 20.1.3 fine;
 - 20.1.4 return of awards.

21 Sanctions applicable to natural persons (e.g. Players or Officials)

- 21.1 The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:
- 21.1.1 caution;
 - 21.1.2 expulsion;
 - 21.1.3 Match suspension;
 - 21.1.4 ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
 - 21.1.5 ban from entering a stadium or attending a Match Venue;
 - 21.1.6 ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

22 Sanctions applicable to legal persons (e.g. Regional Associations/Clubs)

- 22.1 The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:
- 22.1.1 transfer ban (i.e. will not be able to register new Players);
 - 22.1.2 playing a Match without spectators;
 - 22.1.3 playing a Match on neutral territory;
 - 22.1.4 ban on playing at a particular Match Venue;

22.1.5 annulment of the result of a Match;

22.1.6 expulsion;

22.1.7 forfeit;

22.1.8 deduction of points;

22.1.9 relegation to a lower division.

23 Disciplinary Sanctions

23.1 A Judicial Body may impose the types of sanctions as specified in this Code.

23.2 A Player or Official who receives a red card must serve at least a one (1) Playing Day suspension (unless there is an Obvious Error).

24 Caution

24.1 A Player is cautioned (yellow card) if they commit any of the offences as referred in Annexure 1 for unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.

24.2 Two cautions received during the same Match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next Playing Day. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded and are not counted towards that Player's accumulation of single cautions.

24.3 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:

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

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

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

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

24.5 The Regional Association shall forthwith, on receipt of the fifth, seventh and ninth caution, notify the Player's Club via the National Registration System – or any other means – that the Player has received such number of cautions and the corresponding suspension.

24.6 Clubs and Players shall be deemed to have knowledge of their disciplinary records and failure to receive notification pursuant to provision 24.5 shall not be a defence or excuse for not observing the mandatory period of suspension.

- 24.7 If an abandoned Match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that abandoned Match shall be annulled. If the Match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the Players in the team responsible for causing the Match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
- 24.8 Cautions issued in a Match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.
- 24.9 If a Player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour and receives a direct red card, any other caution they have previously received in the same Match is upheld.
- 24.10 Clubs shall be liable to a fine of \$25 in respect of each single caution received by its Players, unless otherwise specified in the Competition regulations. All fines will be imposed and retained by the Player's Regional Association or NZF where appropriate.

25 Expulsion

- 25.1 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 for any of the offences referred to in Annexure 1. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands unless they are serving a Match Venue ban.
- 25.2 Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
- 25.3 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.
- 25.4 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 Judicial Body may extend the duration of the suspension.
- 25.5 Where a Player is sent off pursuant to offence codes R2, R3 and R7 to R13 the Match Official must complete an Incident Report and send it to the relevant Regional Association or NZF as relevant.
- 25.6 Where a Player or an Official has been sent off, that person's Club shall be liable to a \$75 fine unless otherwise specified in the Competition regulations. All fines will be imposed by the Player's Regional Association or NZF where appropriate.

26 Match suspension

- 26.1 A suspension from a Match is a ban on taking part (e.g. playing) in a future Match or Matches and as otherwise specified by any Judicial Body.
- 26.2 A Player or Official who is suspended in the application of provision 26.1 is automatically banned from the dressing rooms and substitutes' benches in accordance with provision 27.1.
- 26.3 A suspension is imposed in terms of Playing Days, Matches or months.

- 26.4 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, a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended person belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match, for certainty this does not extend to abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match as a result of force majeure events.
- 26.5 A Player's suspension from one Competition does not preclude that Player from a non-playing participation in any other Competition, unless the Player's suspension has been imposed by a judicial process over and above the automatic sanctions under this Code or relate to serious or violent misconduct and or misconducts against a Match Official.
- 26.6 Under no circumstances can a Player avoid a suspension either by transfer or by changing age group or Competition.
- 26.7 A Match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a Match is retrospectively forfeited because a Player took part in a Match despite being ineligible (provision 15). This also applies to the Match suspension imposed on the Player who took part in the Match despite being ineligible.
- 26.8 If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.

