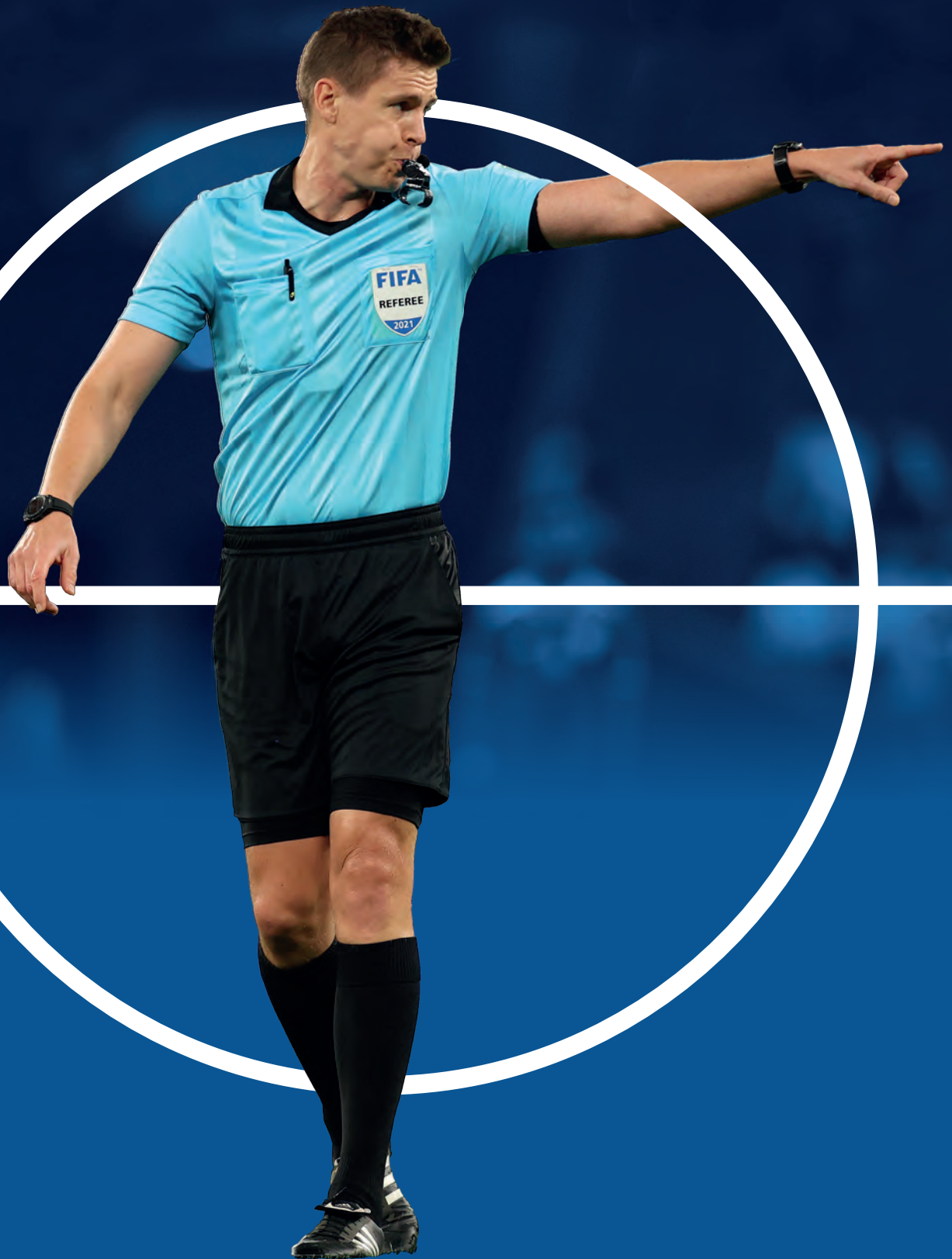


FIFA®



**DISCIPLINARY AND
ETHICS REPORT
2021/2022**

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FOREWORD

1

FOREWORD

Dear readers,

It is once again FIFA's great pleasure to hereby present to you the third annual Disciplinary and Ethics Report.

As has been the case in previous years, this report aims to provide you with a comprehensive overview of our main decision-making bodies, covering the sporting period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

As you will see, this year's report is divided into two main parts. The first part provides a detailed overview of the activities of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee, including a breakdown of the procedures followed and the challenges faced by both the bodies. The second part addresses and presents the activities of the Ethics Committee.

