

Fédération Internationale du Sport Football de Table
Federation of International Sports Table Football

<http://fistf.com>

FISTF Handbook



Disciplinary Regulations

Season 2012/2013

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A. Rules of Construction

- i. The provisions of these regulations apply to FISTF, Member National Associations, Players, Clubs and competition organizers in the conduct of any activity related to table football.
- ii. In case of any conflict between the FISTF Statutes and any other section of these regulations, the provisions of the FISTF Statutes shall prevail. The definitions used in the FISTF Statutes shall be used in the interpretation of these regulations.
- iii. If any provision of these regulations or its applicability to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this handbook which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of these regulations shall be severable.
- iv. In the event of any controversy, dispute or claim arising out of or relating to these regulations, or to the interpretation, breach, or enforcement thereof, the parties shall in good faith use best efforts to settle such controversy, dispute or claim by negotiation. If such negotiation should fail, such controversy, dispute or claim shall be submitted to the FISTF Disciplinary Council (hereinafter 'Council'), which shall issue a final, binding and conclusive ruling on all interested parties.
- v. The rights and obligations herein contained shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, FISTF, Member National Associations, Players and Clubs and their respective executors, administrators, successors and assigns.
- vi. Any forbearance of FISTF, Member National Associations, Players or Clubs to exercise any right or remedy to which he is entitled to under these regulations shall not be construed as a waiver of, or preclude the exercise of, any right or remedy.
- vii. As used in this handbook, words in the masculine gender shall mean and include corresponding neuter words or words in the feminine gender and vice-versa, words in the singular shall mean and include the plural and vice-versa, and the word 'may' gives sole discretion without any obligation to take any action.
- viii. Any case not provided for in, but related to, these regulations shall be referred to the Council, which shall issue a final, binding and conclusive ruling on the case.
- ix. All the sanctions against a player or a club of his national association are immediately assumed by FISTF. The FISTF Disciplinary Council can add other sanctions if the player or the club is sanctioned in a FISTF event.



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B. Organisation and Responsibilities

1. The FISTF Disciplinary Council

1-1. The management of disciplinary matters within FISTF is entrusted to the Council, as defined in the FISTF Statutes, Articles 20 and 21, with the sole exception of the authority to pronounce the exclusion of a Member National Association, which is reserved by the FISTF Congress in accordance with Article 23-3 of the FISTF Statutes.

1-2. The Council is composed of a minimum number of 3 (three) disciplinary judges appointed and revoked in accordance with Article 20 of the FISTF Statutes (hereinafter 'Judges'), who will be agents of FISTF when exercising their official duties. Once appointed, these Judges will appoint a Council Chairman among themselves (hereinafter 'Chairman').

Should the Judges fail to appoint a Chairman within three months of full manning of the Council, the matter shall be referred to the FISTF Board of Directors (hereinafter 'Board'), who may take any measure it deems appropriate, including but not limited to the revocation of the mandate of one or more Judges and the appointment of a Chairman.

1-3. The Chairman is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Council and for the handling of all claims and correspondence addressed to the Council. He may delegate this latter responsibility to another member of the Council.

1-4. The Council is responsible for the drafting and promulgation of the FISTF disciplinary regulations in accordance with Article 21 of the FISTF Statutes. For that purpose, it will consult within FISTF on the efficiency of the rules and produce changes, as it deems necessary.

1-5. The Council is responsible for the enforcement of the FISTF disciplinary regulation and to impose disciplinary sanctions in accordance with Articles 21 and 23 of the FISTF Statutes. For that purpose, the Council will render disciplinary judgements (hereinafter 'Judgement').

1-6. When the Council has to make a decision related to §§ 4 or §§ 5 above, the Chairman designates at least two Jurors among the disciplinary judges and sends to them all the reports, claims and letters about this process. The defendant should never know the names of those Jurors or the names of the witnesses. The deliberations of the Council will be secret.

1-7. During the discussions leading to a decision related to §§ 4 or §§ 5 above, the Council may conduct hearings of the parties and witnesses, and consult with competition organisers, National Association and Club representatives, independent experts and Board members.

