

Disciplinary and Ethics Code

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Football Association of Maldives

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Definitions

For the purpose of this code, the terms set out below are defined as follows:

1. **FAM:** Football Association of Maldives
2. **Code:** the Disciplinary and Ethics Code of the FAM which regulates both ethics and disciplinary matters.
3. **Official:** any board member, committee member, match official, coach, trainer, delegate, or any other person responsible for technical, medical or administrative matters in the FAM or a Member of the FAM, a league or a club as well as all other persons bound by the FAM statutes.
4. **Match official:** the referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee assessor and any other person appointed by the FAM or by one of its Members to assume responsibility in connection with a match.
5. **Member:** a legal person that has been admitted into membership of the FAM by its Congress.
6. **Club:** a member of an association (that is a member of the MA) or a member of a league recognised by an association that enters at least one team in a competition organised by the MA.
7. **League:** an organisation that is subordinate to an association.
8. **Match:** a football, futsal or beach soccer match in its entirety including 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.
9. **Match agent licensed by FIFA:** as per the FIFA Match Agent Regulations.
10. **Football Agent:** a natural person licensed by FIFA in accordance with the FIFA Football Agents Regulations.

11. **Player:** any football player registered by the FAM.

12. **Related party:** any party related to the person or persons bound by the code shall be considered a related party if they fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- a. representative and employee;
- b. spouse and domestic partner;
- c. individual sharing the same household, regardless of their personal relationship to the person bound by the code;
- d. immediate family members, i.e. other family members with whom they have a close relationship within a third degree;
- e. legal entity, partnership and any other fiduciary institution, if the person bound by this code or the person receiving an undue advantage:
 - i. holds a management position within that entity, partnership or fiduciary institution;
 - ii. directly or indirectly controls the entity, partnership or fiduciary institution;
 - iii. is a beneficiary of the entity, partnership or fiduciary institution; or
 - iv. performs services on behalf of such entity, partnership or fiduciary institution, regardless of the existence of a formal contract.

13. **Judicial bodies:** the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee of the FAM, and the Appeal Committee of the FAM.

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

Chapter I – General provisions

1 Object

- 1.1 The main object of this code is to ensure that the objectives of the FAM as set out in article 63 par 5 of the FAM statutes are respected.
- 1.2 This code:
 - a. describes the infringements of the rules in the FAM regulations;
 - b. determines the sanctions incurred; and
 - c. regulates the organisation and functions of the MA's judicial bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before said bodies.

2 Scope of application: substantive law

- 2.1 This code applies to:
 - a. every match and competition organised by the FAM, as well as any football-related activity within the FAM's territory not directly related to a match;
 - b. any conduct, other than that specifically provided by other regulations, that damages the integrity and reputation of football, in particular illegal, immoral and unethical behaviour of the persons bound by this code and the regulations, directives and decisions of the FAM, Asian Football Confederation and FIFA.
 - c. any breach of the FAM statutory objectives and regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other FAM body.

3 Scope of application: natural and legal persons

- 3.1 The following natural and legal persons are subject to and bound by this code:
 - a. members of the FAM (including, regional associations, league(s), clubs and any other association affiliated to the FAM);
 - b. indirect members of the MA, in particular clubs;
 - c. officials;
 - d. players;
 - e. match officials;
 - f. football agents licensed by FIFA;
 - g. match agents licensed by FIFA;
 - h. single-entity leagues;

- i. anyone elected, assigned or authorised by the FAM to exercise a function, in particular with regard to a match, competition, course, or any event organised by the FAM.
- 3.2 If an individual bound by this code ceases to serve in their function during proceedings, the judicial body shall remain competent to investigate and judge their conduct. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may suspend the proceedings or take a decision as to the merits and impose appropriate sanctions.

4 Scope of temporal application

- 4.1 This code applies to all infringements committed following the date on which it comes into force.
- 4.2 This code also applies to all infringements committed prior to the date on which it comes into force, subject to any milder sanction that would apply under previous rules.
- 4.3 Rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the code coming into force, regardless of the timing of the infringement.

5 Responsibility

- 5.1 Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed intentionally, recklessly and/or negligently.

6 Attempt and involvement

- 6.1 Acts amounting to attempt are punishable.
- 6.2 Anyone who takes part in committing an infringement or induces someone to do so, either as instigator or accomplice, may be sanctioned.
- 6.3 The judicial body will take into account the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanctions for the actual infringement accordingly. Should a fine be imposed, it shall not go below the general lower limit set out in article 11.2

7 Disciplinary decisions made by the referee

- 7.1 Decisions taken by the referee on the pitch are final and may not be reviewed by the FAM's judicial bodies.
- 7.2 In cases where a decision by the referee involves an obvious error (such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised), the FAM's 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.

- 7.3 A protest against a caution or a sending-off from the pitch after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.
- 7.4 In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and their assistants did not see the event in question and were therefore unable to take any action.
- 7.5 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.

8 Limitation period for prosecution

- 8.1 Infringements may no longer be prosecuted after the following periods lapse:
 - a. one year for infringements committed during a match;
 - b. ten years for anti-doping rule violations (as defined in the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations), match manipulation, bribery and corruption, misappropriation/misuse of funds;
 - c. offences related to threats, the promise of advantages, coercion and all forms of sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation are not subject to such limitation period;
 - d. five years for all other offences.
- 8.2 The limitation period runs as follows:
 - a. from the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;
 - b. if the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;
 - c. if the infringement lasted for a certain period, from the day on which it ended;
 - d. from the day on which the decision of the national dispute resolution chamber of the FAM, or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) becomes final and binding.
- 8.3 The limitation periods set out above are interrupted by all procedural acts, including any legal action (civil or criminal), and start afresh after each interruption.
- 8.4 The limitation period shall be extended by half of its length if a formal investigation of an ethical nature is opened before its expiration.

Chapter II – Disciplinary measures

9 Disciplinary measures

9.1 The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural and legal persons:

- a. warning;
- b. reprimand;
- c. fine or any other pecuniary measure;
- d. return of awards;
- e. withdrawal of a title.

9.2 The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural persons only:

- a) a caution;
- b) an expulsion;
- c) a match suspension;
- d) a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench;
- e) a ban from entering a stadium;
- f) a ban on taking part in any football-related activity;
- g) social work;
- h) compliance training.

9.3 The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on legal persons only:

- a. ban on registering new players;
- b. playing a match without spectators;
- c. playing a match with a limited number of spectators;
- d. playing a match on neutral ground;
- e. ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- f. annulment of the result of a match;
- g. deduction of points;
- h. relegation to a lower division;
- i. expulsion from a competition in progress or from future competitions;
- j. forfeit;
- k. replaying a match;
- l. implementation of a prevention plan;

- m. forfeiture of domestic training rewards that are due;
- n. payment of restitution to an affiliated club;
- o. payment of a specific amount to a club.

10 Warning

A warning is a reminder of the substance of a disciplinary rule or rule of conduct (behaviour, action or omission) in conjunction with the threat of a sanction in the event of a further infringement.

11 Fines

- 11.1 A fine is issued in MVR. Any fine shall be paid in MVR.
- 11.2 Any fine shall not be less than MVR 1,000.00 (One Thousand) and no more than MVR 1,000,000.00 (One Million). For age limit competition any fine shall not be less than MVR 250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty)
- 11.3 The judicial body that imposes the fine decides on the terms and time limits for payment.
- 11.4 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 release it from several liability.

12 Reprimand

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

13 Return of the awards

The person required to return an award shall return the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects, such as medals and trophies.

14 Caution

- 14.1 A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to an individual during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour or minor infringements as set out in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game.

- 14.2 Two 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 cautions that caused the expulsion are not carried over.
- 14.3 If an individual receives a caution in two separate matches of the same MA competition, they are automatically suspended from the next match in that competition unless the competition regulations provide otherwise. Such suspension shall be served before any other suspension. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may exceptionally depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition; any such decision is final and binding and not appealable.
- 14.4 Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall be carried over.
- 14.5 If an individual is sent off as a result of a direct red card, any other caution they previously received in the same match is carried over.
- 14.6 Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition.
- 14.7 Notwithstanding article 14.6, they are carried over from one round to the next in the same competition. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may exceptionally depart from this rule before the start of a particular competition.
- 14.8 If an individual is guilty of a sending-off offence (direct red card), any other caution they have previously received in the same match is carried over.
- 14.9 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may, at its own discretion and on its own initiative, cancel cautions that have not resulted in a sending-off or a suspension by means of a decision not subject to appeal.
- 14.10 In any case, the relevant committee may do this only once in any competition.

