

FIFA®



Disciplinary and Ethics Report 2022/2023

JULY 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01.

FOREWORD

3

02.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Overview of cases received

4

Failure to respect decisions

6

Match-related issues

8

Sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee

10

03.

APPEAL COMMITTEE

11

04.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

13

Investigatory chamber

15

Adjudicatory chamber

20

05.

ANNEXE – CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES

21

Disciplinary Committee

21

Appeal Committee

22

Ethics Committee

23

Investigatory chamber

23

Adjudicatory chamber

23

FOREWORD



Dear readers,

It is once again FIFA's great pleasure to hereby present to you the fourth 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

This period proved to be both an active and eventful one for the FIFA judicial bodies, encompassing FIFA's showpiece event, the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, the entry into force of the latest (2023) editions of the FIFA Code of Ethics (FCE) and the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC)*, as well as the introduction and implementation of the highly anticipated FIFA Legal Portal.

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 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 2022 and 2023.

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



*An overview of the changes can be found [here](#) (FCE) and [here](#) (FDC).



DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



The Disciplinary Committee is competent to investigate and prosecute any potential breach of the FIFA regulations that does not fall under another FIFA body's jurisdiction and retains the discretion in cases of established infringement(s) to pronounce the sanctions described in the [FIFA Statutes](#) and the [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.

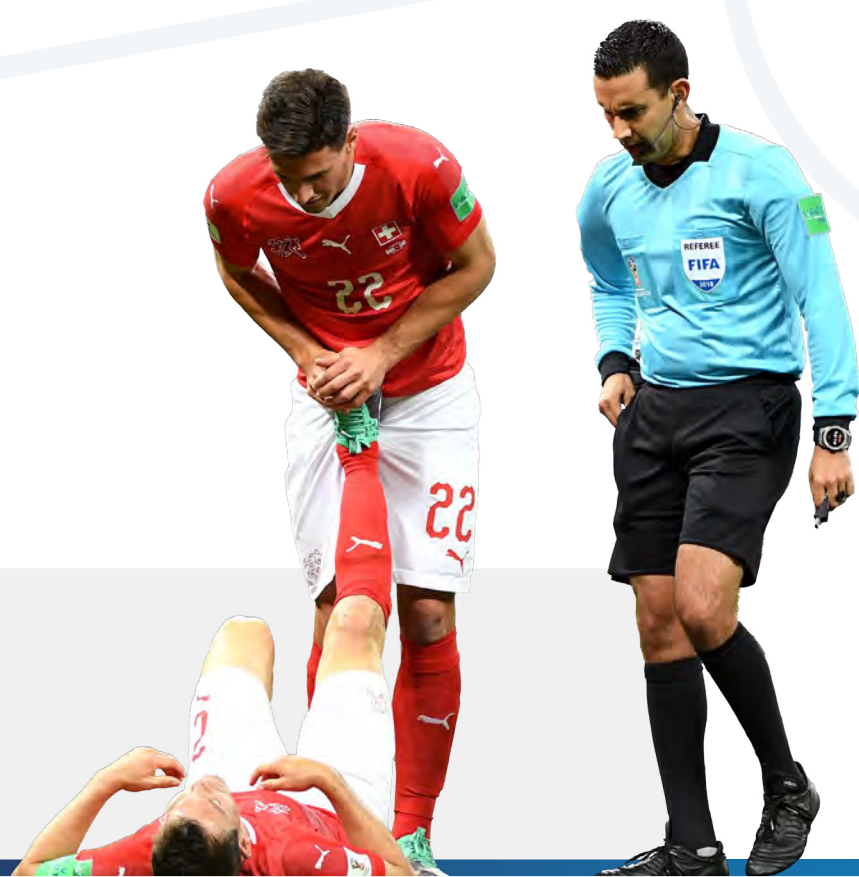
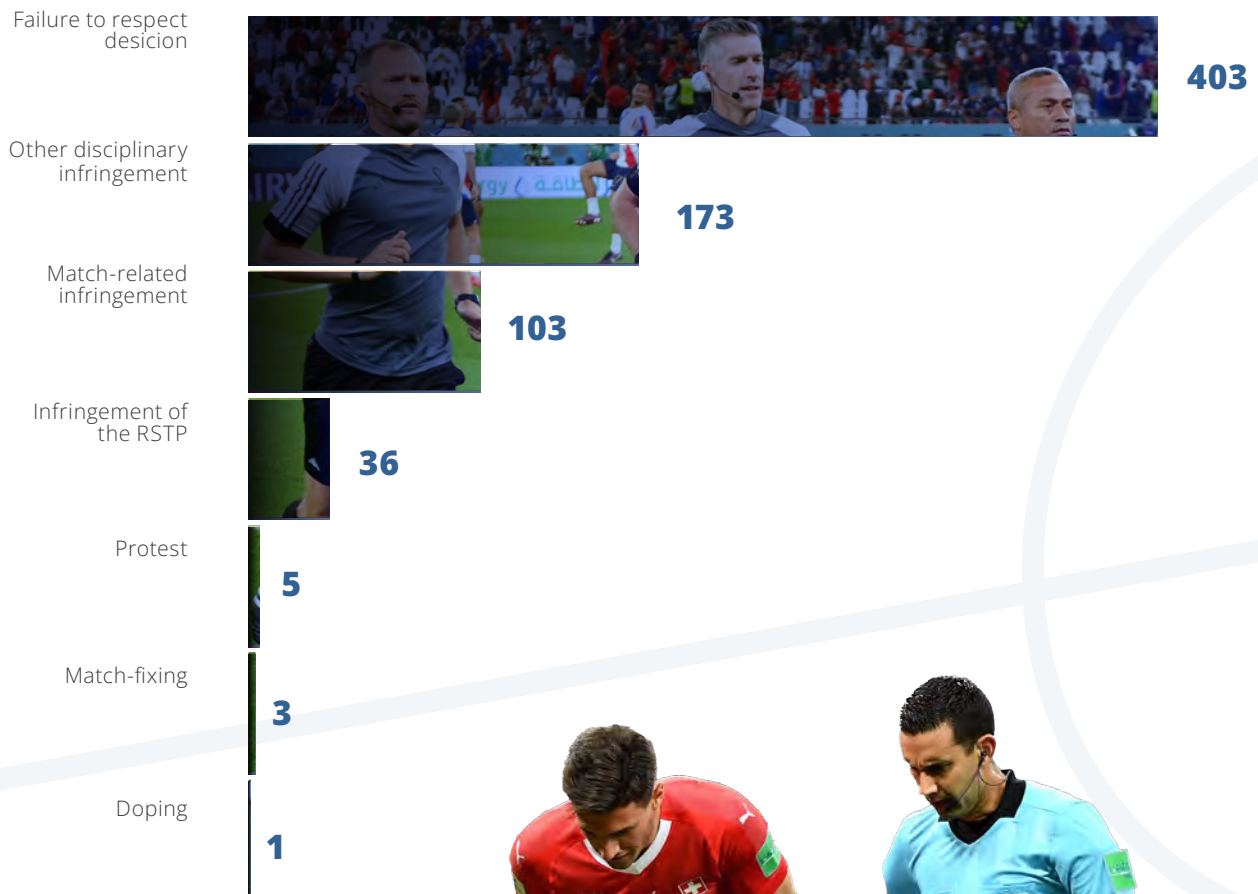
Overview of cases received