1-8. Decisions of the Council do not have to be made within the frame of formal meetings, and may be achieved through any reasonable method, including but not limited to informal meetings and e-mail or telephone exchanges. The Chairman will use his best endeavours to involve equally all Council members in the discussions leading to such decisions.



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2. Specific Obligations of Council Members

2-1. The members of the Council, as well as the members of the Board, who are sanctioned for disciplinary reasons according to these Disciplinary Regulations, will be punished exemplarily with the greatest sanction that applies to the specific infraction.

2-2. Members of the Council may not accept from any person instructions, orders, gifts or bribes of any kind that could be related to the exercise of their official duties as Judges. If a member of the Council becomes aware that another Council member has accepted such instructions, orders, gifts or bribes, he will inform the Chairman and/or the FISTF President as soon as possible.

2-3. Members of the Council have to inform the other Council members if they are themselves parties in a proceeding before the Council (either plaintiff or defendant), are related in the first degree (husband, wife, recognised partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister) to a party in such a proceeding, or are affiliated in another way with a party in such a proceeding (such as holding a management function in a Club that is a party to such a proceeding).

2-4. Members of the Council have to perform their official duties as Judges with utmost impartiality, fairness, and without any discrimination on the grounds of citizenship, gender, age, marital status, employment, education, race, religion, or sexual or political orientation.



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3. Competition Organisers and/or Head Referees

3-1. The Council may delegate to the organisers of FISTF competitions and/or the head referee to such competition the power to decide if an action by a Member National Association, Player or Club is a breach of these disciplinary regulations, and sentence him to a disciplinary sanction.

3-2. This will be limited to cases where the Council cannot be called on to render a judgement and sentence.



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C. Disciplinary Sanctions

4. Disciplinary Sanctions against Players and Clubs

4-1. In accordance with Article 23 of the FISTF Statutes, FISTF Clubs and Players who are judged by the Council to have breached the present disciplinary regulations, will be sentenced by the Council or its delegate, according to the extent of their actions, to one or more of the sanctions below (sanctions may be combined or added one to another as decided by the Council):

- a) Official warning;
- b) Fine;
- c) Alternative penalty of sport interest
- d) Deduction of a number of world ranking points;
- e) Deduction of part or all of the world ranking points gained in a specific tournament;
- f) Disqualification from a specific match;
- g) Disqualification from a specific competition;
- h) Suspension from participation in all FISTF competitions for a specified period up to two (2) calendar years;
- i) Exclusion from FISTF.

4-2. Players suspended by the Council may, during their suspension period, play only an administrative role for their Clubs, unless of this right has also been removed by the Council (in extremely rare occasions).



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5. Disciplinary Sanctions against Member National Associations

5-1. In accordance with Article 23 of the FISTF Statutes, FISTF Member National Associations who are judged by the Council to have breached the present disciplinary regulations, will be sentenced by the Council or its delegate, according to the extent of their actions, with one or more of the sanctions below (sanctions may be combined or added one to another as decided by the Council):

- a) Official warning;
- b) Fine;
- c) Disqualification from a specific match;
- d) Disqualification from a specific competition;
- e) Disqualification from a specific competition for a specified period up to two (2) calendar years;
- f) Suspension from participation in defined FISTF competitions (e.g. in a specified country or countries) for a specified period up to two (2) calendar years;
- g) Suspension from participation in all FISTF competitions for a specified period up to two (2) calendar years;
- h) Exclusion from FISTF.



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6. The Official Warning

6-1. An official warning is a letter written by the Chairman to a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations. The Council may decide that this letter will also be sent to other parties such as the defendant's Club or National Association, or the Board.

6-2. The Council will keep a register of all official warnings.

6-3. The Chairman may write an official warning to a Under-12, Under-15 or Under-19 player, without designating any Jurors in case of any minor breach(es) - offenses 1 to 6 mentioned at the point 16-1), under the following conditions :

- a) This is the first disciplinary occurrence of the player;
- b) The player apologized.



