VISION 2047

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

DISCIPLINARY CODE

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

(JUNE 2026 EDITION)

Disciplinary Code

All India Football Federation

(June 2026 Edition)

ALL INDIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Table of Contents

Contents

Definitions 8

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER 12

1. Objectives 12
2. Scope of application: jurisdiction 12
3. Scope of application: natural and legal persons 12
4. Scope of application: time 13
5. Member Associations' disciplinary regulations 13

CHAPTER ONE: SANCTIONS 14

Section 1: Types of sanctions 14

6. Culpability 14
7. Attempt 14
8. Involvement 14
9. Sanctions applicable to individuals 14
10. Sanctions applicable to legal persons 15
11. Warning 16
12. Fine 16
13. Caution 16
14. Expulsion 17
15. Match suspension 18
16. Ban from team dressing room and/or team bench 19
17. Stadium ban 19
18. Ban on taking part in any football-related activity 19
19. Full or partial Stadium closure 20
20. Playing a Match on neutral ground 20
21. Ban on playing in a particular Stadium 21
22. Annulment of the result of a Match 21
23. Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition 21
24. Relegation to a lower division 21
25. Deduction of points 21
26. Forfeit 22
27. Order that a Match be replayed 22
28. Withdrawal of a title or award 22
29. Confiscation 22

30. Withholding of revenues 22
31. Prohibition on registering new Players 22
32. Restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AIFF competitions 22
33. Withdrawal of licence to participate in AIFF competition 22
34. Social Work 23
Section 2: Common rules relating to sanctions 23
35. Suspension of implementation of sanctions 23
36. Time sanctions: calculation of time limit 23
37. Centralisation of sanctions 23
Section 3: Carrying over and cancelling cautions and Match suspensions 24
38. Cautions 24
39. Carrying over Match suspensions 24
Section 4: Determining the sanction 25
40. General rules 25
41. Recidivism 25
42. Concurrent infringements 26
43. Limitation period for prosecution 26
44. Commencement of limitation period 26
45. Completion of limitation period 27
46. Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions 27
CHAPTER TWO: OFFENCES 27
Section 1: Disciplinary decisions made by the Referee 27
47. Minor infringements punishable by a caution 27
48. Serious infringements punishable by an expulsion 28
49. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion 30
50. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion undertaken against Match Officials 31
Section 2: Offences 32
51. Bringing the game into disrepute 32
52. Brawl 32
53. Damage to property 32
54. Team misconduct 33
55. Inciting hatred and violence 33
56. Provoking the general public 34
57. Ineligibility 34
58. Abandonment 35
59. Discrimination and Racist Abuse 35

60. Threats 37
61. Coercion 37
62. Forgery and Falsification 37
63. Corruption 38
64. Specific Proceedings 38
65. Failure to respect decisions 39
66. Organisation of Matches 40
67. Liability for spectator conduct 40
68. Obligations of Member Associations and Clubs 41
CHAPTER THREE: ORGANISATION 41
Section 1: Jurisdiction 41
69. General rule 42
70. Referee 42
71. Judicial bodies 42
72. Court of Arbitration for Sport 43
Section 2: AIFF Disciplinary Committee 43
73. General jurisdiction 43
74. Specific jurisdiction 43
75. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone 43
Section 3: AIFF Appeal Committee 44
76. Jurisdiction 44
77. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone 44
Section 4: Common rules for the judicial bodies 44
78. Composition 44
79. Meetings 45
80. Secretariat 45
81. Independence 45
82. Incompatibility of office 45
83. Withdrawal 45
84. Confidentiality 46
85. Exemption from liability 46
CHAPTER FOUR: PROCEDURE 46
Section 1: Time limits 46
86. Calculation of time limits 46
87. Compliance with time limits 47
88. Pause of time limits 47
89. Extension of time limits 47

Section 2: Right to be heard 48
90. Right to be heard 48
91. Restrictions 48
Section 3: Evidence 48
92. Types of evidence 48
93. Witnesses 49
94. Anonymous participants in proceedings 49
95. Identification of anonymous participants in proceedings 49
96. Evaluation of proof 50
97. Match Officials' reports 50
98. Burden of proof 50
99. Collaboration 51
Section 4: Oral hearings, deliberations and decision 51
100. Request for oral hearing 51
101. Procedure for oral hearing 52
102. Deliberations 52
103. Form of Meetings 52
104. Decision 52
105. Form and content of the decision 53
106. Decision without grounds 53
107. Notification of decision 53
108. Form of notification 54
Section 5: Miscellaneous 54
109. Representation and legal representation 54
110. Language 54
111. Obvious errors 54
112. Costs and expenses 55
113. Enforcement of decisions 55
Section 6: Procedural rules specific to the AIFF Disciplinary Committee 55
114. Commencement 55
115. Investigation 56
116. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone 57
116A. Proposal by the Secretariat 57
Section 7: Procedural rules specific to the AIFF Appeal Committee 57
117. Appeal 57
118. Standing to appeal 58
119. Time limit for appeal 58

120. Appeal fee 59
121. Effects of appeal 59
122. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone 59
123. Body of last instance 59
Section 8: Court of Arbitration for Sport 60
124. Right to appeal 60
Section 9: Provisional measures 60
125. Request 60
126. Procedure 60
127. Decision 61
128. Duration 61
129. Appeal 61
Section 10: Extension of sanction to have effect at National/ International level 61
130. Request 62
131. Conditions 62
132. Procedure 62
133. Decision 62
134. Effect 63
135. Appeal 63
136. Review 63
CHAPTER FIVE: ENFORCEMENT 64
137. Scope of the Code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence 64
138. Specific disciplinary rules 64
139. AIFF Constitution 64
140. Adoption 64
Annexure 1- List of disciplinary measures 65

Definitions

In this AIFF Disciplinary Code, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context specifically indicates otherwise:

AIFF	All India Football Federation
AIFF Regulations	The Constitution, rules, regulations, codes, instructions and directives as promulgated by the AIFF, or any other entity authorised by the AIFF to do so (in accordance with A. 32.36 of the Constitution) from time to time.
Club	A football club which is a legal entity affiliated to a Member Association or its Affiliated Unit.
Code	This AIFF Disciplinary Code.
FIFA	The Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
Friendly Match	A match organised by a Member Association or registered club(s) between teams chosen for a specific occasion and possibly belonging to different spheres of operation.
Football Agents licensed by FIFA	A natural or legal person who, for a fee or free of charge, represents Players and/or Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding an employment contract or represents Clubs in negotiations with a view to concluding a transfer agreement.
Interstate Match	A match between two teams belonging to different Member Associations (two clubs/ one club and one Member Association team/ two Member Association teams).
Match	A football, futsal, or beach soccer match in its entirety (including but not limited to a replayed and/or deferred match, extra time and penalty kicks). For the avoidance of doubt, a Match formally commences when the Stadium is officially opened to spectators and formally concludes when the Stadium is officially

	closed to spectators. Further, for the purposes of determining sanctions, the term Match would include travel to and from hotels and Stadium, stay, conferences and/ or social media updates by individuals bound by this Code during a tournament/ league/ event.
Match Officials	Any individual appointed to one of the following roles in relation to any aspect of a Match: i. Referees (separately defined below); ii. Head of Delegation; iii. AIFF General Coordinator; iv. AIFF Match Commissioner; v. Referee Assessor; vi. Referee educator; vii. Media Officer; viii. Security Officer; ix. Medical Officer; x. Technical Analyst; and xi. any other official designation which the AIFF deems to be required.
Member Associations	Permanent Members or Provisional Members of the AIFF
NADA	National Anti-Doping Authority
National Match	A match between two (2) teams affiliated to different Member Associations
Official	All office bearers and members of AIFF committees, managers, coaches, trainers,

	Match Officials, medical officials, staff and any other person responsible for technical, medical and/or administrative matters in the AIFF, Member Associations, leagues or Clubs, as well as other persons obliged to comply with the AIFF Statutes (except Players and Intermediaries).
Player	A football player registered in accordance with the AIFF Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players or any other manner prescribed from time to time.
Post-match	The time between the final whistle from the referee on the field of play and the teams' departure from the confines of the Stadium.
Pre-match	The time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kick-off from the referee.
Referee	Any individual appointed to officiate a Match in the role of referee, assistant referee, fourth official, fifth official, or timekeeper.
RRA	Referee review area.
Stadium	Any stadium at which a Match is played. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes: (i) the entire premises (to the extent that a valid accreditation card or ticket is required in order to gain access) of a stadium facility inside the outer stadium perimeter fence and (on Match days and any day on which any official team practice session takes place within the stadium), the aerial space above such stadium premises; (ii) parking facilities; (iii) VIP and hospitality areas (including any hospitality village); (iv) the media tribune; (v) concessions areas;

	(vi) commercial display areas; (vii) buildings; (viii) the field of play; (ix) any broadcast compound or stadium media centre; (x) any stands; and (xi) any areas beneath the stands.
Statutes	The Constitution of the AIFF, the Regulations governing the Statutes and the standing orders of the General Body, promulgated by the General Body.
VAR	Video assistant referee(s).
VOR	Video operation room.

For the purposes of this Code, and provided the context so permits:

(a) the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa;

(b) the masculine gender shall include the feminine and vice-versa;

(c) reference to natural persons shall include any legal person or corporation;

(d) references to the AIFF shall include its successors and permitted assigns.

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER

1. Objectives

1.1. The principal objective of this Code is to ensure that the objectives of the AIFF as set out in Article 2 of the AIFF Constitution are respected.

