



## **QFA Disciplinary Code 2021/2022**

## DEFINITIONS

**The terms given below denote the following.** Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders. Any term in the singular applies to the plural and vice-versa:

1. **QFA:** Qatar Football Association.
2. **FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association.
3. **AFC:** Asian Football Confederation.
4. **Executive Committee:** the Executive Committee of the QFA.
5. **Club:** a football club member of the QFA.
6. **Code:** This QFA Disciplinary Code.
7. **Code of Ethics:** the QFA Code of Ethics.
8. **Appeal Committee:** the appeal instance judicial body of the QFA responsible for hearing appeals against decisions from the Disciplinary Committee and the Ethics Committee that are not declared final.
9. **Disciplinary Committee:** the first instance judicial body established by the QFA.
10. **Ethics Committee:** the first instance judicial bodies for Ethics matters.
11. **Field of play:** the surface on which matches are played, as defined in the Laws of the Game.
12. **Friendly match:** a match organized in Qatar by the QFA, a Club affiliated to the QFA or other person between teams chosen for the occasion; the score has an effect only on the match or tournament in question.
13. **General Secretary:** the General Secretary of the QFA or the person appointed to act in this position.
14. **International match:** a match between two teams belonging to different associations (two clubs, one club and one national team or two national teams).
15. **Laws of the Game:** the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
16. **Match officials:** the referee, assistant referees, fourth official, two additional assistant referees (if appointed), match commissioner, referee assessor and any other persons appointed by the QFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.

17. **Officials:** anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at the QFA, QSLM or a Club, regardless of his title, the type of activity (administrative, sporting or any other) and the duration of the activity; in particular, managers, coaches and support staff are officials.
18. **Official match:** a match organized under the auspices of the QFA or QSLM for all of the teams or Clubs under their jurisdiction; the score has an effect on the rights of participation in other competitions unless the regulations in question stipulate otherwise.
19. **Player:** a football player who is registered with the QFA as well as football players of Qatari nationality.
20. **Pre-match:** the time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.
21. **Post-match:** the time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the stadium.
22. **Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel:** independent panel appointed by the Qatar Olympic Committee to hear all issues arising from the QADC Anti-Doping Rules.
23. **QADC:** Qatar Anti-Doping Commission established by the Qatar Olympic Committee to carry out the anti-doping functions as the independent Anti-Doping Organization for Qatar.
24. **Regulations:** the statutes, regulations, codes, circulars and other directives issued by the QFA or QSLM as well as the Laws of the Game.
25. **Annual Circular:** means the circular issued by the QFA at the commencement of the sports season and related to the number of players and the registration format.
26. **QSLM:** means the Qatar Stars League Management.
27. **WADA:** World Anti- Doping Agency.
28. **CAS:** the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (Switzerland).
29. **QSAT:** Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal.
30. **Financial Control Committee:** It is the authority concerned with the necessary controls to ensure the good financial performance of sports clubs and focus on protecting the creditor
31. **Age Categories:** leagues, cups and any other competitions organized by the QFA in U18, U16, U15, U14, U13 age categories.

### **Preliminary title**

With specific reference to Art. 56 par. 2 of the QFA Statutes, the Executive Committee of the QFA enforces the following Disciplinary Code.

### **Article 1 Object**

This Code describes infringements of the rules in Statutes, regulations, circulars and decisions issued by the QFA or QSLM, it determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organization and function of the judicial bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these judicial bodies.

### **Article 2 Scope of application: substantive law**

1. This Code applies to every match and competition organized by the QFA or QSLM. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of the QFA and QSLM are breached. It also applies to any breach of the QFA or QSLM regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.
2. This Code does not apply to the competitions of the Qatar Amateur League, University League, the Qatar School League and grassroots categories.
3. The Executive Committee may also exclude from the scope of this Code any other friendly or amateur match or competition organized by the QFA.

### **Article 3 Scope of application: natural and legal persons**

1. The following are subject to this Code:
  1. Clubs
  2. QSLM
  3. Other members of the QFA
  4. Officials
  5. Players
  6. Match officials
  7. Intermediaries licensed by the QFA
  8. Foreign intermediaries registered with the QFA
  9. Anyone with an authorization from the QFA or QSLM, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organized by the QFA or QSLM
  10. Spectators.

### **Article 4 Scope of application: time**

This Code applies to facts that have arisen after it has come into force. It also applies to previous facts if it is equally favorable or more favorable for the perpetrator of the facts and if the judicial bodies of the QFA are deciding on these facts after the Code has come into force. By contrast, rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the coming into force of this Code.

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**First Title**  
**Substantive Law**

# **Chapter I**

## **General Part**

# Section 1

## Conditions for Sanctions

### Article 5 Culpability

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently.
2. Exceptionally, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral territory, or a certain stadium may be banned purely for safety reasons, without an infringement having been committed.

### Article 6 Acts amounting to attempt

1. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.
2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the judicial body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement accordingly. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it sees fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine stated in Art. 12.

### Article 7 Involvement

1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable.
2. The judicial body will take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction accordingly. It shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine stated in Art. 12.

# Section 2

## Disciplinary Measures

### **Article 8 Sanctions applicable to legal persons**

The following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on legal persons:

1. Warning
2. Reprimand
3. Fine
4. Annulment of the result of a match
5. Deduction of points
6. Replay of a match
7. Playing a match without spectators
8. Ban on playing in a particular stadium
9. Playing a match on neutral territory
10. Forfeit
11. Withdrawal of the award
12. Ban from registering players
13. Expulsion from a competition
14. Withholding of financial entitlements from the QFA or QSLM
15. Relegation to a lower division
16. Any other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.

### **Article 9 Sanctions applicable to natural persons**

The following disciplinary sanctions (one or more) may be imposed on natural persons:

1. Warning
2. Reprimand
3. Fine
4. Return of awards
5. Expulsion
6. Match suspension
7. Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench
8. Ban from entering a stadium
9. Ban on taking part in any football-related activity
10. Suspension of a license for up to 12 months
11. Deregistration (Registration cancellation)
12. Any other sanctions provided in QFA or QSLM regulations.
13. These sanctions may be imposed separately or in combination.

### **Article 10 Warning**



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

### **Article 11 Reprimand**

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

### **Article 12 Fine**

1. A fine is issued in Qatari Riyals. It shall be paid in the same currency.
2. A fine shall be paid in an acceptable way of payment within ten (10) days from the notification of the decision, unless an appeal has been lodged.
3. The fine shall not be less than QAR 1,000 (minimum QAR 500 for Age Categories).
4. Clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on their players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a Club does not cancel out joint liability.
5. In case a Club fails to pay a fine, the QFA is entitled to deduct the corresponding amount from the Club's financial entitlements from the QFA or QSLM.

### **Article 13 Return of awards**

1. The person required to return an award shall return the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.), or be denied the awards and benefits related to an award, if not yet received.
2. During final matches and league fixtures, which are immediately followed by a coronation ceremony:
  - a) any player of the both teams was expelled (red card) for disciplinary reasons.
  - b) Any of the technical staff members, team officials or medical staff expelled during the match

In the event of violating the above provision, the Articles 8 and 9 of the QFA Disciplinary Code shall be applicable on both the player and the club.

### **Article 14 Caution (yellow card)**

1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player (including substitute and substituted player) during a match to sanction unsporting behavior of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
2. Two cautions received by a player during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.
3. If a player receives a caution in four (4) separate matches of the same competition, he is automatically suspended from the next match in that same competition (the cautions shall be carried over with the player in the event of his deregistration or transfer to another club during the same season). The Executive Committee may exceptionally take a decision not to implement this provision or to amend it in some private competitions before the start of the competition.
4. Two cautions received by a member of the technical staff, administrative staff or medical staff during the same match incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match. The two cautions that incurred the red card are rescinded.
5. If a member of the technical staff, administrative staff or medical staff receives a caution in four (4) separate matches of the same competition, he is automatically suspended from the

next match in that same competition. The Executive Committee may exceptionally take a decision not to implement this provision or to amend it in some private competitions before the start of the competition.