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7. The Alternative Penalty of Sport Interest

7-1. An alternative penalty of sport interest may be decided by the Council in case of any minor breach(es) (offenses 1 to 6 mentioned at the point 16-1). The sanctioned player should render service during 1 to 3 definite FISTF competition days, without playing. He should be available of competitions organizers for any logistical jobs. The organizers may ask him to referee up to 6 games a day. The Council may also let the defendant free to choose which FISTF competitions he will render service in, except in the competitions organized by his own club.

7-2. If case of recurring breach(es), the Council may sentence the player with 2 to 6 competition days of alternative penalty.

7-3. The organizer of the FISTF competition, which a sentenced player rendered service in, will send a report to the Chairman about the sentenced player's performance. If the organizer is not satisfied of his behavior and performance, the Council may sanction him to any disciplinary sanction.

7-4. The sentenced player should not play again before he achieved the whole alternative penalty.



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8. The Fine

8-1. A disciplinary fine is a pecuniary obligation of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations and sentenced to pay a fixed amount of money. Fines will be defined by the Council in multiples of 10 EUR.

8-2. A Member National Association, Player or Club sentenced to a fine will be automatically suspended from participating in any FISTF competition until this fine is fully paid, unless the Council decides otherwise.



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9. The Disqualification

9-1. The disqualification of a defendant who has been judged guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations results in the defendant automatically losing the match and/or competition(s) from which he is disqualified. A player, who has received a red card by a referee, is automatically disqualified for the whole competition day, except if the head referee considers that the referee hasn't respect the procedure in case of incident (mentioned at the point 17-3), so much so the defendant may play the others games of the competition day.

9-2. If the disqualification is for one match, the defendant will lose the match 0-3 for an individual match, and of 0-4 for a team match. If the match was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such higher score will be kept. The organizer will mention "FFT" next to the disqualification score on the results sheet.

9-3. If the disqualification is for the whole competition day, the defendant will lose all matches of that competition day by 0-3 for an individual match, and of 0-4 for a team match. If a match of the defendant was ongoing at the time of disqualification and had a more detrimental result against the defendant, such higher score will be kept.

9-4. The disqualification of a defendant may be decided by the Council or, by delegation, by a competition organiser and/or head referee. The disqualification is the only disciplinary sanction that the Council may allow a delegate to decide on. In that case, the delegate may only sentence the defendant to a disqualification for the match(es) and/or competition for which he is organiser and/or head referee.

9-5. When a defendant is sentenced to disqualification by a delegate of the Council, that delegate or a third party may in addition file a claim to the Council for the same facts. Should this be the case, the Council may decide to sentence the defendant to an additional sentence.

9-6. The decision of a delegate of the Council to disqualify a defendant for a match and/or a competition is final, and may not be appealed or modified. The Council or FISTF will not hold any liability, monetary or otherwise, towards the defendant for that disqualification.



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10. The Suspension

10-1. A suspension is an interdiction of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations to play some or all future FISTF competitions for a defined period of time of up to two (2) years. The Council may decide a sentence of a defined period with one (1) to two (2) third suspended penalty. In case of recurring offense(s) for similar facts, the Council would automatically add this suspended penalty to the second sentence, no matter the time between the first and the second breach. A player can benefit of a suspended penalty only one time in his sports career.

10-2. A suspended defendant will lose all the benefits of FISTF affiliation for the duration of the suspension as defined in the sanction, while still retaining all his FISTF obligations.

10-3. The suspension of a Member National Association will automatically imply the suspension of all Clubs and Players affiliated with that National Association.

10-4. The suspension of a Club will automatically imply the suspension of all Players affiliated with that Club.



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11. The Exclusion

11-1. The exclusion of a defendant who has been judged by the Council guilty of a breach of these disciplinary regulations is a revocation of the membership and/or affiliation with FISTF for that defendant. The exclusion implies the indefinite suspension from all FISTF competition.

11-2. When the Council decides to exclude a Player or Club from FISTF, this exclusion will only become effective when ratified by the Board.