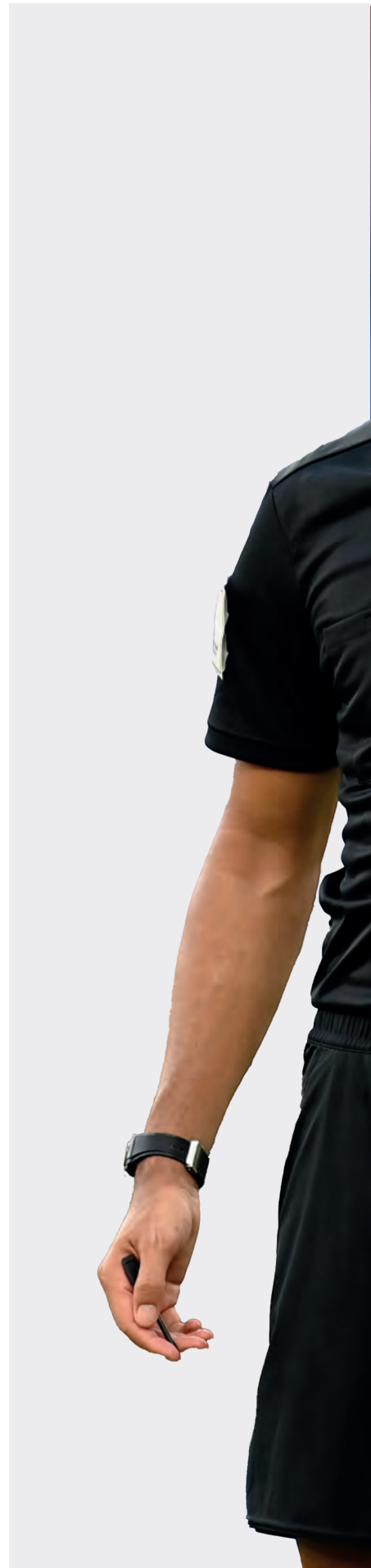
This continued initiative is in full alignment with our objectives of increasing transparency and maintaining the distinguished standards that have been fostered and upheld in recent years by FIFA's judicial bodies. These objectives underpin the several hundred cases that were investigated and decided upon by the Disciplinary Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee between 2021 and 2022.

We hope that this report provides you with valuable insight and that you will appreciate this effort to share with you our processes, challenges and successes in keeping football clean and preserving the beautiful game.

Yours faithfully,



Carlos Schneider Salvadores
Director of Judicial Bodies







**DISCIPLINARY
COMMITTEE**

2

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee is competent to investigate and prosecute any potential breach of the FIFA regulations and retains the discretion in cases of established infringement(s), to pronounce the sanctions described in the FIFA Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC) against those subject to the FDC. In this respect, the Disciplinary Committee executes a key role in ensuring that FIFA's principle objectives, as outlined within the FIFA Statutes, are both maintained and protected, and serves to ensure the promotion of fair play, the protection of football's integrity and the preservation of the rights of the FIFA stakeholders. For the current composition of the Disciplinary Committee, we kindly refer you to the Annexe below.

OVERVIEW OF CASES RECEIVED

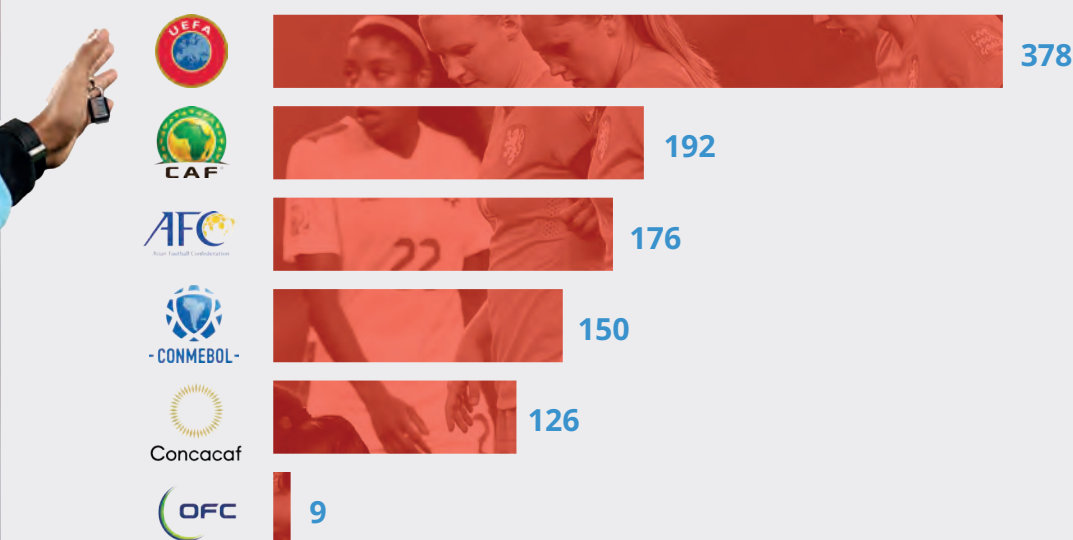
Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, the Disciplinary Committee received a total of 1,031 cases, 887 of which were resolved within the same time frame. In addition to these cases, it received another 382 requests: of these 127 concerned extension requests and 155 concerned other topics. Indeed, requests under the "other topics" category may present themselves in many different forms. However, they most typically concerned requests for information related to disciplinary matters and/or matters that fell within the scope of the FDC.

By way of clarification with regard to extension requests, in accordance with article 66 of the FDC, the Disciplinary Committee may be requested by associations, confederations and other organising sports bodies to extend sanctions that they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect (i.e. not only within the relevant national domain, but worldwide, to have the same effect in each FIFA member association, each confederation and within FIFA itself). The chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee will either grant or decline the respective request to have the sanction in question extended and, in doing so, must ascertain as to whether the conditions provided for under article 66 paragraphs 3 and 5 of the FDC have been met.

In connection with the above, the related graphic below (Figure 1) exhibits the 1,031 cases received by the Disciplinary Committee within the 2021/2022 period, broken down on the basis of the relevant confederation of the concerned respondent party. In this regard, as you will see, more than one third of the 1,031 cases received (378 cases) involved a respondent party related to UEFA, followed by CAF with 192 cases and the AFC with 176.