15 Expulsion and match suspensions

- 15.1 An expulsion is where the referee gives an individual an order to leave the pitch 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 they are serving a stadium ban.
- 15.2 A match suspension is a ban on taking part in a future match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the pitch.
- 15.3 An 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 cautions.

- 15.4 A player who has been sent off 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 their integrity and security are safeguarded, they are not picked for doping control and are no longer wearing their football equipment. They are not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.
- 15.5 A player or an official who has been sent off or is serving a match suspension:
- a. may be allowed to sit in the stands, but not in the immediate vicinity of the pitch, provided their security and integrity are safeguarded;
 - b. shall not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area, before or during the match, attend the warm-up, or sit on the team bench. After the final whistle, a suspended player may join their team in the dressing room;
 - c. shall not communicate with or contact anyone involved in the match by any means whatsoever; and
 - d. is not entitled to attend the post-match press conference or any other media activity held in the stadium.
- 15.6 An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match, even if it is imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled, forfeited and/or replayed. The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may impose additional match suspensions and other disciplinary measures.
- 15.7 If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of article 26), a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the circumstances that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
- 15.8 A match suspension is regarded as no longer pending if a match is retroactively forfeited because a player took part in a match despite being ineligible. This also applies to the match suspension imposed on a 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 prohibits an individual from entering the team dressing room(s) and the area immediately surrounding the pitch, as well as sitting on the team bench before, during, and after a match.

17 Stadium ban

A stadium ban prohibits an individual from one more than one stadiums.

18 Ban on taking part in any football-related activity

A ban from taking part in any kind of football-related activity prohibits an individual from any involvement in football (administrative or sporting).

19 Full or partial stadium closure

- 19.1 A club may be ordered to play a future match with a full or partial stadium closure.
- a. The judicial body shall order a partial stadium closure as a percentage (e.g. 50% closure) or by identifying a specific area of the stadium.
 - b. 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 clubs, this sanction shall apply to a future match (or matches) to be played in the FAM domestic competitions.

20 Playing a match without spectators

To the extent that the competent judicial body decides otherwise, no one shall be allowed to attend a match that has been ordered to be played without spectators, with the exception of:

- a) a maximum of 200 people holding category 1 tickets from the visiting club or association and a maximum of 20 VIP guests for each association;
- b) a maximum of 55 people per team delegation, including the players;
- c) accredited broadcast staff and media (journalists and photographers);
- d) police officers and security staff with specific tasks related to security at the match;
- e) people carrying out functions related to the stadium infrastructure (grounds, lighting, signage, etc.) and persons carrying out functions related to the match (ball kids, children involved in the pre-match ceremony as well as their chaperones);
- f) a maximum of 75 confederation/FIFA representatives carrying out functions at the match;
- g) people from the confederation/FIFA and confederation/FIFA partners with complimentary tickets; and

h) a maximum of 1,000 children up to the age of 14 (duly accompanied) from schools and/or football academies invited to the match free of charge.

21 Playing a match on neutral ground

A club may be ordered to play a match on neutral ground. This sanction shall apply to any future match (or matches) to be played by the respective club. Such match (or matches) shall not be played on either club's territory.

22 Ban on playing in a particular stadium

A ban on playing in a particular stadium prohibits a club from playing in that stadium.

23 Annulment of the result of a match

Under certain circumstances the result of a match reached on the pitch may be annulled.

24 Expulsion from a competition

Expulsion from a competition prohibits a club from taking part in the current and/or a future competition.

25 Relegation to a lower division

A club may be relegated to a lower division.

26 Deduction of points

A club may have points deducted from those already attained in the current or a future championship.

27 Forfeit

- 27.1 A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0 in 11-a-side football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer.
- 27.2 If the goal difference at the end of the match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the pitch is upheld.

28 Replay of the match

A match may be replayed if it could not take place or could not be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which an association or a club is liable.

29 Implementation of a prevention plan

The FAM or a Member of the FAM, may be ordered to undertake a prevention plan as directed by the judicial body.

30 Social work

An individual may be ordered to undertake social work as directed by the judicial body.

31 Community football service

An individual may be ordered to perform community football service as directed by the judicial body.

32 Compliance training

An individual, club or Member (officials/ employees) may be ordered to undertake compliance training on the required areas and any related laws, regulations and policies as ordered by the judicial body.

Chapter III – Offences

Section I. Infringements of the Laws of the Game

33 Offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play

33.1 Clubs, as well as their players, officials, and any other member and/or person carrying out a function on their behalf, must respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the FIFA Statutes, the FAM's statutes and Asian Football Confederation statutes including their regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.

33.2 Anyone who acts in any of the following ways may be subject to disciplinary measures:

- a. violating the basic rules of decent conduct;
- b. insulting a natural or legal person in any way, especially by using offensive gestures, signs or language;

- c. using a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;
- d. behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or MA into disrepute;
- e. actively altering the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
- f. any other conduct (action or omission) that is considered by the judicial body to result in a violation of this code.

Section II. Disorderliness at matches and competitions

34 Misconduct of players and officials

34.1 Players and/or officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly:

- a) one match for players who are sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity;
- b) at least one match or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards an opponent or a person other than a match official;
- c) at least one match for officials who are sent off for dissent through words or actions;
- d) at least one match for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, e.g. in order to be suspended for an upcoming match and to ultimately have a clean record;
- e) at least two matches for serious foul play;
- f) at least two matches for provoking spectators at a match by any means;
- g) at least two matches or a specific period for acting with obvious intent to cause a match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting their error of judgement and thereby causing them to make an incorrect decision;
- h) at least three matches for violate conduct;
- i) at least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, an opponent or a person other than a match official;

- j) at least four matches or an appropriate period of time for unsporting behaviour towards a match official;
- k) at least ten matches or an appropriate period of time for intimidating or threatening a match official;
- l) at least 15 matches or an appropriate period of time for assaulting a match official, e.g. elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting.

34.2 The misconduct described in paragraph 1 b), f), j) and k) is also subject to the respective sanctions of this code for offences that have been committed off the pitch (e.g. via social networks).

34.3 If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those actually played by the respective team count towards the execution of the suspension. A player does not need to be included on the team sheet for the respective match or competition for a match suspension to be considered served.

34.4 A player or official who, in the context of a match (including pre- and post-match) or competition, publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for no less than six months and with a minimum fine of MVR 8000.00 (Eight Thousand) In serious cases, in addition to the above sanctions and if the infringement is committed using social networks and/or the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or takes place on a matchday in/or around a stadium, the minimum fine will be Any fine shall not be less than MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand).

34.5 If a club team conducts itself improperly (for example, if individual disciplinary sanctions are imposed by the referee on five or more players – three or more in the case of futsal – during a match), disciplinary measures may also be taken against the association or club concerned.

34.6 Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed in all cases.

35 Unplayed match and abandonment

35.1 If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behaviour of a team or behaviour for which a club is liable, the club will be sanctioned with a minimum fine shall not be less than MVR 20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand). The match will be forfeited.

35.2 Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed on the club concerned.

- 35.3 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, especially if for reasons of force majeure, and 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 carried over.