6. If an abandoned match is to be replayed in full, any caution issued during that match shall be cancelled. If the match is not to be replayed, only the cautions received by the team responsible for causing the match to be abandoned are upheld; if both teams are responsible, all of the cautions are upheld.
7. Cautions issued in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be cancelled.
8. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behavior as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he has previously received in the same match is upheld.
9. Cautions received during one competition are not carried over to another competition and to another season. They are, however, carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
10. The Executive Committee may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion so as to restore the balance among several teams in the same competition that have not played the same number of matches during the first round of that competition, or in other exceptional circumstances.
11. At the end of a competition, all cautions (including four (4) cautions received in four (4) separate matches) are cancelled and not carried over to another competition and to another season.
12. However, the fourth warning is not eliminated in the event of a playoff match after the end of the competition, and therefore, any player with the fourth cautions shall be suspended from participating in the playoff match.
13. The QFA Executive Committee may depart from these rules before the start of a particular competition.

#### **Article 15 Expulsion**

An expulsion is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitutes' bench, during a match. The person who has been sent off may be allowed into the stands.

1. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behavior as defined by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game; it is regarded as indirect if it is the result of an accumulation of two yellow cards.
2. An official who has been sent off may give instructions to the person replacing him on the substitutes' bench. He shall, however, ensure that he does not disturb the spectators or disrupt the flow of play.
3. An expulsion automatically incurs suspension from the subsequent match in the same competition, even if imposed in a match that is later abandoned, annulled and/or forfeited. The Disciplinary Committee may impose additional sanctions.
4. As a general rule, every automatically incurred match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
5. Automatically incurred match suspensions not served during the competition (elimination or the last match in the competition) are carried over in the next official match in any category or competition in which the player (or other persons) is eligible during the same season.
6. In the event that the matches of all competitions that the suspended player is eligible to participate in have ended in the current season, the suspension shall be carried over to the first official match in the new season's competitions.
7. The technical and disciplinary suspensions are carried over from one competition to another and from one season to another.

## Article 16 Match suspension

1. A suspension from a match is a ban on taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play:
2. A match suspension may be due to technical reasons and disciplinary reasons (i.e. other reasons than technical reasons):
  - A. Match Suspensions due to technical reasons (i.e. in particular due to yellow cards and/or expulsion) are served in terms of competitions and are served during the competition for which they were intended. Hence, a player (or any other person) who has been suspended due to a technical reason, as a general rule, is eligible to play in any other category or competition. However, if match suspensions due to technical reasons are not served during the competition for which they were intended (elimination or the last match in the competition), the suspensions are carried over in the next official match in any category in which the player (or other persons) is eligible to play regardless of the season though subject to Article 14 of this Code.
  - B. Match Suspensions due to disciplinary reasons (other than the cases stipulated in the Article 2-A above), which are usually due to details included in the match officials reports, are served in terms of a number of competitions and are served in all competitions in which the player (or other person) is eligible to play unless served the suspension.
3. An official who is suspended in application of par. 1 is automatically banned from the dressing rooms. He may not communicate directly or indirectly with the team's players and/or technical staff during the match.
4. The match suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four (24) matches or twenty-four (24) months.
5. If the match suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards execution of the suspension.
6. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (except for a violation of the ineligibility rules), a suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
7. 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 the player who took part in the match despite being ineligible.
8. If a match suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
9. The player who has been suspended (disciplinary suspension) and served the suspension may participate in any category or competition, he is eligible to, on the next day following the last day or the last match of suspension.
10. Any official, members of the technical staff, administrative staff or medical staff who has been suspended (disciplinary suspension) and served the suspension may participate in any category or competition, he is eligible to, on the next day following the last day or the last match of suspension
11. If match suspensions are to be served in terms of days, weeks or months, the match suspensions apply to any match and any competition during the duration of the match suspension.
12. Suspensions imposed on a player-coach apply to his capacity both as a player and as a coach.

13. If a player who has been suspended for more than three matches takes on the role of an official or manager/coach, any remaining part of the suspension is served in this new capacity, subject to the limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions.

#### **Article 17 Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench**

A ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' benches deprives someone of the right to enter a team's dressing rooms and/or the tunnel and/or the area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench, before or during the match.

#### **Article 18 Stadium ban**

A stadium ban prohibits someone from entering the confines of one or several stadiums.

#### **Article 19 Ban on taking part in any football-related activity**

A person may be banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (administrative, sports or any other) in Qatar.

#### **Article 20 Transfer ban (ban on the registration of players)**

A transfer ban prevents a Club from registering any new player during the period in question. The transfer ban period shall not be less than one (1) registration period (including the time from the end of such registration period until the beginning of the next registration period) and not more than two (2) entire and consecutive registration periods.

#### **Article 21 Playing a match without spectators**

The obligation to play a match without spectators requires a Club to have a certain match played behind closed doors.

#### **Article 22 Playing a match on neutral ground**

The obligation to play a match on neutral ground requires a Club to have a certain match played in another stadium.

#### **Article 23 Ban on playing in a particular stadium**

A ban on playing in a certain stadium deprives a Club of the right to have its team play in a certain stadium.

#### **Article 24 Cancellation of the result of a match**

The result of a match is cancelled if the result reached on the field of play is disregarded.

#### **Article 25 Expulsion from a competition**

Expulsion from a competition is the deprivation of the right of a Club to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

#### **Article 26 Relegation to a lower division**

A Club may be relegated to a lower division.

### **Article 27 Deduction of points**

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

### **Article 28 Forfeit**

1. A team sanctioned with a forfeit is considered to have lost the match by 3-0 (5-0 in Futsal competitions), unless the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three. In the latter case, the result on the pitch is upheld.
2. If a match is declared forfeit, offences committed during the match remain punishable.

### **Article 29 Replay of a match**

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

# Section 3

## Common Rules

### Article 30 Enforcement

1. The General Secretariat has the competence to enforce the decisions of the judicial bodies. It may order the QSLM or Clubs concerned to enforce a decision.
2. As guarantee of enforcement, Clubs are jointly and severally liable for fines, confiscation of pecuniary benefits and procedural costs (if any) imposed on their players and officials. The fact that a natural person has left a Club does not cancel out joint liability.

### Article 31 Combined sanctions

Unless otherwise specified, the sanctions provided for in Chapter I (General Part) and Chapter II (Special Part) in the First Title of this Code may be combined.

### Article 32 Partial suspension of implementation of sanctions

1. The judicial body that pronounces a match suspension, a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, the obligation to play a match without spectators, the obligation to play a match on neutral ground) or a ban on playing in a certain stadium may suspend the implementation of the sanction partially.
2. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six (6) matches or six (6) months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person sanctioned.
3. The judicial body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction is definite.
4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the judicial body subjects the (natural or legal) person sanctioned to a probationary period of anything from six (6) months to two (2) years.
5. If the (natural or legal) person benefiting from a suspended sanction commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied; it is added to the sanction pronounced for the new infringement.

### Article 33 Time sanctions: calculation of time limit

The duration of a time sanction is not interrupted by rest periods during or between seasons unless the QFA Disciplinary Committee decides otherwise.

### Article 34 Enforceability

1. Disciplinary sanctions and measures come into force as soon as they are notified, with the exception of:
  - a) Cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions following multiple yellow cards or a single red card are enforceable immediately and no notification is required;
  - b) Disciplinary measures of a financial nature, which are enforceable within 10 days of their notification, unless the judicial bodies decide otherwise.
2. Clubs are responsible for receiving a copy of the match report from the match referee after the end of the match. The match report is considered as a formal notification of the sanctions (cautions, expulsions, automatic match suspensions).

# Section 4

## Determination of Sanction

### Article 35 General rule

1. The judicial body pronouncing the sanction decides the scope and duration of it, taking account of all relevant factors in the case and the degree of the offender's guilt when imposing the sanction.
2. Sanctions may be limited to one or more specific matches or competitions.
3. Sanctions of an infringement stated in Title 1: Chapter II may be provided differently in specific regulations which prevail in this case (for instance but not limited to in Futsal regulations).
4. If the sanction of an infringement is not defined, the judicial bodies sanction infringements with the disciplinary sanctions and measures stated in Art. 8 or Art. 9 that it deems appropriate.

