

FIFA®

**DISCIPLINARY
AND ETHICS
REPORT**

2020/2021



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Foreword

Dear readers,

It is FIFA's great pleasure to present to you the second annual Disciplinary and Ethics Report.

You will find a comprehensive overview of our main decision-making bodies covering the sporting period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The first of two parts of this document presents the activities of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee, providing a breakdown of their activities, procedures and challenges. The second part gives an overview of the activities of the Ethics Committee.

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

Furthermore, and in reflection of FIFA's vision of making football truly global, the 71st FIFA Congress, which took place online on 21 May 2021, resulted in the election/re-election of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee and the Ethics Committee (see Annexe).

During the 2020/2021 period, several hundred cases were investigated and decided upon by the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee.

We hope that you will appreciate this effort to share with you our processes, challenges and successes in keeping the sport of football clean.



Carlos Schneider Salvadores
Director of Judicial Bodies

Disciplinary Committee

This judicial body is composed of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and 17 members and plays a key role in promoting fair play and protecting the integrity of football and the rights of FIFA’s stakeholders.

In order to meet this objective, the Disciplinary Committee is competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction any potential breach of FIFA’s regulations (including the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players).

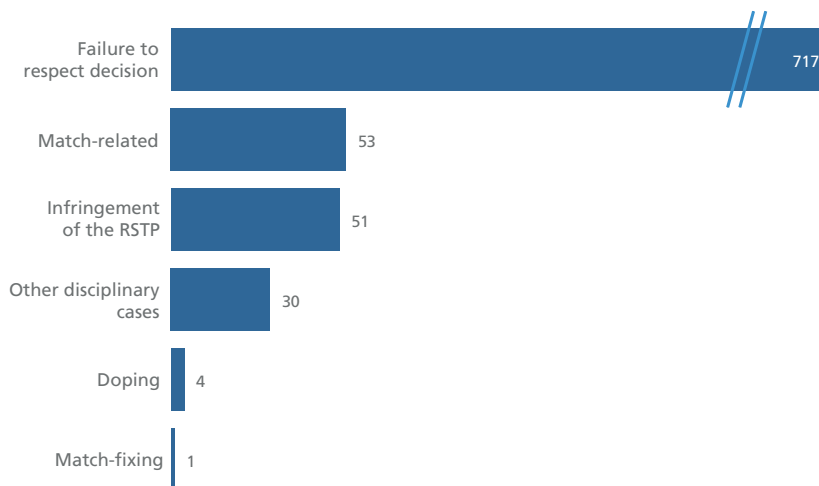
Cases received

Between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, the Disciplinary Committee received a total of 856 cases of which 649 were resolved in the same period. In addition to these cases, it received 108 extension requests and 93 other requests. The latter can come in many forms but are typically requests for information related to disciplinary matters and/or concerning matters that fall within the scope of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

Extension requests are granted (or not) in accordance with article 66 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The Disciplinary Committee may be requested by associations, confederations and other organising sports bodies to extend sanctions that they have imposed to have worldwide effect (i.e. not only within the relevant national domain but in each FIFA member association, each confederation and within FIFA itself). The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee will either grant or decline these requests and, in doing so, must ascertain whether the conditions provided for under article 66 paragraphs 3 and 5 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code have been met.

The vast majority of the cases received involved a failure to respect a previous decision. A total of 53 cases were match-related, 51 involved a potential infringement of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, while the remaining 35 consisted of four cases of doping infringements, one case of match-fixing and 30 other disciplinary cases, including cases of forgery and falsification, breaches of transfer bans and protests.

Figure 1: Cases received by the Disciplinary Committee, by type (2020/2021)

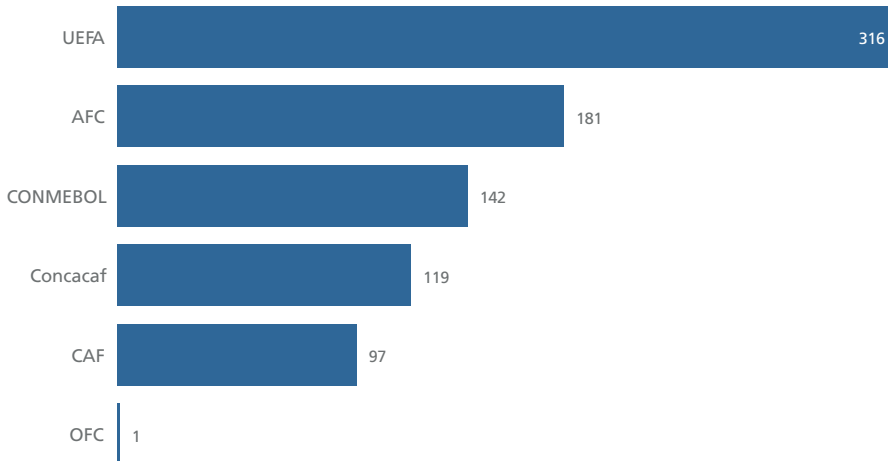


649
cases resolved
in 2020/2021



201
requests
received and
replied to

Figure 2: Cases received by the Disciplinary Committee, by confederation of the accused party (2020/2021)



More than one third of the 856 cases received by the Disciplinary Committee in 2020/2021 involved a respondent from UEFA, followed by the AFC with 181 cases and CONMEBOL with 142.