1.2. This Code:

1.2.1. describes infringements;

1.2.2. determines the sanctions incurred for any infringement; and

1.2.3. regulates the organisation, functions, and procedures of the judicial bodies responsible for making decisions regarding any infringement.

Scope of application: jurisdiction

2.1. This Code applies to:

2.1.1. every Match organised by and/or held under the auspices of the AIFF;

2.1.2. every function or course organised by the AIFF;

2.1.3. every friendly interstate Match and/or national competition requiring authorisation from the AIFF;

2.1.4. if a Match Official is harmed physically or otherwise;

2.1.5. if the statutory objectives of the AIFF are breached;

2.1.6. any other football-related activity within India not directly related to a Match;

2.1.7. any activity of an individual bound by this Code outside of their official function in football which constitutes unethical behaviour; and

2.1.8. any breach of AIFF regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

Scope of application: natural and legal persons

3.1. The following natural and legal persons are subject to and bound by this Code:

3.1.1. AIFF Member Associations;

3.1.2. members of Member Associations, and their affiliates;

3.1.3. Clubs;

3.1.4. Officials;

3.1.5. Players;

3.1.6. Match Officials;

3.1.7. Football Agents licensed by FIFA ;

3.1.8. anyone elected and/or assigned by the AIFF to exercise a function;

3.1.9. anyone with an authorisation from the AIFF (in particular, with regard to a Match, competition, function, course, or other event);

3.1.10. any candidate in an AIFF/Member Association election; and

3.1.11. spectators.

3.2. In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function during proceedings, the judicial body shall remain competent to render a decision.

3.3. In the event that an individual bound by this Code ceases to serve in his function, the AIFF may conduct an investigation and present the case to the AIFF Disciplinary committee. The AIFF Disciplinary committee may suspend the proceedings or make a substantive decision.

Scope of application: time

4.1. This Code applies to infringements that have occurred after it has come into force.

4.2. This Code applies to infringements that have occurred prior to it coming into force if this Code is equally favourable or more favourable to the perpetrator of the facts. In other cases, the version of the Code in force at the time of the infringement is applicable.

4.3. Rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the Code coming into force, regardless of the timing of the infringement.

5. Member Associations' disciplinary regulations

5.1. Member Associations are directed to adapt their provisions to this Code so as to standardise the disciplinary regulations, else this code shall prevail, with required modifications. In case of conflict, the provisions of this Code will apply.

CHAPTER ONE: SANCTIONS

Section 1: Types of sanctions

6. Culpability

6.1. Unless otherwise specified, the principle of strict liability applies.

6.2. Therefore, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally, recklessly, and/or negligently.

Attempt

7.1. Acts amounting to attempt are punishable.

7.2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the judicial body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (cf. Article 12).

Involvement

8.1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, may be sanctioned.

8.2. The judicial body will take into account the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. Should a fine be imposed it shall not go below the general lower limit (*cf*. Article 12).

Sanctions applicable to individuals

9.1. The following sanctions may be imposed on individuals:

9.1.1. warning;

9.1.2. fine;

9.1.3. caution;

9.1.4. expulsion;

9.1.5. suspension for a specific number of Matches or for a specific period of time;

9.1.6. ban from team dressing room and/or team bench;

9.1.7. ban from entering a Stadium;

9.1.8. ban on taking part in any football-related activity;

9.1.9. withdrawal of a title or award;

9.1.10. confiscation;

9.1.11. social work;

9.1.12. suspension or withdrawal of a football agent licence; and

9.1.13. Private/Public Apology.

10. Sanctions applicable to legal persons

10.1. The following sanctions may be imposed on Member Associations, Clubs and other such legal persons:

10.1.1. warning;

10.1.2. fine;

10.1.3. full or partial Stadium closure;

10.1.4. order to play a Match on neutral territory;

10.1.5. ban on playing in a particular Stadium;

10.1.6. annulment of the result of a Match;

10.1.7. disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition;

10.1.8. defeat by forfeit;

10.1.9. deduction of points (for a current or future competition);

10.1.10. relegation to a lower division;

10.1.11. order that a Match be replayed;

10.1.12. withdrawal of a title or award;

10.1.13. confiscation;

10.1.14. withholding of revenues from an AIFF competition;

10.1.15. prohibition on registering new Players in AIFF competitions;

10.1.16. restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for

participation in AIFF competitions;

10.1.17. social work; and

10.1.18. Private/Public Apology.

11. Warning

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

12. Fine

12.1. A fine is issued in Indian Rupees (**INR**). Any fine shall be paid in INR.

12.2. Any fine issued shall be:

12.2.1. not less than INR 20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand) or in the case of a competition subject to an age limit not less than INR 10,000 (Rupees Ten Thousand); and

12.2.2. not more than INR 6,00,00,000 (Rupees Six Crores).

12.3. The judicial body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.

12.4. Member Associations are jointly liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual or Club.

12.5. Clubs are jointly liable for the payment of fines imposed on any affiliated individual.

12.6. The fact that an individual subject to a fine has ceased their role at their affiliated Club or Member Association or that a Club subject to a fine has ceased to exist or be affiliated to its Member Association does not cancel out joint and several liability.

13. Caution

13.1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the Referee to an individual during a Match to sanction minor infringements as set out in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game (*cf.* Article 47).

13.2. Two (2) cautions received during the same Match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and automatic suspension from the next Match in the same competition (*cf.* Article 14.5). The two (2) cautions that caused the expulsion are rescinded.

13.3. If an individual receives a caution in two (2) separate Matches of the same AIFF competition, he is automatically suspended from the next Match in that competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise.

Such suspension to be served before any other suspension. The AIFF Disciplinary committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition.

13.3.1. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

13.4. If a Match was abandoned and is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that Match shall be annulled. If a Match was abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and it recommences at the minute at which play was interrupted, any caution imposed before the Match was abandoned remains valid for the remainder of the Match. If the Match is not to be replayed, the cautions received by the teams shall be upheld.

13.5. Cautions issued in a Match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

13.6. If an individual is guilty of a sending-off offence (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game) and receives a direct red card, any other caution he previously received in the same Match is upheld.

14. Expulsion

14.1. An expulsion is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the team bench and the technical area, during a Match. The individual who has been sent off may enter the stands unless he is serving a Stadium ban.

14.2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for individuals. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions a sending-off offence (*cf*. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game); it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two (2) cautions.

14.3. A Player who has been sent off:

14.3.1. shall stay in the team dressing room or the doping control room, accompanied by a chaperone, until the names of the Players selected for the doping test are communicated. The Player may be allowed to sit in the stands, provided his integrity and security are safeguarded, he is not picked for doping control and is no longer wearing his football equipment; and

14.3.2. is not entitled to attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

14.4. An Official who has been sent off:

14.4.1. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded;

14.4.2. shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area including the

team bench; shall not communicate with or contact anyone involved in the Match by any means whatsoever; and is not entitled to attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

14.5. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent Match, even if imposed in a Match that is later abandoned and/or forfeited. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee may extend the duration of the suspension.

15. Match suspension

15.1. A Match suspension is a ban on taking part in a future Match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

15.2. A Player who is suspended in accordance with Article 15.1:

15.2.1. is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s), tunnel and technical area including the team bench;

15.2.2. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded; and

15.2.3. shall not attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium.

15.3. An Official who is suspended in accordance with Article 15.1:

15.3.1. is automatically banned from the team dressing room(s), tunnel and technical area including the team bench;

15.3.2. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the field of play, provided his security and integrity are safeguarded;

15.3.3. shall not be permitted to communicate with or contact any person involved in the Match by any means whatsoever for the duration of a Match; and

15.3.4. shall not attend the post-Match press conference or any other media activity held in the Stadium except the pre-Match press conference held at the very beginning of the competition.

15.4. If the suspension is to be served in terms of Matches, only those Matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, the suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended individual belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the Match.

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

15.6. A suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a Match is retroactively forfeited because a Player took part in a Match despite being ineligible (*cf.* Article 57). This also applies to the suspension imposed on the Player who took part in the Match despite being ineligible.

16. Ban from team dressing room and/or team bench

16.1. A ban from the team dressing room deprives an individual of the right to enter a team dressing room(s) and the area immediately surrounding the field of play.

16.2. A ban from the team bench deprives an individual of the right to sit on the team bench before, during, and after a Match.

16.3. These sanctions may be combined.

17. Stadium ban

17.1. A Stadium ban prohibits an individual from entering a specific Stadium.

17.2. An individual may be banned from more than one (1) Stadium concurrently.

18. Ban on taking part in any football-related activity

18.1. A ban from taking part in any kind of football-related activity prohibits an individual from any involvement in Indian football.

18.2. This includes without limitation:

18.2.1. attending any Match in any AIFF competition or competition organised by a Member Association;

18.2.2. participating in any Match in any AIFF competition or competition organised by a Member Association;

18.2.3. attending or participating in any training activities connected to any Club affiliated to a Member Association or representative team of a Member Association;

18.2.4. attending or participating in any competitions organised under the auspices of the AIFF;

18.2.5. conducting any administrative duties connected to football, futsal, or beach soccer on behalf of a Club affiliated to a Member Association, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association; and

18.2.6. attending any function or course related to football, futsal, or beach soccer, whether hosted by the AIFF, a Member Association, or member of a Member Association.

