



GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY CODE (GDC)

ARTICLE 1 OBJECT

This code describes infringements of the rules in GFA regulations, determines the sanctions incurred, regulates the organization and function of the bodies responsible for taking decisions and the procedures to be followed before these bodies. For the avoidance of doubt, the bodies are:

- i. The Disciplinary Committee
- ii. Ethics Committee
- iii. Appeals Committee

ARTICLE 2 SCOPE OF APPLICATION: SUBSTANTIVE LAW

This code applies to every match and competition organized or sanctioned by the GFA. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of FIFA and the GFA are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping. It also applies to any breach of FIFA and the GFA regulations that do not fall under the jurisdiction of any other body.

ARTICLE 3 SCOPE OF APPLICATION: NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS

The following are subject to this code:

- a) Members of the association, in particular the clubs;

- b) Officials;
- c) Players;
- d) Match officials;
- e) Licensed match and players' agents;
- f) Anyone authorized by the GFA to perform a function in a match, competition or other event organized by the GFA;
- g) Spectators.

ARTICLE 4 **SCOPE OF APPLICATION: TIME**

This code applies to matters that arise after it has come into force. It also applies to previous matters which are equally or more favourable to the perpetrator of an offence and if the judicial bodies of the GFA are deciding on these facts after the code has come into force. In contrast, rules governing procedure apply immediately upon the coming into force of this code.

ARTICLE 5 **DEFINITIONS**

1. **Post-match**

The time between the final whistle from the referee and the teams' departure from the confines of the stadium.

2. **Pre-match**

The time between the teams' arrival in the confines of the stadium and the whistle for kickoff from the referee.

3. **International match**

A match between two teams belonging to different associations (two clubs, one club and one representative team or two representative teams).

4. **Friendly match**

A match organized by a football organization, club or other person between teams chosen for the occasion and possibly belonging to different spheres of operation; the score has an effect only on the match or tournament in question and, in the case of representative teams, on the FIFA rankings.

5. **Official match**

A match so declared or stipulated as official by the GFA.

6. **Officials**

Anyone, with the exception of players, performing an activity connected with football at an association or 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.

7. **Match official**

The referee, assistant referees, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, the person in charge of safety, and any other persons appointed by GFA to assume responsibility in connection with a match.

8. **FIFA Regulations**

The statutes, regulations, directives and circulars of FIFA as well as the Laws of the Game issued by the International Football Association Board.

ARTICLE 6 **GENDER AND NUMBER**

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

SUBSTANTIVE LAW

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PART

SECTION 1: CONDITIONS FOR SANCTIONS

ARTICLE 7 CULPABILITY

1. Unless otherwise specified, infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or out of negligently.

2. In exceptional circumstances, a match may have to be played without spectators or on neutral ground, or a certain stadium may be banned purely for safety reasons, even if an infringement has not been committed.

ARTICLE 8 ACTS AMOUNTING TO ATTEMPT

1. Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable.

2. In the case of acts amounting to attempt, the deciding body may reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual infringement proportionately. It will determine the extent of the mitigation as it deems fit; it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.

ARTICLE 9 INVOLVEMENT

1. Anyone who intentionally takes part in committing an infringement, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable.

2. The deciding body may take into account the degree of guilt of the party involved and may reduce the sanction pro rata but it shall not go below the general lower limit of the fine.

SECTION 2: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

ARTICLE 10 SANCTIONS COMMON TO NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS

Both natural and legal persons are punishable by the following sanctions:

- a) Warning;
- b) Reprimand;
- c) Fine;

d) Return of awards.

ARTICLE 11

SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO NATURAL

PERSONS

The following sanctions are applicable only to natural persons:

- a) Caution;
- b) Expulsion;
- c) Match suspension;
- d) Ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench;
- e) Ban from entering a stadium;
- f) Ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

ARTICLE 12 SANCTIONS APPLICABLE TO LEGAL PERSONS

The following sanctions are applicable only to legal persons:

- a) Transfer ban;
- b) Playing a match without spectators;
- c) Playing a match on neutral territory;
- d) Ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- e) Annulment of the result of a match;
- f) Exclusion from a competition;
- g) Forfeiture;
- h) Deduction of points;
- i) Demotion to a lower division.