11-3. When the Council decides to propose the exclusion of a Member National Associations from FISTF, this exclusion may only be pronounced by a decision of the Congress.

11-4. Even after it has been excluded from FISTF, a National Association, Club, Player, its successors and assignees, shall remain liable for any obligation, monetary or otherwise, incurred when it was an FISTF Member or associated with FISTF.

11-5. FISTF will have no liability whatsoever, monetary or otherwise, towards an excluded defendant, unless these liabilities were incurred prior to the exclusion.



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12. Sentencing Guidelines

12-1. The Council will publish sentencing guidelines, where it will present, for a number of types of breach of these disciplinary regulations, the associated sentences. These sentencing guidelines will be used by the Council and its delegates in further sentencing, without the Council being thereby bound to these guidelines.

12-2. The Council will update these sentencing guidelines on a regular basis.

12-3. The sentencing guidelines are additional to, and do not replace, the provisions of these regulations.



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D. Substantive Disciplinary Regulations

13. General Duties and Obligations

13-1. Obligation of ethical behaviour: The National Associations, Players and Clubs to which the present regulations apply have to maintain a behaviour consistent with the athletic standards of fairness and morals, in all their actions, during the sport, as well as during their financial or social actions having to do with FISTF.

13-2. Obligation to produce documents: All FISTF Member National Associations, Players and Clubs are obliged to provide the Council with any information in their possession that the Council requests them to provide during the course of disciplinary proceedings. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that he will be punished with a fine. .

13-3. Obligation to testify: If a FISTF Member National Association, Player or Club is called as a witness in disciplinary proceedings by the Council and denies to testify, the Council may decide that he will be punished with a fine.

13-4. Obligation to maintain the secrecy of proceedings: The FISTF Member National Associations, Players and Clubs who are taking part in disciplinary proceedings are forbidden to make any public declarations related to these proceedings or to make public comments related to other parties to, or persons involved in, such proceedings. They are also forbidden to supply to anyone information regarding disciplinary proceedings that are not yet finalized. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a fine.

13-5. Obligation to refrain from inciting violence: FISTF Member National Associations, Players and Clubs may not publicly make declarations, indirectly or directly, which could, in the opinion of the Council, incite others to use any type of violence. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a suspension from participating in any FISTF Tournament. The Council may also decide to propose to the Board (for Players or Clubs) and/or the Congress (for a Member National Association) the exclusion from FISTF.

13-6. Obligation of truthful and complete answers: FISTF Member National Associations, Players and Clubs are obliged to send to the Council, full, correct and honest answers to every question addressed to them. In case of failure to comply, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a fine. In addition, the Council may decide that the transgressor will be punished with a suspension from defined FISTF events.



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14. General Obligations of Players and Clubs

14-1. Obligation to refrain from unduly influencing a match result: The Club, team or Player whose actions lead to the abnormal conduction of a match will be sanctioned by the competition head referee or, in his absence, by the competition organiser with immediate disqualification of the specific match. The sanction of immediate disqualification can be given to both Players of a match when they both have the same responsibility for the above.

14-2. When there are facts that cannot be technically proved during a match, the Council may examine and judge if the result or the conduction of a match in general was normal. In that case, the Council may disqualify one or both of the opponents, or order repeat of the match or the conduction of it (if it was not conducted).

14-3. Liability of Club representatives: The Players who are appointed to legally represent their Club are presumed to be equally liable, until the opposite is proved, for any breach of disciplinary regulations of their Club.

14-4. Liability of team captains: The Player who is the Captain of a Team in a specific game is liable according to the present handbook for any breach of disciplinary regulation by his team. This responsibility for the specific delinquency can be reduced if another specific member of his team is held liable.



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15. Special Obligations of Clubs

15-1. Clubs may reply directly to FISTF or the Council through their official representative, according to the FISTF rules.

15-2. Vicarious liability of Clubs: Clubs may be held vicariously liable for the acts of their representatives, and may face equally any consequence in the case of one of their representatives is found in breach of these disciplinary regulations.