36 Failure to respect decisions

- 36.1 Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club), whether legal or natural, a sum of money in full or part, even though they have been instructed to do so by the FAM, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA, or via a CAS financial decision, or anyone who fails to comply with a non-financial final decision passed by a body, a committee, or an instance of the FAM, or by CAS:
- a. will be fined for failing to comply with a decision and receive any pertinent additional disciplinary measure; and, if necessary.
 - b. will be granted a final deadline of 30 days in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the non-financial decision.
 - c. may be ordered to pay an interest rate of 18% p.a. to the creditor as from the date of the decision of the FAM Disciplinary and Ethics Committee rendered in connection to a CAS decision on an appeal against a financial decision passed by a body, a committee, or an instance of the FAM or a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA;
 - d. In the case of clubs, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on registering new players will be issued until the complete amount due is paid or the non-financial decision is complied with. A deduction of points or relegation to a lower division may also be ordered in addition to a ban on registering new players in the event of persistent failure (*i.e.* the ban on registering new players has been served for more than three entire and consecutive registration periods following the notification of the decision), repeated offences or serious infringements or if no full registration ban could be imposed or served for any reason.
 - e. In the case of natural persons, upon expiry of the aforementioned final deadline and in the event of persistent default or failure to comply in full with the decision within the period stipulated, a ban on any football-related activity for a specific period may be imposed. Other disciplinary measures may also be imposed.

36.2 With regard to financial decisions passed by a body, a committee or an instance of the FAM or CAS, disciplinary proceedings may only commence at the request of the creditor or any other affected party, who is entitled to be notified of the final outcome of the said disciplinary proceedings, including the motivated decision if so requested.

36.3 If the sanctioned person disregards the final time limit, the FAM shall implement the sanctions imposed (in cases involving clubs or natural persons). Where a registration ban (in the case of a club), a ban on any football-related activity (in the case of a natural person) or a disciplinary measure has been enforced against a debtor in accordance with this article in relation to a financial obligation resulting from a CAS or FAM decision and where the debtor provides FAM with reliable evidence of having complied with such decision, such ban may or measure be provisionally lifted.

The creditor will be invited to confirm whether such payment has been made.

a) Should the debtor have provided accurate information and fully settled its financial obligation, the ban or measure is considered permanently lifted.

b) Should the debtor have provided inaccurate information and/or have failed to comply with its financial obligation in full, the FAM Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may decide to:

i. reinstate the ban or measure; and

ii. impose additional disciplinary measures.

36.4 The sporting successor of a non-compliant party shall also be considered a non-compliant party and thus be subject to the obligations under this provision. Criteria to assess whether an entity is to be considered the sporting successor of another entity are, among others, its headquarters, name, legal form, team colours, players, shareholders or stakeholders or ownership and the category of competition concerned.

36.5 Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a club by a competent decision-making body within FAM shall be enforced by the FAM in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable provisions of this disciplinary regulations.

36.6 Any financial or non-financial decision that has been issued against a natural person by a competent decision-making body within FAM shall be enforced by the FAM of the deciding body that has issued the decision or by the natural person's

new association, if the natural person has, in the meantime, been registered or licenced at another association, or otherwise employed by a club affiliated to another association or by another association, in accordance with the principles established in this article and in compliance with the applicable provisions of this disciplinary regulations.

37 Order and security at matches

37.1 Host clubs and other FAM Members are responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. Without prejudice to their responsibility towards the inappropriate behaviour of their own supporters, they are liable for incidents of any kind, including but not limited to those listed in paragraphs below and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match. In particular, FAM Members, clubs and licensed match agents who organise matches shall:

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

37.2 All MA Members and clubs are liable for inappropriate behaviour on the part of one or more of their supporters, as stated below, and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives, even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organisation of the match:

- a. the invasion or attempted invasion of the pitch;
- b. the throwing of objects;
- c. the lighting of fireworks or any other objects;
- d. the use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;

- e. the use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event, particularly messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;
- f. acts of damage;
- g. causing a disturbance during national anthems;
- h. any other lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium.

38 Doping

Doping is sanctioned in accordance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations and this code.

39 Manipulation of football matches and competitions

- 39.1 Anyone who directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match and/or competition or conspires or attempts to do so by any means shall be sanctioned with a minimum five-year ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least MVR 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand) In serious cases, a longer ban period, including a potential lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, shall be imposed.
- 39.2 If a player or official engages in behaviour described in the paragraph above, the club or member to which the player or official belongs may be sanctioned with the forfeiting of the match in question or may be declared ineligible to participate in a different competition, provided the integrity of the competition is protected. Additional disciplinary measures may be imposed.
- 39.3 Persons bound by this code must cooperate fully with the FAM at all times in its efforts to combat such behaviour and shall therefore immediately and voluntarily report to the secretariat of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee any approach in connection with activities and/or information directly or indirectly related to the possible manipulation of a football match or competition as described above. Any breach of this provision from a player shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least three years on taking part in any football-related activity and a fine of at least MVR 50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand). Any breach of this provision from any other individual shall be sanctioned with a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football-related activity and a fine of at least MVR 30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand).
- 39.4 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be competent to investigate and adjudicate all conduct on and off the pitch in connection with the manipulation of football matches and competitions.

40 Forfeit

- 40.1 If a player is fielded in a match despite being ineligible, the team to which the player belongs will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of MVR 5000.00 (Five Thousand). The player may also be sanctioned. For a member association or club fielded ineligible player will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a minimum fine of MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand). 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.
- 40.2 A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match 3-0 in 11-a-side football, 5-0 in futsal or 10-0 in beach soccer. If the goal difference at the end of the match is less favourable to the team at fault, the result on the pitch is upheld.
- 40.3 If ineligible players are fielded in a competition, the FAM's judicial bodies, taking into consideration the integrity of the competition concerned, may *ex officio* impose any appropriate disciplinary measures, including a forfeit, or declare the club ineligible to participate in a different competition.
- 40.4 Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall be carried over.

41 Match protests

- 41.1 Associations and their clubs are entitled to lodge protests. Protests must reach the secretariat and chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in writing, indicating the relevant grounds, within 24 hours of the end of the match in question.
- 41.2 The 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. With a view to ensuring that the competition runs smoothly, the corresponding competition regulations may shorten the protest deadline accordingly.
- 41.3 The protest fee (non-refundable) is MVR 5000.00 (Five Thousand) (no inclusive of any bank charges). which must be transmitted to the bank account nominated by the FAM General Secretariat within twenty-four (24) hours of the Protest Deadline.
- 41.4 A protest is admissible only if it is based on:
- a. an ineligible player's participation in a match as a consequence of that player not fulfilling the conditions defined in the tournament regulations;
 - b. an unfit pitch, as long as the referee was informed as soon as the problem was reported or observed (whether in writing before the match, or orally by a team captain, in the presence of the captain of the opposing team, during the match); or
 - c. an obvious error by the referee as defined in article 7 of this code, in which case the protest may only focus on the disciplinary consequences of the referee's obvious error.

42 Discrimination and defamation

- 42.1 Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions (by any means whatsoever) on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason, shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least five matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.
- 42.2 If one or more of a member's or club's supporters engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1 of this article, the respective member or club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures:

- a) for a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least For an individual: ban on taking part in any football-related activity for at least six (6) months; and fine of at least MVR10,000 (Ten Thousand); For a Club or Member Association: an order to play a match with no or a limited number of spectators; and fine of at least MVR20,000 (Twenty Thousand).
- b) for recidivists or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a deduction of points, 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 as deemed appropriate.

42.3 The competent judicial body may deviate from the above minimum sanctions if the club concerned commits to developing a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be approved by the MA 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).

42.4 Persons who are bound by this Code and have been the victim of potential discriminatory behaviour may be invited by the respective judicial body 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 to lodge and appeal and act as a party in the disciplinary appeal proceedings in accordance with the applicable provision of this Code.

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

- 42.6 Violations of this article that are not connected to the pitch shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least a fine of MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of six matches or three months. In serious cases and/or for repeat violations, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

Chapter IV – Rules of conduct

43 General provisions – general duties

- 43.1 Persons bound by this code shall be aware of the importance of their duties and concomitant obligations and responsibilities. In particular, persons bound by this code shall fulfil and exercise their duties and responsibilities diligently, especially with regard to finance-related matters.
- 43.2 Persons bound by this code shall respect the regulatory framework of the FAM, the Asian Football Confederation, the FAM regional associations and FIFA to the extent applicable to them.
- 43.3 Persons bound by this code shall be aware of the impact their conduct may have on the reputation of the FAM, and shall therefore behave in a dignified and ethical manner and act with complete credibility and integrity at all times.
- 43.4 Persons bound by this code must refrain from any activity or behaviour or any attempted activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of improper conduct as described in the sections that follow.
- 43.5 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least for
For physical or mental abuse: fine of at least MVR10,000; and ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of two (2) years. For sexual exploitation or abuse, or in other serious cases: fine of at least MVR 20,000; and ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a minimum of ten (10) years.