### Article 36 Repeated infringements

1. Unless otherwise specified, the judicial body may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
2. Repetition occurs if another infringement of a similar nature is committed within:
  - a) The same competition of the previous infringement if that infringement was punished with a one-match suspension;
  - b) The same season or the next season of the previous infringement if that infringement was punished with a two-match suspension;
  - c) Ten years of the previous infringement if that infringement was related to match-fixing or corruption;
  - d) Three years of the previous infringement in all other cases.
3. Repetition counts as an aggravating circumstance.

### Article 37 Concurrent infringements

1. If a (legal or natural) person commits several infringements that are punishable by a fine, the judicial body bases the fine on the most serious offence committed and, depending on the circumstances, may increase the sanction by up to fifty per cent (50%) of the maximum sanction specified for that offence.
2. The same applies if a person incurs several time sanctions of a similar type (two or more match suspensions, two or more stadium bans etc.) as the result of one or several infringements.
3. The judicial body that determines the fine in accordance with par. 1 is not obliged to adhere to the general upper limit of the fine.

# Section 5

## Limitation Period

### **Article 38 Limitation period for prosecution**

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a lapse of one (1) year. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of five (5) years.
2. Violation of the ineligibility rules may no longer be prosecuted after the end of the season.
3. Prosecution for corruption and match-fixing is not subject to a limitation period.

### **Article 39 Commencement of the limitation period**

The limitation period runs as follows:

- a. From the day on which the infringement was committed;
- b. If the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed;
- c. If the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.

### **Article 40 Interruption**

The limitation period is interrupted if the competent judicial body commences proceedings before it has expired.

### **Article 41 Limitation period for the enforcement of sanctions**

1. The limitation period for sanctions is five (5) years.
2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.
3. Infringements involving corruption and match-fixing are not subject to these limitation periods.



# Section 6

## Worldwide Effect

### **Article 42 Extending sanctions to have worldwide effect**

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular, but not limited to, doping, match-fixing, corruption, betting, misconduct against match officials, forgery and falsification, or violation of the rules governing age limits, the QFA shall request FIFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect.
2. The procedure and conditions to request worldwide extension is stated in FIFA Disciplinary Code.
3. If the judicial bodies of FIFA discover that the QFA has not requested a decision to be extended to have worldwide effect, the FIFA bodies may themselves decide to extend such decision to have worldwide effect.

### **Article 43 International communication of the sanction**

If the person holds a position in FIFA, AFC and/or any international, regional or continental football committee and is sanctioned by the QFA's judicial bodies, the QFA will inform FIFA, AFC and/or the relevant international, regional or continental football committee about such sanction.

# **Chapter II**

## **(Special Part - Infringements)**

# Section 1

## General Principles of Conduct

### Article 44 General principles of conduct

1. Anyone bound by this Code must respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the QFA and QSLM (if applicable), and they must comply with the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.
2. If not otherwise specified in this Chapter, violations to the general principles of conduct may be sanctioned with the sanctions provided for in Articles 8 and 9 of this Code.

# Section 2

## Infringements of the Laws of the Game

### **Article 45 Minor infringements (yellow card)**

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Art. 14 of this Code):

1. Unsporting behavior;
2. Dissent by word or action;
3. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
4. Delaying the restart of play;
5. Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
6. Entering or re-entering or leaving the field of play without the referee's permission;
7. Insisting on violating the law of the game (no specific number or type of offence repetition).
8. Accessing the Referee Revision Area (RRA).
9. Excessive use of "revision the TV monitor" sign.

### **Article 46 Serious infringements (red card)**

A player is sent off if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and Art. 15 of this Code):

1. Serious foul play;
2. Violent conduct;
3. Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
4. Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
5. Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick;
6. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
7. Receiving a second caution in the same match (Art. 14 par. 2).
8. Biting or spitting of any person.
9. Accessing the Video Operation Room (VOR).

# Section 3

## Disorderliness at Matches, Competitions & Official Activities

### Article 47 Misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials

1. Any person shall be sanctioned due to misconduct against opponents or persons other than match officials by one or more of the following sanctions:

1	For denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) match suspension</li> </ul>
2	Serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of three (3) match suspensions;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 100,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
3	Serious foul play (harsh and aggressive manner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of four (8) match suspensions;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
4	Unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official, using excessive strength without the fight for the ball inside or outside the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of four (4) match suspensions;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 100,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
5	Fabrication of physical quarrel or cause conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of eight (8) match suspensions;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
6	Attempting physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) matches suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, six (6) months suspension and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
7	Physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) match suspensions;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 200,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, one (1) year suspension and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
8	Spitting, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures at an opponent or a person other than a match official.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) matches suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 200,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, six (6) months suspension and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>

2. For Age Categories one or more of the following sanctions shall be imposed:

1	For denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One (1) match suspension</li> </ul>
2	Serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum three (3) match suspensions or maximum of three weeks suspension;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, one (1) other match suspension is added.</li> </ul>
3	Unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official, using excessive strength without the fight for the ball inside or outside the field of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum four (4) match suspensions or maximum of four weeks suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 3,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, one (1) other match suspension is added.</li> </ul>
4	Fabrication of physical quarrel or cause conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of eight (8) match suspensions or maximum of eight weeks suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 2,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added.</li> </ul>
5	Attempting physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum ten (10) match suspensions or maximum of ten weeks suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 3,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, suspension for six (6) months.</li> </ul>
6	Physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) match suspensions or maximum of ten weeks suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of minimum QAR 2,000 and maximum QAR 10,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, suspension for one (1) year.</li> </ul>
7	Spitting, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures at an opponent or a person other than a match official.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) match suspensions or maximum of ten weeks suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of minimum QAR 2,000 and maximum QAR 10,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, suspension for six (6) months.</li> </ul>

3. The right of the judicial bodies is reserved to punish serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention in accordance with Art. 88 par.2.

#### **Article 48 Misconduct against match officials**

1. Any person shall be sanctioned due to misconduct against match officials by one or more of the following sanctions:

1	Unsporting conduct towards a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum four (4) weeks suspension or four matches;</li> <li>• A fine of maximum QAR 100,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the sanction is doubled.</li> </ul>
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2. F o r A	2	Attempting physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of ten (10) weeks suspension or ten matches;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 200,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the sanction is doubled.</li> </ul>
	3	Assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 24 matches suspension;</li> <li>• A fine of maximum QAR 300,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, cancellation of registration and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
	4	Spitting, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures at a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 24 weeks suspension or 24 matches;</li> <li>• A fine of maximum QAR 300,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the sanction is doubled.</li> </ul>

ge Categories one or more of the following sanctions shall be imposed:

1	Unsporting conduct towards a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum four (4) weeks suspension or four matches;</li> <li>• A fine of maximum QAR 5,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the sanction is doubled.</li> </ul>
2	Attempting physical assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum seven eight (8) weeks suspension or eight matches;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 10,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, suspension for six (6) months and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
3	Assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum ten (10) weeks suspension or ten matches;</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 20,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, suspension for six (6) months and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
4	Spitting, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures at a match official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum one (1) year suspension;</li> <li>• Fine of minimum QAR 2,000 and maximum QAR 20,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, cancellation of registration and the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>

3. The right of the Disciplinary Committee is reserved to punish serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention in accordance with Art. 88 par. 2).

#### **Article 49 Misconduct of technical and administrative staff**

1. Non-adherence with technical area, protesting against the referees' decisions or unsporting conduct, the coaches and the other technical and administrative staff who are in the technical area will be sanctioned with one or more of the following sanctions:
- a) Warning;
  - b) Suspension for a number of matches;
  - c) A fine of maximum QAR 50,000 (maximum QAR 10,000 for Age Categories);
  - d) In case of repetition one (1) other match suspension is added and the fine is doubled.

2. Other misconduct of the coaches and the other technical and administrative staff who are in the technical area will be sanctioned pursuant to Art. 47 and Art. 48.

