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TO UEFA MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

For the attention of  
the president and the general secretary

Your reference

Your correspondence of

Our reference  
GS/rig/bon

Date  
20 May 2022

### **UEFA Disciplinary Regulations, 2022 edition**

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its meeting in Vienna on 10 May 2022, the UEFA Executive Committee approved the new UEFA Disciplinary Regulations (2022 edition) [DR], which will replace the 2020 edition and come into force on 2 June 2022.

The amendments aim at:

- (i) giving the UEFA disciplinary bodies more flexibility, in line with the legal principle of proportionality (let. A below);
- (ii) achieving more efficiency in proceedings before the UEFA disciplinary bodies, in line with the legal principle of procedural economy (let. B below), and
- (iii) providing more legal certainty and predictability, i.e. clarity, consistency, transparency and accuracy, in line with the UEFA disciplinary bodies' current practice (let. C below).

#### **A. Amendments aimed at giving more flexibility**

1) Increasing the maximum amount of fines that the UEFA disciplinary bodies may impose on legal entities (i.e. from €1,000,000 to €10,000,000) and individuals (i.e. from €100,000 to €500,000), so as to better take account of the current economic reality and to provide greater discretion to the UEFA disciplinary bodies in determining the level of fines → *Article 6(3)*

2) Adjustment of the sanctioning regime for racist/discriminatory behaviour by supporters so as to provide more flexibility to the competent UEFA disciplinary body in determining the type and extent of disciplinary measures to be imposed in a specific case (including and especially in the event of a serious offence), in line with the legal principle of proportionality as recognised and prescribed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) → *Article 14 [NB: In analysing the circumstances of the case, the competent disciplinary body could take into account, as a mitigating circumstance, any proof that measures - such*

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as a ban from entering the stadium - have been taken by the national association or club against supporters engaging in racist or discriminatory conduct]

3) Possibility for the UEFA disciplinary bodies to combine a suspension for the misconduct of players or officials not only with a fine but also with community football service → *Article 15(2)*

4) Possibility for the UEFA disciplinary bodies to reduce (and no longer only to increase) the standard number of match suspensions for misconduct by players or officials, if required by the circumstances of the case (in line with the principle of proportionality as enshrined in Article 23(3) stating that "*[d]isciplinary measures can be reduced or increased [...] on the basis of the circumstances of the specific case*") → *Article 15(3)*

5) Reduction (from three years to one year) of the period during which previous records are taken into account when determining the fines imposed on national associations or clubs for improper conduct by their teams, i.e. yellow/red cards against a given number of players and officials (as provided for in Article 15(4) and Annex A.VIII DR) and application of the one-year deadline provided in Article 25(1)(a) DR to more lenient disciplinary measures than just a suspension of up to two matches imposed on an individual, i.e. to a warning or a reprimand → *Article 25(1)(a)*

6) Possibility, in exceptional circumstances, to reduce (and no longer only to extend) the one-year minimum period during which a disciplinary measure can be suspended → *Article 26(2)*

7) Providing the UEFA disciplinary bodies with the discretion to reopen proceedings (instead of an obligation to do so) in case of new and substantial facts or evidence → *Article 53(1)*

## **B. Amendments aimed at achieving more efficiency**

1) Lack of cooperation with the UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors (EDIs) or disciplinary bodies defined as a disciplinary offence → *Article 11(2)(k)*

2) Extension of the duty of cooperation during investigations conducted by the EDIs to any suspected disciplinary offence as defined in the DR (and no longer only when a match-fixing offence referred to in Article 12 is suspected) → *Article 31(5)(e)*

3) Addition of the possibility for the UEFA disciplinary bodies to take decisions by correspondence (if need be) → *Article 41(8)*

4) Possibility for confidential information to be exceptionally shared by UEFA with a national association to facilitate the conduct of disciplinary investigations and/or proceedings by the national association in question (especially when a serious offence - such as a match-fixing offence - has been allegedly committed in its jurisdiction) → *Article 41(10)*

5) Codification of the practice currently applied to situations where only one party requests a decision with grounds → *Article 52(1)*