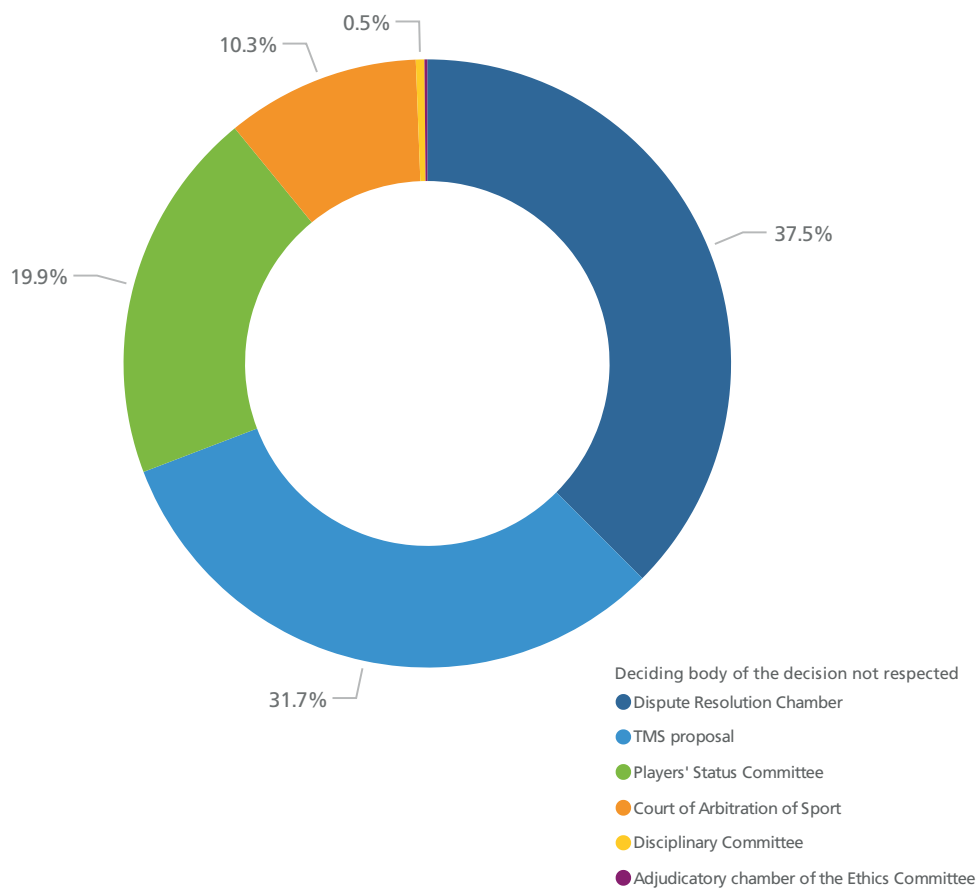
83.8%
of the cases
involved a failure
to respect a
previous decision

Failure to respect a decision

In a nutshell, when an entity (i.e. a club or an association) or an individual (i.e. a player or a coach) under FIFA’s jurisdiction has been instructed by an instance of FIFA or the Court of Arbitration for Sport to pay an amount of money to another person or to FIFA and they fail to do so, the Disciplinary Committee can be requested to intervene and demand that the debtor fulfil their obligations, subject to sanctions. The same principle also applies to non-financial decisions. These cases are governed by article 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

In 2020/2021, a total of 717 such cases reached the Disciplinary Committee. Note that the distribution of the initial deciding bodies changed significantly in comparison to the previous year: while decisions by the Dispute Resolution Chamber remained the most common, their share dropped from 69.3% in 2019/2020 to 37.5% in 2020/2021. TMS proposals are present in this breakdown for the first time and already constituted 31.7% of the cases in 2020/2021. The percentage of cases that originated from decisions by the Players’ Status Committee, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Disciplinary Committee remained relatively stable.

