

DISCIPLINARY & ETHICS REPORT 2019/20



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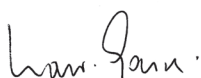
Foreword

Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the FIFA Disciplinary and Ethics review for the football season 2019/20.

In the present explanatory document, you will find a comprehensive overview of our main decision-making bodies covering the sporting period from July 2019 to June 2020. The document is divided into two parts. The first part presents the activities of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee, both part of FIFA's independent committees. A breakdown of their activities, procedures and challenges is provided. The second part presents the activities of the Ethics Committee and follows a similar structure.

This initiative is fully aligned with our objectives for more transparency and the high standards demonstrated throughout the recent years by FIFA's independent committees.



Mario Gallavotti
Director of Independent Committees

The FIFA Vision 2020-2023, put forth by our President Gianni Infantino earlier this year, advocates for more protection of the positive values in football. We are determined to carry out that vision and maintain the reputation of the sport by anticipating, monitoring and enquiring into any conducts susceptible of affecting football in a negative light.

You will see that the season has been marked by a raise in productivity on our end. Despite all the challenges we have been facing as a society, we have shown continuous improvement in our efforts to take more decisions, more efficiently all the while reducing our backlog. Football is a fast paced sport and in an ever-changing environment, we are proud of having maintained our standard for adaptability and results. More than 800 cases have been investigated and decided upon by the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee during the season 2019/20.

We hope that you will appreciate this attempt at letting you into our processes, challenges and successes in keeping the sport of football clean.



Carlos Schneider Salvadores
Head of Disciplinary and Ethics

Disciplinary committee

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee holds a key role in the interest of promoting fair play and protecting the integrity of football and the rights of the persons under FIFA's umbrella.

In order to meet this objective, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee focuses its efforts in ensuring that all the decisions passed by other FIFA bodies, instances or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) are respected, that no minors are transferred internationally without the prior approval of FIFA and that no third parties or any counter club exert an influence on the club's employment and transfer related matters. In addition, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee also looks after the smooth and proper development of the FIFA competitions, paying maximal attention to any attempt to manipulate the outcome of a match, or the use of prohibited substances or methods by any of the persons subject to the Committee's jurisdiction.

Due to the broad range of sensitive and relevant topics the FIFA Disciplinary Committee deals with, the assistance of its Secretariat is essential for the Disciplinary Committee to be able to carry out its duty. In addition, it is important to mention that 2019 was a pivotal year with the implementation of the 2019 edition of the FIFA Disciplinary Code

<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/who-we-are/news/fifa-introduces-innovative-approach-with-launch-of-new-disciplinary-code>

Introduction

Between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee decided upon 703 cases. This implies an average of 59 decisions per month. Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic, the workflow of the Committee continued almost at normality, without a relevant slowdown. In fact, May 2020 was the month where most decisions were passed by the Disciplinary Committee.

As shown in Figure 1, more than one third of the decisions taken by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee in 2019/20 involved a party (either a club, association, player, etc.) from UEFA.

Figure 1: Decisions of the FIFA Disciplinary committee by confederation of the accused party

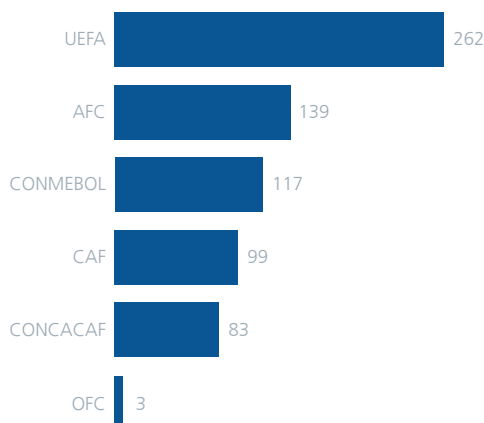
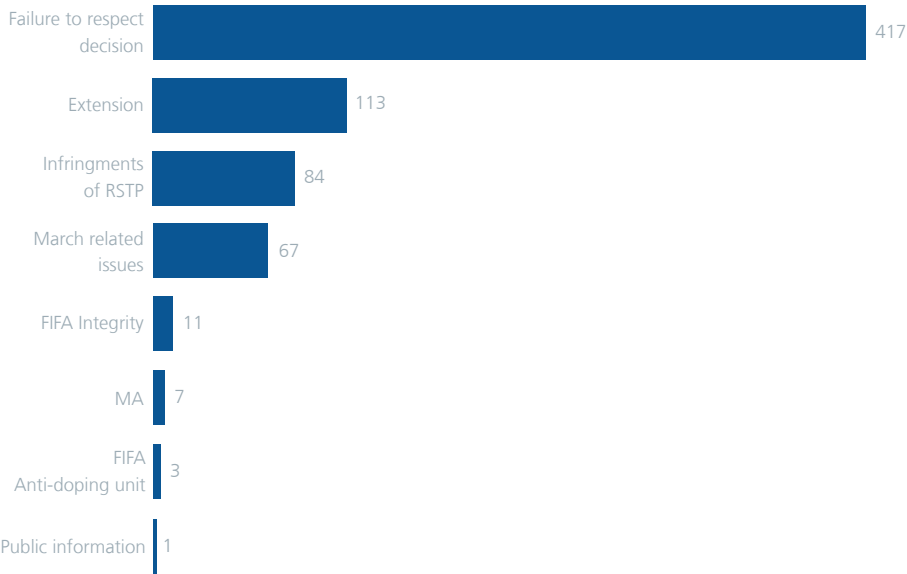


Figure 2 shows the different reasons for which a case was opened in the first place in each of the 703 cases decided upon in this period.