15-3. Liability for negligent oversight: The Council may decide of its own initiative to enter Judgement and sanction on Clubs that negligently fail to make sure that their Players do not breach these disciplinary regulations.

15-4. Obligation of internal control: A breach of a disciplinary regulation by a Player member of a Club will not automatically lead to the liability of his Club. However, if the Council sentences a Player, his club has the obligation to sanction him internally.

15-5. Obligation not to employ suspended or disqualified Players: The sanction of disqualification will be given to a Club by the competition head referee or, in his absence, by the competition organiser which uses suspended or disqualified Players during a competition, or Players who in general have no right to play.



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16. Special Obligations of Players

16-1. Obligation of restraint: Players will show restraint during competitions, whether or not they are presently engaged in a match. In particular, the following will be considered as breached of these disciplinary regulations:

1. Negative criticism or harmful comments about another Player, Club, a referee, the head referee, a third party, the competition organiser or a Member National Association. Behaviour or declarations, which are capable of leading to acts of violence.
2. Deliberate breach of the present regulations or of the FISTF rules of the game, with the intent to change the normal course of a match.
3. Exaggerated celebration of a win or a goal that could be considered as an insult of the opponent.
4. Cussing during the match against anyone.
5. Insults against another Player, Club, a referee, the head referee, a third party, the competition organiser or a Member National Association.
6. Denial of a request to referee or absence during a mandatory refereeing.
7. Threat or attempt to use force against another Player, a referee, the head referee, a third party, or the competition organiser.
8. Unlawful use of force against another Player, the referee, the head referee, a third party, or the competition organiser.
9. Damage of the opponents' or third party's equipment.
10. Damage of the equipment used for the competition.

16-2. Players breaching the above obligation will be punished according to the extent of their actions, with one or more of the following sanctions (sanctions can be combined or added one to another):

- a) For the cases 1 to 6: The delegate of the Council may sentence the offender to Disqualification from a match or to Disqualification from the competition. In addition, the Council may give the defendant an Official Warning, a fine, a deduction of up to 100 world ranking points, an alternative penalty of sport interest or a suspension for a specific period up to 3 months.
- b) For the cases 7 to 10: The delegate of the Council may sentence the offender to Disqualification from a match or to Disqualification from the competition. In addition, the Council may sentence the defendant to any disciplinary sanction.

16-3. For the sentencing of all breaches of the obligation of restraint, provocation or breach of these disciplinary regulations by the victim may be considered as extenuating circumstances.

16-4. The following arguments may be considered by the Council as aggravating circumstances:

- a) The defend(s) has (have) acted when nominated as referee(s), head referee(s) or organizer(es);
- b) The victim of the acts of the defendant (s) has submitted a medical certificate attesting internal or external injuries that might reasonably be regarded as resulting from acts of violence committed by the defend(s);
- c) The defend(s) has (have) acted in the presence of young players or spectators;
- d) The defend(s) has (have) been sentenced for similar offenses in the past, no matter which Council (FISTF or National Council) has decided it.

16-5. The Council may also sentence the offender, who has caused damage, used force or attempted to use force against another player, a referee, a head referee or a competition organizer at another moment than during the competitions, with a suspension or exclusion.



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16-6. Abusive or offensive written comments and/or posts in any type of communication channels (internet, electronic mail, etc.) or media, against any player, referee, official, coach, organizer or other sports agent related with FISTF, can be sanctioned by this Disciplinary Regulations, on a case of a formal complaint received by the Disciplinary Council from any source.



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17. Special Obligations of Referees

17-1. When a player is designated as referee, he has to do his best to make the right decisions according to the rules of the game. He has to stay concentrated from the beginning to the end of the game.

17-2. The referee's behavior has to be exemplar. He has to be polite and respectful in every circumstance, even if some players or spectators are not.