27 Other disciplinary sanctions

- 27.1 **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.
- 27.2 **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.
- 27.3 **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.
- 27.4 **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.
- 27.5 **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.
- 27.6 **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.
- 27.7 **Annulment of Match result:** The result of a Match is annulled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

27.8 **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.

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

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

27.11 **Forfeit:** A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the Match by 3-0; or 5-0 if in a game of Futsal. If the goal difference at the end of the Match is greater than three in the non-forfeiting team's favour, or five in the case of Futsal, the result on the pitch is upheld.

27.12 **Fine:** 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. Unless otherwise provided for in this Code, Clubs are jointly and severally liable for fines imposed on their Players or Official and the fact that such person may subsequently leave the Club shall not relieve the Club of its liability.

28 Replay of a Match

28.1 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.

29 Combined sanctions

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

30 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions

30.1 The Judicial Body that pronounces a Match suspension may consider whether to fully or partially suspend the implementation of the sanction (also known as a good behaviour bond).

30.2 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.

30.3 The Judicial Body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.

30.4 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.

30.5 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.

30.6 Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this provision is not applicable.

31 Centralisation of sanctions

31.1 Records of cautions, expulsions and Match suspensions are stored in the National Registration System.

31.2 Sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic Match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent Matches.

31.3 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/or by the Regional Disciplinary Committee, which may be carried over to a NZF Competition or future Competitions organised by NZF, and vice versa.

32 Carrying over cautions

32.1 At the Conclusion of the Season all single cautions accumulated by each Player shall not be carried forward into the following Season.

33 Carrying over Match suspensions

33.1 Subject to provision 33.3 every Match suspension of a Player or Official is served in the Competition in which it was imposed, except:

33.1.1 where the next Match is a cup Competition Match, the suspension will be served in that cup Competition Match; or

33.1.2 where the Match suspension is imposed in a cup Competition Match, the suspension will be served in the next Competition Match.

33.2 Subject to provision 33.3, any period of suspension which remains outstanding at the Conclusion of the Season shall be carried over into the next Season in which the Player or Official is registered to play or be involved in, 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.

33.3 Notwithstanding provisions 33.1 and 33.2, a Match suspension may carry over into another Competition if that Regional Association's Regulations provide for this to occur.

33.4 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:

33.4.1 the schedule of Official Matches in the following Season; and

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

33.4.3 the sporting integrity of the relevant Competitions.

34 Determining the Sanction

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

34.2 Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of Match or Competition.

34.3 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.

35 Repeated infringements

- 35.1 Unless otherwise specified, a Judicial Body may increase the sanction to be pronounced if an infringement of a similar nature and gravity is committed within:
- 35.1.1 one year of the previous offence if that offence was sanctioned with a suspension of up to two Matches;
 - 35.1.2 two years of the previous offence if that offence related to order and security;
 - 35.1.3 ten years of the previous offence if that offence related to Match manipulation or corruption;
 - 35.1.4 three years of the previous offence in all other cases.
- 35.2 These provisions are subject to the special rules governing repeated anti-doping rule violations.

36 Concurrent infringements

- 36.1 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.
- 36.2 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.
- 36.3 The Judicial Body that determines the fine in accordance with provision 36.1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine.

37 Failure to respect decisions

- 37.1 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):
- 37.1.1 will be fined for failing to comply with a decision;
 - 37.1.2 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;
 - 37.1.3 (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;
 - 37.1.4 (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.

- 37.2 If a Club disregards the final time limit, NZF or the Regional Association shall implement the sanctions threatened.
- 37.3 If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
- 37.4 A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.
- 37.5 Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this provision shall be lodged with the relevant Judicial Body.
- 37.6 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 relevant Judicial Body that has pronounced the decision in accordance with the principles established in this Code and in compliance with the applicable disciplinary regulations.
- 37.7 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.