Figure 3: Cases that originated from a previous decision not being respected, by deciding body (2020/2021)



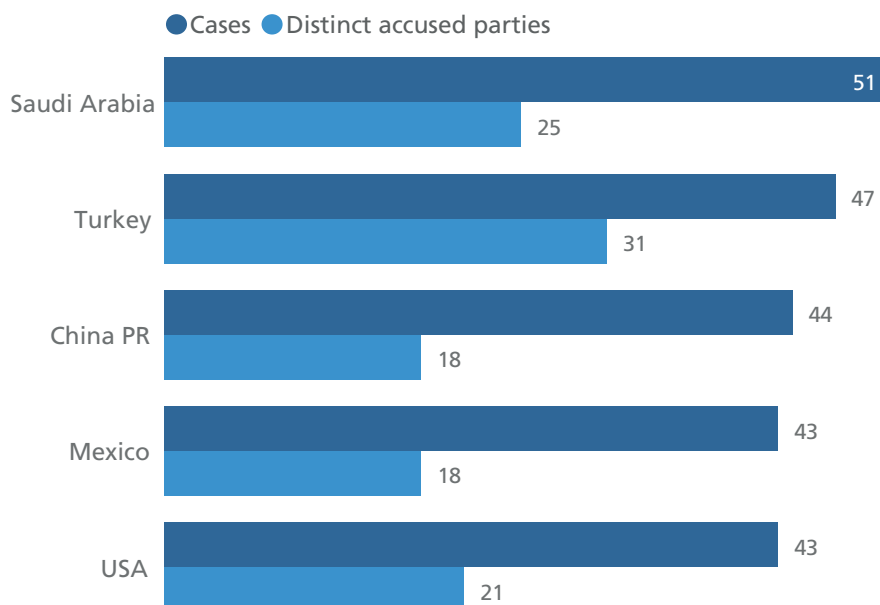
37.5%
of these cases
involved a failure
to respect a
FIFA DRC
decision

With 471 cases, by far the most common composition involved a club on each side, i.e. one as the accused and one as the injured party. This was followed by coaches and players on the injured party’s side and clubs as the accused party with 110 and 86 cases, respectively. In total, a club was the accused party in more than 95% of these cases.

Figure 4: Cases that originated from a previous decision not being respected, by type of injured and accused party (2020/2021)

		Accused party					
		Club	Coach	Player	Association	Executive	Total
Injured party	Club	471	2	8	1		482
	Coach	110			11		121
	Player	86			2		88
	Intermediary	16		2			18
	FIFA	4				1	5
	Association	2					2
	Comittee member				1		1
	Total	689	2	10	15	1	717

Figure 5: Top five associations of the accused party, by number of cases that originated from a previous decision not being respected and number of distinct accused parties (2020/2021)

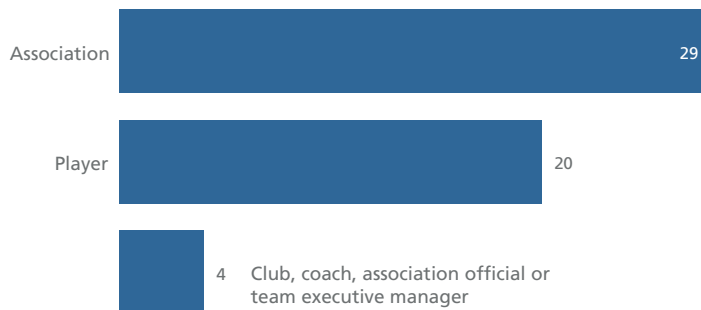


Match-related issues

The Disciplinary Committee also decides on cases related to all possible incidents taking place before, during or after a match for which FIFA is competent, regardless of whether they occur on or off the field of play.

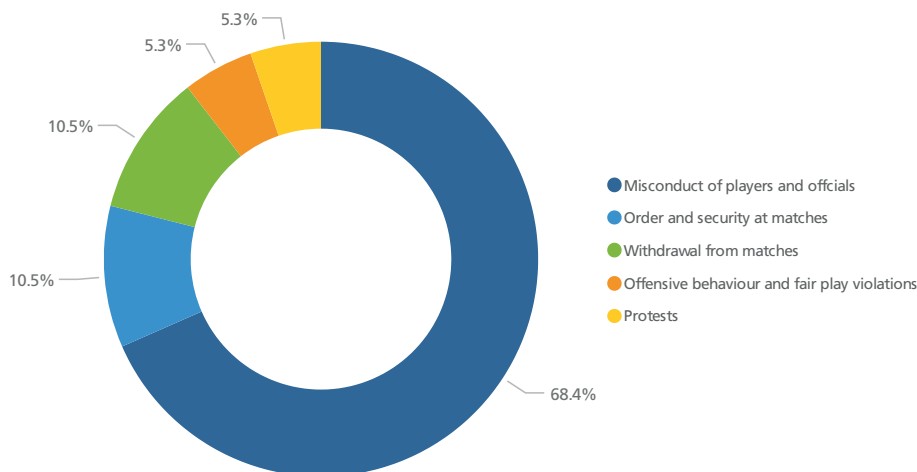
In 2020/2021, 53 cases of this type reached the Disciplinary Committee. In almost all of them, the accused party was either an association (54.7%) or a player (37.7%). The remaining four cases saw a club, a coach, an official of the association or a team executive manager accused of an infringement.