19. Full or partial Stadium closure

19.1. A Member Association or Club may be ordered to play a future Match with a full or partial Stadium closure.

19.1.1. The judicial body shall order a partial Stadium closure in terms of percentage (e.g. 50% closure).

19.1.2. Any partial Stadium closure shall not affect the allocation of tickets for away teams or the provision of an away team supporters' area.

19.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.

19.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

19.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association than that during whose Match the misconduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

19.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played, other than a friendly match.

20. Playing a Match on neutral ground

20.1. A Member Association or Club may be ordered to play a Match on neutral ground.

20.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association.

20.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

20.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association then that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

20.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in AIFF or District/ State competitions. Such Match (or Matches) shall not be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the Club is affiliated, but may be played on the territory of the Member Association to which the opponent Club is affiliated.

21. Ban on playing in a particular Stadium

21.1. A ban on playing in a particular Stadium deprives the representative team of a Member Association or a Club of the right to play in a particular Stadium.

21.2. In the case of a Member Association, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played by its representative team.

21.2.1. The judicial body shall identify which representative team of the Member Association the order shall be carried out against.

21.2.2. The order may be carried out in Matches for a different representative team of the Member Association then that during whose Match the conduct which gave rise to the order occurred.

21.3. In the case of a Club, this sanction shall apply to a future Match (or Matches) to be played in AIFF or District/ State competitions.

22. Annulment of the result of a Match

22.1. An order that the result of a Match be annulled means that the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

23. Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition

23.1. A Member Association or Club may be disqualified from taking part in a competition in progress.

23.2. A Member Association or Club may be excluded from a future competition.

23.3. These sanctions may be combined.

24. Relegation to a lower division

24.1. A Club may be relegated to a lower division.

25. Deduction of points

25.1. A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a competition in progress.

25.2. A Member Association or Club may have points deducted in a future competition.

25.3. These sanctions may be combined.

26. Forfeit

26.1. A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the relevant Match 3-0 in football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer. If the goal difference at the end of the relevant Match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the field of play is upheld.

27. Order that a Match be replayed

27.1. A Match may be ordered replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full due to the behaviour for which a representative team of a Member Association or Club is liable.

28. Withdrawal of a title or award

28.1. An order to return benefits received in particular sums of money and specific objects (e.g., trophies).

29. Confiscation

29.1. A confiscation order shall result in a specific object (e.g., monies, sports equipment) to be provided to the AIFF.

30. Withholding of revenues

30.1. An order to withhold revenues is the forfeiture of any revenues owed as a result of participation and/or success in a competition.

31. Prohibition on registering new Players

31.1. A prohibition on registering new Players shall result in the relevant team not being permitted to register any new, additional, or replacement Players within a current and/or future registration period as identified by the AIFF.

32. Restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AIFF competitions

32.1. A restriction on the number of Players that a Club may register for participation in AIFF competitions shall result in the Club being permitted to register a number of Players in an AIFF competition which is less than the maximum identified in the relevant competition regulations.

33. Withdrawal of licence to participate in AIFF competition

33.1. An order for withdrawal of a licence to participate in AIFF competition is an annulment of a decision of a club licensing authority in a Member Association to award a licence to a Club to participate in a future AIFF competition.

34. Social Work

34.1. An individual, Club, or Member Association may be ordered to undertake social work as directed by the judicial body.

Section 2: Common rules relating to sanctions

35. Suspension of implementation of sanctions

35.1. The judicial body may suspend or partially suspend the implementation of a sanction.

35.2. By suspending or partially suspending the implementation of a sanction, the judicial body subjects the party sanctioned to a probationary period of between one (1) year and four (4) years.

35.3. If a party 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.

35.4. In the case of anti-doping rule violations, this Article is not applicable.

36. Time sanctions: calculation of time limit

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

37. Centralisation of sanctions

37.1. Records of cautions, expulsions and Match suspensions are stored in the AIFF Competition Management System. The AIFF secretariat may for certain competitions, confirm in writing to the Member Association or club concerned or in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned.

37.2. This communication serves only as a notice of confirmation: sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic Match suspensions) have an immediate effect on subsequent Matches even if the letter of confirmation reaches the Member Association, Club or relevant Team Manager later than a Match in which a suspension is to be carried out.

Section 3: Carrying over and cancelling cautions and Match suspensions

38. Cautions

38.1. Cautions received during a competition are not carried over to another competition.

38.2. Cautions are carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee may exceptionally depart from this before the start of a particular competition.

38.3. Upon its own initiative or upon request, the AIFF Disciplinary Committee may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion so as to restore the balance among several teams that have not played the same number of Matches during the first round of a competition, or in other exceptional circumstances.

38.3.1. This may only be undertaken once in any competition.

38.3.2. Any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.

39. Carrying over Match suspensions

39.1. As a general rule, every Match suspension is carried over from one stage to the next in the same competition.

39.2. Unless otherwise decided by a judicial body, a Match suspension pronounced in terms of Matches in relation to a sending-off pronounced on an individual outside of a competition (separate Match[es]) or not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last Match in the competition) is carried over as follows:

39.2.1. AIFF competitions for representative teams: to the representative team's next Match in an AIFF competition in the same category of football;

39.2.2. AIFF competitions subject to an age limit: to the representative team's next Match in the same age group in AIFF competition in the same category of football. Where the suspension cannot be served in the same age group, it shall be carried over to the next higher age category in AIFF competition in the same category of football;

39.2.3. AIFF club competitions: to the individual's next official Club Match in a domestic competition in the same category of football;

39.2.4. Friendly Matches: shall be carried over to the representative team's next friendly Match; and

39.2.5. Non-official competitions for representative teams: if the regulations of such competitions refer to the Code, to the representative team's next Match in AIFF competition in the same category of football. For eg:

Competitions in which teams have been chosen in accordance with certain criteria (cultural, geographical, historical etc.)

39.3. In no case may a Match suspension resulting from several cautions issued to an individual in different Matches of the same competition be carried over to another competition.

39.4. A Match suspension that has to be carried over to another competition must be served by the individual concerned, regardless of whether the status of that person has changed in the meantime – e.g., from Player to Official or vice versa.

Section 4: Determining the sanction

40. General rules

40.1. The judicial body pronouncing the sanction determines the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking account of both aggravating and mitigating circumstances.

40.2. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one (1) or more specific categories of Match or competition.

40.3. Disciplinary measures can be reduced or increased by the judicial body on the basis of the circumstances of the specific case.

40.4. For the avoidance of any doubt, the judicial body may, even where a minimum sanction is identified in the Code or relevant AIFF regulations, choose to impose a sanction lower or higher than the minimum and/or of a different nature to the minimum after having considered all of the relevant circumstances in accordance with Article 40.3.

40.5. 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 to take effect.

41. Recidivism

41.1. Recidivism is an aggravating circumstance. Unless otherwise specified, the judicial body may increase a sanction as it sees fit if an infringement has been repeated.

41.2. Subject to Articles 41.3 and 41.4, recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature is committed by the same defendant after notification of the previous decision within:

41.2.1. one (1) year of the previous offence if that offence was punished with a suspension of up to two (2) Matches; and

41.2.2. three (3) years of the previous offence in all other cases.

41.3. There is no time limit for recidivism if the previous offence was related to corruption.

41.4. This Article is not applicable to repeated anti-doping rule violations which are governed by the Anti-Doping Regulations and guidelines set by the NADA.

42. Concurrent infringements

42.1. Where more than one (1) infringement has been committed as a result of the same misconduct, the sanction shall be based on the most serious infringement and increased up to 50% (fifty percent) of the maximum sanction specified for that infringement.

43. Limitation period for prosecution

43.1. Infringements committed during a Match cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of two (2) years.

43.2. The prosecution of anti-doping rule violations is subject to the Anti- Doping Regulations and guidelines issued by the NADA.

43.3. Prosecution for Forgery and falsification (cf. Article 62) and corruption (cf. Article 63) is not subject to a limitation period.

43.4. All other infringements cannot be prosecuted after a lapse of ten (10) years.

44. Commencement of limitation period

44.1. The limitation period runs as follows:

44.1.1. from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;

44.1.2. if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;

44.1.3. if the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended; and

44.1.4. the limitation period, when applicable, shall be interrupted where criminal proceedings are formally opened against a person bound by this Code during such proceedings.

45. Completion of limitation period

45.1. The limitation period is completed if the AIFF commences proceedings before it has expired.

46. Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions

46.1. The limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions is five (5) years.

46.2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

CHAPTER TWO: OFFENCES

Section 1: Disciplinary decisions made by the Referee

47. Minor infringements punishable by a caution

47.1. A Player is cautioned by the Referee during a Match if he commits any of the following offences (*cf*. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 13 of the Code), without limitation:

47.1.1. unsporting behaviour;

47.1.2. dissent by word or action;

47.1.3. persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;

47.1.4. delaying the restart of play;

47.1.5. failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;

47.1.6. entering or re-entering the field of play without the Referee's permission;

47.1.7. deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission;

47.1.8. entering the RRA; and

47.1.9. excessively using the 'review' (TV screen) signal.

47.2. An Official is cautioned by the Referee during a Match if he commits any of the following offences (*cf.* Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 13 of the Code), without limitation:

47.2.1. clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of their team's technical area;

47.2.2. delaying the restart of play by their team;

47.2.3. deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational);

47.2.4. dissent by word or action including:

47.2.4.1. throwing/kicking drinks bottles or other objects;

47.2.4.2. gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Official(s) e.g., sarcastic clapping;

47.2.5. entering the RRA;

47.2.6. excessively/persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card;

47.2.7. excessively showing the TV signal for a VAR 'review';

47.2.8. gesturing or acting in a provocative or inflammatory manner;

47.2.9. persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences, *cf.* Law 12 of the Laws of the Game); and

47.2.10. showing a lack of respect for the game.