38 Penalties for Non-Compliance with this Code

- 38.1 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 IV: RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS

39 Organisation of Matches

- 39.1 Regional Associations that organise Matches shall:
- 39.1.1 assess the degree of risk posed by Matches and notify NZF of those that are especially high-risk;
 - 39.1.2 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;
 - 39.1.3 ensure the safety of Match Officials, Players and Officials of the visiting team during their stay;
 - 39.1.4 keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
 - 39.1.5 ensure that law and order are maintained in the Match Venues and immediate surroundings and that Matches are organised properly.

40 Failure to comply

- 40.1 Any Regional Association that fails to fulfil its obligations in accordance with provision 39 shall be fined.

40.2 In the case of a serious infringement of provision 39, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground.

40.3 The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (i.e. Match to be played without spectators).

41 Other obligations

41.1 Regional Associations or Clubs, as applicable , shall also:

41.1.1 actively vet the age of Players for Competitions that are subject to age limits, that it enters a team or teams into;

41.1.2 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 (such as doping, corruption, forgery etc) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years with jail time imposed.

41.2 Anyone subject to this Code shall:

41.2.1 immediately report to the Disciplinary Committee any violation of, or attempt to violate, this Code by any third party;

41.2.2 act in good faith during any and all proceedings, including collaborating to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from the Judicial Bodies.

CHAPTER V: ORGANISATION

42 General rules

42.1 NZF and the Regional Associations are responsible for imposing sanctions against infringements in relation to Competitions organised by them and in relation to other activities within their jurisdiction (including infringements of the Code of Conduct) except as expressed in any relevant Competition regulations.

42.2 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 Judicial Body.

42.3 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.

43 Friendly Matches

43.1 Any disciplinary action to be taken in relation to Friendly Matches played between two teams from the same Regional Association is the responsibility of that Regional Association.

43.2 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 and as otherwise set out in provision 48. However, in serious cases, the Disciplinary Committee may intervene ex officio.

43.3 Any disciplinary action to be taken in relation to Friendly Matches between two teams from different Regional Associations where there requires sanction from both teams is the responsibility of the Regional Association of the home team. However, in serious cases, the Disciplinary Committee may intervene ex officio.

43.4 The Regional Associations shall inform NZF of the sanctions pronounced.

44 Referee

44.1 During Matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee. Subject to provision 25.4 and provision 49.4.3 these decisions are final.

44.2 Where an offence has occurred the referee shall submit to the offending Player or Official's Regional Association, or NZF for any Match under NZF jurisdiction, a copy of the Incident 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.

44.3 Where an Incident Report is received late and outside of the set time period, the relevant Regional Association or NZF, where appropriate, may still act upon such report provided the Player or Official has not been prejudiced by the delay.

44.4 When a Player or Official has received a red card, the person will automatically be under suspension until the appropriate penalty is assessed from the Incident Report. In the event that no Incident Report is received then the Player or Official who has been sent off will be suspended for the next Playing Day.

45 Judicial Bodies

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

45.2 The Judicial Bodies of the Regional Associations are the Regional Association Competition Administrator and the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee.

CHAPTER VI: JURISDICTIONS

46 Register of cautions

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

47 Competition Administrators jurisdiction

47.1 The Competition Administrator of NZF or the Regional Association, as is relevant, will receive and review Incident Reports. They will provide a copy of each Incident Report to the relevant Player or Official and/or their Club.

47.2 Where an Incident Report sets out an offence(s) for which there is a fixed sanction, the Competition Administrator will pronounce that sanction and notify the Player and/or Club of that sanction.

- 47.3 Where an Incident 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.
- 47.4 The Competition 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 relevant), in which case the Competition Administrator will refer the matter to the relevant Chairperson and advise the affected parties accordingly. There is no right of appeal from the decision to refer a matter to the relevant Judicial Body.