Figure 6: Cases that originated from match reports, by type of accused party (2020/2021)



Among the cases that were already closed, the most common infringement found was misconduct of players and officials (art. 12 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) with 68.4%, followed by breaches against order and security at matches (art. 16 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code) and withdrawals from matches (art. 6 of the Regulations for the FIFA Club World Cup Qatar 2020™), each with 10.5%.

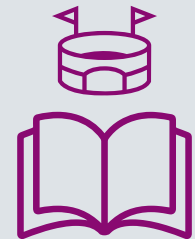
Figure 7: Decisions in match-related cases, by type of breach (2020/2021)



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

The violations of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players revolve around the transfer of players, whether this be to the form (e.g. failure to provide mandatory information or documents) or to the substance (e.g. registration of minors or use of the International Transfer Certificate as a negotiation tool).

In 74.5% of the 51 such cases received in 2020/2021, the accused party was a club, while in the remaining 25.5% it was an association. In the cases already decided by the Disciplinary Committee, the most commonly breached article was article 18bis of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players, i.e. third-party influence on clubs.



54.7%
of the match-related cases involved an association



68.4%
of the decisions involved misconduct of players or officials

Decisions by the Disciplinary Committee – sanctions

It is important to note that, in accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, disciplinary measures provided therein may be combined. For instance, in cases of clubs in breach of article 15 of the code, the Disciplinary Committee applies a transfer ban along with a fine.

Fines are in fact the most common form of sanction, and amounted to a total of CHF 2.9 million in 2020/2021. They ranged between a minimum of CHF 500 and a maximum of CHF 100,000.

Transfer bans were imposed in 194 cases. A transfer ban, in the context of disciplinary proceedings constitutes a ban against a club from registering any new players either nationally or internationally, implemented in the Transfer Matching System (TMS) by the secretariat to the Disciplinary Committee. It is a disciplinary measure provided for under article 6 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, which may be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee on a legal person. An example of when a transfer ban may be imposed would be within the context of established breaches of article 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (*Failure to respect decisions*), whereby a club has failed to respect a decision issued by a FIFA body, committee or instance or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport – the transfer ban aiming to impose compliance on the defaulting club and therefore achieve (financial) justice.



194
transfer bans
imposed in
2020/2021

Figure 8: Disciplinary measures in decisions by the Disciplinary Committee (2020/2021)

Sanction type	Decisions
Fine	354
Transfer ban	194
Match suspension	13



CHF 2.9m:
total amount
in fines
imposed in
2020/2021

Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee is the second instance and the last internal FIFA judicial body that can decide on appeals against decisions taken by the Disciplinary Committee.

Disciplinary cases that can be appealed are limited as the Appeal Committee cannot hear decisions in which a warning, a reprimand, a suspension of up to two matches or up to two months, as well as a fine of up to CHF 15,000, have been imposed as a sanction. Furthermore, decisions taken in accordance with article 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, i.e. those concerning a failure to respect decisions, are not subject to appeal. All these cases can be directly challenged before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, without prejudice to the conditions established under article 58 of the FIFA Statutes.

In 2020/2021, the Appeal Committee received a total of 23 appeals, 12 of which were decided in the same period.



Figure 9: Number of decisions by the Appeal Committee (2020/2021)

Type of case	Decisions
Third-party influence	8
Match-fixing	2
Minor players	2
Total	12

Ethics Committee

Since 2012, the Ethics Committee has been divided into two separate chambers – the investigatory chamber and the adjudicatory chamber. The adjudicatory chamber is composed of a chairperson, two deputy chairpersons and six members, while the investigatory chamber is composed of a chairperson, two deputy chairpersons and five members.

The investigatory chamber is the body in charge of carrying out all investigative tasks, while the adjudicatory chamber is the branch that analyses and determines whether the investigation file provides sufficient grounds with which to establish a breach of conduct.

The primary responsibility of the Ethics Committee is to investigate and judge any possible infringements of the FIFA Code of Ethics committed by football officials, e.g. accepting gifts, corruption, misappropriation of funds, etc.