In the sporting period between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 (referred to as "2022/2023" in the remainder of this report), the Disciplinary Committee received a total of 724 cases, 633 of which were resolved within the same time frame. In addition to these cases, it received another 310 requests: of these, 152 concerned requests to extend sanctions to have worldwide effect (extension requests) and 158 concerned other topics. Indeed, requests under the "other topics" category presented 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.

With regard to extension requests, when member associations, confederations or other organising sports bodies impose (a) sanction(s) on an individual in relation to serious infringements (such as discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment), they may request the Disciplinary Committee to extend such sanction(s) to have worldwide effect (see art. 70 of the FDC). 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 relevant conditions have been met.

Of the 724 cases received requiring a formal decision, the majority (403 cases) involved a failure to respect a previous decision rendered by FIFA or by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) pursuant to article 21 (2023 ed.)/article 15 (2019 ed.) of the FDC. A total of 103 cases were directly related to matches and a further 36 involved a potential infringement of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP). Lastly, with regard to the remaining 182 cases, five related to protests, three to match-fixing, one to a doping infringement and 173 to other disciplinary matters – the latter concerning, amongst other matters, breaches of registration bans.

Figure 1: Cases received by the Disciplinary Committee, by case type (2022/2023)



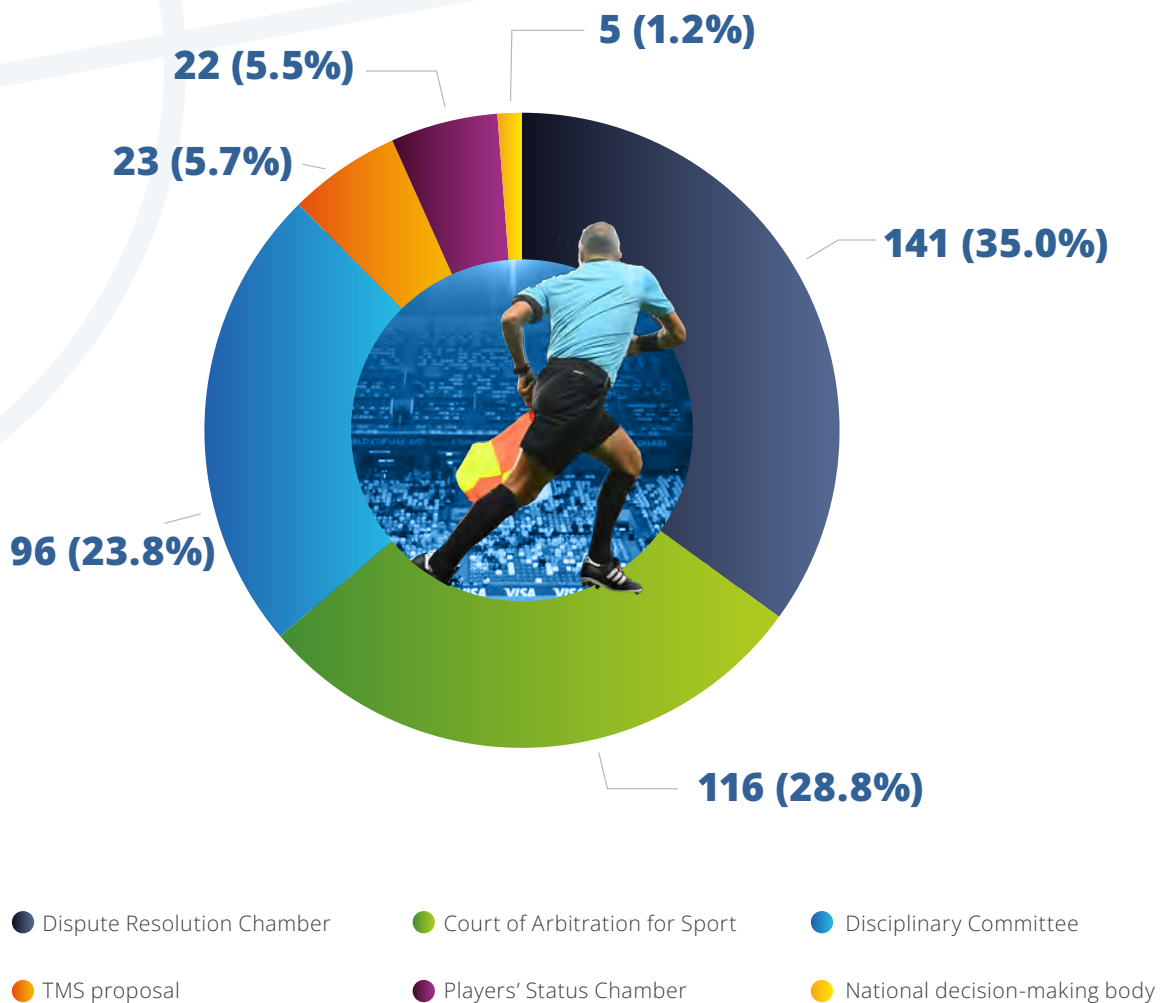
Failure to respect decisions

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 various football stakeholders.

More precisely, it is by virtue of the provisions of article 21 of the FDC (art. 15 under the 2019 ed. of the FDC) that the Committee may impose sanctions upon any non-compliant parties under its jurisdiction. In other words, when an entity (e.g. a club or an association) or an individual (e.g. a player, a coach or a football agent) under FIFA's jurisdiction fails to respect a decision passed by FIFA or CAS, the Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions upon the defaulting party.