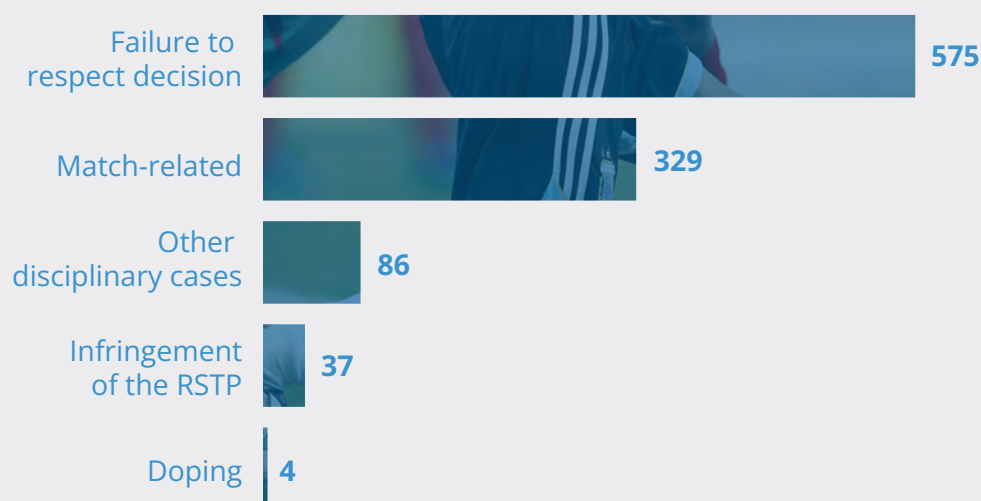


Figure 1: Cases received by the Disciplinary Committee in 2021/2022, by confederation of the accused party



Of the 1,031 cases received, the majority (575 cases) involved a failure to respect a previous decision rendered by FIFA or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) pursuant to art 15 of the FDC. A total of 329 cases were directly related to matches and a further 37 involved a potential infringement of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players. Lastly, with regard to the remaining 90 cases, four related to doping infringements and 86 to “other” disciplinary cases – the latter concerning, amongst other matters, cases of forgery and falsification or breaches of transfer bans.

Figure 2: Cases received by the Disciplinary Committee in 2021/2022, by case type



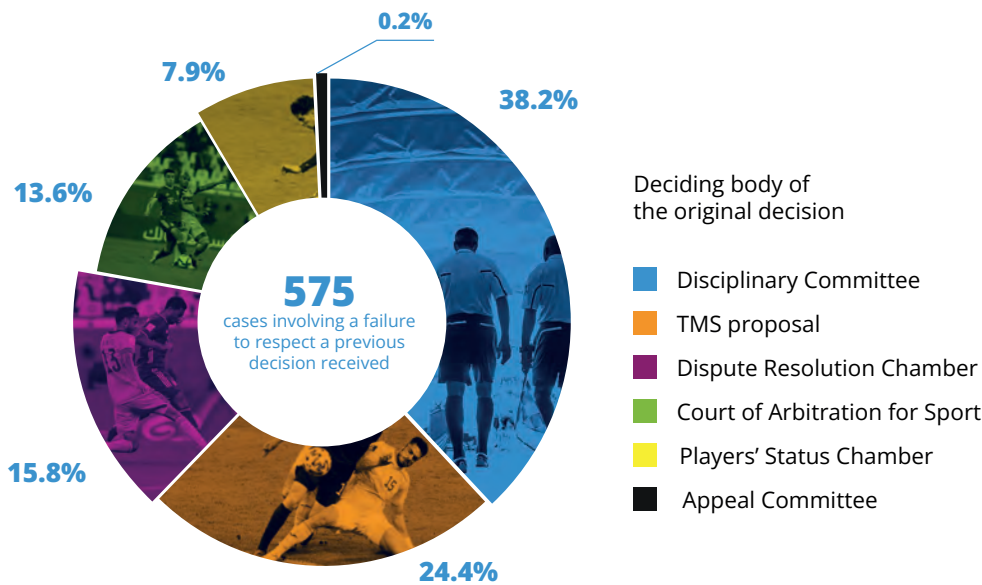
ARTICLE 15 OF THE FDC – FAILURE TO RESPECT A DECISION

As outlined above, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, as one of FIFA's independent committees, fulfils a key role by ensuring that decisions passed by FIFA bodies, as well as those passed by CAS, are respected by the FIFA members.

More precisely, it is by virtue of the provisions of article 15 of the FDC that the Committee is afforded the competence to impose sanctions upon non-compliant parties under FIFA's jurisdiction. In other words, when an entity (e.g. a club or an association) or an individual (e.g. a player or a coach) under FIFA's jurisdiction (i.e. an (in)direct member of FIFA) fails to respect a decision passed by FIFA or CAS, the Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions upon the defaulting party.

In 2021/2022, a total of 575 cases concerning a potential infringement of article 15 reached the Disciplinary Committee. With regard to the decisions not respected within these types of cases, 38.2% related to decisions by the Disciplinary Committee, 24.4% to Transfer Matching System (TMS) proposals and 15.8% to decisions by the Dispute Resolution Chamber. The remaining article 15 cases concerned decisions issued by CAS (13.6%), the Players' Status Chamber (7.9%), and one case concerned a decision passed by the Appeal Committee.