48 Regional Associations Disciplinary Committee jurisdictions

- 48.1 The jurisdictions contained in this provision 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, or as authorised by NZF within the respective competition regulations.
- 48.2 The Regional Association Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of NZF Regulations at the Regional Association Competition level.
- 48.3 The Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall determine such penalty as it deems suitable, subject to the minimum suspension relevant to the offence.
- 48.4 If any person fails to attend the meeting of a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee then such case may be dealt with in their absence. The Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall notify the person of its decision in writing.
- 48.5 The Regional Association Disciplinary Committee is responsible for the following at the Regional Association level:
- 48.5.1 Determining sanctions at levels above the jurisdiction of the Regional Association Competition Administrator;
 - 48.5.2 Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;
 - 48.5.3 Rectifying Obvious Errors in the Match Official's disciplinary decisions;
 - 48.5.4 Extending the duration of a Match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion.
- 48.6 The Chairperson of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
- 48.6.1 Suspend a person with the applicable minimum sanction under the Code plus up to an additional four Playing Days or four month suspension as applicable;
 - 48.6.2 Where there is no minimum sanction, up to four Playing Days or up to four-month suspension as applicable;
 - 48.6.3 Pronounce a minimum fine;

48.6.4 Rule on extending a sanction;

48.6.5 Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee; and/or

48.6.6 Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.

48.7 Notwithstanding the above jurisdiction, the Chairperson of the Regional Association may instead refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee, and convene a meeting of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee.

49 Disciplinary Committee Jurisdiction

49.1 The Disciplinary Committee is authorised to sanction any breach of NZF Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another Judicial Body.

49.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall determine such penalty as it deems suitable, subject to the minimum suspension relevant to the offence.

49.3 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.

49.4 The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

49.4.1 Determining sanctions at levels above the jurisdiction of the Competition Administrator;

49.4.2 Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention;

49.4.3 Rectifying Obvious Errors in the Match Official's disciplinary decisions;

49.4.4 Extending the duration of a Match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion.

50 Jurisdiction of the Chairperson ruling alone

50.1 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:

50.1.1 Suspend a person with the applicable minimum sanction under the Code plus up to an additional four Playing Days or four-month suspension as applicable;

50.1.2 Where there is no minimum sanction, up to four Playing Days or up to four-month suspension as applicable;

50.1.3 Pronounce a minimum fine;

50.1.4 Rule on extending a sanction;

50.1.5 Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee; and/or

50.1.6 Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.

50.2 Notwithstanding the above jurisdiction, the Chairperson may instead refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee, and convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee.

51 Appeal Committee

51.1 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.

51.2 The Chairperson of the Appeal Committee may take the following decisions alone:

51.2.1 decide on an appeal against a decision to extend a sanction;

51.2.2 resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;

51.2.3 rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee;

51.2.4 pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.

51.3 Notwithstanding the above jurisdiction, the Chairperson may instead refer the matter to the Appeal Committee.

51.4 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 VII: COMMON RULES OF JUDICIAL BODIES

52 Composition

52.1 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.

52.2 The Executive Committee appoints the Chairperson of each committee from among the members for the same period of four years.

52.3 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee respectively, shall appoint a deputy Chairperson.

52.4 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee shall have legal qualifications.

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

52.6 The composition of a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall be in accordance with the rules of the relevant Regional Association.

53 Committee Meetings

53.1 A quorum for the purposes of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee meetings shall be three members. The aforementioned

may allow attendance at its meetings via telephone conference, videoconference, email or any other similar method and may conduct its deliberations using these methods.

- 53.2 The Chairperson conducts the meetings and delivers the decisions which this Code empowers them to take.
- 53.3 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.
- 53.4 A member of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Committee and/or Appeal Committee may, where appropriate such as where they are obliged to withdraw from any meeting (provision 55) or for time practical purposes, appoint another suitably qualified and independent person to take their place in any particular meeting.

54 Independence

- 54.1 The Judicial Bodies pass their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other Judicial Body.
- 54.2 The Judicial Bodies shall determine who may be present during their deliberations.
- 54.3 The members of the Judicial Bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee, or a standing committee of NZF or a Regional Association.
- 54.4 Subject to any particular requirements in this Code, Judicial Bodies are entitled to set their own procedures.