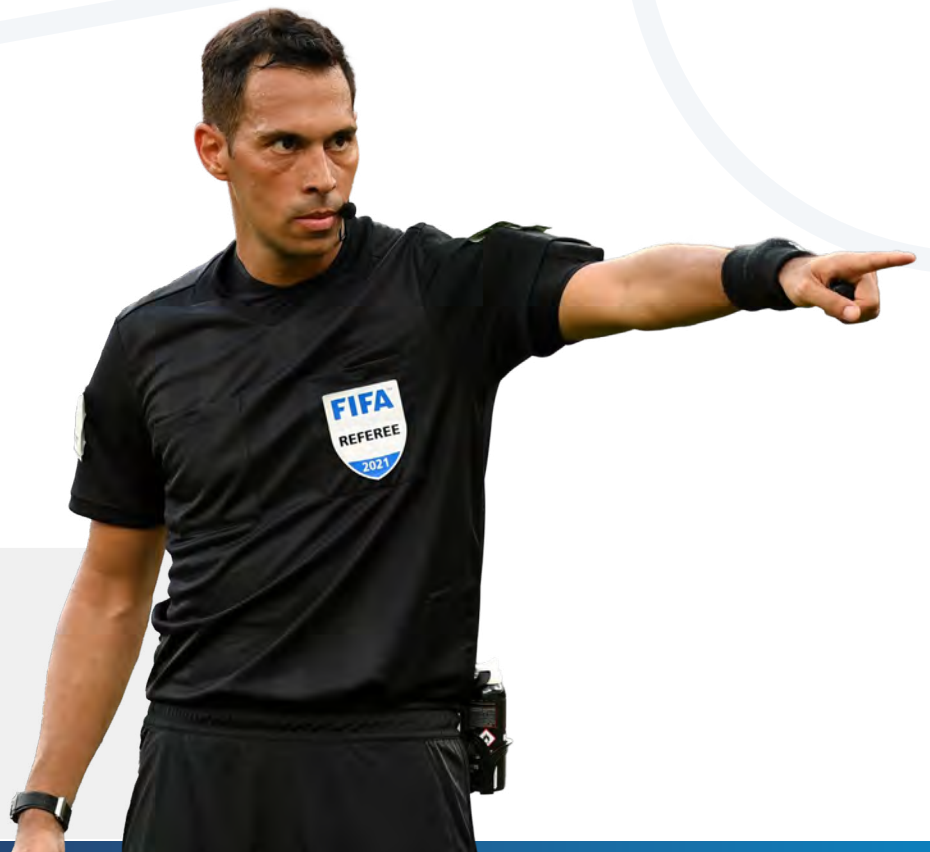
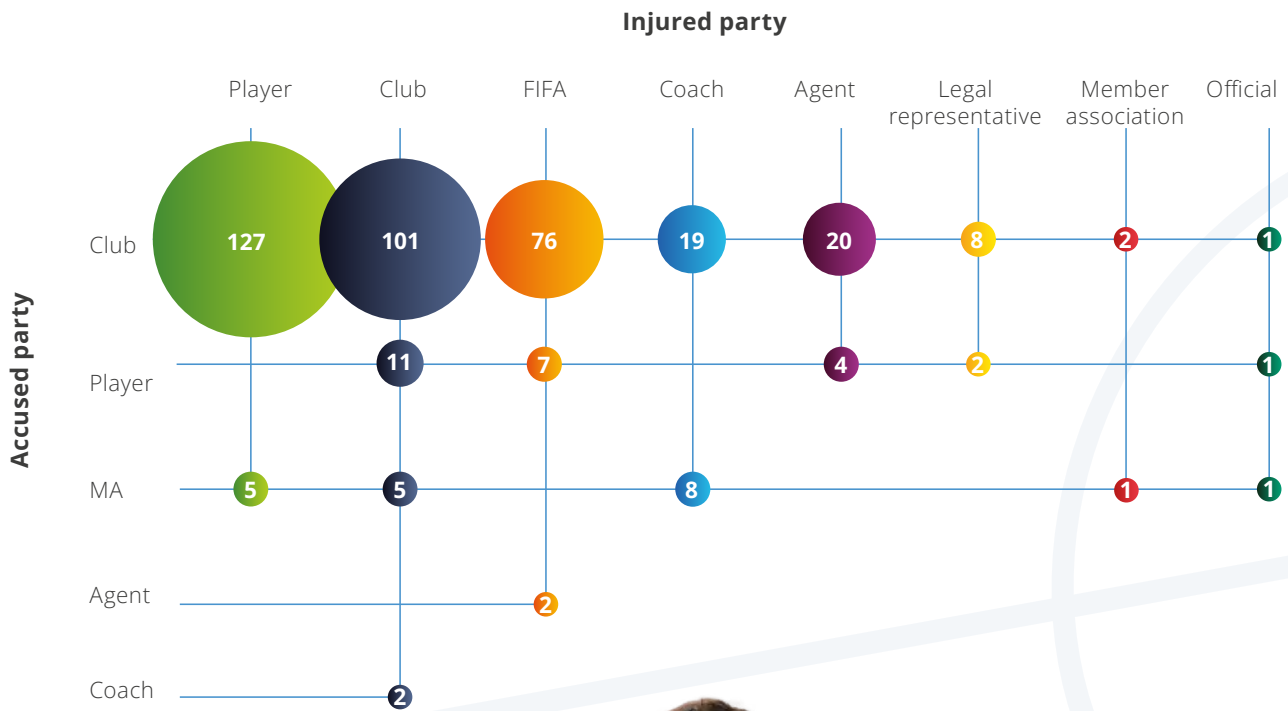
In 2022/2023, a total of 403 cases concerning a potential infringement of article 21 (2023 ed.)/article 15 (2019 ed.) reached the Disciplinary Committee. In so far as the decisions that were not respected within these types of cases, 35.0% related to decisions by the Dispute Resolution Chamber, 28.8% to decisions issued by CAS and 23.8% to decisions by the Disciplinary Committee. The remaining cases concerned proposals related to training rewards (TMS proposals) (5.7%), the Players' Status Chamber (5.5%) and decisions by national decision-making bodies (1.2%).