Figure 3: Cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by deciding body of the non-respected decision (2021/2022)

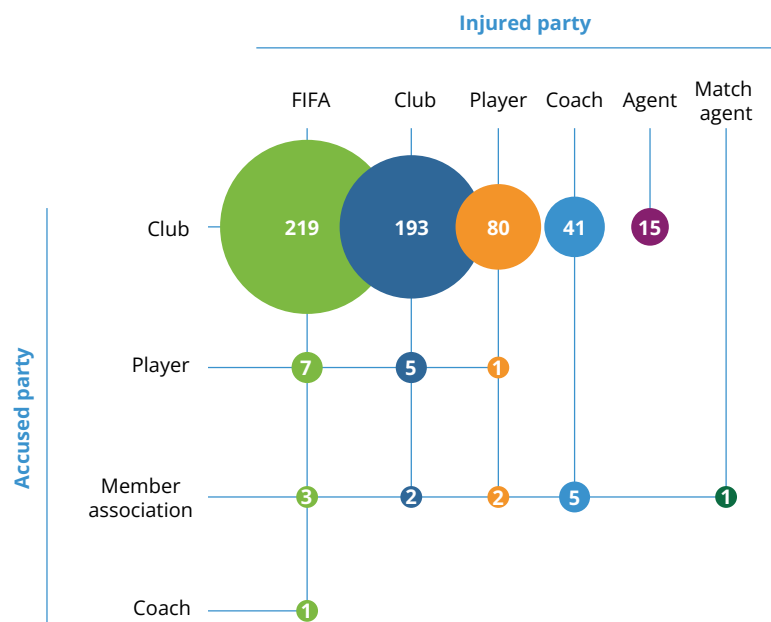


With a total of 219 cases, a non-compliant club on the one side and FIFA on the other, comprised the most common composition of cases concerning a potential breach of article 15. This was followed by the accused party being a non-compliant club against another club and subsequently the accused party being a non-compliant club against a player – comprising 193 and 80 of the cases received, respectively. Indeed, when considered as a whole, the vast majority of article 15 cases (95.3%) concerned a defaulting club as the non-compliant party.





Figure 4: Cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by category of the injured and the accused party (2021/2022)



Regarding cases involving a failure to respect a (non-)financial final and binding FIFA or CAS decision, the following chart demonstrates the top-five most-common FIFA member associations to which the accused party was affiliated – the most frequently seen member associations in this respect being those of Türkiye and the USA with 42 and 39 cases respectively, followed by Saudi Arabia with 36, China PR with 27 and Portugal with 19.

Figure 5: Top-five member associations to which the accused party was affiliated in cases originating from a failure to respect a decision (2021/2022)



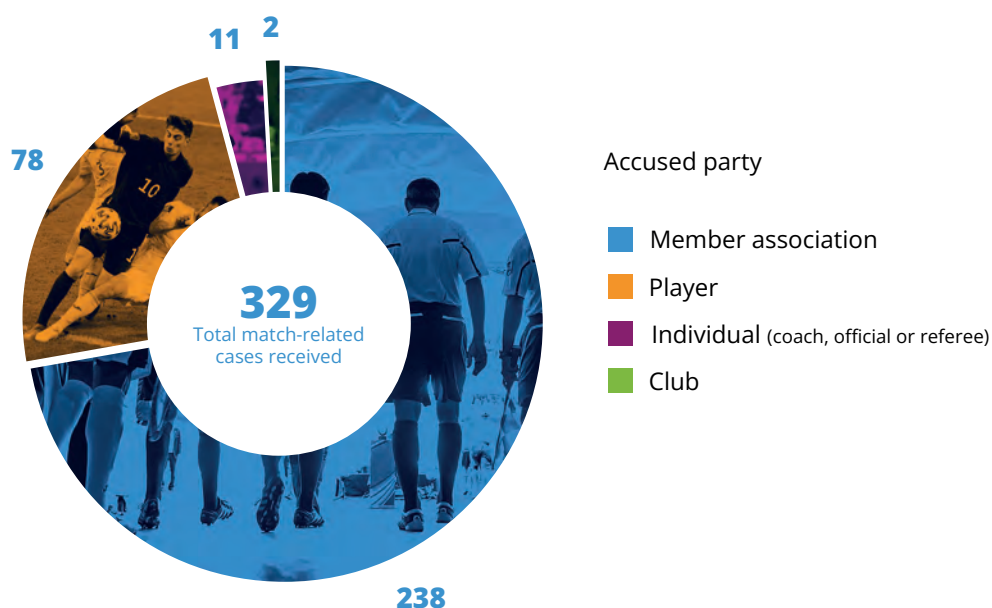
MATCH-RELATED ISSUES

The Disciplinary Committee also decides on cases in connection with infringements of the FDC that are related to possible incidents before, during or after a match for which FIFA is competent, regardless of whether the incident(s) occurred on or off the field of play.

The 2021/2022 sporting period saw a substantial increase in match-related cases in comparison to previous years, both before the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee (see *infra*), principally due to the scheduled matches that took place within the scope of the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ – many of which were postponed due to the significant changes and interruptions to the international match calendar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