#### Article 50 Brawl

1. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with the following:
  - a. Maximum ten (10) weeks suspensions;
  - b. Fine of maximum QAR 50,000 (maximum QAR 20,000 for Age Categories).
2. Anyone who has tried merely to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl is not subject to punishment.

#### Article 51 Unidentified aggressors

If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), the judicial body will sanction the Club to which the aggressors belong.

#### Article 52 Team misconduct

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on Clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly. In particular:

1	Delay to provide the starting line-up or appear in the field of play at the start of the match or before the start of the second half, exceeding the halftime break period from the end of first half whistle to the start of the second half whistle, or failure to include the match start list into the electronic system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000 for first and second divisions</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 20,000 for Age Categories;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
2	Violation of player substitution procedures during official matches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000 for first and second divisions</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 20,000 for Age Categories;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the fine is doubled.</li> </ul>
3	Deliberate delay or refusal to receive an award.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return of award</li> </ul>
4	A team received five (5) yellow cards and two (2) expulsions or more during a match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 100,000;</li> <li>• In case of repetition, the fine is doubled.</li> <li>• Not applicable for Age Categories.</li> </ul>
5	Several players or officials from the same team threaten or harass match officials or other persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 100,000</li> <li>• Fine of maximum QAR 50,000 for Age Categories;</li> <li>• Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences pursuant to Articles 8 and 9.</li> </ul>
6	Refusal to changing the players' cloths after a granting of 15 minutes by the match referee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forfeit the match and Fine of maximum QAR 100,000.</li> <li>• For Age Categories: Forfeit the match and Fine of maximum</li> </ul>



		QAR 20,000.
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### **Article 53 Inciting hatred and violence**

1. A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for maximum 15 matches and with a maximum fine of QAR 20,000 (suspensions for maximum 12 matches and with a maximum fine of QAR 10,000 for Age Categories).
2. In serious cases, in particular when the infringement is committed using the mass media (such as the press, radio or television) or if it takes place on a match day in or around a stadium, the maximum fine will be QAR 80,000.

### **Article 54 Provoking the general public**

Anyone who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for maximum six (6) matches and sanctioned with a maximum fine of QAR 20,000.

### **Article 55 Ineligibility**

1. In official matches, the team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a maximum fine of QAR 100,000 in the following cases:
  - a) If a player is included in the match sheet of any official match despite being ineligible.
  - b) Fielding a player not included in the match list.
  - c) For Age Categories, the team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a maximum fine of QAR 20,000 in the event of violating both Paragraphs (a) and (b).
2. In friendly matches, the team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a maximum fine of QAR 15,000 in the following cases:
  - a) If a player is included in the match sheet of any official match despite being ineligible.
  - b) Fielding a player not included in the match list.
  - c) For Age Categories, the team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and paying a maximum fine of QAR 5,000 in the event of violating both Paragraphs (a) and (b).

### **Article 56 Failure to show the ID card issued by the QFA / different jersey number**

1. A fine of maximum of QAR 100,000 shall be imposed on the Club if:
  - a) A player is included in the match sheet without showing the ID card issued by the QFA.
  - b) A player is fielded without showing the ID card issued by the QFA provided that the player is not suspended.
  - c) For Age Categories, the club will be sanctioned with a maximum fine of QAR 20,000, provided that the player is not suspended.
  - d) If a player is fielded with a different jersey number than the jersey number registered in the match sheet (starting list), the club will be sanctioned with a fine of maximum QAR 10,000, provided that the player is not suspended.
  - e) For age Categories, if a player is fielded with a different jersey number than the jersey number registered in the match sheet (starting list), the club will be sanctioned with a fine of maximum QAR 2,000, provided that the player is not suspended.

### **Article 57 Refusal to leave the field of play**

- d) If a player is reported in the referee report to have refused to leave the field of play or the venue, after more than 15 minutes granted by the referee, the player shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with Art. 9.

- e) If a player is reported in the referee report to have delayed to return to the field of play or the venue at the beginning of the match or after the halftime before the beginning of the second half, the player shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with Art. 9.

#### Article 58 Misconduct at official activities

- Any of the below sanctions may be imposed on football club companies, official or player who arrives late or absent without justified reasons from attending a press conference, press or TV interview, at which he was requested to attend, whether prior, during or after the match or any official activity organized by the QFA or QSLM:
- Any of the below sanctions may be imposed on football club companies, official or player in the event of their failure to enter and leave the mixed zone before and after the match:

1	Delay	• Warning
2	Repetition of delay	• Fine of QAR 10,000
3	Unjustified absence	• Fine of QAR 10,000
4	Repetition of unjustified absence	• One match suspension and Fine of QAR 20,000
5	Non-compliance with stipulated uniform	• Fine of maximum QAR 20,000

- Coach, player or official who arrives late or absent without justified reasons from attending a press conference or official activity organized by the QFA or QSLM, at which he was requested to attend in Age Categories matches, will be sanctioned as follows:

1	Delay	• Warning
2	Repetition of delay	• Fine of QAR 10,000
3	Unjustified absence	• Fine of QAR 10,000
4	Repetition of unjustified absence	• One match suspension and Fine of QAR 20,000
5	Non-compliance with stipulated uniform	• Fine of maximum QAR 20,000

#### Article 59 Cancelled match, abandonment and interruption

- If a match cannot take place or cannot be played in full for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behavior of a team or behavior for which a Club is liable, the Club will be sanctioned with a maximum fine of QAR 100,000 (maximum QAR 20,000 for Age Categories) and the match will either be forfeited or replayed.
- If a match has to be temporary interrupted, for reasons other than force majeure, but due to the behavior of a team or behavior for which a Club is liable, the Club responsible will be sanctioned with a maximum fine of QAR 100,000 (maximum QAR 20,000 for Age Categories).
- In serious cases, additional sanctions pursuant to Art. 8 may be imposed on the Club concerned.
- If, due to reasons for which a Club is liable, a match cannot take place because a team is absent or the number of players is less than the legal number of seven players after 15 extra minutes granted by the match referee after the initial kickoff time, the team will be sanctioned by forfeiting the match and with a maximum fine of QAR 100,000.
- In the competitions of the Age Categories, a match cannot take place because the number of players is less than the legal number of players (11 Players), the team will be sanctioned by

forfeiting the match and with a maximum fine of QAR 20,000. In case of justified reasons, the Disciplinary Committee may decide to replay the match.

6. A Club that causes the cancellation or abandonment of a match shall bear the financial damages borne by the QFA or QSLM.

#### Article 60 Withdrawal

1. A Club shall not voluntarily withdraw from an official match.
2. In case a Club voluntarily withdraws from an official match, the team shall not be entitled to continue in the competition in question and the following sanctions apply cumulatively:

1	QNB Stars League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 500,000;</li> <li>• Relegation to lower division.</li> </ul>
2	Qatar Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining; competition in the current season and expulsion of the Qatar Cup of the next season (if qualified);</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 500,000.</li> </ul>
3	Emir Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Expulsion from the competition of the next season;</li> <li>• Expulsion of the Qatar Cup of the next season (if qualified);</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 500,000.</li> </ul>
4	U23 Qatargas League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cancellation of the results of the current season;</li> <li>• Expulsion from any competitions of the QFA of the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 300,000.</li> </ul>
5	Official match of any other competition organized by the QFA or QSLM regarding first division teams or second division teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine of QAR 200,000 (first division team) or</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 100,000 (second division team)</li> </ul>

For Age Categories, the following sanctions apply (in case of total absence):

1	U18 (league or cup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 100,000.</li> </ul>
2	U16 (league or cup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining; competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 90,000.</li> </ul>
3	U15 (league or cup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 80,000.</li> </ul>
4	U14 (league or cup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li> <li>• Fine of QAR 70,000.</li> </ul>

5	U13 (league or cup)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expulsion from the remaining competition in the current season;</li><li>• Fine of QAR 60,000.</li></ul>
6	Any other match or competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fine of QAR 10,000</li></ul>

# Section 4

## Responsibilities of Clubs

### **Article 61 Infringement to participation system of resident and foreigner players**

1. A Club will be sanctioned with a forfeit and a fine of maximum QAR 100,000, in case a Club has violated in a match the participation system set in the QFA Regulations in relation to:
  - a) Local and Resident players
  - b) Foreign professional players
  - c) Foreign professional player as a goal keeper in any time of the match.
  - d) The participation of the Players (under 23).
  - e) The participation or inclusion of a player's name in the start list who is not eligible to participate in the match.
2. For Age Categories, a Club will be sanctioned with a forfeit and a fine of QAR 20,000, in case a Club has violated in a match the participation system of resident players set in the QFA Regulations.
3. For Age Categories, a Club will be sanctioned with a forfeit and a fine of QAR 20,000, in case a Club has violated in a match the participation system of players (Compulsory substitutions during the halftime of the U13 age category league).