47.3. Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

48. Serious infringements punishable by an expulsion

48.1. A Player is sent off by the Referee if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 14 of the Code), without limitation:

48.1.1. serious foul play;

48.1.2. violent conduct;

48.1.3. biting or spitting at an opponent or any other person;

48.1.4. denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);

48.1.5. denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the Player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;

48.1.6. using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;

48.1.7. receiving a second caution in the same Match; and

48.1.8. entering the VOR.

48.2. An Official is sent off by the Referee if he commits any of the following offences (*cf.* Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Article 14 of the Code), without limitation:

48.2.1. delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g., holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a Player;

48.2.2. deliberately leaving the technical area to:

48.2.2.1. show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a Match Official;
48.2.2.2. act in a provocative or inflammatory manner;

48.2.3. entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner;

48.2.4. deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play;

48.2.5. entering the field of play to:

48.2.5.1. confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time);
48.2.5.2. interfere with play, an opposing Player or Match Official;

48.2.6. entering the VOR;

48.2.7. physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing Player, substitute, Official, Match Official, spectator or any other person (e.g., ball boy/girl, competition official etc.);

48.2.8. receiving a second caution in the same Match;

48.2.9. using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;

48.2.10. using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment; and

48.2.11. violent conduct (e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking).

48.3. Where an offence is committed and the offender cannot be identified, the senior team coach present in the technical area will receive the sanction.

49. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion

49.1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 14.5, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match suspension as follows:

49.1.1. one (1) Match for denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;

49.1.2. at least two (2) Matches for serious foul play;

49.1.3. at least one (1) Match for indulging in unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or person other than a Match Official (subject to Articles 51, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61);

49.1.4. at least two (2) matches for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures and at least four (4) matches if he is an Official;

49.1.5. at least three (3) Matches or at least two (2) months for violent conduct towards an opponent or person other than a Match Official (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking);

49.1.6. at least six (6) Matches or at least four (4) months for biting or spitting at an opponent or a person other than a Match Official;

49.1.7. one (1) Match for entering the VOR;

49.1.8. one (1) Match for delaying the restart of play by the opposing team;

49.1.9. at least one (1) Match for deliberately leaving the technical area to act in a provocative or inflammatory manner and/or entering the field of play to interfere with play or an opposing Player (cf. Articles 48.2.2.2 and 48.2.5.2);

49.1.10. at least one (1) Match for entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner;

49.1.11. at least one (1) Match for deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play; and

49.1.12. one (1) Match for using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment.

49.2. A minimum fine is applicable in all cases as per Annexure 1 of the Code.

49.3. If a judicial body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article74.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and subject to the circumstances, Articles 49.1 and 49.2 may apply.

50. Sanction for serious infringements punishable by an expulsion undertaken against Match Officials

50.1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with Article 14.4, any recipient of a direct expulsion shall be issued a Match suspension as follows:

50.1.1. at least four (4) Matches or at least three (3) months for using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures towards a Match Official (subject to Articles 51, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61);

50.1.2. at least eight (8) Matches or at least six (6) months for violent conduct (e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking) undertaken towards a Match Official;

50.1.3. at least eight (8) Matches or at least six (6) months for biting or spitting at a Match Official; and

50.1.4. at least one (1) Match for deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official and/or entering the field of play to confront a Match Official (including at half-time and full-time) or interfere with a Match Official (cf. Articles 48.2.2.1, 48.2.5.1 and 48.2.5.2).

50.2. A fine of at least INR 75,000 (Rupees Seventy-five Thousand) shall be imposed in all cases.

50.3. If a body exercises its jurisdiction in accordance with Article 74.1.1 of the Code, the individual shall be considered to be a recipient of a direct expulsion and subject to the circumstances, Articles 50.1 and 50.2 may apply.

Section 2: Offences

51. Bringing the game into disrepute

51.1. Any party whose conduct brings the game into disrepute has committed an offence.

Penalty: subject to the gravity of the offence.

51.2. Conduct that brings the game into disrepute includes without limitation:

51.2.1. insulting someone in any way;

51.2.2. violating the principles of fair play;

51.2.3. engaging in unsporting behaviour.

51.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.

51.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

52. Brawl

52.1. Involvement in a brawl is an offence.

52.1.1. Any individual who has tried merely to prevent a brawl, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl, shall not be deemed to be involved in a brawl.

Penalty: for an individual, suspension of at least six (6) Matches;
for a Member Association or Club, fine of at least INR 75,000 (Rupees Seventy-five Thousand)

52.2. Notwithstanding Article 52.1.1, any individual who deliberately enters the field of play during a brawl regardless of culpable conduct has committed an offence.

Penalty: suspension of at least two (2) Matches.

52.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

53. Damage to property

53.1. Causing damage to property before, during, or after a Match is an offence.

53.2. Where property is damaged inside a team dressing room or team bench area, it is presumed that such damage was undertaken by an individual affiliated to the relevant team assigned to that team dressing room or team bench area. The party may produce evidence to rebut the presumption, which shall be determined on the balance of probabilities.

53.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his affiliated Member Association or Club shall be held liable.

Penalty: for an individual,
fine of at least INR 20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand) plus cost of damage caused;

for a Member Association or Club,
fine of at least INR 30,000 (Rupees Thirty Thousand) plus cost of damage caused.

53.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

54. Team misconduct

54.1. If any team conducts itself improperly (for example, if individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the Referee on either five (5) or more Players or a combination of six (6) or more Players and Officials in case of football during a Match, or three (3) or more Players or a combination of four (4) or more Players and Officials in the case of futsal or beach soccer during a Match), disciplinary measures may also be taken against the Member Association or Club concerned.

Penalty: A minimum fine is applicable in all cases as per Annexure 1 of the Code

54.2. Any team where several individuals threaten or harass Match Officials or other persons during a Match has committed an offence.

Penalty: A minimum fine is applicable in all cases as per Annexure 1 of the Code.

54.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

55. Inciting hatred and violence

55.1. Anyone who publicly incites others to hatred or violence has committed an offence.

Penalty: <u>for a Player, Official or individual in a team delegation</u>
Match suspension of at least fifteen (15) Matches or at least twelve (12) months; and

Match suspension of at least fifteen (15) Matches or at least twelve (12) months; and fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) and at least INR 5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakhs) in aggravated cases, as mentioned in Article 55.2].

for a Member Association or Club
fine of at least INR 5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakhs) and at least INR 10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakhs) in aggravated cases; and

any other sanctions as listed in the Code.

55.2. The offence is aggravated where the infringement is committed using the mass media, social media, or if it takes place on a Match Day in or around a Stadium.

55.3. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

56. Provoking the general public

56.1. Anyone who provokes the general public during a Match has committed an offence.

Penalty: for a Player, Match Official or individual in a team delegation suspension of two (2) Matches; and fine of at least INR 60,000 (Rupees Sixty Thousand)

for a Member Association or Club, fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh)

56.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

57. Ineligibility

57.1. If a Player is fielded in a Match despite being ineligible, an offence has been committed.

Penalty: for a Club/Member Association in an official match forfeit of the Match; and fine of at least INR 60,000 (Rupees Sixty Thousand).

for a Club/ Member Association in a friendly match forfeit of the Match; and fine of at least INR 30,000 (Rupees Thirty Thousand).

57.2. If a team fields more than one (1) Player who is ineligible in a Match, the fine shall be multiplied by the number of ineligible Players who participated in the relevant Match.

57.3. If the offence is discovered after the completion of a competition, the judicial body may additionally order that the team be excluded from a future competition or the deduction of points from a future competition.

57.4. The offence is aggravated in cases of age-fraud.

58. Abandonment

58.1. If a team refuses to play a Match or to continue playing one which has begun, it has committed an offence.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and fine of at least INR 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh).

58.2. In serious cases, the offence is aggravated.

Penalty: forfeit of the Match; and
fine of at least INR 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakhs); and
disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

59. Discrimination and Racist Abuse

59.1. 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 on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.

59.2. State/Member Associations and clubs shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to ban from entering stadiums any person who has been charged with, or found guilty of, having racially abused a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, descent, nationality or ethnicity, including via social media or any other digital platform or written medium.

59.3. In the event of racist abuse occurring during a match, the referee will implement FIFA's three-step anti- discrimination procedure, in line with the relevant regulations and circular letters. The procedure allows the referee to 1) stop the match, 2) suspend the match and 3) abandon the match.

59.4. Any player or official who is the victim of racist abuse by the crowd during a match may inform the referee by using the appropriate gesture, as outlined in the relevant FIFA rules, or by any other means. The referee may then immediately implement the first step of FIFA's three-step anti- discrimination procedure, as described in Article 59.3 above. Subsequently, the host club, member association or organizing authority shall immediately deploy the necessary personnel to the relevant section of the stadium with the aim of stopping the racist abuse. The player or official may also identify the person(s) involved in perpetrating such abuse and request that they be removed from the stadium whenever possible. If they cannot be removed due to security reasons and the racist abuse continues, the referee may implement the second step of FIFA's three- step anti-discrimination procedure until the abuse

desists.