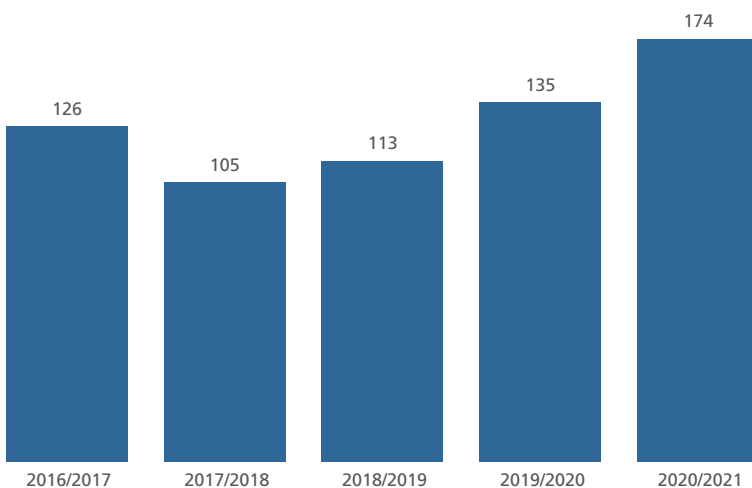
Investigatory chamber

The new composition of the investigatory chamber of the Ethics Committee was announced at the 71st FIFA Congress on 21 May 2021, with Martin Ngoga appointed as the new chairperson.

Like in other branches, the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted the development of the investigations in the investigatory chamber: on-site investigations and personal interviews have not been possible since the onset of the pandemic, and access to documentation, parties to proceedings and national authorities continues to be very limited. Despite these challenges, the investigatory chamber has been able to continue its work through an extended use of digital technologies.

In the period between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, the investigatory chamber opened a total of 174 investigations. This represents an increase of 28.9% compared to the previous year.

Figure 10: Cases received by the investigatory chamber



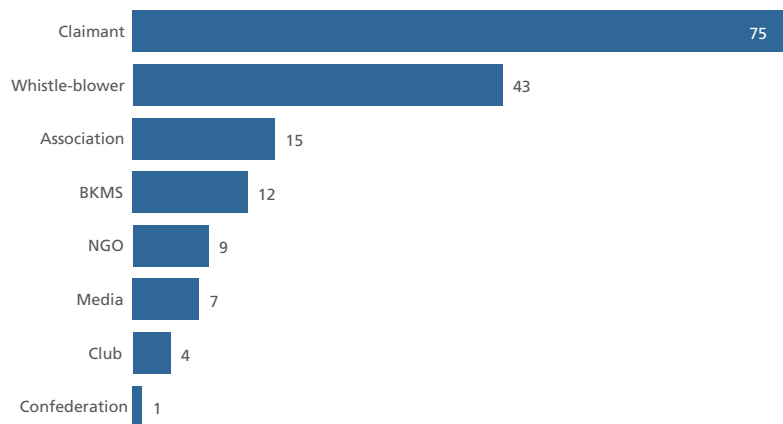
174
investigations
were opened
in 2020/2021



66.7%
of the cases
were processed
in English

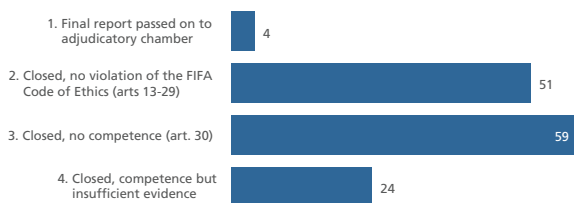
Since the investigatory chamber is entitled to process complaints by any person who believes a breach of code has occurred, it receives claims from a large number of individuals. While eight of the 174 cases in 2020/2021 originated from departments within FIFA, the vast majority of cases came from external sources.

Figure 11: External sources (2020/2021)



For **138** of the **174** preliminary investigations that were initiated in 2020/2021, the investigatory proceedings were completed in the same period. Four of these cases were passed on to the adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee, **51 were closed** because no violation of the FIFA Code of Ethics was found, **59 were closed** because the Ethics Committee was not competent to address them and **24 were closed** due to insufficient evidence.