### **Article 62 Organization of matches**

1. Clubs that organize matches shall collaborate with the relevant authorities and they shall comply with and implement safety rules and instructions of the relevant authorities before, during and after the match and if incidents occur.
2. Clubs shall comply with their obligations related to the organization of matches pursuant to the applicable Competitions Regulations.
3. Any Club that fails to fulfill its obligations in accordance with this article shall be fined. In the case of a serious infringement, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground.
4. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed (cf. Art. 5 par. 2).

### **Article 63 Liability for spectator conduct**

1. The home Club is liable for improper conduct among spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
2. The visiting Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight, and, depending on the situation, may be fined. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious disturbances.
3. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium are regarded as the visiting Club's supporters, unless proven to the contrary.
4. Improper conduct includes:
  - Offending the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigrating words, sounds or actions concerning race, color, language, religion or origin,
  - Riots in the stands,
  - Invading the field of play,

- Using any type of explosions, fireworks or smoke bombs,
  - Letting off incendiary devices or objects,
  - Throwing any projectiles,
  - Violence towards any persons or objects,
  - Displaying or using insulting, racist or political slogans in any form,
  - Use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices.
5. The liability described in par. 1 and 2 also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.

#### **Article 64 Club Licensing**

The QFA judicial bodies are competent to sanctions breaches of the QSLM Club Licensing Regulations as per Article 8.

#### **Article 65 Misuse of the sponsorship employment system**

1. It is not allowed to misuse the sponsorship system between an employer and an employee in a view to gain an advantage.
2. Anyone who refuses to issue an exit visa to a player or an official without justified reasons at the end of an employment relationship or who threatens to refuse the issuance of the exit visa in order to negotiate the conditions of a termination of employment contract, will be sanctioned as per Article 9.
3. Any Club for which a player or official is registered, even if it is not the sponsor of that player or official, remains liable towards the QFA for his exit visa. In the event of a violation, the club may be sanctioned as per Article 8.

#### **Article 66 Other obligations**

Clubs shall also actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at registration with the QFA and at competitions that are subject to age limits:

1. Bear the responsibility of any wrong data submitted at the registration;
2. Ensure that no-one is involved in the management of Clubs who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, corruption, match-fixing, forgery etc.) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.
3. In the event of violating the provisions of this Article, the club may be sanctioned as per Article 8

# Section 5

## Contracts between Professional Players & Clubs

### Article 67 Contracts between professional players and Clubs

1. Without prejudice to contractual claims, a professional player who violates the relevant rules of the QFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players issued from time to time related to the negotiation and signature of contract with another club and/or the principle of contractual stability shall be sanctioned with one or more of the following sanctions, without prejudice to any contractual claim:
  - a) A fine in an amount estimated to be appropriate and proportional to the contract value.
  - b) Suspension on playing in official matches for a period up to six (6) months;
  - c) The sanctions may be doubled in case of repetition.
2. Without prejudice to contractual claims, a club that violates the relevant rules of the QFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players issued from time to time related to the negotiation and signature of contract with a player under a contract with another club and/or the principle of contractual stability shall be sanctioned with one or more of the following sanctions, without prejudice to any contractual claim:
  - a) A fine in an amount estimated to be appropriate and proportional to the contract value;
  - b) Deduction or cancellation of points;
  - c) A transfer ban;
  - d) Relegation to second division;
  - e) The sanctions may be doubled in case of repetition.
3. Any Club, club officials or any other person violates the relevant rules of the QFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players with a view to inducing a player to leave his club shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with Art. 8 and Art. 9 of this Code.

# Section 6

## Offensive & Discriminatory Behavior

### Article 68 Offensive behavior and fair play

1. Anyone who insults someone in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who uses offensive gestures or language against religion or moral or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behavior is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions.
2. A player who shows the internal T-shirt that includes any logo, message, advertisement and/or photo may be subject to sanctions.

### Article 69 Discrimination

1. Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigrating words or actions concerning race, color, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for maximum five (5) matches. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of maximum QAR 80,000 shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be maximum QAR 120,000.
2. Where several persons (officials and/or players) from the same Club simultaneously breach par. 1 a) or there are other aggravating circumstances, the team concerned may be:
  - Deducted three (3) points for a first offence,
  - Deducted six (6) points for a second offence;
  - A further offence may result in relegation to a lower division;
  - In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.
3. Where supporters of a team breach par. 1 a) at a match, a fine of maximum QAR 100,000 shall be imposed on the Club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.
4. Serious offences may be punished with additional sanctions as per Article 8. Spectators who breach par. 1 a) of this article shall receive a stadium ban of at least two (2) years.



# Section 7

## Infringements of Personal Freedom

### Article 70 Threats

- a) Anyone who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a maximum fine of QAR 50,000 and a maximum of three (3) match suspension.
- b) These sanctions constitute a departure from Art. 31 in that they may not be combined with others.

### Article 71 Coercion

- a) Anyone who uses violence or threats to pressure a match official into taking certain action or to hinder him in any other way from acting freely will be sanctioned with a fine of at least QAR 50,000 and a maximum of three (3) match suspension.
- b) These sanctions constitute a departure from Art. 31 in that they may not be combined with others.

# Section 8

## Forgery & Falsification

### Article 72 Forgery and falsification

1. Anyone who, in football-related activities, forges a document, falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a fine of minimum QAR 25,000 and maximum QAR 100,000.
2. If the perpetrator is a player, a suspension of at least six (6) matches will be pronounced.
3. If the perpetrator is an official or a players' agent, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least 24 months will be pronounced.
4. A Club may be held liable for an infringement as defined in par. 1 committed by one of its officials and/or players. In such a case, an expulsion from a competition and/or a transfer ban may be pronounced in addition to a fine for the Club concerned.
5. If a Club falsifies the registration document or players' ID cards (for example changing photo, data or the QFA or QSLM stamp), an expulsion from a competition and/or a transfer ban of one (1) year may be pronounced in addition to a fine of minimum QAR 50,000 and maximum QAR 100,000 for the Club concerned.

# Section 9

## Ethics & Integrity

### Article 73 Corruption

1. Anyone who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body or an employee of the QFA, QSLM or a Club, a match official, a player or an official on behalf of himself or a third party in an attempt to incite it or him to violate the regulations of the QFA will be sanctioned:
  - a. with a fine of at least QAR 100,000,
  - b. with a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for maximum two (2) years, and
  - c. with a ban on entering any stadium.
2. Passive corruption (soliciting, being promised or accepting an unjustified advantage) will be sanctioned in the same manner.
3. In serious cases and in the case of repetition, ban on taking part in any football-related activity may be pronounced for life.
4. In any case, the judicial body will order the confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for football development programs.

### Article 74 Integrity of matches and competitions

All persons bound by the QFA's rules and regulations must refrain from any behavior that damages or could damage the integrity of matches and competitions and must cooperate fully with the QFA at all times in its efforts to combat such behavior.