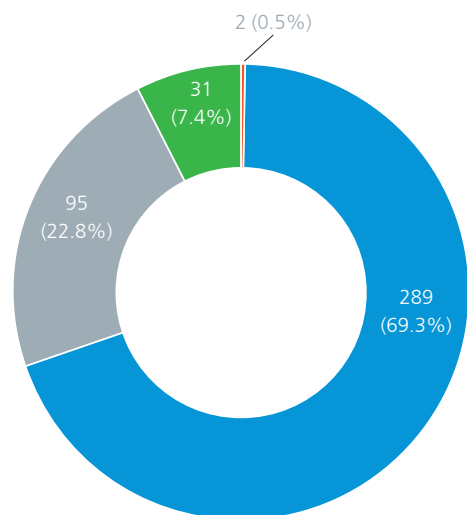
Figure 2: Decisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee by origin of the case



Failure to respect decision

These cases are governed by art. 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), 2019 edition (former art. 64, 2017 edition). They constitute the vast majority of the cases decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, representing 59% of the overall cases decided.

Figure 3: Decisions originated from a previous decision not being respected, by deciding body, 2019/20



- Failure to respect decision - DRC
- Failure to respect decision - PSC
- Failure to respect decision - CAS
- Failure to respect decision - DisCo

In a nutshell, when an entity (i.e. clubs or associations) or an individual (i.e. players or coaches) under FIFA's jurisdiction had been instructed by an instance of FIFA or CAS to pay an amount of money to another person or to FIFA and they fail to do so, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee can be requested to intervene and demand the debtor to fulfil its obligations, subject to sanctions. The same principle also applies to non-financial decisions. In regard to art. 15 of the FDC, it is important to mention that during the period 2019/2020 the FIFA Disciplinary Committee started with the enforcement of proposals made in accordance with art. 13 of the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber well as FIFA Circular 1689, i.e. binding proposals of the FIFA Administration in the context of solidarity mechanism and training compensation disputes.

Besides the fine imposed on the party failing to comply with the relevant decisions, art. 15 of the FDC now foresees a uniformed final deadline of 30 days to pay the amount due or to comply with the non-financial decision. The potential sanctions to be imposed in such cases have also been reviewed under the 2019 edition of the FDC. As a matter of fact, in case of default after the expiry of said deadline, additional disciplinary measures might be imposed, i.e.:

- In case of clubs: a transfer ban is automatically pronounced. Said ban is only lifted upon payment of the total outstanding amounts. This measure has been proven to be more effective than the deduction of points contemplated in the previous version of the Code. Since the implementation of the 2019 edition of the FDC.
- In case of associations: additional disciplinary measures may be imposed (i.e. exclusions from the FIFA competitions).
- In case of natural persons: a ban on any football-related activity for a specific period (and/or other disciplinary measures) may be imposed.

Figure 4: Decisions originated from a previous decision not being respected, by party type, 2019/20

Accused party	Injured party	Decisions
Club	Club	196
Club	Player	129
Club	Coach	50
Association	Coach	10
Player	Club	9
Club	FIFA	8
Club	Agent/Intermediary	3
Agent/Intermediary	FIFA	2
Club		2
Club	Association	2
Agent/Intermediary	Agent/Intermediary	1
Agent/Intermediary	Club	1
Association		1
Association	Match Agent	1
Coach	FIFA	1
Play	Agent/Intermediary	1
Total		417

Figure 5: Top 10 associations by number of decisions originated from a previous decision not being respected, 2019/20

Club	Decisions
Turkey	43
Mexico	23
Brazil	22
USA	21
China PR	16
Israel	15
Tunisia	15
Romania	14
Argentina	13
Portugal	12

Infringements of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP)

The violations of the RSTP revolve around the transfer of players, whether this be to the form (i.e. failure to provide mandatory information or documents) or to the substance (i.e. registration of minors, use of the ITC as negotiation tool, etc.). For instance, bounded by the RSTP, clubs are banned from entering into Third Party Influence and Ownership (TPI & TPO) agreements.

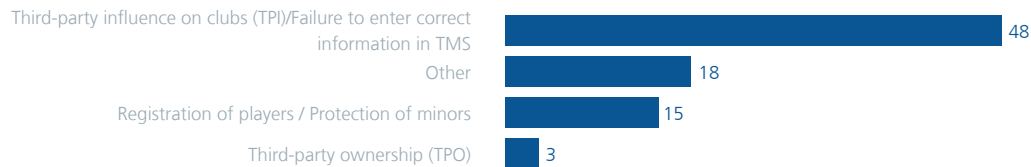
The second most common origin of cases decided upon by FIFA Disciplinary Committee in 2019/20 was TMS. The majority (74 out of 84) were cases against a club, and 10 were against associations. Figure 6 shows a breakdown by region.

In most of the cases decided by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the Committee found breaches of art. 18bis of the RSTP. i.e. third Party Influence.