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6) Discretion for the EDIs to reply to appeals extended to all cases, i.e. EDIs no longer obliged to do so in all match-fixing (Article 12), doping (Article 13) or racist/discriminatory (Article 14) cases, since such an obligation can sometimes unnecessarily delay proceedings → Article 63(2)

### **C. Amendments aimed at providing more legal certainty and predictability**

1) Alignment of the wording of Article 2(2) DR with the new Article 5(3) of the *Procedural rules governing the UEFA Club Financial Control Body*, for the sake of consistency → Article 2(2)

2) Addition of the terms "*Unless stipulated otherwise in these regulations*" at the beginning of Article 8, so as to create consistency with Article 16(1) → Article 8

3) Specification, for the sake of clarity, that, in line with the World Anti-Doping Code, the ten-year statute of limitations on prosecution applies only to anti-doping rule violations (such as the presence of a prohibited substance) as defined in Article 2 of the *UEFA Anti-Doping Regulations (ADR)* → Article 10(1)(b)

4) Simplification of the rule on late kick-offs, for the sake of clarity and in line with recent CAS jurisprudence → Article 11(2)(h)

5) Removal, for the sake of clarity, of the distinction between "*abusive language* [directed] *at a match official*" (as used in Article 15(1)(b)) and "*insulting a[...] match official*" (as used in Article 15(1)(d)), so as to take recent CAS jurisprudence into due account → Articles 15(1)(b) and 15(1)(d)

6) Incorporation in the DR, for the sake of transparency, of the standard two-match suspension for a serious rough play, so as to reflect the practice developed by the UEFA disciplinary bodies when disciplinary proceedings are opened against a national association or club for a direct red card against one of their players → Article 15(1)(d) [NB: According to the well-established jurisprudence of the UEFA disciplinary bodies (as published on UEFA.com), "*rough play*" under the terms of Article 15(1)(a)(ii) DR, for which the standard sanction is a one-match suspension, is defined as "*the action of a player who commits a reckless tackle while challenging for the ball, being at least aware that he might injure or endanger his opponent*" and, pursuant to the well-established jurisprudence of the UEFA disciplinary bodies (as published on UEFA.com), this standard punishment of a one-match suspension is, indeed, increased to a two-match suspension in case of serious or severe rough play; for the sake of completeness, "*assault*" within the meaning of Article 15(1)(e) DR, for which the standard sanction is a three-match suspension, is defined as "*any reckless or intentional act by means of which the opponent's physical well-being is interfered with. Such an act would, non-exhaustively, involve aggressive contact such as slapping, head-butting, kicking, punching, elbowing, shaking, pushing, pinching or hitting*"]

7) Slight amendment of the wording of Article 16(2)(h) related to the order and security at UEFA competition matches, to increase clarity and ensure consistency between this provision and Article 16(1) → Article 16(2)(h)

8) Application of the ten-year period specified in Article 25(1)(b) DR to an anti-doping rule violation, in order to be in line - for the sake of consistency - with Article 10.9.4 UEFA ADR, which states that "*each*

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*anti-doping rule violation must take place within [a] ten-year period in order to be considered multiple violations" → Article 25(1)(b)*

9) Alignment of the wording of Article 29(2)(b) with Article 30(3)(b) by referring to the same amount as in the latter provision (i.e. €50,000), for the sake of consistency → *Article 29(2)(b)*

10) Clarification of the provision on public hearings so as to better reflect that such hearings can only take place in case of anti-doping rule violations → *Article 41(7)*

11) Clarification, in line with the World Anti-Doping Code, that the obligation to issue decisions with grounds applies only to anti-doping rule violations (such as the presence of a prohibited substance) as defined in Article 2 UEFA ADR → *Article 52(4)*

12) Clarification that a complaint may only be followed by the opening of disciplinary proceedings if it concerns a potential disciplinary offence → *Article 55(1)(f)*

13) Addition of two new reasons for an EDI to reject a complaint, the first (i.e. where the issue at stake *"does not relate to a potential disciplinary offence"*) for the sake of clarity and the second (i.e. *"where UEFA's disciplinary bodies manifestly have no jurisdiction over the matter"*) in line with current practice → *Article 55(2)*