ARTICLE 13 WARNING

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

ARTICLE 14 REPRIMAND

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

ARTICLE 15 FINE

- a. All fines applicable to the Premier League shall apply to the Reserve League at 50% for the same offence.
- b. Fines shall be denominated in Ghana Cedis only. Clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on its player(s) and official(s).

ARTICLE 16 RETURN OF AWARDS

The person required to return an award shall return the benefits received, in particular sums of money and symbolic objects (medal, trophy etc.) by the due date.

ARTICLE 17 CAUTION

- 1. A caution (yellow card) is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game).
- 2. Two cautions received during the same match shall incur an expulsion (indirect red card) and, consequently, automatic suspension from the next match. The two cautions that incurred the red card are canceled.

3. If a player receives a caution in three separate matches of the same GFA Official matches, he is automatically suspended from the next official match. The GFA may in exceptional circumstances depart from or amend this rule before the start of a particular competition. Any such decision reached by the organizers shall be final and binding.

4. If an abandoned match is to be replayed, any caution issued during that match shall be annulled. If the match is not to be replayed, 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.

5. Cautions issues in a match that is subsequently forfeited shall not be annulled.

6. If a player is guilty of serious unsporting behaviour as defined in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and is sent off (direct red card), any other caution he had previously received in the same match shall be upheld.

ARTICLE 18 **EXPULSION**

1. 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 unless he is serving a stadium ban.

2. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for players. The red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour 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.

3. 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,

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

ARTICLE 19 **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. The suspension is imposed in terms of matches, days or months. Unless otherwise specified it may not exceed twenty-four matches or twenty four months.
3. If the suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the incident that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture of the match.
4. If a suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension may be prolonged until the fine has been paid in full.
5. An official who is suspended in application of paragraph 1 is automatically banned from the dressing room in accordance with Article 20.

ARTICLE 20 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 area immediately surrounding the field of play, and in particular to sit on the substitutes' bench.

ARTICLE 21 STADIUM BAN

A stadium ban prohibits someone from entering the confines of a particular stadium or several stadia.

ARTICLE 22 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, sporting or any other).

ARTICLE 23

TRANSFER BAN

A transfer ban prevents a club from registering any player during the period in question.

ARTICLE 24

PLAYING A MATCH WITHOUT SPECTATORS

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

ARTICLE 25

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 venue at the sole discretion of the Association.

ARTICLE 26

BAN ON PLAYING IN A PARTICULAR STADIUM

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

ARTICLE 27

ANNULMENT OF THE RESULT OF A MATCH

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

ARTICLE 28

EXCLUSION FROM A COMPETITION

Exclusion is the deprivation of the right of a club to take part in the current and/or a future competition.

ARTICLE 29

DEMOTION TO A LOWER DIVISION

A club may be demoted to a lower division.

ARTICLE 30

DEDUCTION OF POINTS

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

ARTICLE 31

FORFEITURE

1. A team shall be sanctioned with forfeiture and as such deemed to have lost the match 3-0.
2. If the goal difference at the end of the match is greater than three, the result on the pitch is upheld.

ARTICLE 32

REPLAY OF A MATCH

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

SECTION 3:

COMMON RULES

ARTICLE 33

COMBINED SANCTIONS

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

ARTICLE 34

PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION

OF SANCTIONS

1. The body that pronounces a match suspension (Art. 19), a ban on access to dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench (Art. 20), a ban on taking part in any football-related activity (Art. 22), the obligation to play a match without spectators (Art. 24), the obligation to play a match on neutral ground (Art. 25) or a ban on playing in a certain stadium (Art. 26) may examine whether it is possible to partially suspend the implementation of the sanction.
2. Partial suspension is permissible only if the duration of the sanction does not exceed six matches or six months and if the relevant circumstances allow it, in particular the previous record of the person or club sanctioned.
3. The body decides which part of the sanction may be suspended. In any case, half of the sanction shall be considered definite.