### Article 75 Unlawfully influencing match results (Match-fixing)

1. Anyone who conspires to manipulate (by offering, or attempting to offer or by receiving, or attempting to receive or seek a bribe) or influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics with a view to gaining an advantage for himself or a third party shall be sanctioned with a match suspension of two (2) years or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least QAR 60,000. In serious cases, a lifetime ban on taking part in any football related activity shall be imposed.
2. In the case of a player or official unlawfully influencing the result of a match in accordance with par. 1, the Club to which the player or official belongs may be fined. Serious offences may be sanctioned with expulsion from a competition, relegation to a lower division, a point deduction and the return of awards.
3. A Club that manipulates the results of its match to influence the rank of another Club or several other Clubs shall be fined and sanctioned with a deduction of points or expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division, and the return of awards.
4. Any form of approach or knowledge thereof in connection with activities aimed at manipulating or influencing in a unlawful or undue manner the course and/or result of a match or competition must be reported immediately and voluntarily to the QFA General Secretary or the QFA Ethics and Fair-Play Committee. Any information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

### Article 76 Betting

1. Anyone who participates directly or indirectly in betting or similar activities (including soliciting or facilitating or attempting to solicit or facilitate another person to do so) relating

to competition matches or otherwise connected with football or who has a direct or indirect financial interest in such activities, shall be subject to sanctions.

2. As betting activities are illegal in the State of Qatar, the QFA shall declare cases of its knowledge to the relevant authorities.

#### **Article 77 Loyalty, Confidentiality and Public Declarations**

1. All persons bound by this Code shall have a fiduciary duty and loyalty duty to the QFA, the QSLM and the Clubs.
2. Information of a confidential nature divulged to persons bound by this Code while performing their duties for the QFA, the QSLM and Clubs shall be treated as confidential or secret by them. The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.
3. All persons bound by this Code who divulge confidential information to a third party in accordance with Article 9.
4. Any person who make public declarations contrary to the interests of the QFA or QSLM in the media, social media or otherwise to external parties may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Art. 9.

# Section 10

## Doping

### Article 78 Doping

1. Doping is prohibited. Doping and anti-doping rule violations are defined in the QADC Anti-Doping Rules and sanctioned in accordance with the QADC Anti-Doping Rules by the Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and the Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel.
2. The QFA recognizes all football-related decisions of QADC, Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and the Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel.
3. If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel shall be notified to FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Doping decisions passed by the Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and FIFA and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
4. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another sports association in Qatar or the Qatar Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and the Qatar Anti-Doping Appeal Panel or any other Qatari state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by the QFA.

# Section 11

## Failure to respect Decisions & Obligation to Collaborate

### Article 79 Failure to respect FIFA or AFC decisions

The QFA may be requested by FIFA or AFC to implement sanctions imposed by FIFA or AFC to anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or FIFA or AFC a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of FIFA or AFC or a subsequent CAS appeal decision (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee or an instance of FIFA or AFC, or by CAS (subsequent appeal decision).

### Article 80 Failure to respect QFA decisions

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or QFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of QFA or an award of the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee or an instance of QFA or by the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal shall be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee as follows:
  - a) Fine of maximum QAR 100,000 for failing to comply with a decision;
  - b) Final deadline will be granted by the Disciplinary Committee in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the decision;
  - c) (Only for Clubs:) warning and notification that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the final deadline, points will be deducted or relegation to a lower division ordered. A transfer ban may also be pronounced. If points are deducted, they shall be proportionate to the amount owed.
  - d) (Only for natural persons): warning and notification that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the final deadline, match suspension may be ordered until compliance with the financial or non-financial decision.
2. If a Club or a natural person disregards the final deadline, the sanctions shall be implemented.
3. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with this article may not be appealed, but directly to the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal.

### Article 81 Failure to respect decisions of former association

Any financial or non-financial decision that has been pronounced against a natural person who is registered (or has otherwise signed a contract in the case of a coach) with a Club affiliated to the QFA by a court of arbitration or a dispute resolution chamber within the former association, both duly recognized by FIFA, shall be enforced by the QFA, in accordance with the principles established in Art. 80 and Art. 12 of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players.

### Article 82 Obligation to collaborate

1. All (legal or natural) persons bound by this Code shall collaborate with the QFA and comply with the decisions and requests of the QFA.

2. Anyone who fails to collaborate without acceptable reasons may be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with Articles 8 and 9, taking into account the conduct of the person.
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## **Second Title Organization & Procedures**



# **Chapter I Organization**

# Section 1

## Jurisdiction of the QFA & FIFA

### Article 83 General rule

1. With regard to matches and competitions organized by the QFA or QSLM, the QFA and QSLM are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. If requested, FIFA may extend the sanctions passed to have worldwide effect.
2. The judicial bodies of FIFA reserve the right to sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA if the QFA fails to prosecute serious infringements or fail to prosecute in compliance with the fundamental principles of law.
3. The QFA shall notify the judicial bodies of FIFA of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of FIFA.
4. The QFA is responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed by FIFA against infringements committed in the QFA's area of jurisdiction.

### Article 84 Friendly matches between two national teams

1. Any disciplinary action to be taken at friendly matches between two national teams from different associations is the responsibility of that association to which the sanctioned player belongs. However, in serious cases, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may intervene ex officio.
2. The QFA shall inform FIFA of the sanctions pronounced.
3. FIFA ensures compliance with the sanctions by means of FIFA Disciplinary Code.

# Section 2

## Authorities

### Article 85 Referee

1. During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
2. Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and may not be reviewed by the QFA judicial bodies.
3. In cases where a decision by the referee involves an obvious error, only the disciplinary consequences of that decision may be reviewed by the QFA judicial bodies.
4. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary proceedings may, in accordance with this Code, be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.
5. A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.
6. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply:
  - a. Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
  - b. Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion;
  - c. Pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

### Article 86 Judicial bodies

The judicial bodies of the QFA are:

- a. The Disciplinary Committee,
- b. The Appeal Committee,
- c. The Ethics Committee.

### Article 87 Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal

According to the QFA Statutes, certain decisions passed by the judicial bodies may be appealed against before the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal.

# Section 3

## Disciplinary Committee

### Article 88 Jurisdiction

1. The Disciplinary Committee is authorized to sanction any breach of Statutes, regulations, directive, circulars or decisions of the QFA or QSLM which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body.
2. The Disciplinary Committee is also responsible for sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention, rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions, extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion and pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine (cf. Art. 85).

### Article 89 Composition

1. The Disciplinary Committee is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary, appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of four years. At least one member of the Disciplinary Committee shall have legal qualifications.
2. The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Disciplinary Committee may not belong to any other body of the QFA or QSLM or Clubs at the same time.

# Section 4

## Appeal Committee

### Article 90 Jurisdiction

1. The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions and the Ethics Committee's decisions that this Code or the QFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.
2. The Appeal Committee may uphold, amend or overturn the appealed decision. In case of fundamental mistrial, the Appeal Committee can overturn the appealed decision and refer the case back to the Disciplinary Committee, respectively the Ethics Committee, for reassessment.
3. The Appeal Committee re-examines the case from both a factual and a legal perspective.
4. If new disciplinary infringements come to light while appeal proceedings are pending, they may be judged in the course of the same proceedings.

### Article 91 Composition

1. The Appeal Committee is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary, appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of four years.
2. The chairman and deputy chairman of the Appeal Committee shall have legal qualifications.
3. The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Appeal Committee may not belong to any other body of the QFA or QSLM or Clubs at the same time.

# Section 5

## Ethics Committee

### Article 92 Jurisdiction

The Ethics Committee is authorized to sanction infringements stated in First Title, Chapter II Section 9 of this Code and breaches of the QFA Code of Ethics as well as any breach of the QFA/QSLM Statutes, regulations, directives, circulars or decisions that don't fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

### Article 93 Composition

1. The Ethics Committee is composed of a chairman, a deputy chairman and the number of members deemed necessary, appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of four years. At least one member of the Ethics Committee shall have legal qualifications.
2. The chairman, deputy chairman and members of the Ethics Committee may not belong to any other body of the QFA or QSLM or Clubs at the same time.

# Section 6

## Common Rules for Judicial Bodies

### Article 94 Removal and resignation

1. The Executive Committee has the right to remove any member if such member refuses to carry out his duties, is permanently prevented from carrying his duties, or is absent for four consecutive meetings or six separate meetings in one year without an acceptable excuse.
2. The member concerned shall be invited to submit his position prior to his removal. The Executive Committee shall appoint a replacing member for the remaining duration of the term.
3. In case of resignation of a member, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacing member for the remaining duration of the term.