Figure 6: Decisions originated from TMS-related matters, by association of accused party, 2019/20

Accused party = club	Decisions	Accused party = Association	Decisions
Brazil	7	Australia	1
Spain	7	Canada	1
England	4	Equatorial Guinea	1
Portugal	4	Malawi	1
Italy	3	Mauritius	1
Paraguay	3	Republic of Ireland	1
Argentina	2	Romania	1
Chile	2	Spain	1
China PR	2	USA	1
France	2	Zambia	1
Total	74	Total	10

Figure 7: Decisions originated from TMS-related matters, by breach type, 2019/20



Match related issues

Another type of cases decided upon by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee is related to all possible incidents taking place before, during or after a match for which FIFA is competent (FIFA Tournaments and matches and competitions that do not fall under the jurisdiction of the confederations and/or the associations), whether on or outside the field of play.

During the relevant period, 67 decisions have been rendered on this topic (i.e. almost 10% of the overall cases decided).

Under the 2019 edition of the FDC, all incidents related to crowd disturbance (such as fireworks, throwing objects, invasion of the field of play, display of banners with offensive or political messages, etc.), are now contemplated under art. 16 (Order and Security in matches). While host clubs and associations are reliable for all incidents occurring in the frame of said match (par. 1), it remains that all clubs and associations are responsible for the inappropriate behaviour of their supporters (par. 2). In this particular context, it needs to be emphasized that the fight against discrimination remained one of FIFA's priorities. This has been reflected in the new

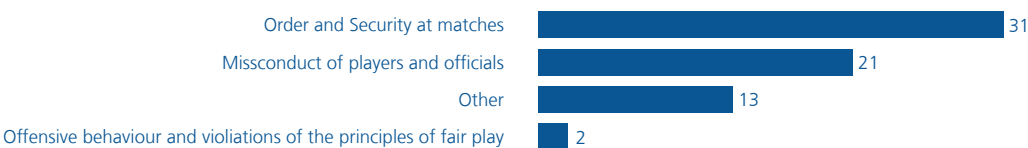
Figure 8: Decisions originated from match reports, by party type, 2019/20

Accused party	Decisions
Association	45
Player	13
Club	5
Coach	4
Total	67

Code, which contemplates harsher sanctions for persons found guilty of discriminatory behavior. In cases of player or officials, a suspension of at least ten matches is foreseen. Sanctions are also envisaged for clubs and associations whose supporters engage in discriminatory behavior.

The top associations of origin of the accused party in such cases were Brazil, Indonesia, IR Iran, Malaysia and Mexico, all with 3 decisions. All other decisions were imposed on parties from 40 other FIFA member associations.

Figure 9: Decisions originated from match reports, by breach type, 2019/20



Others: Match fixing & Doping cases

While the cases related to doping and match-fixing (only constitute a fraction of the cases decided), it remains that FIFA puts all its efforts in trying to act against these two very serious violations, either preventively (namely, by delivering educational programs about the negative effects of consequences of doping and match fixing) or repressively (by sanctioning and suspending any player or other individual found to have infringed the Anti-Doping regulations or having conspired to influence the result of a football match).

From 1 July 2019 until 8 June 2020, 8 individuals were sanctioned for match-fixing with bans on taking part in any football related activity for periods ranging from 10 years to lifetime. It must be noted that the relevant decisions were taken based, in large part, on the evidence collected by FIFA Integrity during the preliminary investigations.

Regarding doping infringements, FIFA counts with the major support of confederations, its member associations and the national Anti-Doping agencies. These organisations are in charge of conducting and monitoring Anti-Doping tests and, if applicable, suspending any person found guilty of violating the WADA Code.

In order to prevent players whom are suspended from participating in all football-related activity from circumnavigating the sanctions thereby imposed against them at a national level the Chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, having analysed the pertinent sanction in accordance with the requirements of art. 66.5 FDC, will undertake to extend the relevant sanction so as to have worldwide effect

In this context, it is to be noted that, more than 100 decisions related to Anti-Doping Rule violations were extended worldwide by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee



Decisions by the Disciplinary Committee – Outcomes

Breaches and penalties

Figure 10 shows the frequency of the disciplinary measures in the decisions. It is important to note that, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, disciplinary measures provided in the Code may be combined. For instance, in cases of clubs in breach of 15 of the FDC, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee applies a transfer ban along with a fine.

Fines are in fact the most common sanction, and amounted to a total of CHF 5 million in 2019/20. They ranged from a minimum of CHF 500 to a maximum of CHF 500,000, with the average fine being CHF 10,200.

Figure 10: Disciplinary measures in decisions by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, 2019/20

Penalty	Decisions
Fine	486
Settle debt	396
Warning	138
Football ban	117
Match suspension	15
Match behind closed doors	2

Figure 11: Duration of football bans imposed by FIFA Disciplinary Committee, 2019/20

Penalty	Decisions
< 1 year	46
1-2 years	15
> 2 years	22
Lifetime	7
Provisional	27
Total	117

In total, 372 decisions also carried additional measures in case the decisions is not respected.

Figure 12: Additional measures in decisions by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, 2019/20

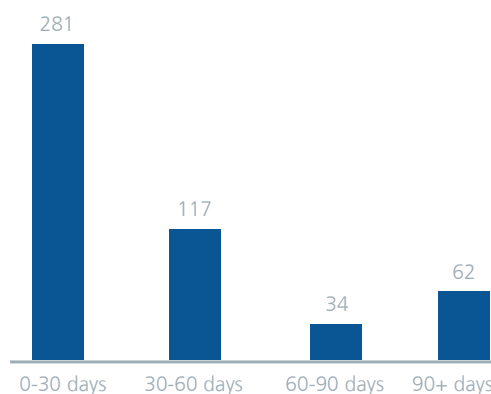
Additional measures	Decisions
Transfer ban	354
Fine	17
Football ban	10
Relegation	10

Timing

Out of those cases that have been decided in 2019/20, currently the average time-frame elapsed between the moments the case had been received by the Disciplinary Department and the day on which a decision was rendered is less than three months, i.e. 80.6 days. Furthermore, currently there is no backlog of cases.