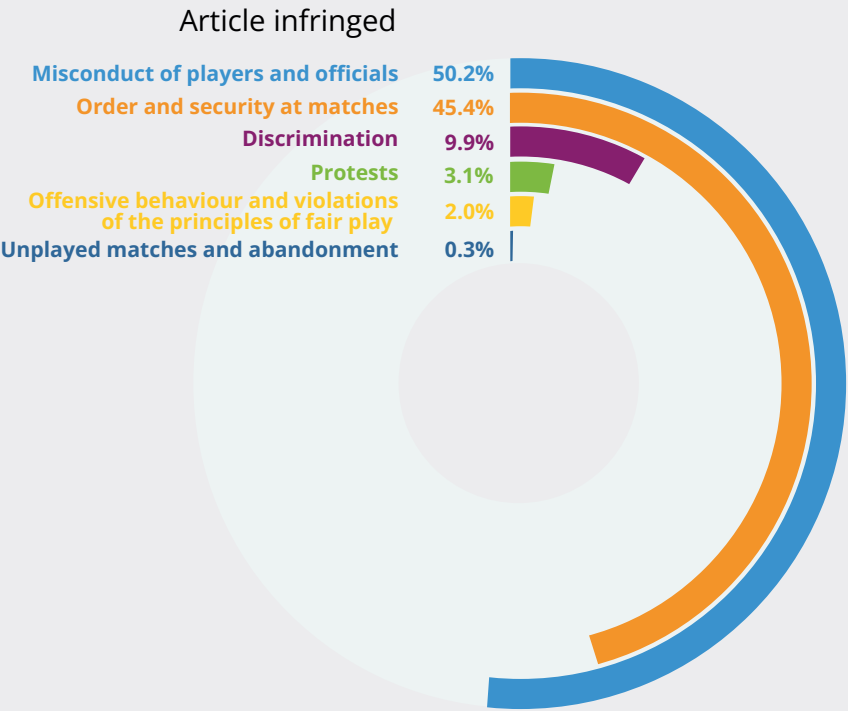
With the aforementioned factors in mind, it can be observed that in 2021/2022, 329 match-related cases were received by the Disciplinary Committee, the vast majority of which concerned a member association (72.3%) or a player (23.7%) as the respondent party. The remaining cases concerned a club, a coach, an official or a referee, accused of (a) match-related infringement(s).

Figure 6: Cases originating from match reports, by type of the accused party (2021/2022)



Amongst the match-related cases that have, at the time of writing, already been closed, the most prominent infringement of the FDC ruled by the Disciplinary Committee was that of a breach of article 12 of the FDC, which concerns the misconduct of players and officials (50.2%). This was closely followed by infringements of article 16 of the FDC, which concerns the maintenance of order and security at matches (45.4%).

Figure 7: Decisions in match-related cases, by type of the established infringement (2021/2022)



Note: the total may exceed 100% because there can be multiple infringements in a single case.

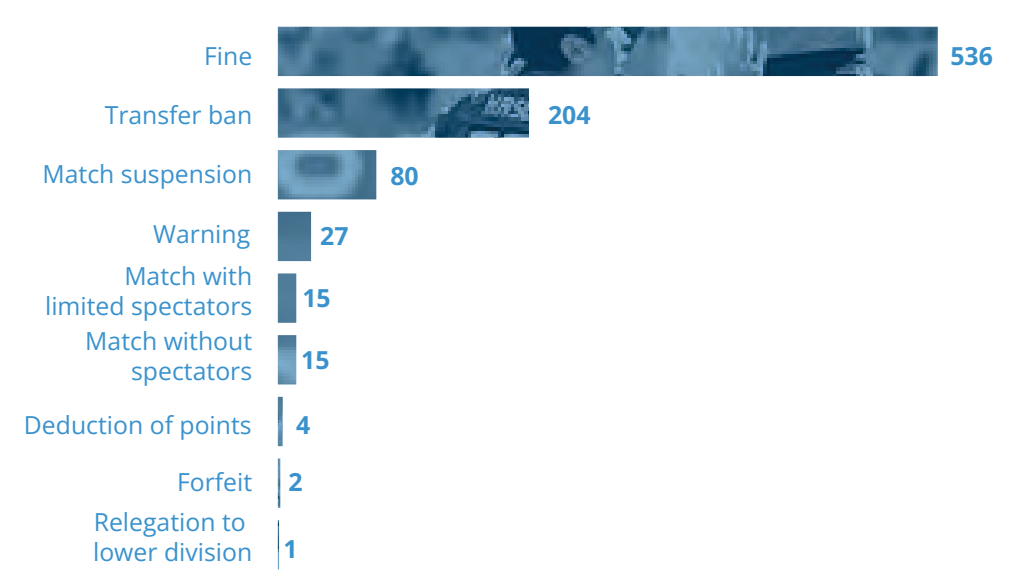
SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

In accordance with article 6 paragraph 6 of the FDC, the disciplinary measures provided for in the FDC may be combined. For instance, in cases where a defaulting club has been found to be in breach of article 15 (Failure to respect decisions), the Disciplinary Committee has historically sanctioned defaulting clubs with a fine and a transfer ban following a final grace period, in accordance with the provisions of article 15 paragraph 1 of the FDC.

Fines are the most common form of sanction imposed on infringing parties by the Disciplinary Committee and the total value of such fines in 2021/2022 amounted to CHF 7.4 million. For reference, any fine imposed by the Disciplinary Committee may range between a minimum of CHF 500 and a maximum of CHF 1 million (cf. art. 6 par. 4 of the FDC).

Furthermore, in 2021/2022, transfer bans were imposed as a sanction by the Disciplinary Committee in 204 cases. A transfer ban, for the sake of clarity, in the context of disciplinary proceedings, constitutes a ban against a club from registering any new players, either nationally or internationally, implemented in TMS by the secretariat of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee. As previously mentioned, an example of when a transfer ban may be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee would be within the context of established breaches of article 15 of the FDC, where a club has failed to respect a decision issued by a FIFA body, committee or instance or by CAS – the transfer ban aiming to induce timely compliance in the defaulting club so as to achieve (financial) justice for the football stakeholders.

Figure 8: Disciplinary measures imposed in accordance with the decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee (2021/2022)



**APPEAL
COMMITTEE**

3

APPEAL COMMITTEE

The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee are final and can be challenged before the FIFA Appeal Committee or CAS, subject to the provisions of the FDC (cf., in particular, Title III Chapter 4).