### Article 95 Meetings

1. The judicial bodies' meetings are deemed to be valid if at least three (3) members are present, provided that among of which the chairman and deputy chairman. The judicial bodies meet whenever is needed.
2. The judicial bodies may call external experts or advisors who can attend meetings to provide reports or opinions only with a consultative voice, but no right to vote. Any fees related to experts or advisors called by the judicial bodies must be approved in advance by the QFA President or the General Secretary.
3. Each party involved in the dispute bears the costs of its own experts or advisors.

### Article 96 Majority

The judicial bodies shall reach decisions by a majority (50%) of the members present. Every member present shall vote. Each member present has one vote. In case of tie vote, the chair person has the casting vote.

### Article 97 Secretariat

1. The General Secretary of the QFA provides meeting room, one or more secretary(ies) and the necessary staff and equipment at the QFA headquarters.
2. The secretary takes charge of the administrative work and writes the minutes and draft versions of the decisions of the meetings, without the right to vote.
3. The secretary takes care of the filing and archiving.
4. Minutes of the meetings are filed in a special register signed by the judicial body's chair person and its secretary.

### Article 98 Independence

1. The judicial bodies of the QFA pass their decisions entirely independently; in particular, they shall not receive instructions from any other body.
2. A member of another QFA body may not stay in the meeting room during the judicial bodies' deliberations unless they have explicitly summoned him to attend.
3. Members of the judicial bodies must act in accordance with the QFA's Statutes and regulations.

## **Article 99 Conflict of Interests**

1. Members of the judicial bodies of the QFA must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality. This applies in the following cases (among others):
  - a) if the member in question has a direct interest in the outcome of the matter;
  - b) If he is an immediate family member of a party (such as spouse, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, children, stepchildren, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law or father-in-law, son-in-law or daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law and the spouses of such persons, and including anyone else, whether by blood or otherwise, with whom the individual has a relationship akin to an immediate family relationship;
  - c) If he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances;
  - d) If there is a feud with any party involved in the dispute.
2. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately.
3. The parties involved may also raise an objection with regard to the independence of any member.
4. In the event of any doubt or dispute, the chairman or the deputy chairman shall decide on the participation of the member concerned after that the member concerned has been invited to submit his position.
5. Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairman or the deputy chairman has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

## **Article 100 Confidentiality**

1. The members of the judicial bodies are bound by secrecy. They shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts and documents of the case, contents of the deliberations and decisions taken).
2. Only the contents of those decisions already notified to the parties concerned may be made public.

## **Article 101 Exemption from liability**

Except in the case of serious negligence or unlawful intent, neither the members of the judicial bodies of the QFA nor the QFA administration may be made liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.



# **Chapter II Procedures**

# Section 1

## General Rules

### Article 102 Time limits

1. Time limits begin the day after the relevant document has been notified.
2. Time limits are considered to have been observed if it has been faxed or given by hand against signature to the General Secretary no later than the last day of the time limit. When time limits as set in terms of days, official holidays and non-working days are not included in the calculation of time limits.
3. When a deadline expires on Friday, Saturday or a public holiday in Qatar, it is carried forward to the next working day.
4. If a time limit is not observed, the defaulter loses the procedural right in question.
5. The chair person may extend the time limits he has set, upon request. The time limits fixed in this Code may not, however, be extended.

### Article 103 Right to be heard

1. The parties shall be heard in writing or orally before any decision is passed.
2. They may, in particular:
  - a. Refer to the file;
  - b. Submit their written statements;
  - c. Request production of proof;
  - d. Be involved in the production of proof;
  - e. Obtain a reasoned decision.
3. The right to be heard may be restricted in exceptional circumstances, such as when confidential matters need to be safeguarded or the proceedings need to be conducted properly.

### Article 104 Representation and legal assistance

1. The parties are entitled to have a legal representative from inside or outside the State of Qatar.
2. Representatives must prove their authority by means of a signed power of attorney.
3. If they are not required to appear personally, they may be represented.
4. The parties are free to choose their own representation and legal representation.

### Article 105 Various types of proof

Any type of proof may be produced during disciplinary investigations and proceedings, provided that human dignity is not violated.

1. Proof that does not serve to establish relevant facts shall be rejected.
2. The following are, in particular, admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, match commissioners and referee inspectors, official records, declarations from the parties and witnesses, material evidence, expert opinions and audio or video recordings.
3. The judicial bodies can request further proof at any time.

### Article 106 Evaluation of proof

1. The judicial bodies will have absolute discretion regarding proof.

2. They may, in particular, take account of the parties' attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the judicial bodies and the secretariat.
3. They decide on the basis of their personal convictions.

#### **Article 107 Match officials' reports**

1. Facts contained in match officials' reports are presumed to be accurate.
2. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided.
3. If there is any discrepancy in the reports from the various match officials and there are no means of resolving the different versions of the facts, the referee's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that occurred on the field of play; the match commissioner's report is considered authoritative regarding incidents that took place outside the field of play.

#### **Article 108 Witnesses**

1. All persons under QFA's jurisdiction are obliged to comply with a summons to appear as a witness. Anyone failing to comply with a summons may be sanctioned in accordance with this Code.
2. The judicial bodies may take due account of any unjustified refusal to appear at a hearing and/or provide evidence on the part of a party, a party's representative or a witness.
3. All persons called to testify before the judicial bodies are bound to tell the truth and answer in all good conscience any questions that they are asked.
4. The judicial bodies may limit or reject the testimony of any witness, or any part thereof, on grounds of irrelevance.

#### **Article 109 Burden of proof**

The burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the QFA.

#### **Article 110 Language used in proceedings**

1. The language used in proceedings, both written and oral, is Arabic. Submissions and decisions are issued in Arabic.
2. Any party wishing to use another language at a hearing must request in good time the services of an interpreter. The competent judicial body decides on such requests as it deems appropriate.

#### **Article 111 Notification of communications and decisions – Addressees and Form**

1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
2. All communications (including decisions and other documents) intended for players and Clubs' officials are addressed to the Club concerned if the judicial body does not have the personal address of that individual. In such case, the Club must forward the documents to the parties concerned. Documents notified via the Club are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee.
3. Decisions and communications communicated by fax, emails or delivered by hand against signature shall be legally binding.

### **Article 112 Costs and expenses**

1. The costs of proceedings before the judicial bodies are borne by the QFA.
2. Costs caused abusively by a party are charged to the party responsible, irrespective of the outcome of the proceedings.
3. Each party bears its own legal costs, including the costs of its own witnesses, representatives, interpreters, legal advisers, experts.

### **Article 113 Baseless proceedings**

Proceedings may be closed if:

- a) The parties reach an agreement;
- b) A party declares bankruptcy;
- c) They become baseless.

# Section 2

## Proceedings in front of Judicial Bodies

### Article 114 Commencement of proceedings

1. Disciplinary infringements are prosecuted ex officio or upon request.
2. Proceedings are opened by the Disciplinary Committee, respectively the Ethics Committee for the following reasons:
  - a) On the basis of official reports;
  - b) Where a protest has been lodged;
  - c) For reported offences falling within the scope of this Code;
  - d) At the request of the QFA Executive Committee, the QFA President or the QFA General Secretary;
  - e) On the basis of documents received from a public authority;
  - f) Where a complaint has been filed.
3. Any person or body may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of the QFA or QSLM to the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee or the General Secretary. Such complaints shall be made in writing. The General Secretary will forward the complaints that he receives to the Disciplinary Committee, respectively the Ethics Committee.
4. Match officials are obliged to expose infringements which have come to their notice.

### Article 115 Investigation

1. The chairman of the respective judicial body leads the investigation proceedings himself or assigns this role to the deputy chairman and/or one or more members of the judicial body concerned or the secretariat.
2. In complex cases, the judicial body may engage third parties with investigative duties. In case of costs of such third parties, the judicial bodies must seek prior approval of the General Secretary.
3. Investigations are carried by means of written inquiries and written or oral questioning of the parties and witnesses, verification of the authenticity of documents or any further investigative measures relevant to the case.