55 Withdrawal

- 55.1 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.
- 55.2 This applies in the following cases (among others):
 - 55.2.1 if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
 - 55.2.2 if the member is associated with any of the parties;
 - 55.2.3 if the member has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.
- 55.3 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.
- 55.4 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.
- 55.5 Proceedings that have involved someone whom the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

56 Confidentiality

- 56.1 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).
- 56.2 Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public.

57 Exemption from liability

- 57.1 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 VIII: JUDICIAL BODIES' PROCESSES

58 Time Limits

- 58.1 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.
- 58.2 Parties are permitted to observe time limits by sending electronic mail.
- 58.3 In the case of appeals, the appeal fee 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.

59 Evidence

- 59.1 A Judicial Body may receive any evidence that it thinks fit whether or not it is otherwise admissible in a court of law.
- 59.2 The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, Match Officials, Match commissioners and referee assessors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and audio or video recordings.

60 Anonymous participants in proceedings

- 60.1 When a person's testimony in proceedings conducted in accordance with this Code could lead to threats on the person or put them or any person particularly close to them in physical danger, the Chairperson of the competent Judicial Body or the deputy Chairperson may order, inter alia, that:
- a) the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;
 - b) the person not appear at the hearing;
 - c) the person's voice be distorted;
 - d) the person be questioned outside the hearing room;
 - e) the person be questioned in writing;
 - f) all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.
- 60.2 If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this Code if:

- a) the parties and their legal representatives have had the opportunity to pose questions to the person concerned in writing; and
- b) the members of the Judicial Body have had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of their identity and to assess their identity and record in full.

60.3 Disciplinary measures shall be imposed on anyone who reveals the identity of any person granted anonymity under this provision or any information that could be used to identify such person.

61 Identification of anonymous participants in proceedings

61.1 To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties. This identification shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the competent Judicial Body alone, the deputy Chairperson and/or the members of the competent Judicial Body present and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

61.2 These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

61.3 The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

- a) confirms that the person concerned has been formally identified; and
- b) contains no details that could be used to identify such person.

62 Incident Reports

62.1 Facts contained in Incident Reports are presumed to be accurate.

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

62.3 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 Incident Report submitted 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.

63 Representation

63.1 The parties may have legal representation.

64 Notification of decisions

64.1 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.

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

64.3 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.

65 Administrative rectification

65.1 A Judicial Body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other administrative errors at any time.

66 Costs and expenses

66.1 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.

67 Enforcement of decisions

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

CHAPTER IX: DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES

68 General

68.1 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 the Competition Administrator in this Chapter shall also be the powers and processes of a Regional Association Competition Administrator as appropriate.

69 Commencement of proceedings

69.1 Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio.

69.2 Any person or body may report conduct that they or it considers incompatible with the Statutes or Regulations of NZF (including the Code of Conduct or the Regional Associations to the Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee. Such complaints shall be made in writing within 5 Working Days of the Match in question or the timeframe specified in the Competition regulations, whichever is the earliest.

70 Match Related Protests

70.1 Regional Associations and Clubs are entitled to lodge Match related protests. Protests must be made to the Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee in writing, indicating the relevant grounds, within 72 hours of the end of the Match in question unless such other time is specified in the relevant Competition Regulations, in which case then within such other specified time.

70.2 A protest is admissible only if it is based on:

- a) an ineligible player's participation in a Match;
- b) an Obvious Error by a Match Official in which case the protest may be directed only at the disciplinary consequences of the Obvious Error.

70.3 Match Officials are obliged to report infringements or Obvious Errors which have come to their notice.

71 Provision of information by the parties

- 71.1 The parties are obliged to provide information to the Competition Administrator, the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee in order to assist with establishment of the facts. Parties shall comply with requests for information from a Competition Administrator, the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee within the timeframe specified.
- 71.2 If the parties do not respond within the timeframe specified, the Competition Administrator or the Chairperson of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine of up to \$100.