4. By suspending implementation of the sanction, the body subjects the person sanctioned to a probationary period of anything from six months to two years.
5. If the 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.
6. Special provisions may apply in certain circumstances. In the case of anti doping rule violations, this article is not applicable.

ARTICLE 38

CANCELLATION OF CAUTIONS

1. Upon its own initiative or at the request of a RFA, the organizing body may cancel cautions that have not resulted in an expulsion so as to restore the balance among several teams that have not played the same number of matches during the first round of a competition, or in other exceptional circumstances.
2. In any case, the committee may do this only once in any competition.
3. The Organizing Body's decision shall be final.

ARTICLE 39

CARRYING OVER MATCH SUSPENSIONS

1. As a general rule, every match suspension (of players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.

SECTION 5: **DETERMINATION OF SANCTION**

ARTICLE 40 **GENERAL RULE**

1. The body pronouncing the sanction shall decide the scope and duration of the sanction.
2. Sanctions may be limited to one or more specific categories of matches and competitions.
3. The deciding body shall take into account, all relevant factors in the case as well as the degree of guilt of the offender when imposing the sanction.

ARTICLE 41 **REPEATED INFRINGEMENTS**

1. Unless otherwise specified, the body may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.
2. These provisions are subject to the special FIFA rules governing repeated anti doping rule violations.

ARTICLE 42 **CONCURRENT INFRINGEMENTS**

1. If several fines are pronounced against someone as a result of one or more infringements, the relevant 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 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.

SECTION 6: **LIMITATION PERIOD**

ARTICLE 43 **LIMITATION PERIOD FOR PROSECUTION**

1. Infringements committed during a match may no longer be prosecuted after a

lapse of two years. As a general rule, other infringements may not be prosecuted after a lapse of five years.

2. Anti-doping rule violations may not be prosecuted after eight years have elapsed.
3. Prosecution for corruption is not subject to a limitation period.

ARTICLE 44 COMMENCEMENT OF THE LIMITATION PERIOD

The limitation period runs as follows:

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

ARTICLE 45 INTERRUPTION

The limitation period is interrupted if the Disciplinary Committee commences proceedings before it has expired.

ARTICLE 46 LIMITATION PERIOD FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS

1. The limitation period for sanctions is five years.
2. The limitation period begins on the day on which the decision comes into force.

Chapter II: **SPECIAL PART**

SECTION 1: **INFRINGEMENTS OF THE LAWS OF GAME**

ARTICLE 47 MINOR INFRINGEMENTS

A player is cautioned if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 17 of this code):

- a) Unsporting behaviour;
- b) Dissent by word or action;
- c) Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game;
- d) Delaying the restart of play;

- e) Failure to retreat the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in;
- f) Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission;
- g) Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.

ARTICLE 48 MAJOR INFRINGEMENTS

A player is sent off if he commits any of the following offences (cf. Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and art. 18 of this code):

- h) Serious foul play;
- i) Violent conduct;
- j) Spitting at an opponent or any other person;
- k) 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);
- l) 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;
- m) Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
- n) Receiving a second caution in the same match (art. 17 par. 2).

ARTICLE 49 MISCONDUCT AGAINST OPPONENTS OR PERSONS OTHER THAN MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par.

4, any recipient of a direct red card shall be suspended as follows:

- a) One match for denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity (particularly by deliberately handling the ball);
- b) At least one match for serious foul play (particularly in the case of excessive or brute force);
- c) At least one match for unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a match official (subject to art. 54, 55 and 56-59).

- d) At least three matches for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) an opponent or a person other than a match official;
 - e) At least five matches for spitting at an opponent or a person other than a match official.
2. A fine may also be imposed in all cases in accordance with Article 39 of the GFA Regulations.
 3. The right is reserved to punish an offence in accordance with (Art. 77 a).