### Article 116 Collaboration by the parties

1. The parties are obliged to collaborate to establish the facts. In particular, they shall comply with requests for information from the judicial bodies.
2. Whenever deemed necessary, the secretariat verifies the parties' versions of the facts.
3. If the parties do not collaborate, the competent judicial body may, after warning them, impose a fine.
4. If the parties fail to collaborate, especially if they ignore the stipulated time limits, the judicial bodies will reach a decision on the case using the file in their possession.

### Article 117 Written Procedure - Hearing

1. As a general rule, there are no hearings and the judicial bodies decide on the basis of the file.
2. At the request of one of the parties or on its own initiative, the competent judicial body may arrange for a hearing.
3. Hearings are always heard behind closed doors.

### **Article 118 Deliberations and decision-taking without meeting**

1. If the circumstances so require exceptionally, the deliberations and decision-taking of the judicial bodies may be conducted via telephone conference, videoconference or written circulation or any other similar method.
2. In this case, there is no hearing applicable.
3. The secretary takes minutes as if it were an ordinary meeting.

### **Article 119 Decisions**

1. Decisions come into force as soon as they are notified to the parties concerned.
2. Without prejudice to the application of Article 120 below, the decision contains:
  - a) The composition of the committee;
  - b) The names of the parties;
  - c) A summary of the facts;
  - d) The grounds of the decision;
  - e) The provisions on which the decision was based;
  - f) The terms of the decision;
  - g) Notice of the channels for appeal.
  - h) Signature of the committee's chair person and secretary.
3. A copy of the decisions shall be submitted to the General Secretary.
4. The decisions of the Appeal Committee are final and binding and not subject to appeals, unless to the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal in accordance with the relevant provisions of the QFA Statutes.
5. After the expiration of the time limit for appeal, non-appealed decisions of the judicial bodies are final and binding.

### **Article 120 Decisions without grounds**

1. The Judicial Bodies may decide not to communicate the grounds of a decision and instead communicate only the terms of the decision. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have ten (10) days from receipt of the terms of the decision to request, in writing, the grounds of the decision, and that failure to do so will result in the decision becoming final and binding and not appealable.
2. If a party requests the grounds of a decision, the motivated decision will be communicated to the parties in full, written form. The time limit to lodge an appeal, where applicable, begins upon receipt of this motivated decision.

### **Article 121 Publication of decisions**

1. If it deems relevant, the QFA administration is entitled to publish decisions issued by the judicial bodies without approval of the parties.
2. Where such a decision contains confidential information, the QFA administration may decide, at its own initiative or at the request of either one of the parties, to publish an anonymous version.

# Section 3

## Protests

### **Article 122 - Declarations of protest**

1. Clubs are entitled to lodge protests.
2. Protests must be addressed to the General Secretary in writing and hand delivered to the match commissioner within 2 hours of the end of the match in question. The grounds of the protest must be submitted to the General Secretary within 72 hours of the end of the match in question.
3. The time limits for protest may not be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of a competition, the corresponding competition regulations may shorten the protest deadline accordingly.
4. The protest shall be signed by the club.
5. The protest fee is QAR 3,000. It must be paid when the grounds of the protest are submitted to the General Secretary and is reimbursed only if the protest is admitted.
6. Protests must be lodged within 24 hours for the age categories matches or by the end of the official working hours on the first working day after the official holiday.

### **Article 123 - Inadmissibility of protests**

Protests may not be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

# Section 4

## Appeals

### Article 124 Contestable decisions

An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee or Ethics Committee, unless the disciplinary sanction pronounced is:

- a) A warning;
- b) A reprimand;
- c) A suspension of up to three (3) matches;
- d) A fine of up to QAR 50,000;
- e) Decisions passed for failure to respect FIFA, QFA or AFC decisions.

### Article 125 Eligibility to appeal

1. Anyone who has been a party to the proceedings before the first instance and has a legally protected interest justifying amendment or cancellation of the decision may lodge an appeal with the Appeal Committee.
2. Clubs may appeal against decisions sanctioning their players or officials. They shall have the written agreement of the person concerned.

### Article 126 Time limit for appeal

1. Appeals along with the reasons for the appeal must be notified in writing to the General Secretary within ten (10) days of notification of the decision.
2. If these requirements have not been complied with, the appeal is not admissible.
3. In urgent cases, the Disciplinary Committee may shorten the deadline for the appeal, with a minimum of three (3) days from the notification of the decision.

### Article 127 Written appeal

1. The appellant shall submit his appeal in writing to the General Secretary by hand against signature or by fax.
2. The appeal shall include the reasons for the appeal and means of proof and be signed by the appellant or his representative.

### Article 128 Appeal Fee

1. Anyone wishing to lodge an appeal shall pay a non-refundable appeal fee of QAR 5,000 to the QFA.
2. The Appeal fee has to be paid within the time limit for appeal otherwise the appeal is not admissible.

### Article 129 Stay of Execution

1. An appeal has no staying effect, except with regard to orders to pay a sum of money.
2. The appellant may request to stay the execution of the appealed decision until the decision of the Appeal Committee.
3. The reasoned request for stay of execution must be filed together with the appeal.
4. The Chairman of the Appeal Committee may, on receipt of a reasoned request, award a stay of execution.





# Section 5

## Special procedures

### Article 130 Rectification of decision

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

### Article 131 Review (Reconsideration) of decision

1. On request, the competent judicial body reopens proceedings after a legally binding decision has been passed where a party or the QFA claims to have new and substantial facts or proof that it was unable, even with due diligence, to produce before the decision became effective.
2. A request to reopen proceedings must be addressed to the General Secretary within 10 days of discovering the reasons for review, and no more than one year after the decision in question became effective.
3. The General Secretary transfers the application to reopen proceedings to the judicial body that took the contested decision.

### Article 132 Provisional measures

1. The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, respectively of the Ethics Committee, or in his absence the deputy chairman, is entitled to issue provisional measures where these are deemed necessary in case of emergency, to maintain sporting discipline or to avoid irreparable harm, or for reasons of safety and security. The chairman, or in his absence the deputy chairman, shall make his decision based on the evidence available at the time. He is not obliged to hear the parties.
2. A provisional measure shall apply for maximum 30 days. The duration of any such measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. The chairman, or in his absence the deputy chairman, of the Disciplinary Committee, respectively of the Ethics Committee, may exceptionally extend the validity of a provisional measure only once by up to 20 days.
3. Provisional measures pronounced by the chairman, or in his absence the deputy chairman, of the Disciplinary Committee, respectively of the Ethics Committee, may be appealed to the Appeal Committee in accordance with this Code but within two (2) days of notification of the contested measure and there is no appeal fee. The chairman, or in his absence the deputy chairman, of the Appeal Committee decides on such appeals as a judge sitting alone. Such decisions are final and not subject to further recourse.

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## Final Title

### Article 133 Scope of the Code, omissions, custom

1. This Code governs every subject to which the text or the meaning of its provisions refers.
2. If there are any omissions in this Code, the judicial bodies will decide in accordance with the jurisprudence and the QFA's custom or, in the absence of jurisprudence and custom, in accordance with rules they would lay down if they were acting as legislators.

#### **Article 134 Specific disciplinary rules**

1. Specific disciplinary rules may be introduced by the QFA Executive Committee for the duration of a competition or in regulations governing a specific matter.
2. Likewise, the Qatar Football Association and its competent committees may take disciplinary decisions regarding violating the application of the competition regulations and circulars at any time.

#### **Article 135 Official languages**

1. The code exists in Arabic and English languages.
2. In the event of any discrepancy between the two texts, the Arabic version is authoritative.

#### **Article 136 Adoption and enforcement**

1. This Code supersedes the previous QFA Disciplinary Regulations.
2. This Code has been approved and ratified by the QFA Executive Committee on 01/09/2020. This Code came into force from the date of issuance unless being annulled or amended by the QFA Executive Committee.