59.5. In cases where the racist abuse has been personally verified by the referee and the second step of FIFA's three-step anti-discrimination procedure (i.e. suspend the match) has been applied as per Article 59.3, the player or official who has been subjected to the abuse may provide the AIFF Disciplinary Committee with a victim statement. If the club or member association concerned is unable to provide enough evidence or clarification to disprove the racist abuse alleged by the player or official, the player or official's statement will be accepted. In such cases, and after all the relevant circumstances have been considered, the AIFF Disciplinary Committee may decide to declare the match forfeited by the responsible club or member association.

59.6. If one or more supporters of a representative team or club engage in the behaviour described in Article 59.1 above, the member association or club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures, even if the member association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence:

a) For a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least INR 6,00,000 shall be imposed on the association or club concerned, unless this would lead to an unreasonable financial impact on the affected member association or club, in which case the fine may be reduced, on an exceptional basis, to no less than INR 50,000. As an exception to Article 12.2 of this Code, the maximum fine to be imposed in cases of racist abuse against a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match shall be INR 50,00,000;

b) For recidivists or repeat incidents, 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 association or club concerned.

59.7. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee may deviate from the above minimum sanctions if the association and/or the club concerned commits to developing, in conjunction with AIFF, a comprehensive plan to ensure actions against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be approved by AIFF and shall include, at least, the following three focus areas:

a) educational activities (including a communication campaign aimed at supporters and the general public). The effectiveness of the campaign will be reviewed regularly.

b) stadium security and dialogue measures (including a policy on how offenders will be identified and dealt with through football sanctions, a policy on escalation to state (criminal) legal authorities, and a dialogue with supporters and influencers on how to create change).

c) partnerships (including working with supporters, NGOs, experts and stakeholders to advise on and support the action plan and ensure effective and ongoing implementation).

59.8. Persons who are bound by this Code and have been the victim of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee to make an oral or written victim impact statement, and will have the right to request the motivated decision in proceedings before the judicial bodies, as well as to lodge an appeal and act as party in the disciplinary appeal proceedings in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code.

59.9. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a match is abandoned by the referee because of discriminatory behaviour and/or racist abuse, the match shall be declared forfeited.

60. Threats

60.1. Anyone who intimidates a Match Official with serious threats has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh); and suspension of at least one (1) match.

60.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

61. Coercion

61.1. Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a Match Official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh); and suspension of at least two (2) Matches.

61.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

62. Forgery and Falsification

62.1. Anyone who, in football-related activities:

62.1.1. forges a document; or

62.1.2. falsifies an authentic document; or

62.1.3. uses a forged or falsified document, has committed an offence.

Penalty: <u>for a Player:</u>
Fine of at least INR 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand); and suspension of at least six (6) Matches or six (6) months.

<u>for any other individual:</u>

fine of at least INR 50,000 (Rupees Fifty Thousand); and ban on taking part in any football related activity for at least twelve (12) months.

62.2. A Member Association or Club may be held jointly liable for a Penalty: fine of at least INR 75,000 (Rupees Seventy-Five Thousand); and expulsion from a future competition and/or a prohibition on registering new players

62.3. Where the individual cannot be identified, his Member Association or Club shall be held liable for the offence.

Penalty: fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh); and disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from a future competition.

62.4. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

63. Corruption

63.1. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body or judicial body of the AIFF, a Match Official, a Player or an Official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite a violation of AIFF regulations or obtain any other improper advantage has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least INR 3,00,000; and
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least three (3) years; and ban on entering any stadium.

63.2. Anyone who solicits or accepts an unjustified advantage from an individual seeking to incite a violation of AIFF regulations or obtain any other improper advantage, regardless of whether that advantage materialises, has committed an offence.

Penalty: fine of at least INR 3,00,000; and
ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least three (3) years; and ban on entering any stadium.

63.3. The instruction of an intermediary or related party to offer, promise, grant, solicit, or accept an unjustified advantage shall fall within the scope of Article 63.1 or Article 63.2.

63.4. For either offence, where the offence is aggravated, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

63.5. For either offence, in the case of a repeated offence, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

64. Specific Proceedings

64.1. The commission of any Anti-Doping Rule Violation as pronounced within the Anti-Doping Regulations and guidelines of the NADA in force at the relevant time is an offence.

Penalty: in accordance with the Anti-Doping Regulations and guidelines of the NADA.

64.2. Breaches of the FIFA Football Agent Regulations are sanctioned in accordance with the AIFF Football Agent Regulations and this Code.

65. Failure to respect decisions

65.1. Anyone who fails to:

65.1.1. pay a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of AIFF or a subsequent CAS appeal decision; or

65.1.2. comply with a non-financial decision passed by a body, a committee or an instance of AIFF or a subsequent CAS appeal decision; or

65.1.3. respect the disciplinary decision of a Referee to expel him from a Match, has committed an offence and the following penalty shall be imposed without any notice.

Penalty:
for an individual:
fine of at least INR 25,000 (Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand) (first instance)

for a club:
fine of at least INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) (first instance)

for a member association:
warning and notification of further disciplinary measures in case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated (first instance)

65.2. The non-compliant party will be granted a deadline by the judicial body to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision along with the applicable penalty under Article 65.1 of the Code.

65.3. Anyone who fails to comply with the deadline issued by a judicial body as set out in Article 65.2 has committed an aggravated offence.

Penalty: for an individual:
ban on football-related activity for at least six (6) months (first offence);

for a Club:
a ban on registering new players for a period of not less than one (1) transfer window, which period may be increased as deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Committee (first offence)

for a Member Association:
deduction of points from a current or future competition (first offence)

65.4. The non-compliant party will be granted a final deadline by the body to pay the amount or comply with the non-financial decision along with the applicable penalty under 65.3 of the Code.

65.5. Anyone who fails to comply with the final deadline issued by a judicial body as set out in Article 65.4 has committed a subsequent aggravated offence.

Penalty: for an individual:
ban on football-related activity for at least twelve (12) months

for a Club:
disqualification from a current competition or expulsion from a future competition

for a Member Association:
Expulsion from AIFF competitions

65.6. Any appeal against a decision passed in accordance with this Article shall be directly lodged with CAS.

66. Organisation of Matches

66.1. Any Member Association or Club that fails to fulfil any of its obligations relating to the organisation of Matches has committed an offence.

66.2. Where the offence is aggravated, any further sanctions as listed in this Code may be imposed by the judicial body.

66.3. A Member Association or Club that hosts Matches is responsible for order and security both in and around the Stadium before, during, and after Matches. They are liable for incidents of any kind and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives. In particular, it shall:

66.3.1. assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the AIFF bodies of those that are especially high-risk;

66.3.2. comply with and implement existing safety rules (e.g., FIFA and AIFF regulations, national laws and agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the Match and if incidents occur;

66.3.3. ensure the safety of Match Officials, Players and Officials of the visiting team during their stay;

66.3.4. keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively; and

66.3.5. ensure that law and order is maintained in the Stadium and immediate surroundings and that Matches are organised properly.

67. Liability for spectator conduct

67.1. Improper conduct undertaken by spectators is an offence.

67.1.1. Improper conduct includes, without limitation, violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, the use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices, the use of insulting, religious and political messages or images in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, causing a disturbance during national anthems, flying of drones and/or invading the field of play or other restricted areas.

67.1.2. The home Member Association or home Club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight

67.1.3. The visiting Member Association or visiting Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight. Supporters occupying the away sector of a Stadium are regarded as the visiting Member Association or visiting Club supporters, unless proven to the contrary.

Penalty: Subject to the relevant competition/tournament/league regulations, and/or gravity of the offence.

67.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the liability described in Articles 67.1.2 and 67.1.3 includes Matches played on neutral territory.

68. Obligations of Member Associations and Clubs

68.1. Member Associations and Clubs shall:

68.1.1. actively vet the age of Players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;

68.1.2. ensure that no-one is involved in their management who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (e.g., doping, corruption, forgery) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past two (2) years; and

68.1.3. bear the responsibility of monitoring the cautions and/or suspensions received by its Players and Officials and to ensure that all Players and Officials registered and or fielded during a competition are eligible to play.

68.2. Failure to adhere to any of these obligations is an offence. The judicial body may order any of the sanctions as set out in this Code as it sees fit in the circumstances.

CHAPTER THREE: ORGANISATION

Section 1: Jurisdiction

69. General rule

69.1. The scope of the jurisdiction of the AIFF is set out in Article 2 of this Code. The judicial bodies shall be competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction conduct within the scope of application of this Code.

69.2. With regard to domestic Matches or competitions not organised by the AIFF, the Member Association and/or sports organisation that organise such Matches or competitions are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction.

69.2.1. The AIFF may investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of this Code that fall under the jurisdiction of Member Associations or other sports organisations if deemed appropriate in a specific case and if the relevant Member Association or other sports organisation fails to prosecute serious infringement.

69.3. Member Associations and other sports organisations shall notify the AIFF of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the AIFF that occur within their area of jurisdiction.

70. Referee

70.1. Decisions taken by the Referee on the field of play are final and generally may not be reviewed by the judicial bodies.

70.2. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee may be enlivened (cf. Article 74).

70.3. In cases where a decision by the Referee involves an obvious error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised), the judicial bodies may only review the disciplinary consequences of that decision. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.

70.4. A protest against a caution or a sending-off from the field of play after two (2) cautions is admissible only if the Referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.

70.5. The provisions of this Code relating to protests against Match results affected by a Referee's decision that was an obvious violation of a rule remain applicable.