44 Duty to report

- 44.1 Any person bound by this code who becomes aware of any violation of, or attempts to violate, this code by any third party, shall immediately report it to the secretariat and/or the chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
- 44.2 Failure to report such infringements shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of 5 years.
- 44.3 Anyone bound by this code making an unfounded or irresponsible accusation may be sanctioned.

45 Duty to collaborate

- 45.1 The parties shall act, assist and collaborate truthfully, fully and in good faith with the judicial bodies at all times to establish the facts and, in particular, comply with requests for information from the FAM's judicial bodies, regardless of whether they are involved in a particular matter as a party, a witness, or in any other role. This requires, *inter alia*, full compliance with the judicial bodies, including without limitation requests to clarify facts, provide oral or written testimony, submit information, documents or other material, and disclose details regarding income and finances, if the respective judicial body deems it to be necessary.
- 45.2 Persons bound by this code who are required to cooperate in a timely manner with the judicial bodies in a specific case, regardless of whether they are involved as a party, a witness, or in any other role, shall help to establish and/or clarify the facts of a case or any possible breaches of this code and treat the information provided and their involvement strictly confidentially, unless otherwise instructed by the respective judicial body.
- 45.3 Persons bound by this code shall not take any action actually or apparently intended to obstruct, evade, prevent, or otherwise interfere with any actual or potential judicial body proceedings.
- 45.4 In connection with any actual or potential judicial body proceedings, persons bound by this code shall not conceal any material fact; make any materially false or misleading statement or representation; or submit any incomplete, materially false or misleading information or other material.
- 45.5 Persons bound by this code shall not harass, intimidate, threaten or retaliate against someone for any reason related to that person's actual, potential or perceived assistance to or cooperation with the judicial bodies.
- 45.6 If any of the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the respective judicial body may nonetheless reach a decision on the case using the file in its possession.
- 45.7 Any breach of this article by any person subject to this Code may lead to the appropriate sanctions being imposed by the relevant judicial body.

46 Duty of neutrality

- 46.1 In dealings with government institutions, national and international organisations, associations or groupings, persons bound by this code shall, in addition to observing the basic rules of article 42, remain politically neutral, in accordance with the principles and objectives of the FAM, Asian Football Confederation, FAM regional Associations and FIFA leagues and clubs, and generally act in a manner compatible with their function and integrity.
- 46.2 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years..

47 Duty of loyalty

- 47.1 Persons bound by this code shall have a fiduciary duty to the FAM, as well as the respective Member to which they are affiliated, e.g. regional association, leagues and clubs. A breach of fiduciary duty occurs when, inter alia, someone who is placed in a position of responsibility or trust acts in a way that is detrimental to the interests of the MA, as well as the respective member to which they are affiliated, e.g. regional association, leagues or clubs or is likely to damage their reputation.
- 47.2 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 5,000.00 (Five Thousand), as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of two years..

48 Duty of confidentiality

- 48.1 Depending on their function, information of a confidential nature divulged to persons bound by this code while performing their duties shall be treated as confidential or secret by them, if the information is given with the understanding or communication of confidentiality and is consistent with the FAM's principles.
- 48.2 The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this code.
- 48.3 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of three years.

Section II. Conflicts of interest, financial benefits and protection of personal rights

49 Conflict of interest

- 49.1 Persons bound by this code shall not perform their duties (in particular preparing, or participating in, the taking of a decision) in situations in which an existing or potential conflict of interest might affect such performance. A conflict of interest arises if a person bound by this code has, or appears to have, secondary interests that could influence their ability to perform their duties with integrity in an independent and purposeful manner. Secondary interests include, but are not limited to, gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this code themselves or related parties as defined in this code.
- 49.2 Before being elected, appointed or employed, persons bound by this code shall disclose any relations and interests that could lead to situations of conflicts of interest in the context of their prospective activities.
- 49.3 Persons bound by this code shall not perform their duties (in particular preparing, or participating in, the taking of a decision) in situations in which there is a danger that a conflict of interest might affect such performance. Any such conflict shall be immediately disclosed and notified to the organisation for which the person bound by this code performs their duties.
- 49.4 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of one year. In serious cases and/or for repeat violations, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of three years.

50 Offering and accepting gifts or other benefits

- 50.1 Persons bound by this code may only offer or accept gifts or other benefits to and from persons within or outside the FAM, or in conjunction with football agents or related parties as defined in this code, where such gifts or benefits
- a. have symbolic or trivial value;
 - b. are not offered or accepted as a way of influencing persons bound by this code to execute or omit an act that is related to their official activities or falls within their discretion;
 - c. are not offered or accepted in contravention of the duties of persons bound by this code;
 - d. do not create any undue pecuniary or other advantage; and
 - e. do not create a conflict of interest.
- 50.2 Any gifts or other benefits not meeting all of these criteria are prohibited.
- 50.3 If in doubt, gifts or other benefits shall not be accepted, given, offered, promised, received, requested or solicited. In all cases, persons bound by this code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit from anyone within or outside the FAM, or in conjunction with intermediaries or related parties as defined in this code, cash in any amount or form. If declining the gift or benefit would offend the giver on the grounds of cultural norms, persons bound by this code may accept the gift or benefit on behalf of their respective organisation and shall report it and hand it over, where applicable, immediately thereafter to the competent body of the MA.
- 50.4 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a maximum of five years. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. In addition to the fine, the gift or benefit unduly received should be returned, if applicable. In serious cases and/or for repeat violations, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of ten years.

51 Commission

- 51.1 Unless covered by a genuine commercial agreement, persons bound by this code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit commission for themselves or third parties for negotiating deals or conducting other business in connection with their duties.

51.2 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of three years and confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. In serious cases and/or for repeat violations, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a maximum of five years.

52 Protection of physical and mental integrity

52.1 Persons bound by this code shall protect, respect and safeguard the integrity and personal dignity of others.

52.2 Persons bound by this code shall not use offensive gestures and language in order to insult someone in any way or to incite others to hatred or violence.

52.3 Persons bound by this code must refrain from all forms of physical or mental abuse, all forms of harassment, and all other hostile acts intended to isolate, ostracise or harm the dignity of a person.

52.4 Threats, the promise of advantages, coercion and all forms of sexual abuse, harassment and exploitation are particularly prohibited.

52.5 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 30,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum two years. In cases of sexual exploitation or abuse, or in serious cases and/or for repeat violations, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for a minimum ten years.

52.6 Persons bound by this Code who may have been the victim of potential sexual abuse or harassment may appeal before the competent arbitration tribunal against the decision rendered by the relevant body in the related proceedings in accordance with the procedure defined in this Code. They will, in particular, be provided with the decision, the final report of the investigation, as well as, with any document or evidence produced by the parties before the adjudicatory chamber. Their deadline to appeal the relevant decision before the competent arbitration tribunal shall commence on the day of notification of those documents.

52.7 The MA shall immediately notify FIFA of any decision taken by their respective bodies sanctioning a person for conduct described in this article.

Section III. Forgery and falsification, abuse of position, betting and gambling

53 Forgery and falsification

- 53.1 Persons bound by this code are forbidden from forging a document, falsifying an authentic document or using a forged or falsified document.
- 53.2 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of 12 Months.
- 53.3 An association or a club may be held liable for an act of forgery or falsification by one of its officials and/or players.

54 Abuse of position

- 54.1 Persons bound by this code shall not abuse their position in any way, especially to take advantage of their position for private aims or gains.
- 54.2 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of twelve months. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the advantage received.

55 Involvement with betting, gambling or similar activities

- 55.1 Persons bound by this code shall be forbidden from participating in, either directly or indirectly, betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions related to football matches or competitions and/or any related football activities.
- 55.2 Persons bound by this code shall not have any interests, either directly or indirectly (through or in conjunction with third parties), in activities, such as betting, gambling, lotteries or similar events or transactions connected with football matches and competitions. Interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons bound by this code themselves and/or related parties.
- 55.3 Provided that the relevant conduct does not constitute another violation of this code, violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of twelve months. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine.