ARTICLE 50 MISCONDUCT AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Including the automatic suspension incurred in accordance with art. 18 par. 4, the overall suspension imposed on any person receiving a direct red card shall be for:
 - a) At least three matches for unsporting conduct towards a match official
 - b) At least six months for assaulting (elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a match official;
 - c) At least 12 months for spitting at a match official.
2. A fine not exceeding Gh¢1,000.00 may also be imposed in all cases.
3. The right is reserved to punish an infringement in accordance with Art. 77(a).

ARTICLE 51 BRAWLS

1. Involvement in a brawl is sanctioned with a suspension for at least six matches.
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 52 UNIDENTIFIED AGGRESSORS

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

ARTICLE 53 **TEAM MISCONDUCT**

Disciplinary measures may be imposed on clubs where a team fails to conduct itself properly.

In particular:

- a) A fine may be imposed where the referee sanctions at least five members of the same team during a match (caution or expulsion);
- b) A fine of at least Gh¢5,000 may be imposed where several players or officials from the same team threaten or harass match officials or other persons. Further sanctions may be imposed in the case of serious offences.

ARTICLE 54 **INCITING HATRED AND VIOLENCE**

1. A player or official who publicly incites others to hatred or violence will be sanctioned with match suspension for no less than twelve months and with a minimum fine of Gh¢5,000
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 minimum fine will be Gh¢6,000

ARTICLE 55 **PROVOKING THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Any player, team or match official who provokes the general public during a match will be suspended for two matches and sanctioned with a minimum fine of Gh¢5,000

ARTICLE 56 **OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND FAIR PLAY**

Any player, team or match official who insults another in any way, especially by using offensive gestures or language, or who violates the principles of fair play or whose behaviour is unsporting in any other way may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Art. 10.

ARTICLE 57 **DISCRIMINATION**

1.a) Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least Gh¢5,000 shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least Gh¢5,000

b) 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 points for a first offence and six points for a second offence; a further offence may result in demotion to a lower division. In the case of matches in which no points are awarded, the team may be disqualified from the competition.

2.a) Where supporters of a team breach par. 1 a) at a match, a fine of at least Gh¢5,000 shall be imposed on the club concerned regardless of the question of culpable conduct or culpable oversight.

b) Serious offences may be punished with additional sanctions, in particular an order to play a match behind closed doors, the forfeiture of a match, a points deduction or disqualification from the competition. Spectators who breach par. 1 a) of this article shall receive a stadium ban of at least two years.

ARTICLE 58

THREATS

Anyone subject to this code who intimidates a match official with serious threats will be sanctioned with a fine of at least Gh¢2,000 and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from art. 32, in that they may not be combined with others.

ARTICLE 59

COERCION

Anyone subject to this code who uses violence or threats to pressurize 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 Gh ₵2,000 and a match suspension. These sanctions constitute a departure from Art. 33, in that they may not be combined with others.

ARTICLE 60 **FORGERY**

1. Anyone subject to this code who, in football-related activities, forges a document or falsifies an authentic document or uses a forged or falsified document to deceive in legal relations will be sanctioned with a suspension of at least six matches.
2. If the perpetrator is an official, the body will pronounce a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a period of at least twelve months.
3. A minimum fine of Gh₵2,000 may also be pronounced.

ARTICLE 61 **INDUCEMENT**

1. Anyone subject to this code who offers, promises or grants an unjustified advantage to a body of the GFA, 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 GFA or will be sanctioned:
 - a) With a fine of at least Gh₵5,000
 - b) With a ban on taking part in any football-related activity, 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, sanction 1b of this article may be pronounced for life.
4. In any case, the body will order the confiscation of the assets involved in committing the infringement. These assets will be used for football development programmes.

SECTION 2.
ARTICLE 62

DOPING
DEFINITION

Doping is strictly prohibited. The use of doping substances shall be severely punished and the FA shall have the right to carry out anti-doping control/test at any time, before, during recess and after a match and those found positive shall receive not less than one (1) year ban in the first instance. A repetition shall attract a ban for life.