This average duration however is inflated by few extreme cases. As show in Figure 13 below, most cases took less than 30 days, and cases rarely took longer than 2 months.

Figure 13: Decisions of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee by number of days since the case was opened, 2019/20



Appeal Committee

The FIFA Appeal Committee is the second instance and the last internal FIFA judicial body that can decide on appeals against decisions taken by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and, to a very narrow extent, by the Ethics Committee.

In particular, disciplinary cases that can be appealed against are limited, as the Appeal Committee cannot hear decisions in which a warning, a reprimand, a suspension of up to two matches or up to two months as well as a fine of up to CHF 15,000 have been imposed as a sanction. Likewise, decisions taken in accordance with art. 15 of the FDC, i.e. those concerning failure to respect decisions, are not subject to appeal. All these cases can be directly challenged before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

As a result, during this period the FIFA Appeal Committee mainly dealt with cases concerning breaches of the RSTP and was mostly seized by clubs that had been sanctioned for entering into Third-Party Influence agreements (TPI). It also ruled on a couple of appeals relating to non-compliance with the provisions concerning the protection of minor players by clubs and member associations.

In recent years, a number of cases concerning match-related issues have been examined by the Appeal Committee. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused the interruption and postponement of competitions, only two cases were referred to the Appeal Committee, namely one incident related to crowd disturbance and a case of discrimination concerning a player.

Finally, as far as disciplinary cases for this year are concerned, three decisions rendered for match fixing have been contested by the respective sanctioned players before the Appeal Committee, whereas no doping cases were presented to it.

Figure 14: Number of decisions by the FIFA Appeal Committee, 2019/20

Type of case	Decisions
Third party influence (TPI)	15
Minor players	2
Other infringements of the RSTP	1
Match fixing	3
Match related incidents	1
Discrimination	1
Ethics	4
Total	27

As outlined, the second instance essentially heard appeals against decisions of the Disciplinary Committee. However, the Chairman of the Appeal Committee considered a few requests for recusal formulated against a member of the Ethics Committee. In addition, it should be recalled that the Appeal Committee is also competent to rule on appeals lodged by individuals who have been sanctioned by the Ethics Committee for being involved in the manipulation of football matches or competitions. For all other cases decided by the Ethics Committee, the Court of Arbitration for Sport is the competent appeal body.

Lastly, it should be noted that the appeal fee has been reduced to CHF 1,000 as a result of the entry into force of the new Disciplinary Code in July 2019. The other provisions have remained largely unchanged, in particular the fact that the second instance has full power to review the facts and the law and can uphold, amend or overturn the contested decision, but cannot however increase the sanction imposed by the first instance.

Ethics Committee

FIFA bears a special responsibility to safeguard the integrity and reputation of football worldwide.

FIFA is constantly striving to protect the image of football, and especially that of FIFA, from jeopardy or harm as a result of illegal, immoral or unethical methods and practices.

The FIFA Ethics Committee is one of the independent judicial bodies of FIFA. Pursuant to article 54 of the FIFA Statutes, the function of the Ethics Committee is governed by the FIFA Code of Ethics.

The primary responsibility of the FIFA Ethics Committee is to investigate and judge possible infringements of the FIFA Code of Ethics committed by any football official, such as violations of:

- The official's general duties
- Duty of neutrality
- Duty of loyalty
- Duty of confidentiality
- Duty to report
- Duty to cooperate
- Conflict of interests
- Offering and accepting gifts or other benefits
- Commission
- Discrimination and defamation
- Protection of physical and mental integrity
- Forgery and falsification
- Abuse of position
- Involvement with betting, gambling or similar activities
- Bribery and corruption
- Misappropriation and misuse of funds

Since 2012, the FIFA Ethics Committee has been divided into two separate chambers– the investigatory chamber and the adjudicatory chamber. As terms refer, the investigatory chamber is the body in charge of carrying out all investigative tasks, while the adjudicatory chamber is the branch which analyses and determines whether the investigation file is enough to establish a breach of conduct.



Investigatory Chamber

As stated above, the investigatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee investigates potential breaches of the FIFA Code of Ethics on its own initiative or based on complaints made before it.

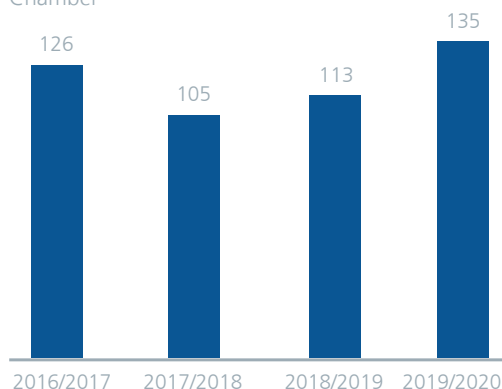
Any person is entitled to file a complaint regarding potential infringements of the FIFA Code of Ethics with the investigatory chamber, which must be submitted in writing and accompanied of any available evidence.

After an initial evaluation of the submitted complaint and documentation, the investigatory chamber may initiate preliminary investigations. This includes collecting written information, requesting documents and obtaining witness/victims statements.