Section IV. Bribery and corruption, misappropriation and misuse of funds and match manipulation

56 Bribery and corruption

- 56.1 Persons bound by this code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage in order to obtain or retain business or any other improper advantage to or from anyone within or outside the FAM. Such acts are prohibited regardless of whether they are carried out directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties. In particular, persons bound by this code shall not accept, give, offer, promise, receive, request or solicit any personal or undue pecuniary or other advantage for the execution or omission of an act that is related to their official activities and is contrary to their duties or falls within their discretion.
- 56.2 Persons bound by this code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
- 56.3 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of twelve months. Any amount unduly received shall be included in the calculation of the fine. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the advantage received.

57 Misappropriation and misuse of funds

- 57.1 Persons bound by this code shall not misappropriate or misuse funds of FIFA, Asian Football Confederation, FAM, its Members, leagues, regional associations or clubs, or any other funds intended for football, whether directly or indirectly through, or in conjunction with, third parties.
- 57.2 Persons bound by this code shall refrain from any activity or behaviour that might give rise to the appearance or suspicion of a breach of this article.
- 57.3 Violation of this article shall be sanctioned with an appropriate fine of at least MVR 50,000.00 (fifty Thousand) as well as a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a minimum of three years: and confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement.. The amount of misappropriated funds shall be included in the calculation of the fine. The sanction shall be increased accordingly where the person holds a high position in football, as well as in relation to the relevance and amount of the funds concerned or of the advantage received. For either offence, where the offence is aggravated, the ban on taking part in any football-related activity shall be a life ban.

Chapter V – Implementation of disciplinary measures

58 General rules

- 58.1 When imposing a sanction, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall take into account all relevant factors in the case, including: the nature of the offence; the substantial interest in deterring similar misconduct; the offender's assistance to and cooperation with the FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; the motive; the circumstances; the degree of the offender's guilt; the extent to which the offender accepts responsibility; and whether the person mitigated their guilt by returning the advantage received, where applicable.
- 58.2 In case of mitigating circumstances, and if deemed appropriate, taking into account all circumstances of the case, the FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may go below the minimum sanction and/or decide to hand down alternative sanctions as provided under article 11.
- 58.3 Unless this code mentions otherwise, the FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall decide the scope and duration of any sanction.
- 58.4 The FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may directly share or otherwise order the responsible MA body to share information on a case with the appropriate public authorities without prejudice to the relevant laws and the existing legal channels.
- 58.5 In exercising its discretionary powers, the FAM Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may scale down the disciplinary measure to be imposed or decide to hand down alternative sanctions in exceptional situations, and in compliance with the fundamental principles of law and the values of FIFA.

59 Concurrent breaches

- 59.1 Where more than one breach has been committed, the sanction other than monetary sanctions shall be based on the most serious breach.
- 59.2 Concurrent breaches shall be considered aggravating circumstances.

60 Repeated breaches

- 60.1 Repeated breaches shall be considered aggravating circumstances. In such circumstances, the Ethics Committee may go beyond the maximum sanction provided for a violation of the relevant rule, as specified in this Code.

60.2 Repeated breaches occur if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed repeatedly over a period of time. The limitation period for prosecution shall only apply as from the date the most recent offence has been committed and shall therefore apply to all previous breaches.

61 Combined sanctions

61.1 Sanctions imposed may be combined.

62 Recidivism

62.1 Recidivism shall be considered an aggravating circumstance, allowing the FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to go beyond the maximum limit provided for a violation of the relevant rule, as specified in this code.

62.2 Recidivism occurs if another offence of a similar nature and gravity is committed within 15 years of notification of a decision sanctioning a previous offence.

62.3 Recidivism in doping matters is subject to the rules of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations.

63 Suspension of implementation of disciplinary measures

63.1 If the exceptional circumstances of the matter allow, or in cases of lesser gravity, the judicial body may decide to fully or partially suspend the implementation of a disciplinary measure.

63.2 By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the judicial body imposes a probatory period of one to three years on the person sanctioned.

63.3 If the person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement of a similar nature and gravity during the probationary period, the suspension shall be revoked by the judicial body and the sanction enforced without prejudice to any additional sanction imposed for the new infringement.

63.4 Anti-doping rule violations or disciplinary measures relating to match manipulation cannot be suspended.

Chapter VI – Organisation and procedure of the judicial bodies

64 Applicable law

- 64.1 The judicial bodies based their decisions primarily on the FAM's, FIFA's and the Asian Football Confederation's statutes, regulations, circulars, directives; and the Laws of the Game.
- 64.2 If there are any omissions in this code with respect to procedural rules, and in case of doubts regarding the interpretation of the code, the judicial bodies shall decide in accordance with FIFA custom.
- 64.3 During all its operations, the judicial bodies may draw on precedents and principles already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence of FIFA and CAS.

65 Competence

- 65.1 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction any breach of this code and of the FAM's statutes and regulations that does not come under the jurisdiction of another body, in particular any ethical misconduct within the jurisdiction of the MA and any breach related to matches and competitions organised by the MA or its members (leagues, clubs, etc.).
- 65.2 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may:
- a. sanction any infringements or breaches of this code or any other FAM regulations which do not come under the jurisdiction of another body;
 - b. sanction serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
 - c. rectify obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
 - d. extend the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by a sending-off;
 - e. pronounce additional sanctions.
- 65.3 If deemed appropriate, the chairperson or the deputy may refer a case regardless of the matter involved, directly to the Appeal Committee for consideration and decision.

66 Jurisdiction of FIFA and confederations

- 66.1 FIFA shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to:
- a. matches and competitions organised by it;
 - b. international "A" friendly matches (tier-1 international matches);
 - c. friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to different confederations; and
 - d. matches involving invitational teams composed of players registered with clubs belonging to associations of different confederations.

- 66.2 The FIFA Judicial bodies reserve the right to investigate, prosecute and sanction serious infringements within the scope of application of the FIFA Disciplinary or Ethics Code - in particular, doping, match-fixing and discrimination – that fall within the jurisdiction of confederations, associations, or other sports organisations, if deemed appropriate in a specific case and if no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation, member association or other sports organisation 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or if the relevant confederation, member association or sports organisation agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the relevant matter on FIFA.
- 66.3 Confederations shall have jurisdiction on disciplinary matters related to friendly matches and competitions between representative teams or clubs belonging to the same confederation, provided that the competition is not organised by FIFA.

67 Cooperation with FIFA, confederations and other associations

- 67.1 All FAM members have a duty to cooperate with the relevant bodies of the FAM by sharing documents and providing information solicited in the scope of the respective disciplinary proceedings. If a member fails to cooperate in this way, it may lead to sanctions as provided under this code.
- 67.2 All FAM members shall inform FIFA immediately of the sanctions issued by their respective judicial bodies in relation to serious infringements (not limited to discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment). All FAM members shall inform FIFA in order for the relevant decision to take effect worldwide.

68 Composition

68.1 The FAM's judicial bodies are:

- a. the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
- b. the Appeal Committee.

68.2 The FAM's judicial bodies shall consist of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and three members.

68.3 The Congress elects, upon the proposal of the Executive Committee, the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FAM's judicial bodies for a period of four years.

69 Independence

69.1 The chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and other members of the FAM's judicial bodies shall manage their investigations and proceedings and render their decisions entirely independently (as defined in the FAM statutes) and impartially and shall avoid any third-party influence.

69.2 Members of the FAM's judicial bodies must recuse themselves from participating in any meeting, deliberations or matter concerning the respective case, if there are serious grounds for questioning their independence or impartiality and/or there is a conflict of interest. The foregoing shall apply, in particular, in the following cases:

- a. if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
- b. if the member has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party;
- c. if the member has personal, first-hand knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts material to the proceedings;
- d. if the member has expressed an opinion, other than as part of the proceedings in question, concerning the outcome of the proceedings;
- e. if the immediate family of the member is a party to the subject matter in controversy, is a party to the proceedings or has any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceedings and their impartiality;
- f. if the member has already dealt with the case in a different function other than their function as a member of the respective judicial body.