72 Oral statements, principles and procedure

- 72.1 Decisions of a Competition Administrator are made on the basis of the file.
- 72.2 As a general rule, decisions of the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Committee are also made on the basis of the file, unless a person or Club wishes to be heard in person in which case they must, within three Working Days of the Club's receipt of the Incident Report or notification that the Competition Administrator has referred the incident in accordance with provision 47.4, notify the relevant Judicial Body of their desire to make an oral statement.
- 72.3 Notwithstanding provision 72.2 above or otherwise, no Judicial Body is under any obligation to receive an oral statement if the person or Club wishing to be heard has previously submitted an oral statement to a Judicial Body.
- 72.4 The costs of attendance at any Judicial Body shall be met by the individual concerned. The person however may attend by teleconference or videoconference in accordance with provision 53. 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.

73 Passing the decision

- 73.1 Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
- 73.2 Every member present shall vote. If votes are equal, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

74 Form and contents of the decision

- 74.1 Without prejudice to the application of provision 75 below, decisions will contain:
- 74.1.1 the composition of the committee;
 - 74.1.2 the names of the parties;
 - 74.1.3 a brief summary of the facts;
 - 74.1.4 the grounds of the decision;
 - 74.1.5 the provisions on which the decision was based;
 - 74.1.6 the terms of the decision;

74.1.7 notice of the channels for appeal.

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

75 Decisions without grounds

75.1 The Judicial Bodies 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.

75.2 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.

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

76 Proceedings before the Chairperson acting alone

76.1 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 X: APPEALS

77 Appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee

77.1 An appeal may be lodged with:

77.1.1 the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee against any decision passed by the Regional Association Competition Administrator;

77.1.2 the Disciplinary Committee against any decision passed by the NZF Competition Administrator or a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee; and

77.1.3 the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is:

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

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

78 Eligibility to appeal

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

79 Time limit for appeal

- 79.1 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, or as otherwise prescribed in the relevant Competition regulations.
- 79.2 If these requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
- 79.3 The party appealing shall forward a copy immediately to the NZF Competition Administrator or the Regional Association Competition Administrator as is relevant.

80 Grounds for appeal

- 80.1 Appeals to the Disciplinary Committee or Regional Association Disciplinary Committee shall be by way of rehearing. The provisions as to oral statements in provision 72 apply.
- 80.2 Appeals to the Appeal Committee shall be by way of rehearing. The Appeal Committee may allow oral statements at its discretion, otherwise the Appeal Committee decides on the basis of the file.

81 Appeal in writing

- 81.1 Appeals shall be submitted in writing.
- 81.2 The appeal shall include the reasons for the appeal and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or their representative.

82 Appeal fee

- 82.1 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.
- 82.2 Appeal fees are:
 - 82.2.1 For appeals to the Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, \$125 plus GST.
 - 82.2.2 For appeals to the Disciplinary Committee, \$250 plus GST.
 - 82.2.3 For appeals to the Appeal Committee, \$500 plus GST.
- 82.3 If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal will not be heard.
- 82.4 This amount may be reimbursed in whole or in part to the successful appellant.

83 Effects of appeal

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

84 Appeals from the Appeal Committee

- 84.1 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 XI: SPECIAL PROCESSES

85 Provisional measures

- 85.1 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.
- 85.2 In similar circumstances, the Chairperson may take other provisional measures at their discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.
- 85.3 The Chairperson will take action upon request or ex officio.
- 85.4 The Chairperson shall make their decision based on the evidence available at the time. They are not obliged to hear the parties.
- 85.5 The Chairperson delivers their decision immediately. That decision is implemented immediately.

86 Duration of provisional measures

- 86.1 Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than 20 Working Days. This period may be extended only once by 15 Working Days.
- 86.2 If a sanction has been pronounced provisionally, the duration shall be offset against any final sanction.