71. Judicial bodies

71.1. The judicial bodies of the AIFF (*cf.* Articles 22 and 48 the AIFF Constitution) are the:

71.1.1. AIFF Disciplinary Committee;

71.1.2. AIFF Players Status Committee;

71.1.3. AIFF Appeal Committee;

71.1.4. AIFF Club Licensing Appeals Body (CLAB);

71.1.5. AIFF Ethics Committee; and

71.1.6. Commission(s) formed as provided under Article 22.6 of the AIFF Constitution

72. Court of Arbitration for Sport

72.1. Certain decisions passed by the AIFF Appeal Committee may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport if such appeal is in accordance with the relevant Articles of the AIFF Statutes and this Code.

Section 2: AIFF Disciplinary Committee

73. General jurisdiction

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

74. Specific jurisdiction

74.1. The AIFF Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

74.1.1. sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the Match Officials' attention or in case the Match Official was unable to sanction due to an earlier expulsion or any other technical reasons as reported by any of the Match Official;

74.1.2. rectifying obvious errors (only in cases of mistaken identity of the person penalised and/or on the basis of the technical report from the AIFF Referee department highlighting such obvious errors) in the Referee's disciplinary decisions;

74.1.3. extending the duration of a Match suspension incurred automatically by a sending-off (cf. Article 13.3); and

74.1.4. pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

75. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone

75.1. The chairperson of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee or a member designated by the chairperson may make the following decisions alone:

75.1.1. suspend a person for up to three (3) Matches or for up to two (2) months;

75.1.2. pronounce a fine of up to INR 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh);

75.1.3. rule on a request to extend a sanction (cf. Article 130);

75.1.4. settle disputes arising from objections to members of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee (cf. Article 78); 88

75.1.5. pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures (cf. Article 125);

75.1.6. in urgent cases on request, refer a case directly to the AIFF Appeal Committee for its decision;

75.1.7. rule on any protest received pursuant to any competition regulations;

75.1.8. cases arising under Article 39; and

75.1.9. cases arising under Article 99.

Section 3: AIFF Appeal Committee

76. Jurisdiction

76.1. The AIFF Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any decision of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee that AIFF regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

77. Jurisdiction of the chairperson or member ruling alone

77.1. The chairperson of the AIFF Appeal Committee or a member designated by the chairperson may make the following decisions alone:

77.1.1. decide on appeals against decisions passed by the chairperson or member of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee acting alone so long as such appeals are admissible (cf. Articles 75 and 117);

77.1.2. decide on appeals against provisional measure decisions passed by the chairperson or member of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee acting alone (cf. Articles 75 and 125);

77.1.3. decide on appeals against a decision to extend a sanction (cf. Article 135);

77.1.4. decide on appeals in urgent cases or protest cases;

77.1.5. resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the AIFF Appeal Committee (cf. Article 88); and

77.1.6. pronounce alter and annul provisional measures (*cf*. Article 125).

Section 4: Common rules for the judicial bodies

78. Composition

78.1. The Executive Committee elects the chairperson, deputy chairperson(s), and members of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee and the AIFF Appeal Committee for a

period of four (4) years.

At least 2 (Two) members of each judicial body shall have legal qualifications or related experience.

79. Meetings

79.1. The secretariat shall call the number of members deemed necessary to each meeting.

79.2. Subject to Article 75 meetings are deemed valid if at least three (3) members are present.

79.3. The chairperson or the deputy chairperson and, in their absence the longest- serving member, shall chair each meeting and pass the decisions that this Code empowers the chairperson to take.

80. Secretariat

80.1. The AIFF General Secretariat provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat and the necessary support, infrastructure and staff.

80.2. The AIFF General Secretary appoints the Secretary and Deputy Secretaries.

80.3. The secretariat takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.

80.4. The secretariat manages the case files. The decisions passed and the relevant files shall be kept for at least five (5) years.

81. Independence

81.1. The judicial bodies pass their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other body.

81.2. A member of another AIFF body may not stay in the meeting room during the judicial bodies' deliberations unless they have explicitly summoned him to attend.

82. Incompatibility of office

82.1. The members of the judicial bodies shall not belong either to the AIFF Executive Committee or any AIFF Standing Committee.

83. Withdrawal

83.1. Members of the judicial bodies must recuse themselves from matters where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.

83.2. This applies, without limitation, in the following cases:

83.2.1. if the member has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;

83.2.2. if the member is associated with any of the parties;

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

83.3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairperson immediately.

83.4. Parties may raise an objection to any member they believe to be biased.

83.5. The chairperson shall decide on any claim of bias. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in his absence, the longest- serving member present, shall decide on such claim. Such decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

83.6. Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairperson has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

84. Confidentiality

84.1. The members of the judicial bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (including the facts of cases, the contents of any deliberations and all decisions taken). The contents of such decisions and/or any opinions on the same must not be disclosed to the public, in any manner.

84.2. Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public by the AIFF. This includes, without limitation, publishing such decisions online. Where appropriate, such decisions shall be redacted.

84.3. Any person who is required to participate in or is subject to a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary proceedings must keep such information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body explicitly stipulates otherwise in writing. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.

85. Exemption from liability

85.1. Neither the members of the judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any action or omission relating to any disciplinary procedure conducted pursuant to this Code.

CHAPTER FOUR: PROCEDURE

Section 1: Time limits

86. Calculation of time limits

86.1. Time limits to which a party who has directly received a document shall commence the day after receipt of the relevant document.

86.2. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the place of domicile of the party required to comply, the time limit will expire on the next day that is not a public holiday.

86.3. In urgent cases, the chairperson of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee or the AIFF Appeal Committee (as appropriate) may shorten any deadlines under this Code.

86.4. If a time limit is not observed, the defaulter loses the procedural right in question.

87. Compliance with time limits

87.1. Compliance occurs if the action required has been carried out before expiry of the time limit.

87.2. If the action required is the submission of a document, such document must be submitted to the relevant body no later than midnight on the last day of the time limit.

87.3. Parties shall submit documents by electronic mail.

87.4. In the case of appeals, the appeal fee (cf. Article 120) is considered to be paid in time if the payment is irreversibly made to the nominated AIFF account by midnight on the last day of the time limit.

87.5. Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a time and/or date in any communication or document issued by the AIFF or any judicial body in connection with this Code shall be considered to be a reference to the time and/or date in India.

88. Pause of time limits

88.1. Time limits are paused:

88.1.1. during the period starting two (2) days before the AIFF AGM up to two (2) days after;

88.1.2. during the period starting two (2) days before the first Match up to two (2) days after the final Match of the National Tournament (Finals). The only exception shall be for facts arising during the National Tournament (Finals) and facts which have occurred before but which may have repercussions on the National Tournament (Finals); and

88.1.3. during the periods when AIFF House is officially closed. The exact dates of the closure will be announced to the Member Associations via a circular.

89. Extension of time limits

89.1. Time limits that have been set by the secretariat or the chairperson may be extended, upon request. The time limits fixed in this Code shall not be extended.

89.2. Any requests made under Article 89.1 must be made before expiry of the relevant time limit.

89.3. A time limit shall not be extended more than twice and, the second time, only in exceptional circumstances.

89.4. Any decision to extend or not extend a time limit is final and binding and not appealable.

Section 2: Right to be heard

90. Right to be heard

90.1. A party shall be given the opportunity to be heard before any decision is passed.

90.2. A party may, without limitation:

90.2.1. refer to the file;

90.2.2. present their argument in fact and in law;

90.2.3. request production of proof;

90.2.4. be involved in the production of proof; and

90.2.5. obtain a reasoned decision.

90.3. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

91. Restrictions

91.1. The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances shall be determined by the chairperson.

91.2. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances.

Section 3: Evidence

92. Types of evidence

92.1. Any type of evidence may be produced.

92.2. The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are inadmissible:

92.2.1. evidence that violates human dignity; and

92.2.2. evidence in a language other than English that is not accompanied by a certified translation.

92.3. The following categories of evidence, without limitation, are admissible:

92.3.1. reports from Match Officials;

92.3.2. expert opinions; and

92.3.3. audio or video recordings.

93. Witnesses

93.1. Witnesses shall tell the absolute and whole truth and shall answer the questions put to them to the best of their knowledge and judgement.

93.2. It is the responsibility of the parties to ensure the appearance of the witnesses requested by them and to pay all costs and expenses in connection with their appearance.

94. Anonymous participants in proceedings

94.1. When an individual's testimony could endanger his life or put him or his family or close friends in physical danger, the chairperson may order at the request of the AIFF that:

94.1.1. the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;

94.1.2. the person not appear at the hearing; and

94.1.3. all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

94.2. In view of all the circumstances and in particular if no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony of the relevant person and if it is technically possible, the chairperson may exceptionally order, on his own initiative or at the request of one of the parties, that:

94.2.1. the voice of the relevant person be distorted;

94.2.2. the face of the relevant person be masked;

94.2.3. the relevant person be questioned outside the hearing room; and

94.2.4. the relevant person be questioned in writing through the chairperson.

94.3. 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.

95. Identification of anonymous participants in proceedings

95.1. To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties.

95.2. This identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the judicial body alone, the deputy chairperson and/or all the members (in attendance at the relevant meeting) of the judicial body together and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

95.3. These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

95.4. The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

95.4.1. confirms that the relevant person has been formally identified; and

95.4.2. contains no details that could be used to identify such person

96. Evaluation of proof

96.1. The judicial bodies will have absolute discretion regarding the admissibility of proof and its evaluation.

96.2. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat.

96.3. The standard of proof shall be to the comfortable satisfaction of the members, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation which is made.

