

REGOLAMENTAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

REVISION OF ARTICLE 55 OF THE FIFA DISCIPLINARY CODE: NON-DISCRIMINATION (CIRCULAR NO. 1026)

FIFA has always taken its role in combating discrimination of any kind very seriously. Despite this fact, there has been a surge in discriminating gestures and language at football matches in recent months. At its meeting on 16 and 17 March 2006, the FIFA Executive Committee therefore decided to take vigorous action against this deplorable trend and to impose harsher sanctions than those hitherto pronounced under article 55 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC).

Article 55, paragraph 1 therefore now stipulates a match suspension of five matches at every level of football as well as a stadium ban and a minimum fine of CHF 20,000 for any act or expression of a discriminatory and/or contemptuous nature. If an official commits such an offence, the fine will be CHF 30,000.

Furthermore, an association or club will be fined CHF 30,000 if any of its supporters display discriminatory banners or behave in a discriminatory or contemptuous manner during a match. If spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or the other association or club, the host association or club will be sanctioned accordingly.

The stadium ban on offending spectators remains at least two years (par. 3).

The new provision in par. 4 stipulates that if any player, official or spectator behaving in a discriminatory or contemptuous manner can be attributed to a certain team, three points will automatically be deducted from that team for the first offence. In the case of a second offence, six points will be deducted, and after a further offence, the team will be relegated. In the case of matches

played without points being awarded, the team in question will be disqualified.

The confederations and associations are obliged to incorporate the provisions of this article in their disciplinary code and statutes and to enforce the sanctions stipulated. Any association fails to comply with this article will be excluded from international football for two years (par. 5).

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 55 OF THE FIFA DISCIPLINARY CODE

Non discrimination

Par. 1: Anyone who publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner on account of race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, *or perpetrates any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act*, will be subject to match suspension for at least five matches at every level. ***Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least CHF 20,000 will be imposed on the perpetrator. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine will be at least CHF 30,000.***

Par. 2: *If spectators display banners bearing discriminatory slogans, or are guilty of any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous behaviour at a match, the appropriate body will impose a sanction of at least CHF 30,000 on the association or club that the spectators concerned support and force it to play its next official match without spectators. If the spectators cannot be identified as supporters of one or the other association or club, the host association or club will be sanctioned accordingly.*

Par. 3: *Any spectator who is guilty of any of the offences specified under par. 1 and/or 2 of this article will be banned from entering any stadium for at least two years.*

Par. 4: *If any player, association or club official or spectator perpetrates any kind of discriminatory or contemptuous act as described by par. 1 and/or 2 of this article, three points will automatically be deducted from the team concerned, if identifiable, after the first offence. In the case of a second offence, six points will automatically be deducted, and for a further offence, the team will be relegated.*

In the case of matches without points, the team concerned, if identifiable, will be disqualified.

Par. 5: The confederations and associations are required to incorporate the provisions of this article in their statutes and to enforce the sanctions stipulated. If any association infringes this article, it will be excluded from international football for two years.