The Appeal Committee, as the second instance and the last internal FIFA judicial body, is responsible for handling appeals against viable decisions of the Disciplinary Committee that are not declared as final by the relevant FIFA regulations (NB: only motivated decisions may be appealed). The decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee are irrevocable and binding upon all relevant parties concerned, although they are contingent on any subsequent appeal(s) which may be lodged by the appropriate person(s) before CAS.

As mentioned, there are limitations to the types and/or kinds of decisions of the Disciplinary Committee that may be appealed before the Appeal Committee. Pursuant to article 57 of the FDC, an appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is: a warning, a reprimand, a suspension of up to two matches or up to two months, and/or a fine of up to CHF 15,000 (in cases concerning member associations or clubs) or up to CHF 7,500 (in other cases).

Any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee that may not be appealed before the Appeal Committee (such as those passed on the basis of article 15 of the FDC) may instead be directly challenged before CAS, without prejudice to the conditions established under article 57 of the FIFA Statutes.

In light of the above, it should be noted that within the 2021/2022 period, the previously mentioned increase in match-related issues decided by the Disciplinary Committee – as a result of the scheduled matches that took place within the scope of the preliminary competition of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and the related interruptions to the international match calendar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – created a knock-on effect on the number of appeals received by the Appeal Committee, which consequently increased in comparison to the number of viable appeals received in previous years.

In this respect, in 2021/2022, the Appeal Committee received a total of 40 appeals (three of which were later withdrawn by the appellant), and passed 32 decisions within the same period.

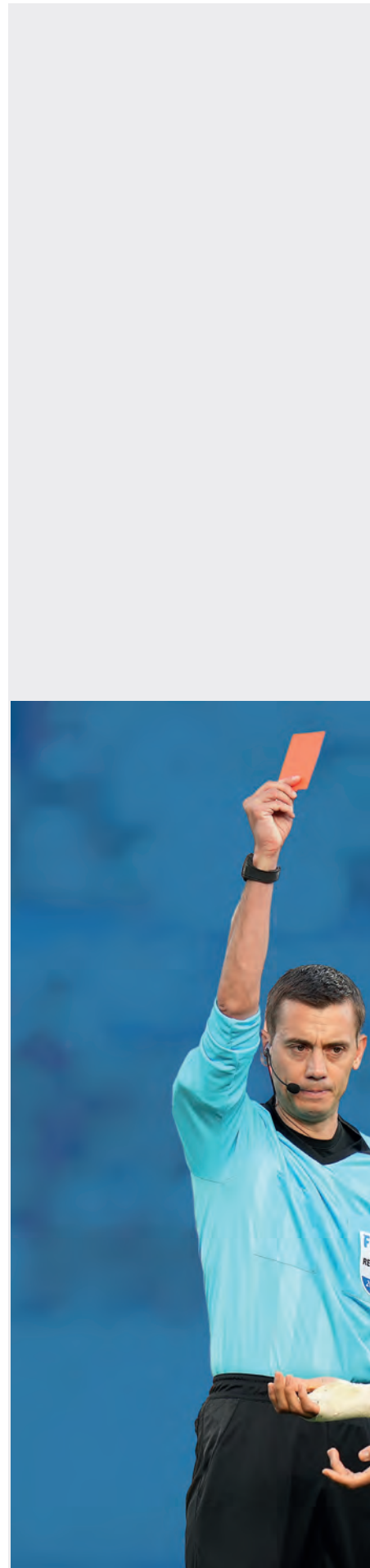
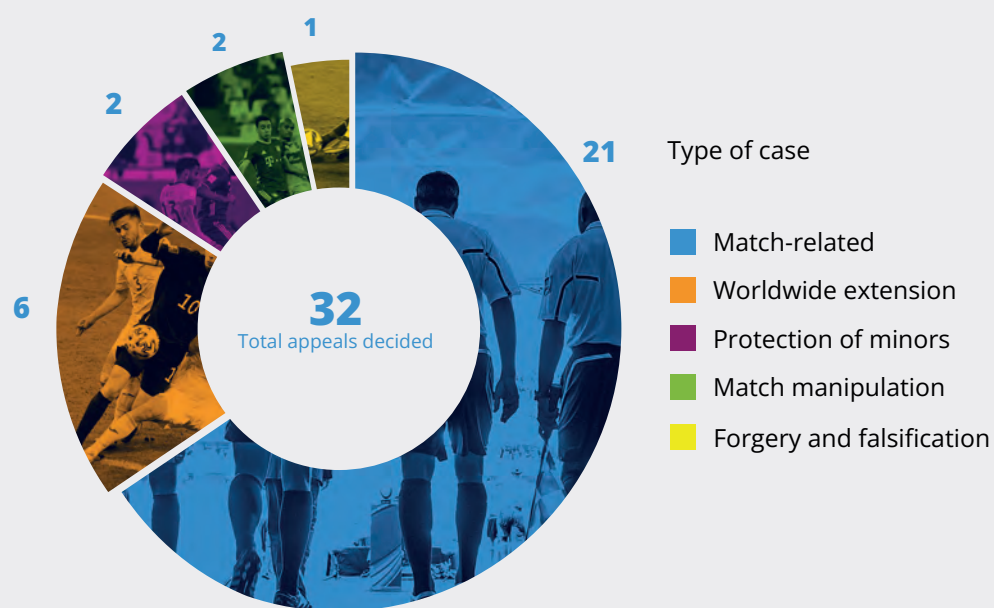


Figure 9: Decisions passed by the Appeal Committee, by case type (2021/2022)





**ETHICS
COMMITTEE**

4

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee is one of FIFA's judicial bodies whose primary responsibility is to investigate possible infringements of the FIFA Code of Ethics (FCE) and to sanction any breach accordingly. In this respect, the FCE applies to all officials, players, match agents and intermediaries under the conditions of article 1 of the FCE, which stipulate, *inter alia*, that the FCE applies to any conduct – other than that which is specifically provided for by other regulations and connected to the field of play – that damages the integrity and reputation of football, referring in particular to illegal, immoral and unethical behaviours, such as corruption, or violations of physical and/or mental integrity.