17-3. When a player or both, don't respect some referee's decisions, for instead in discussing or trying to let him change some of his decisions, the referee must use the following procedure:

- a) At the first time, the referee tells to the player: *"Warning! Next time, I will give you a yellow card."*
- b) At the second time, he tells to the player: *"Yellow card! Next time, I will give you an orange card."*
- c) At the third time, he tells to the player: *"Orange card! You mustn't use your flicking keeper any more until the end of the game. Next time, I will give you a red card."*
- d) At the fourth time, he tells to the player: *"Red card!"* In that case, the game is over and the referee must immediately leave the table and inform a head referee or the organizer about the situation. The offender is then disqualified.

17-4. If a referee doesn't respect the procedure above, the Council may consider it as a breach (offense number 2 mentioned at the point 16-1) and sentence him.

17-5. If a player insults the referee or his opponent, the referee has immediately to give him a red card, leave the table and inform a head referee or the organizer. The offender is then disqualified.



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18. Cards Records System

18-1 Red Cards Records System

18-1-1. The Council will hold a record of the Red Cards that have been inflicted to the Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

18-1-2. Additionally to the sanctions referred to Article 15, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

Player who has been inflicted two (2) Red Cards during the same sports season (September to August): Loss of 200 World ranking Points and any fine;

- Player who has been inflicted three or four (3 or 4) Red Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 200 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 3 months disqualification from any FISTF competition;
- Player who has been inflicted five (5) Red Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of a minimum of 300 World Ranking points, any fine, and disqualification from any FISTF competition for a minimum of one (1) year.

18-2. Orange Cards Records System

18-2-1. The Council will hold a record of the Orange Cards that have been inflicted to the Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

18-2-2. Additionally to the sanctions referred to Article 15, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

Player who has been inflicted three or four (3 or 4) Orange Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 50 World Ranking points, and a 40 Euro fine;

- Player who has been inflicted five or six (5 or 6) Orange Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 150 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 2 months disqualification from any FISTF competition;
- Player who has been inflicted seven (7) Orange Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of 200 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 3 months disqualification from any FISTF competition. The Council may decide, depending on the number of cards and/or the specific cases, if the player should get any additional sanction.

18-3. Yellow Cards Records System

18-3-1. The Council will hold a record of the Yellow Cards that have been inflicted to the Players in accordance with the FISTF rules of the game.

18-3-2. Additionally to the sanctions referred to Article 15, the following sanctions will be given by the Council:

Player who has been inflicted four (4) Yellow Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 50 World Ranking points, and a 20 Euro fine;

- Player who has been inflicted five to seven (5 to 7) Yellow Cards during the same sports season: Loss of 100 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 1 month disqualification from any FISTF competition;
- Player who has been inflicted eight (8) Yellow Cards or more during the same sports season: Loss of 150 World Ranking points, any fine, and a 3 months disqualification from any FISTF competition. The Council may decide, depending on the number of cards and/or the specific cases, if the player should get any additional sanction.



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18-4. Cards Records System - Combinations

18-4-1. Additionally to the sanctions referred to Articles 16 to 18, the Council may give a sanction to a player who has a combination of Red/Orange/Yellow cards. Any player having two (2) or more cards in each category (e.g. 2 Orange & 2 Yellow) and even if according to Articles 16 to 18 he would get no sanction, may be sentenced by the Council according to its judgment.



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19. Recurring Breaches of Disciplinary Regulations

19-1. The Club or Player, who, after the Council according to the present disciplinary regulations has sentenced him, fails to comply with the sentence and/or breaks the same or any other rule repeatedly, will receive a harder sanction.

19-2. To be considered as recurring breaches, the minor breaches (offenses 1 to 6 mentioned at the point 16-1) must have occurred during the last five (5) sports seasons, and the major breaches (offenses 7 to 10 mentioned at the point 16-1) must have occurred during the last 10 (ten) sports seasons.

19-3. If the defendant already benefited of a suspended penalty for similar facts, the Council will automatically add this suspended ban to the next sanction.



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E. Rules of Procedures of the FISTF Disciplinary Council

20. Filing of Claims

20-1. When the FISTF, a National Association, Player or Club becomes aware of a possible breach of these disciplinary regulations, he may file a claim reporting such breach to the Council within thirty (30) calendar days of the presumed breach. Such claim will be addressed to the Chairman or the person to whom he has given the authority to process claims.