96.4. The relevant standards of proof in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations are set out in the Anti-Doping Regulations and guidelines of the NADA.

97. Match Officials' reports

97.1. Facts contained in Match Officials' reports (and in any supplementary reports and correspondence, and supporting evidence such as photographs and videos, submitted by the Match Officials) are presumed to be accurate.

97.2. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of a Match Officials' report may be provided.

97.3. If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various Match Officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the Referee report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play and the Match Commissioner report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

98. Burden of proof

98.1. The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the AIFF.

98.2. The burden of proof in the case of a protest rests on the protesting party.

98.3. Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proving that fact. During the proceedings, the party shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which the party is aware at that time, or of which the party should have been aware by exercising due care.

98.4. The relevant evidentiary burdens in relation to Anti-Doping Rule Violations are set out in the Anti-Doping Regulations and guidelines of the NADA.

99. Collaboration

99.1. Everyone subject to this Code is obliged to collaborate to establish facts if requested by the secretariat. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information.

99.2. The chairperson of the judicial body, upon the application of the secretariat, may impose a fine of up to INR 3,00,000 (Rupees Three Lakh) or a ban on football- related activity of up to two (2) months, on anyone who is dilatory in responding to a request for collaboration.

99.2.1. The chairperson may hear any such application *ex parte*.

99.3. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

Section 4: Oral hearings, deliberations and decision

100. Request for oral hearing

100.1. As a general rule, there are no oral hearings and meetings of the judicial bodies are conducted in private (i.e., without the presence of the Defendant), with the judicial body deciding on the basis of the file.

100.2. A party may request for an oral hearing. The chairperson shall decide on any such request subject to Articles 75 and 77. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.

100.3. For the avoidance of doubt, no meeting, oral hearing and/or deliberations of a judicial body shall be held in public.

101. Procedure for oral hearing

101.1. The chairperson decides on the procedure of any oral hearing.

101.2. Once the hearing of evidence has ended, the chairperson allows the person against whom proceedings are being conducted a final opportunity to speak.

101.3. The oral hearing terminates with this closing statement.

102. Deliberations

102.1. The judicial bodies deliberate privately (i.e., without the presence of the Defendant).

102.2. If an oral hearing has occurred, it will immediately be followed by the confidential deliberations of the judicial bodies.

102.3. Deliberations are conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

102.4. The chairperson decides in which order the various questions will be submitted for deliberation.

102.5. The members present express their opinions in the order set out by the chairperson, who always speaks last.

102.6. The Secretary or Deputy Secretaries have consultative powers only.

103. Form of Meetings

103.1. The secretariat may arrange the deliberations and decision-making (and where necessary, oral hearings) to be conducted via in-person meeting, telephone conference, video conference or any other method.

103.2. The secretariat takes minutes in each meeting.

104. Decision

104.1. Subject to Articles 75 and 77, decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present and eligible to vote.

104.2. Every member present shall vote.

104.3. If votes are equal, the chairperson has the casting vote.

105. Form and content of the decision

105.1. Without prejudice to the application of Article 106 below, the decision contains:

105.1.1. the composition of the committee;

105.1.2. the names of the parties; a summary of the facts;

105.1.3. the grounds of the decision;

105.1.4. the provisions on which the decision was based;

105.1.5. the terms of the decision; and

105.1.6. notice of the channels for appeal.

105.2. The decisions are signed by the Secretary or a Deputy Secretary.

106. Decision without grounds

106.1. The judicial bodies may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten (10) days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure 53 to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding and not appealable.

106.2. The request for the grounds of a decision does not affect the enforcement of the decision, which shall take effect as soon as it is notified, with the exception of orders to pay a sum of money.

106.3. If a party requests the grounds of a decision, such grounds will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of the grounds of decision. Only the parties to which a decision is addressed can request the grounds.

106.4. Any appeal lodged before notification of the grounds of a decision is regarded exclusively as a request for such grounds.

107. Notification of decision

107.1. All parties are notified of the decisions.

107.2. Decisions and other documents intended for Players, Clubs and Officials are addressed to such Players, Clubs and Officials.

107.3. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four (4) days after communication of the documents to the Member Association (cf. Article 86). Failure by the Member Association to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings being undertaken against it in accordance with this Code.

108. Form of notification

108.1. Decisions shall be communicated by facsimile, email and/or registered letter to be legally binding.

108.2. The parties and Member Associations must ensure that their contact details (e.g. address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.

108.3. Any communication which is addressed to the player, official or any other person affiliated to the club/member association shall be sent by the respective AIFF Committee Secretariat via email to the club/member association's email address provided on the AIFF CRS. Further, it is the club/member association's responsibility to inform the concerned parties immediately. Such communication shall be deemed to be sufficient to establish time limits.

Section 5: Miscellaneous

109. Representation and legal representation

109.1. A party may be legally represented.

109.2. If a party is not required to appear personally, they may be represented or legally represented.

109.3. Parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.

109.4. In all cases, parties must provide written authorisation to be represented or legally represented.

110. Language

110.1. The language used in all proceedings shall be English.

110.2. The judicial bodies may use the services of an interpreter. The costs of interpretation shall be borne by the party requiring the interpreter.

111. Obvious errors

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

112. Costs and expenses

112.1. Costs and expenses related to proceedings may be imposed by the judicial body on the unsuccessful party, unless otherwise stipulated in this Code.

112.2. The costs of proceedings before the AIFF Disciplinary Committee shall be borne by the AIFF, except in protest cases, when they shall be borne by the unsuccessful party.

112.3. If no party is sanctioned, the costs and expenses shall be borne by the AIFF. Should a party generate unnecessary costs on account of its conduct, costs may be imposed upon it, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.

112.4. The judicial body that rules on the substance of the matter decides how costs and expenses shall be allocated and the relevant amounts are stipulated by the chairperson. These decisions are final and binding and not appealable.

113. Enforcement of decisions

113.1. Decisions come into force as soon as they are notified.

Section 6: Procedural rules specific to the AIFF Disciplinary Committee

114. Commencement

114.1. Disciplinary proceedings may be opened by the AIFF administration:

114.1.1. ex officio

114.1.2. on the basis of official reports

114.1.3. where a protest has been lodged in accordance with the relevant competition regulations

114.1.4. at the request of the AIFF President, AIFF Executive Committee, or the AIFF General Secretary

114.1.5. on the basis of documents received from a public authority

114.1.6. where a complaint has been filed.

114.2. Any person or body may report any conduct considered incompatible with AIFF regulations. Such complaints shall be made in writing.

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

115. Investigation

115.1. Prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings, the secretariat shall carry out the necessary preliminary investigation ex officio on the basis of the information received pursuant to Article 114.

115.2. If the secretariat deems that there is no prima facie case, it may close the preliminary investigation without opening disciplinary proceedings.

115.3. If the secretariat deems that there is a prima facie case, it shall open disciplinary proceedings.

115.3.1. The secretariat may offer an administrative resolution with the party prior to the opening of disciplinary proceedings and subject to the relevant competition regulations.

115.3.2. If accepted by the party, such administrative resolution must be subsequently approved by the chairperson of the AIFF Disciplinary Committee or by a member designated by the chairperson and recorded by the AIFF.

115.3.3. Should the chairperson not approve the administrative resolution, disciplinary proceedings shall be opened.

115.3.4. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external resources to assist in any investigation.

115.4. The secretariat shall inform the party that disciplinary proceedings have been opened.

115.5. Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is a case, it shall forward charges of misconduct and the full case file to the party and provide the party with an opportunity to be heard.

115.5.1. The content of the full case file may be restricted in accordance with Article 91.

115.6. Once the investigation has been completed, and the secretariat deems that there is no case, disciplinary proceedings shall be closed.

115.6.1. Disciplinary proceedings may be closed, if, among other reasons, the parties reach an agreement, or a party declares bankruptcy

If disciplinary proceedings have been closed, the secretariat may reopen the investigation if new facts or evidence are discovered within the limitation period for prosecution.

115.7. The Secretary or Deputy Secretaries shall prosecute the case on behalf of the AIFF before the AIFF Disciplinary Committee.

115.7.1. The secretariat shall have the authority to hire or appoint external counsel to prosecute the case on behalf of the AIFF.

116. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone

116.1. The procedural rules governing the AIFF Disciplinary Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairperson or member decides alone.

116A. Proposal by the Secretariat

116A.1. In matters reserved for the single judge, the secretariat may propose a sanction on the basis of the existing file. The party concerned may reject the proposed sanction and submit its position before the relevant judicial body within five days of notification of the proposed sanction, in the absence of which the proposed sanction will become final and binding.

Section 7: Procedural rules specific to the AIFF Appeal Committee

117. Appeal

117.1. An appeal may be lodged to the AIFF Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee as well as the Player's status committee, except:

117.1.1. where the sanction imposed is:

117.1.1.1. a warning

117.1.1.2. a suspension for less than three (3) Matches or of up to two (2) months (with the exception of doping-related decisions)

117.1.1.3. a fine of less than INR 4,00,000 (Rupees Four Lakh) imposed on a Member Association or a Club;

117.1.1.4. a fine of less than INR 2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakh) imposed on all other legal or natural persons;

or

117.1.2. those decisions:

117.1.2.1. passed in compliance with Article 65 of this Code

117.1.2.2. which this Code sets out are final and binding

117.2. No appeal is admissible if a party does not request the issuance of a grounds of decision in accordance with Article 106.