In this respect, the Ethics Committee is divided between two separate chambers – an investigatory chamber and an adjudicatory chamber. The investigatory chamber is responsible for carrying out all investigative tasks, such as conducting preliminary investigations into potential breaches of the FCE, and may, should those preliminary investigations establish a *prima facie* case, subsequently open investigatory proceedings. Correspondingly, the adjudicatory chamber is the second branch, which subsequently examines the investigation files in order to determine whether any breaches of the FCE can be established – with adjudicatory proceedings being conducted accordingly (cf., in particular, arts 68 and 69 of the FCE).

As a result of the separation of these chambers, the members of the Ethics Committee either serve in the investigatory chamber or the adjudicatory chamber. For the current composition of both the first and second chamber, we kindly refer you to the Annexe below.

INVESTIGATORY CHAMBER

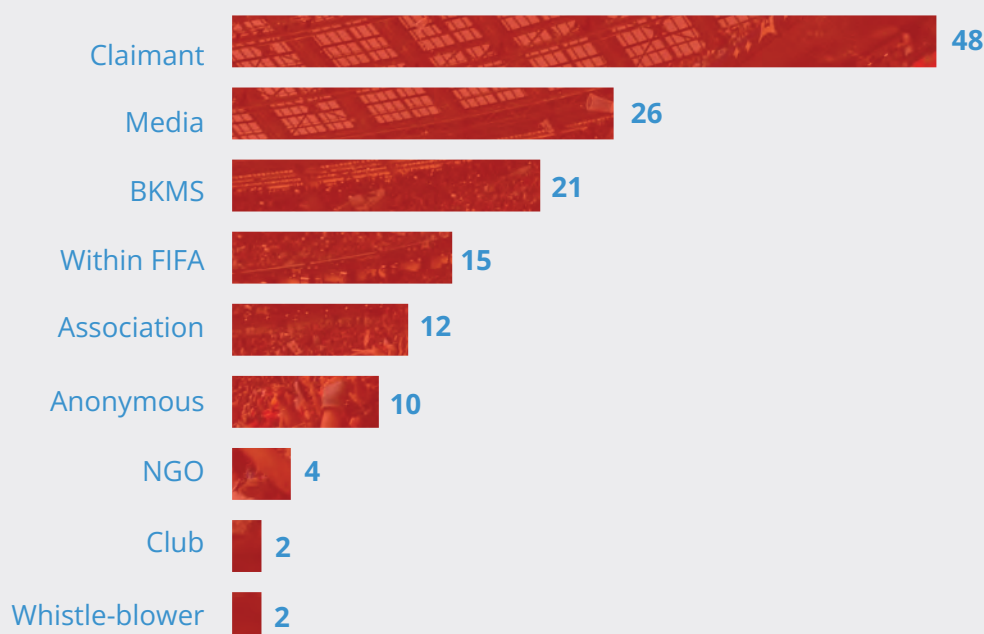
In the period between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, the investigatory chamber opened a total of 140 investigations, representing a 19.5% decrease in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 10: Number of cases received by the investigatory chamber



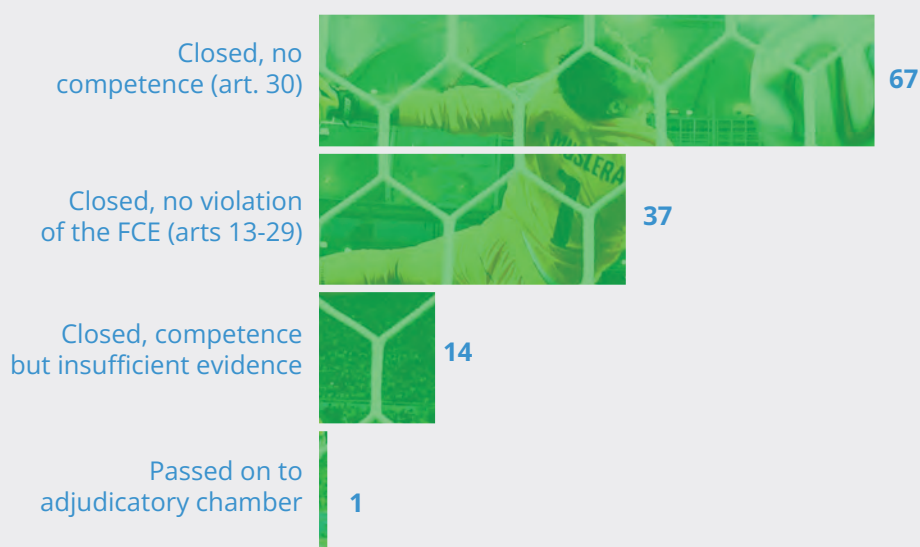
As any person is permitted to submit a complaint regarding a potential breach of the FCE to the secretariat of the investigatory chamber, the claims received originate from a broad variety of sources, including, but not limited to, the media, the anonymous BKMS reporting mechanism, other organisations like associations, clubs or NGOs, as well as various other informants, as demonstrated below (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Originating sources of the investigations opened in 2021/2022



Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, a total of 119 investigatory proceedings were completed. A total of 67 of these cases were closed because the Ethics Committee was not competent to address them (cf. art. 30 of the FCE), 37 were closed as no violation of the FCE could be determined, 14 were closed due to a lack of sufficient evidence to establish a violation of the FCE, and one case was passed on to the adjudicatory chamber.