SECTION 3
ARTICLE 63

FAILURE TO RESPECT DECISIONS

1. Anyone who fails to pay another person (such as a player, a coach or a club) or GFA a sum of money in full or part, even though instructed to do so by a body, a committee or an instance of GFA, FIFA, CAF or CAS (financial decision), or anyone who fails to comply with another decision (non-financial decision) passed by a body, a committee or an instance of GFA, FIFA, CAF or CAS.

a) Will be fined at least Gh¢1,000 for failing to comply with a decision;

b) Will be granted a final deadline by the GFA or its judicial bodies in which to pay the amount due or to comply with the decision;

c) (Only for clubs:) will be warned and notified that, in the case of default or failure to comply with a decision within the period stipulated, points will be deducted or demotion to a lower division ordered. A transfer ban may also be pronounced.

2. If the club disregards the final time limit, the GFA shall implement the sanctions threatened.

3. A ban on any football-related activity may also be imposed against natural persons.

SECTION 4. **RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUBS AND THE GFA**

ARTICLE 64 ORGANISATIONS OF MATCHES

The GFA in organizing matches shall:

- a) Assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the GFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b) Comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA and GFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;
- c) Ensure the safety of match officials, players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- d) Keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- e) Ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadia and their immediate surroundings and that matches are organized properly.
- f) For the avoidance of doubt, the GFA shall be responsible for security arrangements in all matches played under its jurisdiction

ARTICLE 65 FAILURE TO COMPLY

1. Any club, official, supporter that fails to fulfill its obligations in accordance with art. 64 shall be fined.
2. In the case of a serious infringement of art. 62, additional sanctions may be imposed, such as a stadium ban or ordering a team to play on neutral ground.
3. The right is reserved to pronounce certain sanctions for safety reasons, even if no infringement has been committed.

ARTICLE 66

LIABILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

1. The home team or 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. Improper conduct includes violence towards persons or objects, letting off incendiary devices, throwing missiles, including displaying insulting or political slogans in any form, uttering insulting words or sounds, or invading the pitch.
4. The liability described in par. 1 and 2 of this article also includes matches played on neutral ground, especially during final competitions.

ARTICLE 67

OTHER OBLIGATIONS

The GFA shall also:

- a) Actively vet the age of players shown on the identity cards they produce at competitions that are subject to age limits;
- b) Ensure that no-one is involved in the management of clubs or the association itself who is under prosecution for action unworthy of such a position (especially doping, bribery and corruption, forgery etc.) or who has been convicted of a criminal offence in the past five years.

ARTICLE 68

UNLAWFULLY INFLUENCING MATCH RESULTS

1. Anyone who conspires to influence the result of a match in a manner contrary to sporting ethics shall be sanctioned with a match suspension or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity as well as a fine of at least Gh¢5,000. In serious cases, a

lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity may 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 exclusion from a competition, demotion to a lower division, a points deduction and the return of awards.

SECTION 5. ORGANIZATION **JURISDICTION OF THE GFA, CAF AND OTHER SPORTS ASSOCIATIONS**

ARTICLE 69 **GENERAL RULE**

1. With regard to matches and competitions not organized by the GFA but by other organizations that organize matches for cultural, geographical, historical or other reasons, such organisations are responsible for enforcing sanctions imposed against infringements committed in their area of jurisdiction. If requested, the sanctions passed may be extended to have nationwide effect.

2. The judicial bodies of the GFA reserve the right to sanction serious infringements of the statutory objectives of GFA and FIFA if clubs and other organizations fail to prosecute serious infringements or fail to prosecute in compliance with the fundamental principles of law.

3. The GFA its members, players, officials and other sports organizations shall notify the judicial bodies of the GFA of any serious infringements of the statutory objectives of the GFA and FIFA.

BETWEEN TWO

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

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

SECTION 6. **AUTHORITIES**

ARTICLE 71 **REFEREE**

1. During matches, disciplinary decisions are taken by the referee.
2. These decisions are final.
3. In certain circumstances, the jurisdiction of the judicial bodies may apply Art. 77 of this Code.

ARTICLE 72 **JUDICIAL BODIES**

The judicial bodies of the GFA are the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeals Committee and the Ethics Committee.