14) Simplification of the rule governing the standing to appeal to the AB in doping cases since the provisions governing the right to appeal against doping-related decisions can now be found in Article 13 UEFA ADR → *Article 60(1)*

15) Moving of the current Article 60(5) to Article 61, which deals with the admissibility of appeals, to increase consistency and be in line with current practice → *Articles 60(5) and 61(3)*

16) Amendment of the title of Article 64, so as to have - for the sake of consistency - the same title for proceedings before the AB as in Article 59 for proceedings before the CEDB → *Article 64*

17) Clarification and update of the provisions on the enforcement of match suspensions and suspensions from carrying out a function, in order to avoid confusion among national associations and clubs when applying them and to regulate situations not covered in the current rules (e.g. suspension from the UEFA Nations League to be served in the next EURO or FIFA World Cup) → *Article 68* [NB: The two following examples illustrate how the new rules will be applied: (i) A player who receives a red card in the last match of the final tournament of the UEFA European Under-19 Championship and who, due to his age, would no longer be eligible to participate in the next edition of that championship, will have to serve his suspension in his national association's next match in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship; if, however, the FIFA U-20 World Cup takes place in between, the player will have to serve his suspension in that competition. (ii) If a player receives a red card in the last group stage match of the UEFA Nations League and his team does not qualify for the next stage of that competition (i.e. is eliminated), the player will have to serve his suspension in his national association's next match in the UEFA European Championship, regardless of whether, in view of his age, he would still be eligible to play for his Under-

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21 national team; if, however, the FIFA World Cup (including World Cup qualifying matches) takes place in between the elimination of the player's national team from the UEFA Nations League and the team's next match in the UEFA European Championship, the player will have to serve his suspension in the FIFA World Cup]

18) Application of the rules on suspensions of managers, coaches and assistant coaches extended - for the sake of consistency - to any other team officials (with an exception only for team doctors who are sent off, due to their important role at a match), thus allowing the reference to assistant coaches to be removed from these rules → *Articles 69(1), 69(3) and 69(4)*

19) Alignment of the wording of the provision on the enforceability of disciplinary measures with the text used in the operative part of the decisions taken by the UEFA disciplinary bodies → *Article 70(b)*

20) Possibility for children to attend matches behind closed doors extended to cases of partial stadium closures, so as to codify pt. A.1 of the UEFA circular letter no. 33/2019 (*"Addition of the possibility for clubs and associations to invite children up to the age of 14 from schools or football academies for matches to be played behind closed doors. [...] [NB: This possibility is also applicable by analogy in case of a partial stadium closure]"*) → *Article 73(h)*

21) Simplification of the rule governing the extension of sanctions worldwide → *Article 75*

22) Addition of the fines applicable in the UEFA Europa Conference League to Annex A/VIII (i.e. €500 for a caution and €1,000 for a dismissal) → *Annex A/VIII*

NB: Further corrections of minor importance are proposed in the following provisions of the UEFA DR: Articles 7(3) [cross-reference to *"Articles 8 and 16(2)"* instead of *"Article 8 or 16"*], 11(2)(i) [removal of the terms *"culpably causes a match to be interrupted or abandoned"* since someone who acts so can also be considered *"responsible"* for the interruption or abandonment of that match], 29(2)(b) [term *"imposed"* replaced with *"incurred"*], 31(5)(c) [addition of the terms *"for instance by performing some investigative tasks"* to clarify the meaning of the term *"support"* used in this provision], 52(5) [addition of the term *"redacted"*] and 69(3) [deletion of the terms *"for a minimum of three matches"*].

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Disciplinary unit ([discipline@uefa.ch](mailto:discipline@uefa.ch)).

Yours faithfully,

**UEFA**



Theodore Theodoridis  
General Secretary

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Enclosure

- PDF version of the UEFA Disciplinary Regulations (Edition 2022)

cc (with enclosure)

- UEFA Executive Committee
- UEFA Disciplinary Bodies
- UEFA Ethics and Disciplinary Inspectors
- European members of the FIFA Council
- UEFA honorary members
- FIFA, Zurich