117.3. If the AIFF Disciplinary Committee combines disciplinary measures, an appeal is admissible if at least one of the disciplinary measures imposed exceeds the above limits. In this case, the AIFF Appeal Committee will only be entitled to examine the sanctions that exceed the above limit.

118. Standing to appeal

118.1. Anyone who:

118.1.1. has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance; or

118.1.2. has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision, may lodge an appeal to the AIFF Appeal Committee.

118.2. Member Associations may appeal against decisions sanctioning any party affiliated to it. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

118.3. Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their Players or Officials. They shall have the written agreement of the party concerned.

119. Time limit for appeal

119.1. Any party intending to appeal must inform the AIFF Appeal Committee of its intention to do so in writing within three (3) days of notification of the grounds of the decision.

119.2. Within seven (7) days of expiry of the time limit for the declaration of appeal, the appellant must file, in writing, the appeal brief and pay the appeal fee. This must contain the appellant's requests, an account of the facts, evidence, a list of the proposed witnesses (with a brief summary of their expected testimony) and the appellant's conclusions, all of which must be signed by the appellant or 58 his representative. The appellant is not authorised to produce further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.

119.3. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

119.4. In urgent cases, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for the submission of the reasons for appeal.

119.5. Any Member Association receiving a petition of appeal from any party affiliated to it shall forward it immediately to the AIFF Appeal Committee.

120. Appeal fee

120.1. All appeals shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of:

120.1.1. INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lakh) in the case of an individual appellant;

120.1.2. INR 2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakh) in the case of a club/ Member Association/ Institution, not being a natural person. The appeal fee shall be transmitted to the nominated AIFF account before the expiry of the time limit for submitting the appeal brief (cf. Article 119.2).

120.2. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

120.3. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.

120.4. If the appeal is considered to be improper, costs and expenses shall be paid in addition to the appeal fee.

121. Effects of appeal

121.1. An appeal results in the case being reviewed de novo by the AIFF Appeal Committee.

121.2. Disciplinary proceedings may be closed, if, among other reasons, the parties reach an agreement, or a party declares bankruptcy an appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

122. Procedural rules for the chairperson or member acting alone

122.1. The procedural rules governing the AIFF Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairperson or member decides alone.

123. Body of last instance

123.1. The AIFF Appeal Committee rules, in principle, as a body in the last instance.

123.2. The right is reserved for an appeal to be made to the Court of Arbitration for Sport as set out in Article 124.

Section 8: Court of Arbitration for Sport

124. Right to appeal

124.1. The AIFF Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

124.2. The relevant competition regulations may contain further stipulations.

Section 9: Provisional measures

125. Request

125.1. Upon request, the chairperson of a judicial body or a member designated by the chairperson may provisionally pronounce, alter, or revoke a sanction:

125.1.1. if an infringement appears to have been committed;

125.1.2. a decision on the main issue cannot be taken early enough; and

125.1.3. in an emergency.

125.2. In similar circumstances, the chairperson may issue other provisional measures at his discretion, especially to ensure compliance with a sanction already in force.

125.3. A request to provisionally pronounce, alter, or revoke a sanction issued by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee shall be lodged:

125.3.1. only after receipt of the grounds of the decision (cf. Article 106);

125.3.2. simultaneously with an intention to appeal (cf. Article 119); **and**

125.3.3. within the same time limit for the submission of an intention to appeal (cf. Article 119)

125.4. Any provisional measure pronouncing, altering, or revoking a sanction issued by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee shall be automatically annulled if the simultaneous appeal fails to be admitted or is withdrawn.

126. Procedure

126.1. The chairperson shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time.

126.2. The chairperson is not obliged to hear the parties.

127. Decision

127.1. The chairperson delivers his decision immediately.

127.2. That decision shall be implemented immediately.

128. Duration

128.1. Provisional measures may not be valid for longer than thirty (30) days.

128.2. This period may be extended only by up to twenty (20) days.

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

129. Appeal

129.1. An appeal against a decision regarding provisional measures may be lodged before the chairperson of the AIFF Appeal Committee or a member designated by the chairperson.

129.2. The time limit for lodging the appeal is three (3) days commencing from the notification of the decision as provided under Article 119.

129.3. The reasons for appeal shall be sent to the AIFF within the same time limit.

129.3.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

129.4. The appeal fee as prescribed in Article 120.1 (non-inclusive of bank charges) shall be transmitted to the nominated AIFF account within the same time limit.

129.4.1. If this requirement has not been complied with, the appeal is not admitted.

129.4.2. This amount will be reimbursed to the appellant if successful or partially successful. Costs and expenses payable by an appellant who is not successful are deducted from this amount. Any remaining amount is reimbursed. If the appeal fee is insufficient, the appellant will be ordered to pay the difference.

129.5. The appeal shall not have a suspensive effect.

Section 10: Extension of sanction to have effect at National/ International level

130. Request

130.1. If an infringement is serious (in particular, but not limited to, offences involving discrimination, threats, coercion, forgery and falsification), a Member Association or other organising sports body shall request the AIFF to extend the sanctions they have imposed to have effect at National/ International level.

130.1.1. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another international 61 sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by the AIFF and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by the AIFF to have effect at National/ International level.

130.2. The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy of the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the Member Association and/or (if relevant) Club concerned.

130.3. If the judicial bodies discover that Member Associations and other sports organizations have not requested a decision to be extended to have effect at National/International level, they may pass a decision without a request.

131. Conditions

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

131.1.1. the person sanctioned has been cited properly;

131.1.2. the person sanctioned has had the opportunity to state their case (with the exception of provisional measure decisions);

131.1.3. the decision has been communicated properly;

131.1.4. the decision complies with AIFF regulations; and

131.1.5. the decision complies with fundamental legal principles.

132. Procedure

132.1. The chairperson makes his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing any of the parties, using only the file.

132.2. The chairperson may exceptionally decide to orally hear the parties concerned.

133. Decision

133.1. The chairperson is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of Article 131

have been fulfilled. The chairperson may not review the substance of the decision.

133.2. The chairperson either grants or refuses the request to have the sanction extended.

134. Effect

134.1. An extended sanction has the same effect in each Member Association as if it had imposed the sanction.

134.2. If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have effect at confederation level, any decision regarding extension shall always be based on the content of the current decision and subject to any decision on appeal.

135. Appeal

135.1. An appeal against a decision extending a sanction to have effect at national level may be lodged before the AIFF Appeal Committee.

135.2. The provisions of Articles 118 to 123 shall apply, subject to Article 135.3 below.

135.3. The grounds for appeal shall only refer to the conditions for extension set out in Articles 130 and 131.

135.4. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the extended decision.

Section 11: Review of decisions

136.Review

136.1. 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.

136.2. A request for review shall be made within ten (10) days of discovering the reasons for review.

136.3. The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one (1) year after the enforcement of the decision.

136.4. The decision on the request for review shall be made by the chairperson of the judicial body who made the legally binding decision. This decision is final and binding and not appealable.

CHAPTER FIVE: ENFORCEMENT

137. Scope of the Code, omissions, custom, doctrine and jurisprudence

137.1. This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.

137.2. If there are any omissions in this Code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with legal custom or, in the absence of legal custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down as if they were acting as legislators.

137.3. The judicial bodies shall draw upon precedents already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

138. Specific disciplinary rules

138.1. Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of a final AIFF competition. They may depart from the rules stipulated within this Code.

138.2. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating teams in accordance with the relevant competition regulations.

139. AIFF Constitution

139.1. To the extent that this Code is inconsistent with the AIFF Constitution, the AIFF Constitution shall prevail.

140. Adoption

140.1. These regulations were approved and adopted by the General Body of the All India Football Federation on 20th June 2026 and it shall come into force as on the same date.

For AIFF

Sd-
President
Kalyan Chaubey

Sd-
Deputy General Secretary
Satyanarayan Muthyalu

Annexure 1- List of disciplinary measures

Chapter 1, Section 1 of this Code establishes the list of disciplinary measures which may be imposed by the AIFF Disciplinary Committee on natural and legal persons. This annexure is aimed at providing a list of specific disciplinary measures which may be taken into consideration by the relevant judicial body when deciding on the specific case.

For the sake of good order, it is to be noted that the list of disciplinary measures developed in the present annexure is not exhaustive, nor binding, and is without prejudice to the general principles established under Chapter 1, Section 4 of this Code. As a matter of fact, the decisions are rendered on a case-by-case basis and the type and extent of the disciplinary measures are determined by the relevant judicial body in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances

Fine {All figures are in Indian Rupees (INR)}

AIFF Tournament Name	Direct Red Card (Expulsion under Article 49 of the Code)	Team Misconduct* (under Article 54 of the Code)
Indian Super League	40,000	2,00,000
Indian Football League	20,000	1,00,000
I-League 2	10,000	50,000
I-League 3	10,000	50,000
Super Cup	20,000	1,00,000
Durand Cup	20,000	1,00,000
Indian Women's League	20,000	50,000
Indian Women's League 2	10,000	25,000
Santosh Trophy	10,000	20,000
Senior Women's Championship	10,000	15,000
Futsal Club Championship	10,000	25,000
Futsal State Championship	5,000	15,000
Beach Soccer Club Championship	5,000	15,000
Beach Soccer State Championship	5,000	15,000

AIFF Men's/Boys Age-based tournaments	5,000	15,000
AIFF Women's/Girls Age-based tournaments	5,000	15,000

*Such fines would be imposed in addition to the individual fines in case individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players, or six or more officials and players of the team during the relevant match.