Figure 12: Completed investigatory proceedings of investigations initiated in 2020/2021, by outcome



How to report misconduct

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

1. Via email:

secretariat-investigatory-chamber@fifa.org

2. Via the anonymous reporting mechanism BKMS:

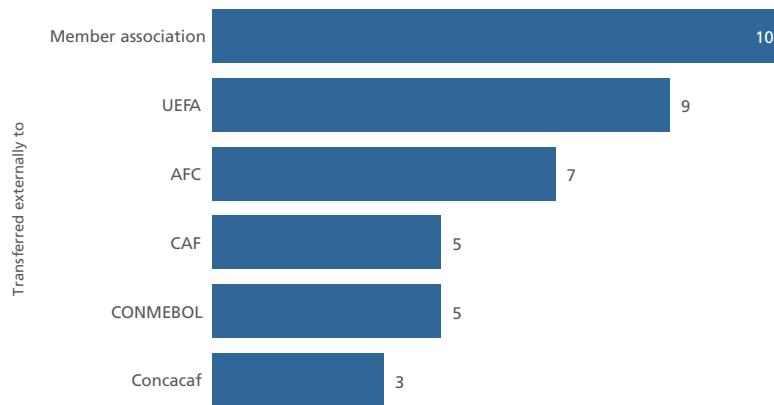
www.bkms-system.net/FIFA

3. Via letter:

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

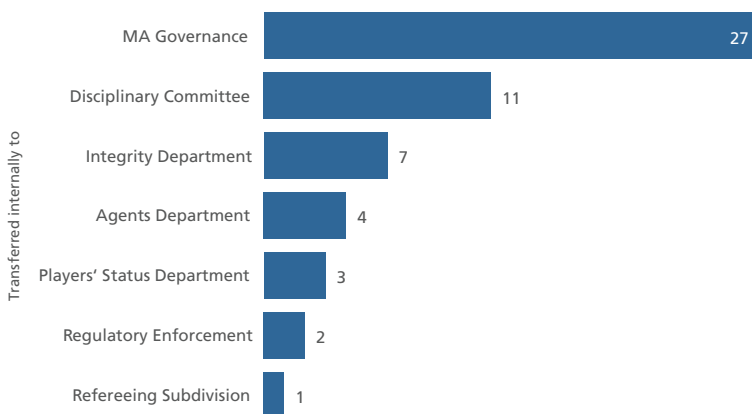
A total of 87 of the 138 cases for which the investigatory proceedings were completed were additionally transferred to another department within FIFA and/or to bodies outside FIFA, such as confederations or associations.

Figure 13: Cases received in 2020/2021 and transferred outside FIFA



Most cases transferred outside of FIFA went to either a member association, UEFA or the AFC. Cases that were transferred within FIFA but outside the Ethics Committee mainly went to the Member Associations Governance Department, followed by the Disciplinary Committee and the Integrity Department.

Figure 14: Cases received in 2020/2021 and transferred within FIFA



63%
of the cases were additionally forwarded to other football authorities

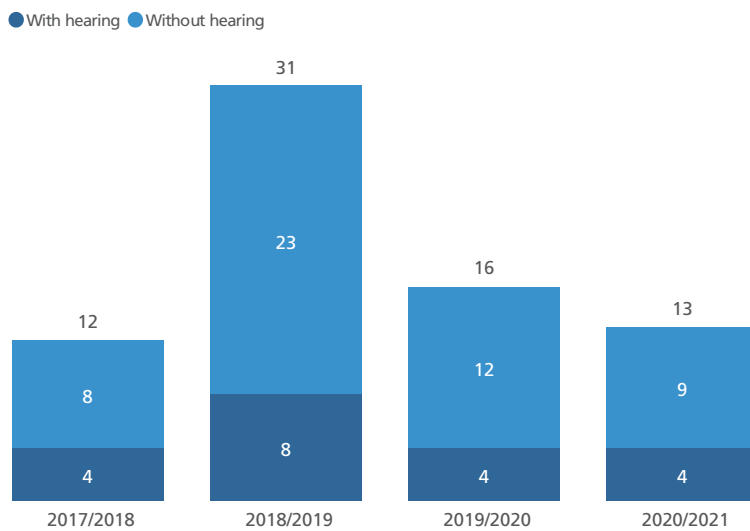
Adjudicatory chamber

Due to the exceptional circumstances created by the pandemic, articles 74 and 75 paragraph 5 of the FIFA Code of Ethics were amended and a new version was published in July 2020. The changes allow the adjudicatory chamber to conduct hearings via videoconference whenever travel or gatherings are restricted or not recommended for public safety or health reasons.

Decisions

The adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee passed **13 decisions** in the period between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. This brings the total under the tenure of the current chairperson and members of the adjudicatory chamber (since 1 July 2017) to 72 decisions. Note that a hearing was requested by the accused party in only four of the 13 cases in 2020/2021, whereas the remaining nine cases were decided on the basis of existing documents and submissions without a hearing.