ARTICLE 73 **COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)**

Certain decisions passed by the Appeals Committee may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (cf. art. 66 of the FIFA Statutes and art. 128 of FIFA Disciplinary Code).

ARTICLE 74 **GFA MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

In compliance with the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations, the GFA Medical Committee, or other bodies under its supervision, shall carry out the doping test, analyses of samples and examination of medical certificates.

SECTION 7. **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

ARTICLE 75 **GENERAL JURISDICTION**

The GFA Disciplinary Committee is authorized to sanction any breach of the GFA regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body

ARTICLE 76 **SPECIFIC JURISDICTION**

The Disciplinary Committee is responsible for:

- a) Sanctioning serious infringements which have escaped the match officials' attention;
- b) Rectifying obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions;
- c) Extending the duration of a match suspension incurred automatically by an expulsion (art 18, par. 4 of this Code);
- d) Pronouncing additional sanctions, such as a fine.

ARTICLE 77

JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMAN RULING

ALONE

1. The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee may take the following decisions alone:
 - a) Suspend a person for up to three matches or for up to two months;
 - b) Pronounce a fine of up to Gh¢2,000.00;
 - c) Rule on a request to extend a or reduce sanction;
 - d) Settle disputes arising from objections to members of the Disciplinary Committee;
 - e) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.

2. Whenever the Disciplinary Committee meets on such occasions as at a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions mentioned under par. 1 be taken by the committee.

SECTION 8.

APPEALS COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 78

JURISDICTION

The Appeal Committee is responsible for deciding appeals against any of the Disciplinary Committee's decisions that GFA regulations do not declare as final or referable to another body.

ARTICLE 79

JURISDICTION OF THE CHAIRMAN RULING

ALONE

1. The Chairman of the Appeals Committee may take the following decisions alone:
 - a) Decide on an appeal against a decision to extend or reduce a sanction
(Art. 141) FIFA Disciplinary Code;

 - b) Resolve disputes arising from objections to members of the Appeal Committee;

 - c) Rule on appeals against provisional decisions passed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee;

d) Pronounce, alter and annul provisional measures.

2. Whenever the Appeal Committee meets on such occasions as a final competition, the chairman may decide that the decisions mentioned under par. 1 be taken by the committee.

ARTICLE 80 **INDEPENDENCE**

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

2. A member of another GFA body may not stay in the meeting room during the judicial bodies' deliberations unless they have explicitly summoned him to attend or permitted by the chairman.

ARTICLE 81 **INCOMPATIBILITY OF OFFICE**

The members of the judicial bodies may not belong either to the Executive Committee or a standing committee of GFA.

ARTICLE 82 **WITHDRAWAL**

1. Members of the judicial bodies of GFA must decline to participate in any meeting concerning a matter where there are serious grounds for questioning their impartiality.

2. 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 associated with any of the parties;

c) If he is associated with the same club as the party implicated

d) If he has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.

3. Members who decline to participate in a meeting on any of the above grounds shall notify the chairman immediately. The parties involved may also raise an objection to a member they believe will be biased.
4. The chairman shall decide on any such claim of bias.
5. Proceedings that have involved someone whom the chairman has ordered not to participate will be considered null and void.

ARTICLE 83 **CONFIDENTIALITY**

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

ARTICLE 84 **EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY**

Except in the case of gross culpability, neither the members of the judicial bodies of the GFA nor the secretariat may be made liable for any deeds or omissions relating to any disciplinary procedure.

ARTICLE 85 **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 86 **ADDRESSEES**

1. All of the parties are notified of the decisions.
2. Decisions and other documents intended for players, clubs and officials are addressed to the club concerned on condition that it forwards the documents to the parties concerned. In the event that the documents were not also or solely sent to the party concerned, these documents are considered to have been communicated properly to the ultimate addressee.
3. If an appeal has not been lodged by the specified deadline, doping decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Doping decisions passed by the Appeal Committee shall be notified simultaneously to the parties and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). FIFA will announce anti-doping rule violations within 30 days.