87 Appeal against decision on provisional measures

- 87.1 An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged with the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee.
- 87.2 The time limit for lodging the appeal is two Working Days commencing from the communication of the decision.
- 87.3 The appeal shall be sent direct to NZF within the same time limit.
- 87.4 The appeal shall not stay the effect of the decision appealed from.

88 Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting

- 88.1 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.

89 Review

- 89.1 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.
- 89.2 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.
- 89.3 The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the enforcement of the decision.

90 Adoption and enforcement

- 90.1 The NZF Executive Committee adopted this Code on **17 April 2023**
- 90.2 This Code comes into force on **17 April 2023**

91 Definitions

- 91.1 The terms set out below are defined as follows:

91.1.1 **Appeal Committee:** means the Appeal Committee of NZF.

91.1.2 **Club:** means 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.

91.1.3 **Code:** means this Disciplinary Code of NZF.

91.1.4 **Code of Conduct:** means the Code of Conduct of NZF.

91.1.5 **Competition:** means 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.

91.1.6 **Competition Administrator:** means either a Regional Association Competition Administrator or the NZF Competition Administrator.

91.1.7 **Conclusion of the Season:** occurs when Competition Matches of the Club team for which the Player normally plays have been completed.

91.1.8 **Disciplinary Committee:** means the Disciplinary Committee of NZF.

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

91.1.10 **Friendly Match:** means 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.

- 91.1.11 **Incident Report:** Any report submitted by a Match Official, or any other person, to NZF or a Regional Association that includes the information referred to in Annexure 2.
- 91.1.12 **Judicial Body:** means a body empowered by this Code or other NZF Statute, Code or Regulation to make disciplinary decisions, and includes a Regional Association Competition Administrator, NZF Competition Administrator, a Regional Association Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, and the Appeal Committee.
- 91.1.13 **Laws of the Game:** means the Laws of the Game as issued by The International Football Association Board and amended from time to time.
- 91.1.14 **Match:** means a Match of football, being either a Friendly Match or an Official Match.
- 91.1.15 **Match Official:** means the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, Match commissioner, referee assessor, 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.
- 91.1.16 **Match Venue:** the venue at which a football Match is played, including the immediate confines, surrounds, entry and egress, and may include a stadium.
- 91.1.17 **NZF Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations:** means the Anti-Match Fixing and Sports Betting Regulations as adopted by NZF from time to time.
- 91.1.18 **NZF Anti-Doping Regulations:** means the NZF Anti-Doping Regulations as adopted by NZF from time to time.
- 91.1.19 **NZF Regulations:** means the Statutes and regulations of NZF, including this Code as adopted by NZF from time to time.
- 91.1.20 **National Registration System:** means COMET or such other national registration system that NZF may nominate to replace it.
- 91.1.21 **Obvious Error:** a decision by a Match Official to issue:
- a a yellow card to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or
 - b a direct red card to a Player and/or Official when no card was warranted.
- 91.1.22 **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.
- 91.1.23 **Officials:** any person, with the exception of Players or Match Officials, performing an activity connected with football at a Regional 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.
- 91.1.24 **Player** means any person who is, from time to time, registered to a Club or is selected as a member of one NZF's representative teams. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

91.1.25 **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.

91.1.26 **Regional Association Disciplinary Committee:** means the Disciplinary Committee of a Regional Association.

91.1.27 **Working Day:** Monday to Friday of each week, excluding in New Zealand public holidays.

91.2 Definitions contained in the Definitions section in the Statutes apply to terms used in this Code. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa.