Figure 15: Decisions passed by the adjudicatory chamber

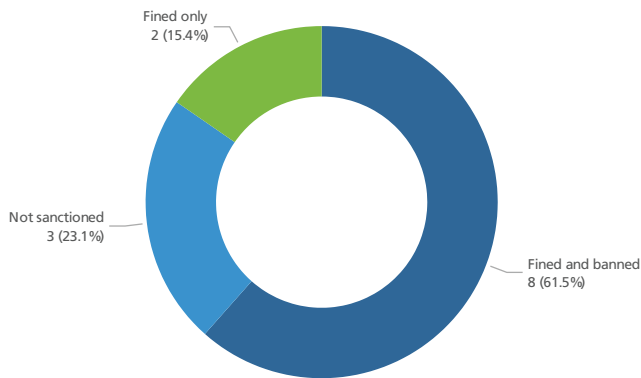


72
decisions
by the
adjudicatory
chamber since
mid-2017

Imposed sanctions

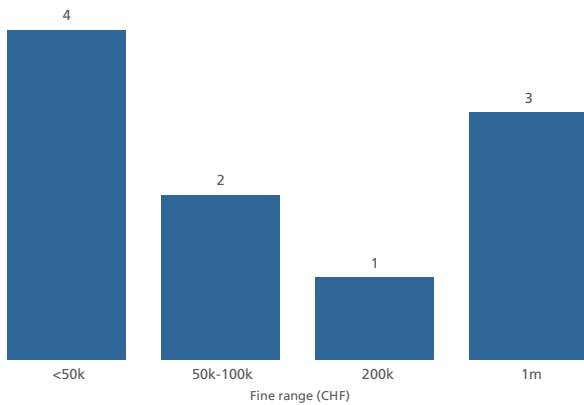
In ten of the 13 decisions passed in 2020/2021, the adjudicatory chamber decided to sanction the accused party. Note that two of these ten decisions resulted from plea bargains. Typically, the sanctioned parties were both fined and banned, but there were also two cases in which only a fine was imposed.

Figure 16: Decisions passed by the adjudicatory chamber in 2020/2021, by outcome



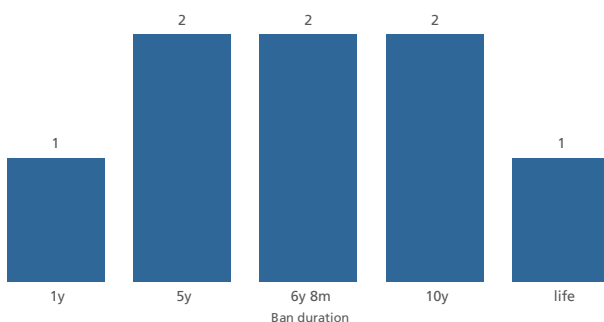
The ten fines imposed ranged from a minimum of CHF 10,000 (imposed in two cases) to the maximum possible fine of CHF 1 million, which was imposed in three cases. Taken together, the fines imposed by the adjudicatory chamber in 2020/2021 amounted to more than CHF 3.4 million.

Figure 17: Fines imposed in CHF, cases decided in 2020/2021

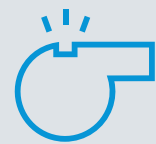


Similarly, the imposed bans vary significantly, with cases ranging from a minimum of 12 months up to a lifetime ban, which was imposed in one of the eight cases that involved a ban.

Figure 18: Duration of imposed bans, cases decided in 2020/2021



CHF 3.4m:
total amount in fines imposed in 2020/2021



7
decisions imposed a ban of more than one year

Sanctioned parties

The parties sanctioned by the Ethics Committee held a variety of official roles in different football organisations across the globe.

Figure 19: Affiliated confederations of the parties sanctioned in 2020/2021

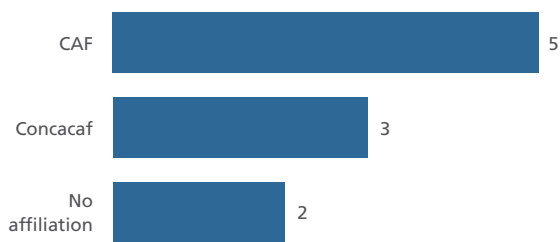
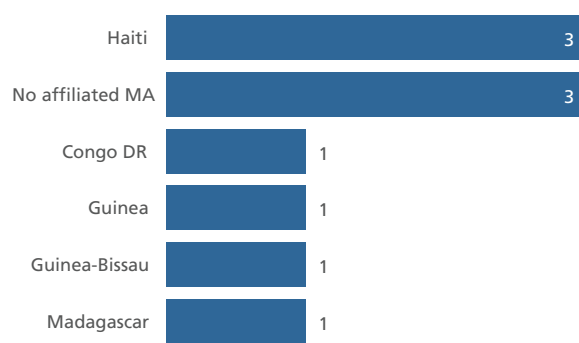


Figure 20: Affiliated member associations of the parties sanctioned in 2020/2021



Out of the ten sanctioned parties, five held an official role at more than one organisation: three at a member association and FIFA, one at a confederation and FIFA and one at all three. Out of the five remaining parties, two were at FIFA only, two at a member association and one at a confederation.