Whenever a preliminary investigation is found to establish a prima facie case, the investigatory chamber will proceed to open formal investigation proceedings. Once the formal investigation has been completed, the investigatory chamber shall prepare a final report stating all relevant factual findings and the provisions of the code that have been infringed. Such final report shall be forwarded to the adjudicatory chamber for their assessment and perusal.

In the period between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, the Investigatory Chamber has opened a total of 135 investigations. As shown in Figure 15, this number has been relatively unchanged in the past years.

Figure 15: Cases received by the Investigatory Chamber



Since the investigatory chamber is entitled to process complaints by any person who believes a breach of code has occurred, the investigatory chamber receives claims from a large number of individuals. These could be classified as internal or external sources.

- ➔ Internal sources refer to potential breaches of the code that were first identified by another department/division within the FIFA's organization and subsequently forwarded to the investigatory chamber.
- ➔ External sources speak of claims that arrive directly to the investigatory chamber from any person/institution outside FIFA. These include:
 - Whistle-blower: any person who wishes to report a potential breach, but that has had no involvement.
 - Claimant: any person who wishes to report a potential breach of which he/she has been involved (witness/victim).
 - BKMS: is an anonymous reporting mechanism that FIFA has implemented.
 - There are many other classifications in regards to the external sources which refer to the other institutions/ bodies, such as claims that arrive from the confederation, federation, media or clubs.

In 2019/20, the most of cases came from an external source while 11 of the 135 cases came from a source within FIFA. Figure 16 shows the distribution among the various types of external sources with anonymous whistle-blowers as the most common external source. Similarly, Figure 17 shows the various departments within FIFA which have notified the Ethics Committee a potential violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

Figure 16: External sources, 2019/2020

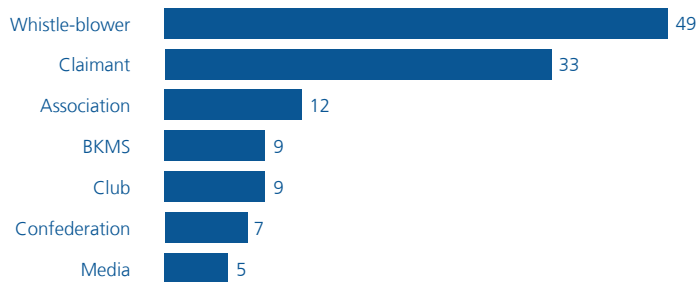


Figure 17: Sources within FIFA, 2019/2020



How to report misconduct

With reference to article 58 of the FIFA Code of Ethics, any person might file a complaint regarding potential breaches of such code with the investigatory chamber.

The following are the different channel through which a person can contact the investigatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee:

1. Via email:

Secretariat-Investigatory-Chamber@fifa.org

2. Via BKMS reporting mechanism:

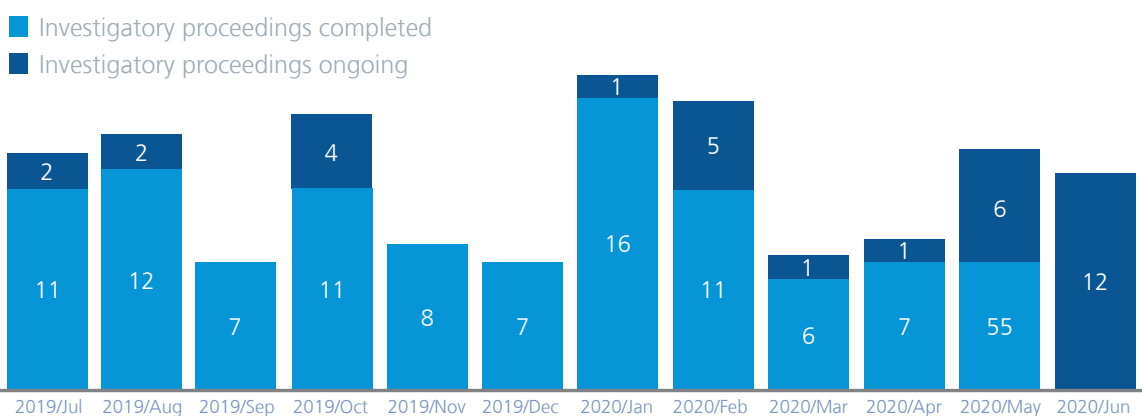
<https://www.bkms-system.net/FIFA>

3. Via letter:

Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
Attention to the FIFA Ethics Committee
FIFA-Strasse 20, P.O. Box 8044 Zurich.

The investigatory proceedings have already been completed for 101 of the 135 preliminary investigations that were initiated in 2019/20. As can be seen in Figure 18, most of the cases that are still ongoing have reached the Investigatory Chamber more recently.

Figure 18: Preliminary Investigations opened by the Investigatory Chamber in 2019/2020 by their current status



Among the 101 preliminary investigations for which the investigatory proceedings have already been completed, three were passed on to the Adjudicatory Chamber of the Ethics Committee, 28 were closed because no violation of the FCE was found and 31 were closed due to insufficient evidence. The remaining 39 cases were transferred because the Ethics Committee was not competent to address the presented case.

Of these 39 cases, 25 were transferred to bodies outside of FIFA like confederations (22) and associations (3), while the remaining 14 cases were sent to a different department within FIFA. As can be seen from Figure 19, most cases transferred outside of FIFA went to either UEFA, AFC, or CAF. Figure 20 shows the various departments within FIFA but outside the Ethics Committee which received cases from the Investigatory Chamber.