69.3 Members of the FAM's judicial bodies who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the respective chairperson immediately.

- 69.4 If the circumstances give rise to legitimate doubts over the independence or impartiality of a member of the FAM's judicial body, a party is entitled to challenge said member by submitting within five days following the identification of the grounds for non-participation, failing which, such objection shall be deemed waived. The claim must cite the grounds and, if possible, be substantiated.
- 69.5 The chairperson shall decide on any claim of bias raised against a member of the respective judicial body. If an objection is raised concerning the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member present of the respective judicial body shall decide on such a claim.

70 Secretariat

- 70.1 The FAM's general secretariat provides the judicial bodies with a secretariat (composed of at least one person) and the necessary support, infrastructure and staff at the FAM's headquarters. The FAM's judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.
- 70.2 The secretariat oversees the administrative work and writes the minutes and decisions of the meetings.
- 70.3 The secretariat manages the case files. The decisions passed by the FAM's judicial bodies and the relevant files shall be kept for at least fifteen years.
- 70.4 The secretariat shall also keep records of the sanctions imposed by the referee(s). The secretariat of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee confirms them in writing to the club concerned or, in the case of final competitions, to the head of the delegation concerned (or the person(s) indicated by the latter for each competition).
- 70.5 The secretariat takes charge of the necessary investigation *ex officio*.
- 70.6 The general principles that will apply to investigations are the following:
- a) the FAM's judicial bodies may investigate possible offences falling within the scope of this Code.
 - b) In principle, when an investigation is initiated, the parties concerned are informed. This does not apply where such notification is not deemed appropriate. Such investigations are conducted by means of written inquiries, engaging with third parties, such as forensic companies, integrity experts and, where necessary, the questioning of individuals. Other investigative procedures may also be employed, including but not limited to on-site inspections, document requests and the procurement of expert opinions.

70.7 An investigation may be reopened if new evidence or facts emerge which imply that an offence falling within the scope of this Code may have been committed.

71 Integrity experts

71.1 The FAM's general secretariat may appoint an integrity expert to support the necessary investigations into potential breaches of the FAM's regulations.

71.2 The appointed integrity expert may request the opening of disciplinary proceedings and propose that disciplinary measures be imposed on clubs and individuals.

71.3. The integrity experts shall remain impartial and fulfil the independence criteria as defined in the FAM's Statutes. The requirements and conditions of their appointment as well as of their role are set in accordance with the relevant FAM regulations on this subject. The term as integrity expert shall be limited to four years. A list of integrity experts shall be submitted to the FAM's Executive Committee for approval.

72 Confidentiality

72.1 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 the case, the contents of the deliberations and decisions taken) unless the applicable national law compels them to report the matter/alleged infringement to the relevant state authorities.

72.2 The opening of proceedings as well as decisions already notified to the addressees may be made public by the FAM. In particular, the chairperson of the relevant judicial body may decide to publish the decision taken, partly or in full, provided that the names mentioned in the decision (other than the ones related to the party) and any other information deemed sensitive by the chairperson are duly anonymised

72.3 Any person who is required to participate in or is subject to a disciplinary and/or ethics investigation or its proceedings must keep such information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body explicitly stipulates otherwise in writing or they are compelled to report the matter to the relevant authorities according to applicable national law. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.

72.4 In the event of a breach of this article by any judicial body member, the relevant member shall be suspended from the respective judicial body until the next FAM Congress.

73 Meetings and decisions

- 73.1 The judicial bodies meet as often as required.
- 73.2 The meetings may be held in person or online.
- 73.3 In principle, the meetings shall be convened at least 1 days in advance.
- 73.4 For urgent matters the chairperson may request a meeting immediately.
- 73.5 The FAM's judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.
- 73.6 For a judicial decision to be valid, the majority of the judicial body members must be present, except when the chairpersons rule alone.

74 Exemption of liability

Except in the case of gross negligence or malicious intent, neither the members of the judicial bodies nor the secretariat may be held liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any procedure.

75 Time limits

- 75.1 Time limits notified directly to the party or to a representative appointed by the party shall commence at midnight (GMT +5) the day after receipt of the notification of the relevant document. Decisions and other documents intended for persons bound by this Code may be addressed to the person directly and/or to the FAM member to which the party has membership (e.g. association, club or regional association) on condition that it forwards the documents to the intended recipient. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents shall be considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the relevant institution. Time limits are deemed to have been complied with if the relevant action has been completed by midnight (GMT +5) at the latest on the last day of the stipulated deadline.
- 75.2 Official holidays and non-working days are included in the calculation of time limits.
- 75.3 When a deadline expires on a Friday, Saturday or public holiday in Maldives, Male', where the FAM's headquarters are located, it is carried forward to the next working day.
- 75.4 If a time limit is not observed, the defaulter loses the procedural right in question.
- 75.5 Time limits set forth in this code may not be extended.
- 75.6 Time limits set by the judicial bodies may be extended upon reasoned request. A time limit may only be extended for a second time in exceptional circumstances.

76 Parties

Only the accused are deemed to be parties.

77 Representation

- 77.1 During any dealings with the judicial bodies, parties and other persons bound by this code may have legal representation at their own cost and expense.
- 77.2 The parties and other persons bound by this code are free to choose their own legal counsel or representation.
- 77.3 The respective judicial body may request that the representatives of parties and other persons bound by this code submit a duly signed power of attorney.
- 77.4 The judicial body may limit the number of legal representatives of a party if deemed excessive.
- 77.5 If the parties or other persons bound by this code fail to cooperate in any manner or are dilatory in responding to any request from the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, the respective chairperson may, after warning them, charge them with a violation of article 44 of this code.

78 Language used in the proceedings

The language used in proceedings, including the decisions of the judicial bodies, shall be in the official language(s) of the FAM as stipulated in the FAM's statutes.

79 Form of notification

- 79.1 Any person bound by this code must ensure that their contact details (e.g. address, telephone number and email address) are valid and kept up to date at all times.
- 79.2 Emails and registered letters are valid and binding means of communication and will be deemed sufficient to establish time limits and their observance.
- 79.3 Decisions and other documents intended for natural persons bound by this code may be addressed to the person directly and/or to the MA member to which the person is affiliated (e.g. league, regional association or club) on condition that it forwards the documents to the intended recipient. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents shall be considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee four days after communication of the documents to the respective MA member.
- 79.4 Failure by the respective MA member to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings in accordance with this code.

80 Effect of decisions

- 80.1 Decisions passed by the respective judicial body shall come into force as soon as they are communicated.
- 80.2 The FAM's judicial body may rectify any obvious errors at any time.

81 Res iudicata

- 81.1 The MA's judicial body shall not deal with cases that have been previously subject to a final decision by another MA body involving the same cause of action. In such cases, the claim shall be deemed inadmissible.

82 Proof

- 82.1 The burden of proof regarding breaches of this code lies with the FAM's judicial bodies which have absolute discretion regarding the evaluation of evidence.
- 82.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proof of this 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.
- 82.3 Any type of proof may be produced.
- 82.4 Types of proof include, in particular:
- a. documents;
 - b. reports from officials;
 - c. declarations from the parties;
 - d. declarations from witnesses;
 - e. audio and video recordings;
 - f. expert opinions;
 - g. other proof that is relevant to the case.
- 82.5 During the investigation, where oral testimony is given, such testimony may be given in person, by telephone or via video.
- 82.6 Proof that has been obtained by means or ways involving violations of human dignity or that obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be considered inadmissible to the proceedings.
- 82.7 The judicial bodies shall have absolute discretion regarding the evaluation of evidence and shall judge and decide on the basis of their comfortable satisfaction.

83 Witnesses

- 83.1 Witnesses shall tell the absolute and whole truth and shall answer the questions put to them to the best of their knowledge and judgement.
- 83.2 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.