20-2. Claims have to be filed in writing by one named plaintiff against one or more named defendants. The FISTF, Member National Associations, Clubs and Players may be plaintiffs or defendants. Such claims will set out in sufficient details the charges against the defendant, and will list as a minimum:

- a) The names and contact details of the plaintiff;
- b) The name of the defendants in sufficient details to allow the Council to identify them;
- c) A description of the facts presumed to be a breach of these disciplinary regulations, including but not limited to time and place information;
- d) If possible, the mention of the part of the disciplinary regulations that the plaintiff considers have been breached;
- e) A description of the prejudice caused to the plaintiff by the presumed breach, if any.
- f) Should the initial claim, in the opinion of the Council, not contain sufficient information, the Chairman will contact the plaintiff in order to collect that information. The plaintiff will be responsible to provide the missing information to the Council.

20-3. Should the Council decide that the plaintiff has not provided sufficient information to allow the Council to render a Judgement, the claim will be dismissed as non-admissible. The Chairman will inform in writing the plaintiff as soon as possible of such decision.

20-4. Should the Council decide that the claim is admissible, the Chairman will inform in writing as soon as possible the defendant of the details of the claim and charges against him, and that the defendant may file a written explanatory memorandum in his defence to the Council within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the Chairman's message.



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21. Proceedings before the Council

21-1. For the investigation of the claim, the Council may request the production of other supporting documentation, such as Match Report, Referee's Reports, Head Referee's Report, Report of the Competition Manager and the defendant's apology letter. Upon receipt of the Council request for the production of such supporting documentation, the document holder has the obligation to provide a copy of the requested document to the Council.

21-2. Proceedings before the Council will be accusatory. Both plaintiff and defendant will be invited to present their case before the Council. This presentation does not have to be made within the frame of formal hearings, and may be achieved through any reasonable method as determined by the Council, including but not limited to informal meetings and e-mail or telephone exchanges.

21-3. Should the Council decide that a preponderance of the available evidence suggests that a breach of the disciplinary regulations did take place, the Chairman will request the defendant to submit an apology letter to the plaintiff and/or any part that has suffered damages from the breach, with a copy to the Chairman. The defendant will have to submit such apology letter in writing within ten (10) days of the Council decision.

21-4. In case of a serious offence the Council can decide for a preventive suspension of the defendant. In this case the defendant cannot participate in any FISTF activity before the final decision of the Council. In addition of the notification of the defendant, his club and his national association, this decision must be released by the Council to be published on the FISTF website.



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22. Judgement

22-1. On the basis of the available evidence and on the apology letter of the plaintiff, if any, the Council will render a Judgement, where it will decide that a preponderance of the available evidence suggests that the defendant is:

- Guilty of one or more breaches of the disciplinary regulations, and will then sentence the defendant to one or more disciplinary sanctions; or
- Not guilty of a breach of the disciplinary regulations.
- Such Judgement will be supported by a reasoned opinion approved by the Council that sets-out the reasons for the Judgement and sentence.

22-2. A defendant may be found guilty of breaches of the disciplinary regulations that were not listed among the charges in the original claim.

22-3. In rendering Judgement, the Council will use as guidelines previous Judgements of the Council and the applicable sentencing guidelines, but will not be bound by such Judgements or guidelines.

22-4. In sentencing the defendant to a disciplinary sanction, the apology letter of the defendant, if any, will be considered as a mitigating circumstance.

22-5. When more than one claim is filed against the same defendant for the same facts, only one Judgement may be rendered against the defendant (no double jeopardy). However:

- When additional claims are filed after Judgement has been rendered, that add new facts that the Council decides to be relevant to the original charges, the Council may decide to reopen the disciplinary proceeding;
- A claim that has been dismissed as non-admissible will not preclude the filing of another claim against the same defendant for the same facts.