Figure 21: Sanctioned parties' official roles at their associations, cases decided in 2020/2021

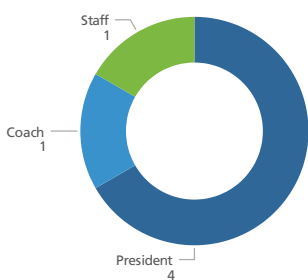


Figure 22: Sanctioned parties' official roles at their confederations, cases decided in 2020/2021

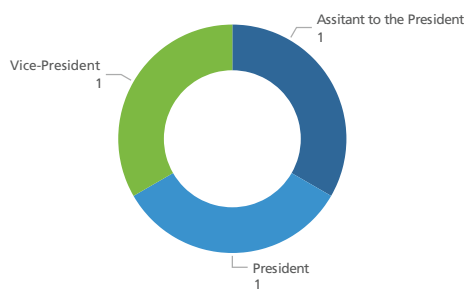
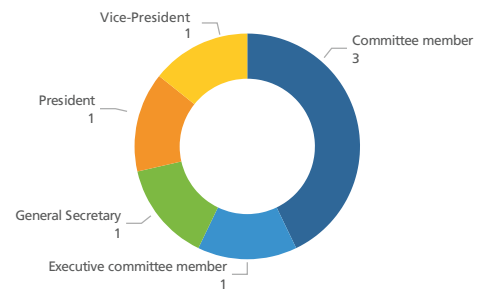


Figure 23: Sanctioned parties' official roles within FIFA, cases decided in 2020/2021



Breached provisions

In total, 23 infringements of the FIFA Code of Ethics were found in the cases of the ten parties sanctioned in 2020/2021. With four breaches each, the four most commonly breached provisions were: Abuse of position (art. 25), Duty of loyalty (art. 15), Offering and accepting gifts and other benefits (art. 20) and Protection of physical and mental integrity (art. 23).

Figure 24: Provisions breached by the accused parties, cases decided in 2020/2021



23
infringements
of the FIFA
Code of Ethics
were found in
2020/2021

Annexe

As part of the 71st FIFA Congress, we saw the election/re-election of the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons and members of the Disciplinary, Appeal and Ethics Committees. Their current composition is shown below.

Disciplinary Committee

Chairperson	
Jorge Palacio	Colombia
Deputy chairperson	
Anin Yeboah	Ghana
Members	
Arnaud Dumont	France
Carlos Teran	Venezuela
Francisco Schertel Mendes	Brazil
Gudni Bergsson	Iceland
José Ernesto Mejía	Honduras
Kia Tong Lim	Singapore
Kossi Guy Akpovy	Togo
Leonardo Stagg	Ecuador
Lord Veehala	Tonga
Mark Wade	Bermuda
Paola López	Mexico
Polly Handford	England
Salemane Phafane	Lesotho
Thi My Dung Nguyen	Vietnam
Thomas Hollerer	Austria
Wassef Jelaiel	Tunisia
Yasser Al Misehal	Saudi Arabia

Appeal Committee

Chairperson	
Neil Eggleston	USA
Deputy chairperson	
Thomas Bodstrom	Sweden
Members	
Andrés Paton	Argentina
Celestin Yanindji	Central African Republic
Christian Andreasen	Faroe Islands
Cristina González	Guatemala
Dan Kakaraya	Papua New Guinea
Domingos Monteiro	São Tomé and Príncipe
Jahangir Baglari	IR Iran
Larissa Zakharova	Russia
Oliver Smith	USA
Oscar Chiri	Peru
Salman Al Ansari	Qatar
Samuel Ram	Fiji

Ethics Committee

Adjudicatory chamber

Chairperson	
Vassilios Skouris	Greece
Deputy chairpersons	
Fiti Sunia	American Samoa
María Claudia Rojas	Colombia
Members	
Mohammad Al Kamali	United Arab Emirates
Stefan Buontempo	Malta
Pamela Camus	Chile
Gregory Delzin	Trinidad and Tobago
Michael Goodwin	Australia
Ayotunde Phillips	Nigeria

Investigatory chamber

Chairperson	
Martin Ngoga	Rwanda
Deputy chairpersons	
Bruno de Vita	Canada
Parusuraman Subramanian	Malaysia
Members	
Margarita Echeverria	Costa Rica
He Jiahong	China PR
Janet Katisya	Kenya
Alena Lapteva	Russia
John Tougon	Vanuatu

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