84 Anonymous participants in the proceedings

- 84.1 When a person's testimony could lead to threats to their person or put them or any person particularly close to them in physical danger, the chairperson may order, *inter alia*, that:
- a. the person not be identified in the presence of the parties;
 - b. the person not appear at the hearing;

- c. the person's voice be distorted;
- d. the person be questioned outside the hearing room;
- e. the person be questioned in writing through the chairperson;
- f. all or some of the information that could be used to identify the person be included only in a separate, confidential case file.

84.2 If no other evidence is available to corroborate the testimony provided by the person concerned, such testimony may only be used in the context of imposing sanctions under this code if:

- a. the parties, as well as their legal representatives, had the opportunity to pose questions to the person concerned at least in writing; and
- b. the members of the judicial body had the opportunity to interview the person concerned directly and in full awareness of their identity and to assess their identity and record in full.

84.3 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.

85 Identification of an anonymous participant in the proceedings

85.1 To ensure their safety, persons granted anonymity under article 84 shall be identified behind closed doors in the absence of the parties. This identification shall be conducted by the chairperson of the judicial body alone, their deputy or all the members of the respective judicial body together and shall be recorded in minutes containing the relevant person's personal details.

85.2 These minutes shall not be communicated to the parties.

85.3 The parties shall receive a brief notice which:

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

86 Match officials' reports

Facts contained in match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials are presumed to be accurate. Proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.

87 Costs and expenses

- 87.1 Costs and expenses shall be borne by the party that has been sanctioned, unless otherwise stipulated in this code.
- 87.2 The costs of proceedings before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall be borne by the FAM, except in protest cases, when they shall be borne by the defeated party.
- 87.3 If no party is sanctioned, the costs and expenses shall be borne by the FAM. Should a party generate unnecessary costs on account of its conduct, costs may be imposed upon it, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.
- 87.4 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 of the relevant judicial body. This decision is not subject to appeal.
- 87.5 Each party shall bear its own costs, including the costs of its own witnesses, representatives, legal advisers, interpreters and counsel-

Chapter VII – Procedural rules specific to the FAM's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

88 Commencement

88.1 Proceedings may be opened by the FAM's judicial bodies or their respective secretariat:

- a. *ex officio*;
- b. on the basis of (match) officials' reports;
- c. where a protest has been lodged in accordance with the relevant competition regulations;
- d. on the basis of a motivated request from the FAM's Executive Committee, or the FAM's General Secretary;
- e. at the request of the integrity expert;
- f. at the request of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee;
- g. on the basis of article 36 of this Code;
- h. on the basis of documents received from a public authority; or
- i. where a complaint has been filed.

88.2 Any person or body may report any conduct considered incompatible with this code or any other FAM regulation(s) to the FAM's judicial bodies. Such complaints shall be made in writing and include any available evidence. There is no entitlement for proceedings to be opened following the submission of a complaint. The FAM may initiate investigations and appoint an integrity expert to investigate such complaint.

88.3 Match officials must report infringements which have come to their notice.

88.4 The parties shall be notified of the opening of proceedings and the possible rule violation. Limited exceptions to this rule may be made for safety and security reasons or if such disclosure would interfere with the conduct of the investigation.

89 Investigations

89.1 With the assistance of the secretariat, and depending on the possible breach, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall investigate by means of written enquiries and written or oral questioning of the parties and witnesses. It may also undertake any further investigative measures relevant to the case; in particular, it may verify the authenticity of documents relevant to the investigation by procuring affidavits.

89.2 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may engage third parties with investigative duties. The enquiries to be made by such third parties must be clearly defined.

90 General procedural rules

- 90.1 In principle, there are no oral statements and the FAM's judicial bodies decide on the basis of the file. At the motivated request of one of the parties or at the discretion of the chairperson, a hearing may be arranged to be held, to which all the parties shall be summoned.
- 90.2 Hearings are recorded and archived. Parties are not given access to recordings of hearings. However, if a party claims that procedural rules in its favour have been breached during a hearing, the chairperson of the competent judicial body may allow that party to have access to the recording. Recordings are destroyed after five years.
- 90.3 The FAM's judicial bodies may hold hearings in the absence of one or all of the parties.
- 90.4 All communications concerning an FAM member, club or individual (including notifications of proceedings against them and the issuing of the decisions taken by the FAM's judicial bodies) are addressed to the association or club concerned, which must then, if applicable, inform the club or the individual in person. All such communications by the FAM or the FAM's judicial bodies (including the secretariat) take the form of emails sent by the secretariat.

91 Hearings

- 91.1 Hearings of the FAM's judicial bodies are not open to the public, except in cases of anti-doping rule violations by individuals, if duly requested by the defendant and approved by the chairperson of the relevant judicial body. In cases of match manipulation, the relevant chairperson will decide about a public hearing. The chairperson decides at their own discretion if and under what conditions a public hearing may take place.

- 91.2 The chairperson shall conduct the hearing in whatever manner they deem appropriate, provided it is consistent with this code.
- 91.3 If there is no hearing, the chairperson shall schedule the deliberations and the decision shall be taken by the members of the judicial body or by the chairperson ruling alone in the matters provided for. The parties shall be informed to this effect.
- 91.4 At any time prior to the meeting set up to decide the case by the relevant judicial body, a party may accept responsibility and request the FAM's judicial bodies to impose a specific sanction. The FAM's judicial bodies may decide on the basis of such request or render a decision which it considers appropriate in the context of this code.

92 Provisional measures

- 92.1 The chairperson of the competent judicial body (i.e. the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or Appeal Committee respectively) is entitled to pronounce provisional measures, where these are deemed necessary to ensure that investigation proceedings are not interfered with or where a breach of this code appears to have been committed, and a decision on the merits of the case may not be taken early enough, to maintain sporting discipline or to avoid irreparable harm, or for reasons of safety and security. The chairperson is not obliged to hear the parties.
- 92.2 The interested party may file their position against the request for provisional measures with the chairperson of the competent judicial body within five days of the notification of the request for provisional sanctions.
- 92.3 The chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall decide without delay based on the file or they may decide to hear the interested parties or their representatives.
- 92.4 Provisional measures pronounced by the chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may be appealed against in accordance with the relevant provisions of this code. However, the appeal must reach the FAM's Appeal Committee in writing and with grounds within three days of notification of the contested measure, without having to pay any appeal fee. The chairperson of the Appeal Committee, decides on such appeals as a single judge and without delay based on the file or the chairperson may decide to hear the interested parties. Such decisions are final.
- 92.5 A provisional sanction shall start on the date on which it is notified (or deemed to be notified) by the competent judicial body and shall end with the final decision of the aforementioned body, unless lifted earlier by the competent judicial body.

92.6 A provisional measure may apply for up to 90 days. The duration of any such measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, may exceptionally extend the validity of a provisional measure by up to 90 days.

93 Chairperson ruling alone

93.1 The chairperson can rule alone as a single judge and may delegate their functions to the deputy chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. In particular, the chairperson or the deputy chairperson ruling alone may take decisions in cases related to breaches sanctioned only with monetary sanctions up to MVR 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) and three match ban or when the sanction to be imposed is a warning, reprimand or compliance training, social work and for the implementation of a prevention plan.

93.2 The chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the Appeal Committee, decides as a single judge in appeals for provisional measures.

93.3 The proceedings conducted by the chairperson ruling alone shall be conducted in accordance with this code.

93.4 In matters reserved for the chairperson, or the deputy chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, a sanction on the basis of the existing file before the disciplinary proceedings even commence can be proposed. The party concerned may reject the proposed sanction and request the commencement of disciplinary proceedings within five days of notification of the proposed sanction. In the absence of notification after this deadline, the sanction shall become final and binding. If a rejection is submitted within the time frame, the proposed sanction shall become null and void and the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall commence the proceedings in accordance with this code.

94 Right to be heard

Before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee issues any final decision, the parties are entitled to submit their position, to present evidence and to inspect evidence to be considered by the Committee in reaching its decision. These rights may be restricted in exceptional circumstances, such as when confidential matters need to be safeguarded or witnesses need to be protected, or if it is required to establish the elements of the proceedings.