22-6. The Chairman will inform in writing as soon as possible the plaintiff and the defendant of the Judgement rendered by the Council and of the related sentence. In addition, the Judgement and sentence will be published as soon as possible on the FISTF official website.



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23. Execution of Disciplinary Sanctions

23-1. Any disciplinary sanction will become effective and its execution will start on the day following the publication of the sentence on the FISTF official website, unless the Council decides otherwise in the Judgement.

23-2. The execution of a sentence will be suspended during the duration of the proceedings that follow the admission by the Council of an appeal from the related Judgement. The period between the start of the execution of the sentence and the suspension of the disciplinary sanction will be deducted from the duration of any new disciplinary sanction imposed by the Judgement in appeal.

23-3. If a sentence cannot be fully executed during a sports season, it will continue during the next sports season(s).

23-4. If a Player is transferred to another Club and/or National Association, he will normally continue his sentence, even if for example a whole team to which he is not member anymore had been sanctioned.



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24. Appeal

24-1. The plaintiff, the defendant or both may, within thirty (30) calendar days of the publication of the Judgement on the FISTF official website, appeal from a Judgement and/or sentence by writing to the Chairman.

24-2. Should the Council decide that the plaintiff, the defendant or both have not provided any additional evidence that could lead the Council to review its Judgement and/or sentence, the relevant appeal will be dismissed as non-admissible.

24-3. Should the Council decide that an appeal, either by the plaintiff, the defendant or both, is admissible, the Council will suspend the Judgement and the execution of the sentence. The Chairman will inform as soon as possible the plaintiff and the defendant and designate at least two (2) other Jurors.

24-4. Following the suspension of the initial Judgement, the Council will re-start the proceedings and render a new Judgement as described in Articles 2 and 3.



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25. Act of Grace

25-1. A defendant (player/club) found guilty and penalised by exclusion from FISTF (Art. 4) is allowed to submit a mercy petition to the Disciplinary Council. The chairman of the DC will nominate at least three members of the DC who will renew the case. All necessary documents will be given to the nominated DC members by the DC chairman. The mercy petition has to be handled within 30 days after submission.

25-2. The mercy petition can be placed under the following circumstances:

- The judgement is already effective
- An appeal against the judgement was unsuccessful
- The appeal was rejected no longer than 60 days before the mercy petition

25-3. The defendant should state in written form the motives for the petition. The defendant should name new possible mitigating facts.

25-4. The DC can mitigate the exclusion only to a suspension for a specified period down to a minimum of one year. The decision is final.

25-5. A nation found guilty and penalised by exclusion from FISTF (Art. 5) is allowed to submit a mercy petition to the Disciplinary Council. The chairman of the DC will nominate at least five members of the DC and the BoD of FISTF who will renew the case. All necessary documents will be given to the nominated members by the DC chairman. The mercy petition has to be handled within 30 days after submission.

25-6. The mercy petition can be placed under the following circumstances:

- The judgement is already effective
- An appeal against the judgement was unsuccessful
- The appeal was rejected no longer than 60 days before the mercy petition

25-7. The defendant should state in written form the motives for the petition. The defendant should name new possible mitigating facts.

25-8. The final judgement has to be presented on the agenda of the next congress as a recommendation. The Congress can mitigate the exclusion only to a suspension for a specified period down to a minimum of one year.

25-9. The time between two congresses can be taken into account for a judgement.

25-10. A mitigated new judgement has a suspensive effect of the exclusion until the next congress. The decision of the congress is final.



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26. Miscellaneous Provisions

26-1. When a member of the Council is himself a party in a proceeding before the Council (either plaintiff or defendant), is related in the first degree (husband, wife, recognised partner, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister) to a party in such a proceeding, or is affiliated in another way with a party in such a proceeding (such as holding a management function in a Club that is a party to such a proceeding), he will not take part in the decisions of the Council related to that proceeding.

26-2. For the purpose of these rules of procedure, written documents will include, but not be limited to manuscripts, typed letters, faxes, e-mails (and their attachments) and cell phone text messages. In case of doubt, the Council will decide if a specific communication is a written document.