ANNEXURE 1 – CAUTION AND SEND OFF CODES

| CAUTION CODE (Yellow Cards) FOR PLAYERS | | CAUTION CODES (Yellow Cards) FOR TEAM OFFICIALS | MINIMUM SANCTIONS |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| Y1 | Unsporting Behaviour - Reckless foul | | |
| Y2 | Unsporting Behaviour - Breaking up a promising opposition attack and/or DOGSO challenge in the penalty area. | | |
| Y3 | Unsporting Behaviour – Attempts to score a goal by handling the ball | | |
| Y4 | Encroachment when play is restarted with a free kick, corner kick or throw-in and/or dropped ball | | |
| Y5 | Shows dissent by word | Y5 Shows dissent by word | |
| Y6 | Shows dissent by gesture | Y6 Shows dissent by gesture; a. Throwing/kicking drink bottles or other objects to show dissent; b. Gestures which shows a clear lack of respect for the Match Official(s) e.g. sarcastic clapping. | |
| Y7 | Persistently infringing the Laws of the Game | | |
| Y8 | Delaying the restart of play | Y8 Delaying the restart of play by their team | |
| Y9 | Shows a lack of respect for the game | Shows a lack of respect for the game a. Gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way; b. Gesturing for a Yellow or Red Card to be shown; c. Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team’s Technical Area; d. Deliberately entering the Technical Area of the opposing team (non-confrontational); e. Showing a lack of respect for the game; f. Persistent/repeated unacceptable behaviour. | |
| Y10 | Entering, re-entering or leaving the field of play without the referee’s permission | | |
| Y11 | Unsporting Behaviour – Attempts to deceive the referee by simulation or feigning injury | | |
| Y12 | Use a deliberate trick to pass the ball to the goalkeeper to circumvent the Law | | |
| Y13 | Unsporting actions after scoring a goal | | |
| Y14 | Unsporting behaviour by a substitute | | |
| Y15 | Dissent by a substitute | | |
| Y16 | Delaying the restart of play by a substitute | | |
| Y17 | Substitute entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee’s permission | | |
| Y18 | Provoking a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play | | |

| SEND OFF CODES FOR PLAYERS | | SEND OFF CODES FOR TEAM OFFICIALS | | MINIMUM SANCTIONS |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| R1 | (8.1- a) for denying the opposing team an obvious goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity; | | | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R2 | (8.1- b) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or action towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; | R2 | (8.1- b) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or action towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| | | R3 | (8.1- c) for dissent by word or action; | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R4 | (8.1- e) for serious foul play -Striking an opponent | | | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R5 | (8.1- e) for serious foul play - Kicking an opponent | | | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R6 | (8.1- e) for serious foul play - Tackling an opponent | | | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R7 | (8.1- h) for Violent Conduct - eg. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc., an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; | R7 | (8.1- h) for Violent Conduct e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc., an opponent or a person other than a Match Official; | At least Three (3) Playing Days |
| R8 | (8.1- i) for offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action towards a Match Official; | R8 | (8.1- i) for using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action towards a Match Official; | At least Four (4) Playing Days |
| R9 | (8.1- j) for intimidating or threatening a Match Official; | R9 | (8.1- j) for intimidating or threatening a Match Official; | At least Ten (10) Playing Days |
| R10 | (8.1- k) for Violent Conduct against a Match Official, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc. | R10 | (8.1- k) for Violent Conduct against a Match Official, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc. | At least At least 12 months |
| R11 | (24.2) Second caution in the same match | R11 | (24.2) Second caution in the same match | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| R12 | (10.1) Commits a sending off offence having already been sent off | R12 | (10.1) Commits a sending off offence having already been sent off | At least One (1) Playing Days |
| | | R13 | (11.1) Behaving in an irresponsible manner (including but not limited to) Physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, spectator or any other person b. Entering the field of play to; i. Confront an official; ii. Interfere with play or an opposing Player; c. Deliberately leaving the Technical Area to; iii. Show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official; iv. Act in a proactive or inflammatory manner; v. Entering the opposing Technical Area in an aggressive or confrontational manner; d. Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play; e. Delaying the start of play by the opposing team; f. Using an unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment. | At least One (1) Playing Days |

ANNEXURE 2 – INCIDENT REPORT

The Incident Report to be completed by the referee can be forwarded in paper or electronic format and shall state:

- The date and venue of the Match;
- The Club of the offending Player;
- The first name, surname, and shirt number of the Player;
- The relevant Law(s) of the Game;
- 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 R2, R3 and R7 to R13 inclusive (Annexure 1).