Figure 19: Cases received in 2019/2020 and transferred outside of FIFA

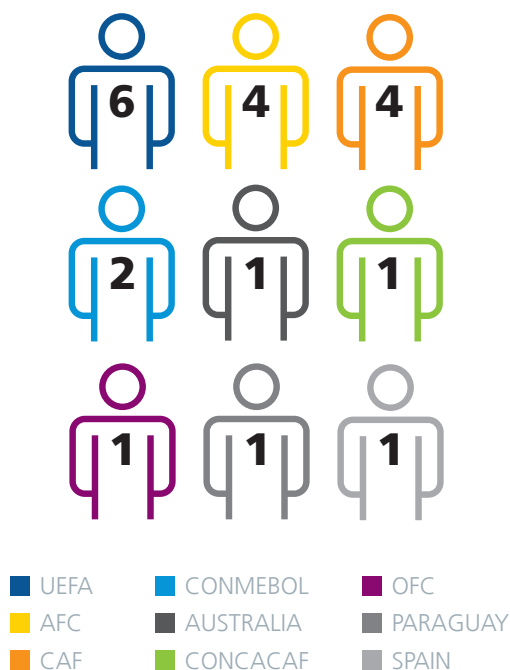


Figure 20: Cases received in 2019/2020 and transferred within FIFA



Adjudicatory Chamber

The adjudicatory chamber is the deciding and sanctioning body of the Ethics Committee. Its main function is to adjudicate the cases investigated by the investigatory chamber.

In that respect, the adjudicatory chamber first examine the investigation files (final reports) forwarded by the investigatory chamber. Based on the elements contained in the final report the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber decides either to open adjudicatory proceedings or to close the case.

Once formal adjudicatory proceedings are open, the person investigated in the final report (the party) is granted the right to present written submissions, to request a hearing and to call witnesses and experts.

In specific cases (when the potential sanction does not involve a ban) the chairperson is allowed to rule alone, however in most cases a panel of at least three members is appointed. As a general rule, hearings are conducted behind closed doors and in the presence in situ of the requesting party. However, very recently an amendment has been introduced in the Code of Ethics that allows, in exceptional circumstances (such as long-lasting situations of force majeure, during which the public safety/health are endangered and international travel is disrupted or restricted), for hearings to be conducted by videoconference, upon decision of the chairman, on a case-by-case scenario. Typically, a hearing before the adjudicatory chamber is organized as follows:

- testimony of any witnesses called by the accused and approved by the adjudicatory chamber;
- testimony of any witnesses called by the investigatory chamber and approved by the adjudicatory chamber;
- testimony of any witnesses called by the adjudicatory chamber;
- closing statement by the investigatory chamber;
- closing statement by a legal representative, if any, of the accused;
- rebuttal statement by the investigatory chamber and the parties, if applicable;
- final opportunity for the accused to speak.

After the hearing, the adjudicatory chamber shall withdraw to deliberate on its decision in private and the decision shall be taken by the majority of the members present.

The adjudicatory chamber shall communicate its decision in full, written form at the latest 60 days after having notified the terms, which are the operative or ruling part of the decision.

Other activities of the adjudicatory chamber include the ratification of plea bargain agreements, ruling on the appeals against provisional measures taken by the investigatory chamber, the suspension of sanctions, informing the public about ongoing or closed proceedings, the publication of its decisions on FIFA.com, the allocation of legal aid.

Cases received

Under the tenure of the current chairperson and members of the adjudicatory chamber (since 1 July 2017), a total of 59 decisions have been passed by the Adjudicatory Chamber of the Ethics Committee. At the start of the adjudicatory proceedings, the party is notified that the final report compiled by the investigatory chamber has been examined by the chairman, who has deemed that the matter should be adjudicated. The party is provided with the final report and investigation files (enclosures to the report), being granted a time limit to submit its position. The party is also given a deadline to request a hearing in order to present oral arguments (either in person or through a legal representative) and to call witnesses and experts, being informed that, in case no hearing is requested, the case would be decided on the basis of the existing documents and submissions. Hearings have been requested in only 16 of the 59 cases decided by the adjudicatory chamber since July 2017.

Figure 21: Decisions passed by the Adjudicatory Chamber

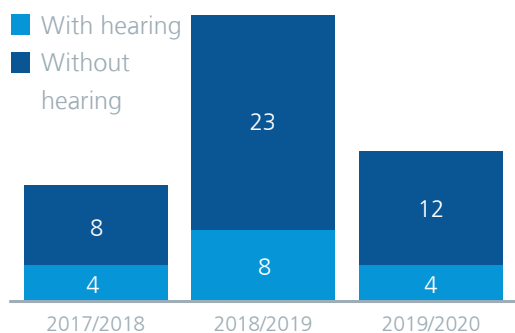
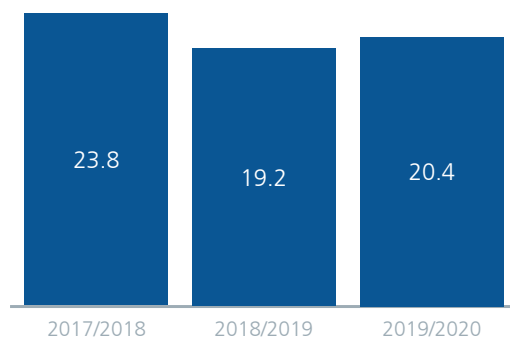


Figure 23: Average duration of adjudicatory proceedings (weeks)



At the end of the adjudicatory proceedings, the grounds of the decision are notified to the accused party. As shown in Figure 22, the duration of the adjudicatory proceedings vary from case to case. For the decisions passed in the 2017/2018 period, the Adjudicatory Chamber has taken an average of 23.8 weeks from the day they received the case from the Investigatory Chamber to the day they notified the grounds of the decision to the accused party. Since then, this average duration has decreased by almost 15% to 20.4 weeks in the 2019/2020 period as shown in Figure 23.