ARTICLE 87 **BASELESS PROCEEDINGS**

Proceedings may be closed if:

- a) The parties reach an agreement before the publication of the decision;
- b) A parties declared bankrupt or dies;
- c) They become baseless.

ARTICLE 88 **PASSING THE DECISION**

1. Decisions are passed by a simple majority of the members present.
2. Every member present shall vote.
3. If votes are equal, the chair has the casting vote.

ARTICLE 89 **FORM AND CONTENTS OF THE DECISION**

1. Without prejudice to the application of Art. 116 of FIFA Disciplinary Committee. 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;

2. The decisions are signed by the Chairman.

ARTICLE 90 **PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE ACTING ALONE**

The rules governing the Appeal Committee apply in the same way whenever the chairman of the committee decides alone.

ARTICLE 91 **COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)**

Any party aggrieved by a decision of the Appeals Committee of the GFA may appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland as the final arbiter in all sports-related litigation.

The FIFA Statutes stipulate which decisions passed by the judicial bodies of GFA may be taken before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

ARTICLE 92 **REQUEST TO THE GFA FOR THE EXTENSION OF SANCTIONS**

1. If the infringement is serious, in particular but not limited to doping (Art. 62) unlawfully influencing match results (Art. 68) misconduct against match officials (cf. art. 50), forgery and falsification (cf. art. 60), the club and other organizing sports bodies such as GHALCA, SESSA etc shall request the GFA to extend the sanctions they have imposed so as to have nationwide effect.
2. Any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another national sports association, national anti-doping organization or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by the GFA and, provided that the requirements described hereunder are met, may in principle be extended by the

GFA to have nationwide effect.

3. The request shall be submitted in writing and enclose a certified copy matching the decision. It shall show the name and address of the person who has been sanctioned and that of the club concerned.

4. If the judicial bodies of the GFA discover that club and other sports organizations have not requested a decision to be extended to have nationwide effect, these bodies may themselves pass a decision.

ARTICLE 93

CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANT OF REQUESTS

FOR

EXTENSION OF SANCTIONS BY THE GFA

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

- a) The person sanctioned has been cited properly;
- b) He has had the opportunity to state his case;
- c) The decision has been communicated properly;
- d) The decision complies with the regulations of the GFA;
- e) Extending the sanction does not conflict with public order and

accepted

standards of behaviour.

ARTICLE 94 **PROCEDURE**

1. The Chairman shall make his decision, in principle, without negotiations or hearing any of the parties, using only the file.
2. He may in exceptional circumstances decide to summon the parties concerned.

ARTICLE 95 **DECISION**

1. The chairman is restricted to ascertaining that the conditions of Art. 94 have been fulfilled. He may not review the substance of the decision.
2. He either grants or refuses to grant the request to have the sanction extended.

ARTICLE 96 **APPEAL**

1. The provisions of art. 119 FIFA Disciplinary Code. Shall apply, subject to par. 2 of this article, to any appeal lodged against a decision passed in accordance with Art. 78.
2. Any grounds for complaint may only refer to the terms set out in Art. 136 and 137 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code. It is inadmissible to question the substance of the initial decision.

ARTICLE 97 **OBVIOUS ERRORS**

A deciding body may at anytime rectify any mistakes in calculation or any other obvious error detected later

ARTICLE 98 **REVIEW**

1. A review may be requested after a legally binding decision has been passed if a party discovers facts or proof that would have resulted in a more favourable decision and that, even with due diligence, could not have been produced sooner.
2. A request for review shall be made within three (3) days of discovering the reasons for review.

DOCTRINE AND

JURISPRUDENCE

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 Executive Committee of the GFA shall decide in accordance with rules they would lay down if they were acting as legislators.
3. During all their operations, the judicial bodies of GFA draw on settlements already established by sports doctrine and jurisprudence.

ARTICLE 100

ADOPTION AND ENFORCEMENT

1. The GFA Congress adopted this code on 28th August, 2013 and it came into force on 29th August 2013.