95 Deliberations and taking of decisions

- 95.1 The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall examine aggravating and mitigating circumstances equally.
- 95.2 The FAM's judicial bodies may take decisions via personal meetings, teleconference, videoconference or any other method.
- 95.3 Except for cases that can be decided by the chairperson as a single judge, the presence of at least three members of the respective judicial body is required for the deliberations. Deliberations shall be conducted without interruption, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A member of the secretariat shall be present during the deliberations.
- 95.4 Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present. In a simple-majority decision, votes are equal. Members shall not abstain. In the event of a tied vote, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- 95.5 For the matters provided for in article 93, decisions are passed by the chairperson or the deputy chairperson ruling alone.

96 Grounds of a decision

- 96.1 In principle, the FAM's judicial bodies issue the terms of decisions without grounds, and only these terms of the decision are notified to the parties, who are informed that they have ten days from that notification to request, in writing, a motivated decision. Failure to make such a request results in the decision becoming final and binding and the parties being deemed to have waived their right to lodge an appeal.
- 96.2 If the motivated decision is requested within the time limit stipulated in paragraph 92.1 above, the time limit for lodging an appeal begins only on notification of the motivation. Only the parties to which a decision is addressed can request the motivation.
- 96.3 Any appeal lodged before notification of the motivated decision is regarded exclusively as a request for a motivation.
- 96.4 Doping- and ethics-related decisions are always issued with grounds. In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the relevant judicial body may notify the party of only the terms of the decision, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall then be notified within 60 days.
- 96.5 The FAM's secretariat publishes decisions issued by the FAM's judicial bodies. Where such a decision contains confidential information, the FAM may decide, *ex officio* or at the request of a party, to publish an anonymised or a redacted version.
- 96.6 The request for a motivated 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.

96.7 The competent judicial body may rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious errors in the decision at any time.

97 Form and content of the motivated decision

97.1 The motivated decision shall contain:

- a. the composition of the committee;
- b. the names of the parties;
- c. the date of the decision;
- d. a brief summary of the facts;
- e. the articles infringed;
- f. the considerations that are relevant to the potential breach of the MA's regulations;
- g. the criteria used to determine the possible sanction;
- h. the terms of the decision;
- i. notice of the channels for appeal.

97.2 The decision shall be signed by the chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and transmitted by the secretariat.

97.3 In case of urgency, or under any other special circumstances, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may notify only the terms of the decision to the party, which become immediately applicable. The full, written decision shall be notified within the next 60 days solely in mandatory cases or if the grounds were requested by any of the parties.

98 Notification and enforcement of decisions

98.1 All of the parties shall be notified of the decision.

98.2 Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to their affiliated Member on condition that it immediately forward the relevant decisions and documents to the parties concerned.

98.3 In the event that the documents were solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee the day after receipt of the documents to the Member. Failure by the Member to comply with the aforementioned instruction may result in disciplinary proceedings being brought against it in accordance with this code.

98.4 Notification of a decision shall be effected by publication on the FAM's webpage in the event that:

- a. the whereabouts of the party are unknown and cannot be ascertained despite making reasonable enquiries;
- b. service is impossible or would lead to exceptional inconvenience; or
- c. a party has not provided a means of contact despite being instructed to do so.

98.5 Notification of a decision via the FAM's webpage is deemed accomplished on the day of publication.

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

98.7 Cautions, sendings-off and automatic match suspensions have an immediate effect on subsequent matches even if the notification reaches the respective club or head of delegation concerned later.

99 Closure of proceedings

99.1 Proceedings may be closed when:

- a. the parties reach an agreement;
- b. a party is under insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings according to the respective procedures provided for in the relevant national laws and is legally unable to comply with an order;
- c. a Member (only legal entities, including clubs and leagues) is disaffiliated from the MA;
- d. the alleged violation has not been proven.

100 Plea bargain

100.1 At any time during the investigation, but at the latest when the case is about to be decided by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or before the hearing as provided for by this code, the parties may enter into an agreement with the chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for the application of a sanction by mutual consent.

100.2 Should the chairperson of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee consider that the agreement complies with this code and the sanction settled is correctly applied, the agreement becomes immediately effective and the settled sanction becomes final and binding, and is not subject to any further appeal.

100.3 Should any monetary sanction established in the plea agreement not be fully executed by the party concerned within 15 days of the date of the decision, the agreement is automatically revoked.

100.4 Should any compliance training and/or community football service established in the plea agreement not be fully executed by the party concerned within the terms established therein, the agreement is automatically revoked.

100.5 Whenever the plea agreement is revoked, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee shall decide the case within the 60 days that follow on the basis of the file, and no further plea agreement will be allowed between the parties concerned and the chairperson.

100.6 No plea agreement shall be allowed concerning sanctions related to the protection of physical and mental integrity, or related to offences of bribery and corruption, misappropriation and misuse of funds, and manipulation of football matches or competitions, unless the party concerned provides substantial assistance. Substantial assistance may be considered where the relevant party:

- A) Fully disclosed in a signed written statement or recorded interview all the information they possess in relation to the infringement(s); and
- B) Fully cooperated with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to the information provided, including but not limited to, presenting a testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by FIFA or the relevant deciding panel;
- C) Provided credible information which constitutes a significant part of a case or proceeding subsequently initiated or, at least, which would have provided a sufficient basis on which to initiate a case or proceeding.

Notwithstanding the above, in cases of sexual abuse, no plea agreement shall be allowed with the principal actors or any other person directly participating in such conduct.

100.7The chairperson is also responsible for ratifying the plea agreement entered into by the parties and the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, where applicable.

Chapter VIII – Appeal procedure

101 Standing to appeal

- 101.1 Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee, provided this party has a legally protected interest in filing the appeal.
- 101.2 FAM Members and clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members.

102 Appeal

- 102.1 The Appeal Committee is competent to decide appeals against any of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee's decisions that the MA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body, as well as on cases referred by the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or their deputy for consideration and decision.
- 102.2 Any party intending to lodge an appeal must inform the Appeal Committee of its intention to appeal in writing within three days of notification of the grounds of the decision.
- 102.3 Within three days of expiry of the time limit for the declaration of appeal, the appellant must file, in writing, the appeal brief. 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. The appellant is not authorised to produce further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.
- 102.4 In urgent cases and during final competitions, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for the submission of the above-mentioned documents.
- 102.5 The appeal fee is MVR5,000 (Five Thousand), payable on submission of the appeal brief at the latest.
- 102.6 The appeal is not admissible if any deadline and/or any of the above-mentioned requirements have not been complied with.

103 Admissibility of appeals

- 103.1 An appeal may be lodged before the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is:
- a. a warning;
 - b. a reprimand;
 - c. a suspension of up to two matches or of up to two months (with the exception of doping-related decisions);

- d. a fine of up to MVR15,000.00;
- e. decisions passed in compliance with article 93 of this code.

103.2 Only the motivated decision can be appealed against.

103.3 If the Disciplinary and Ethics 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 subsequent instance(s) will only be entitled to examine the sanctions that exceed the above limit.

104 Effects of the appeal

104.1 The appeal does not have a suspensive effect except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.

104.2 The chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving member available, may, on receipt of a reasoned request, award a stay of execution.

105 Appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS)

105.1 Decisions taken by the FAM's Appeal Committee are final, subject to appeals lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the FAM's statutes.

106 Review

106.1A review may be requested before the competent judicial body 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.

106.2A request for review shall be made within ten days of discovering the reasons for review.

106.3 The limitation period for submitting a request for review is one year after the decision has become final and binding.

Chapter IX – Final provisions

107 Official language

This code is published in English language in accordance with its statutes.

108 Specific disciplinary rules

Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced for the duration of an FAM final competition. Such rules shall be communicated to the participating Members, associations and clubs before the first match of the final competition at the latest.

109 Members of the FAM

109.1The FAM Members must observe the MA statutes and regulations, including this code.

109.2All MA Members shall also ensure that no one is involved in their management who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

110 Adoption and enforcement

110.1This code was adopted by the FAM's Executive Committee at its meeting in Male' on 13th August 2026 and came into force on 13th August 2026.

110.2Disciplinary measures for failure to respect a final CAS decision rendered in the context of ordinary proceedings at national level (involving FAM subordinated entities and individuals as described by this code) shall be imposed provided that the respective CAS procedure started after this code entered into force.