Decisions

In almost 95% of the cases (56 of the 59 decisions), the Adjudicatory Chamber decided to sanction the accused party. The vast majority of these sanctions (53 cases) consisted of both a fine and a ban, whereas in 2 cases only a fine was imposed, and in another, the adjudicatory chamber issued a formal warning to the party.

Figure 24 shows the distribution of the 55 fines imposed since July 2017. They cover a wide range with 8 fines smaller than or equal to CHF 10,000 and 16 fines that reached the maximum of CHF 1 million allowed by the FIFA Code of Ethics. In total, they amount to CHF 22,901,000.

Figure 22: Duration of adjudicatory proceedings, cases decided 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2020

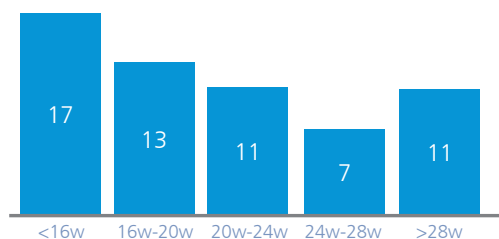
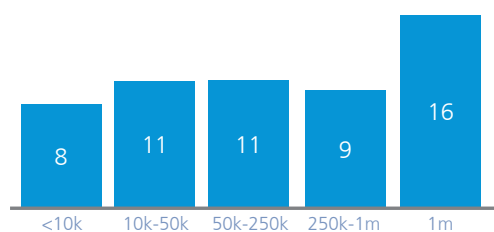
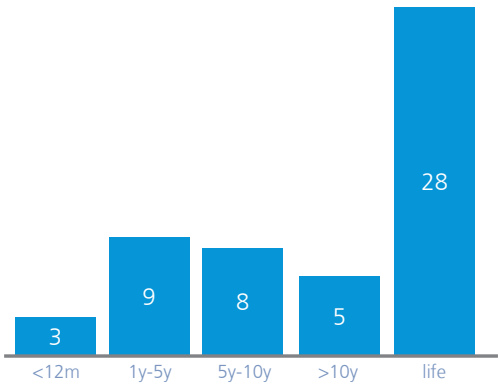


Figure 24: Fines imposed in CHF, cases decided 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2020



Similarly, also the imposed bans exhibit great variance between cases ranging from less than 12 months to lifetime bans which were imposed most frequently. Note that, in early 2019, the Ethics Committee has introduced the possibility of using a plea bargain. Since then, this option has been applied in three cases. Because this is only feasible for relatively less severe breaches, the sanctions resulting from these plea bargains are all comparatively small (no fines above CHF 20,000 and no bans longer than 3 months). It is important to note that the plea bargains are being conducted between the parties and the chairperson of the investigatory chamber. In case they reach an agreement for the application of a sanction by mutual consent, that agreement is provided to the chairperson of the adjudicatory chamber. If the chairman considers that the agreement complies with the FIFA Code of Ethics and the sanction settled is correctly applied, then he ratifies it, rendering it immediately effective. The settled sanction thus becomes final and binding and cannot be appealed. It is foreseen that plea bargains will be used progressively in the future in deciding relatively minor and unambiguous ethics infringements

Figure 25: Duration of imposed bans, cases decided 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2020



Sanctioned parties

The parties sanctioned by the Ethics Committee held a variety of official roles in different football organizations all across the globe. Figure 26 and Figure 27 show the confederations and associations the sanctioned parties were affiliated to.

Figure 26: Affiliated Confederations of the sanctioned parties

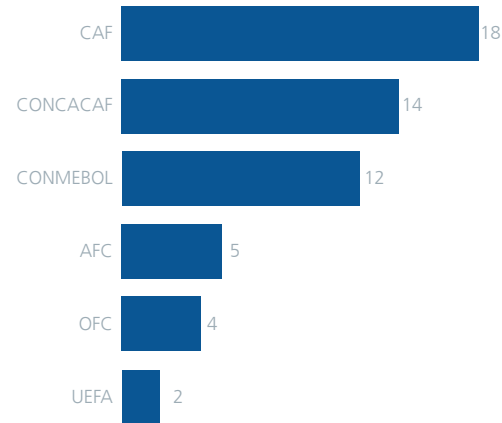


Figure 27: Member Associations to which sanctioned parties were affiliated

Association	Parties affiliated	Association	Parties affiliated	Association	Parties affiliated
Afghanistan	3	Equatorial Guinea	1	Russia	1
Argentina	2	Gambia	1	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
Bolivia	1	Ghana	1	Sao Tome	1
Botswana	1	Guam	1	Sierra Leone	1
Brazil	3	Guatemala	2	South Sudan	1
Canada	1	Liberia	1	Tanzania	1
CAR	1	Mozambique	1	Togo	1
Cayman Islands	2	Nicaragua	1	Uganda	1
Colombia	1	Niger	1	Ukraine	1
Cook Islands	2	Nigeria	1	Uruguay	2
Dominican Republic	1	Panama	1	USA	1
East Timor	1	Paraguay	1	Venezuela	1
Ecuador	1	Peru	1	Zambia	2
El Salvador	2	Papua New Guinea	2		

Almost half of the sanctioned parties (26) were football officials of multiple organizations: 25 held an official role at FIFA (see Figure 28), 18 held an official role at confederation level (see Figure 29), and 48 in an association (see Figure 30).