Figure 12: Outcome of the completed investigatory proceedings initiated in 2021/2022



In situations where the Ethics Committee does not have exclusive competence to investigate and judge the conduct(s) of the persons bound by the FCE (cf. art. 30 of the FCE), the investigatory chamber may transfer the relevant case to another department within FIFA and/or to other bodies outside of FIFA, such as confederations or associations, who may then proceed to initiate proceedings against the accused party/parties) within their respective jurisdiction(s). In 2021/2022, this occurred in 42.9% of the cases for which investigatory proceedings were completed.

This being said, whenever a confederation or association is unable to independently investigate and/or judge an ethics case, or indeed, has not investigated and/or judged an ethics case within a certain time frame, the Ethics Committee will be entitled to investigate and judge the respective matter on the basis of article 30 paragraph 2 of the FCE. In 2021/2022, this occurred on 14 separate occasions.

Figure 13: Entities to which completed investigatory proceedings were subsequently transferred (2021/2022)



How to report misconduct

With reference to article 58 of the FCE, 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 BKMS reporting mechanism:
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

ADJUDICATORY CHAMBER

As indicated above, the adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee, is responsible for examining the results/case files of the investigatory proceedings of the investigatory chamber, in order to determine whether a breach of the FCE can be established. In addition, within specific cases, the adjudicatory chamber may also pass a decision in relation to any provisional measures imposed by the first chamber (i.e. the investigatory chamber).

Whilst only one case was transferred to the adjudicatory chamber and two decisions were rendered by it between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, it is anticipated that this number may increase within the coming months, *inter alia*, due to the significant and concerning increase in the number of claims received by the secretariat of the Ethics Committee in relation to sexual and/or psychological harassment (i.e. regarding potential breaches of art. 23 of the FCE – Protection of physical and mental integrity).

Indeed, whilst a large proportion of these kinds of complaints received by the investigatory chamber are transferred to the respective competent bodies (for example, of the relevant confederation) due to the Ethics Committee not having exclusive competence, by way of response to this recent development of the utmost gravity, it is expected that amendments will be implemented within the FCE in order to provide, *inter alia*, increased protection to the victims with regard to sexual abuse(s) and integrity, greater access to experts across the different fields of investigation, and enhanced collaboration with organisations and stakeholders.





**ANNEXE – CURRENT
COMPOSITION OF
THE COMMITTEES**

5

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Jorge Palacio	Colombia
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Deputy chairperson

Anin Yeboah	Ghana
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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 Jelaïel	Tunisia
Yasser Al Misehal	Saudi Arabia

APPEAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Neil Eggleston	USA
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Deputy chairperson

Thomas Bodstrom	Sweden
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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

INVESTIGATORY CHAMBER

Chairperson

Martin Ngoga	Rwanda
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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

ADJUDICATORY CHAMBER

Chairperson

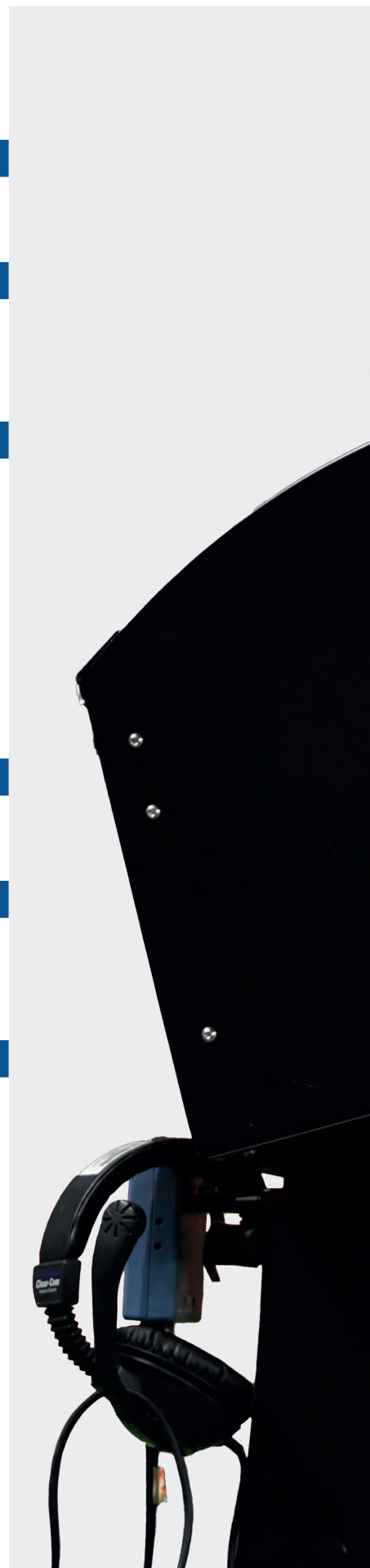
Vassilios Skouris	Greece
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Deputy chairpersons

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





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