Figure 28: Sanctioned parties' official roles within FIFA



Figure 29: Sanctioned parties' official roles at their confederations

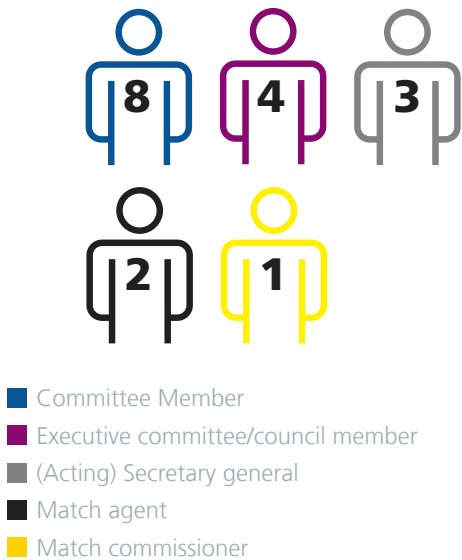
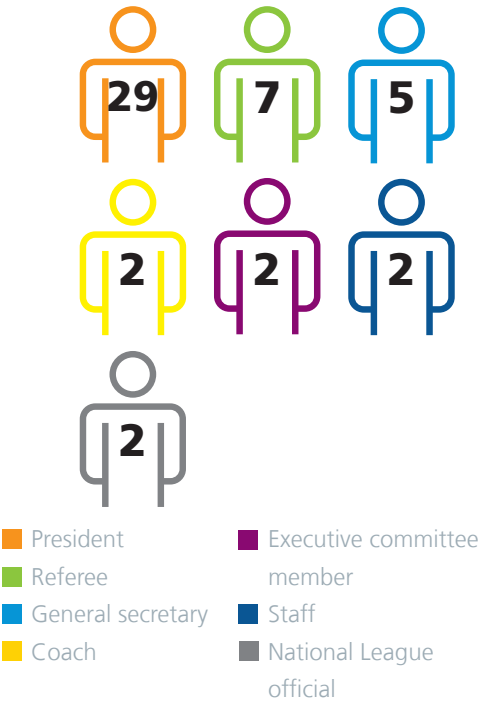


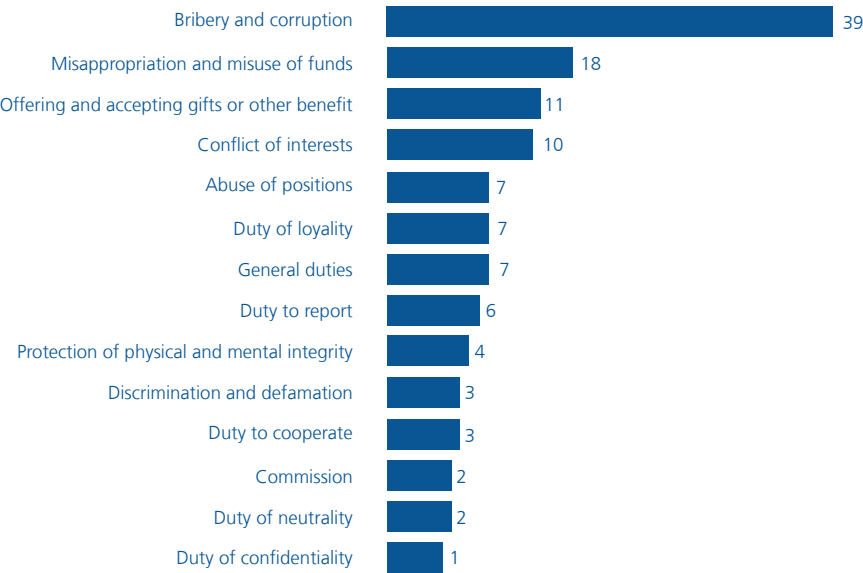
Figure 30: Sanctioned parties' official roles at their associations



Breached provisions

In total, the 56 sanctioned persons were found to have breached a total of 32 different articles of the FIFA Code of Ethics, with some parties violating up to five different infringements. Figure 30 below shows how often the various provisions have been breached by the sanctioned parties. Bribery and corruption (currently art. 27 of the FCE) as well as misappropriation and misuse of funds (currently art. 28 of the FCE) represent two of the most serious infringements forbidden and sanctioned by the Code of Ethics, as their nature is particularly damaging to football's ethical values. These conducts can affect the development of football at national or international level, in particular in the case of misappropriation of funds, which are thus diverted from their intended purpose, to benefit the football family, to the personal interests of the perpetrator. Corruption can have many forms, and can relate to pecuniary but also other advantages, but at its core, represents a quid-pro-quo, involving pecuniary or other advantages, between officials, who use their functions and activities in football in order to execute or fail to execute an act contrary to their duties or falling within their discretion, and third parties.

Figure 31: Provisions breached by the sanctioned parties



Some remarks on FIFA's webpage: legal.fifa.com

The new legal.fifa.com website embodies our commitment to transparency and a healthy partnership with football stakeholders.

The updated version of the website includes decisions made by the FIFA Congress and Council, rulings issued by FIFA's independent bodies as well as decisions made by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In order to remain informed continuously on our activities, we encourage you to visit the website regularly.

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