Figure 2: Cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by deciding body of the non-respected decision (2022/2023)



The most common scenario in this regard involved a non-compliant club failing to respect a decision in favour of a player (with a total of 127 cases). This was followed by the accused party being a non-compliant club against another club and then the accused party being a non-compliant club against FIFA – comprising 101 and 76 of the cases received, respectively. Indeed, when considered as a whole, the vast majority of article 21 (2023 ed.)/article 15 (2019 ed.) cases concerned a defaulting club as the non-compliant party (87.8%).

Figure 3: Cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by category of the injured and the accused party (2022/2023)



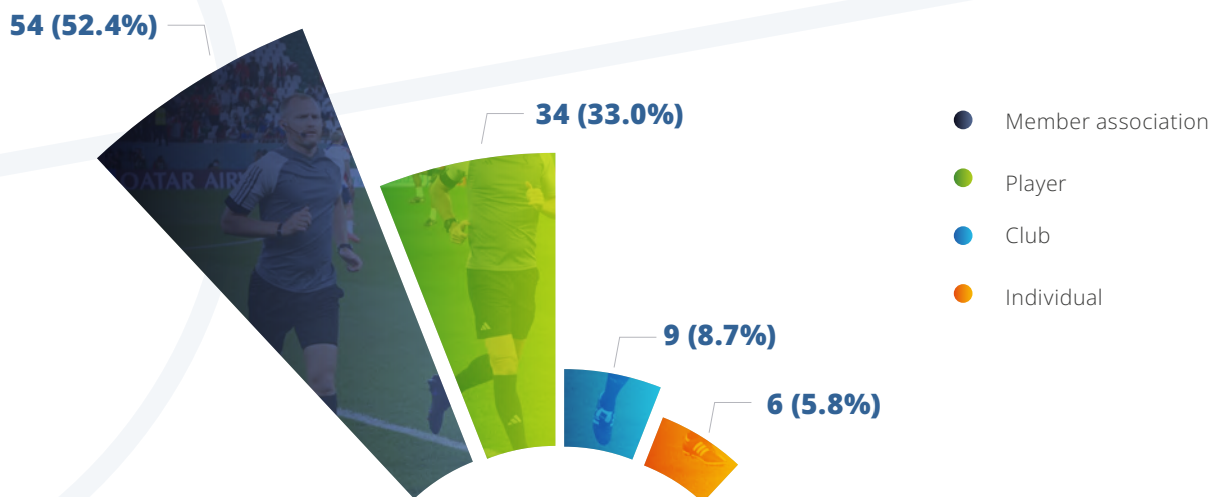
Match-related issues

The Disciplinary Committee also decides on cases connected 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.

Following the substantial increase in match-related cases in the 2021/2022 sporting period – principally due to both the significant number of qualifying matches that took place and the changes and interruptions to the International Match Calendar as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – the number of such cases has returned to the usual level, with 103 match-related cases having been received in the 2022/2023 sporting period, the majority of which were related to FIFA tournaments (and acknowledging that in the past year, there were only a small number of qualifying matches for the FIFA World Cup™ still to be played).

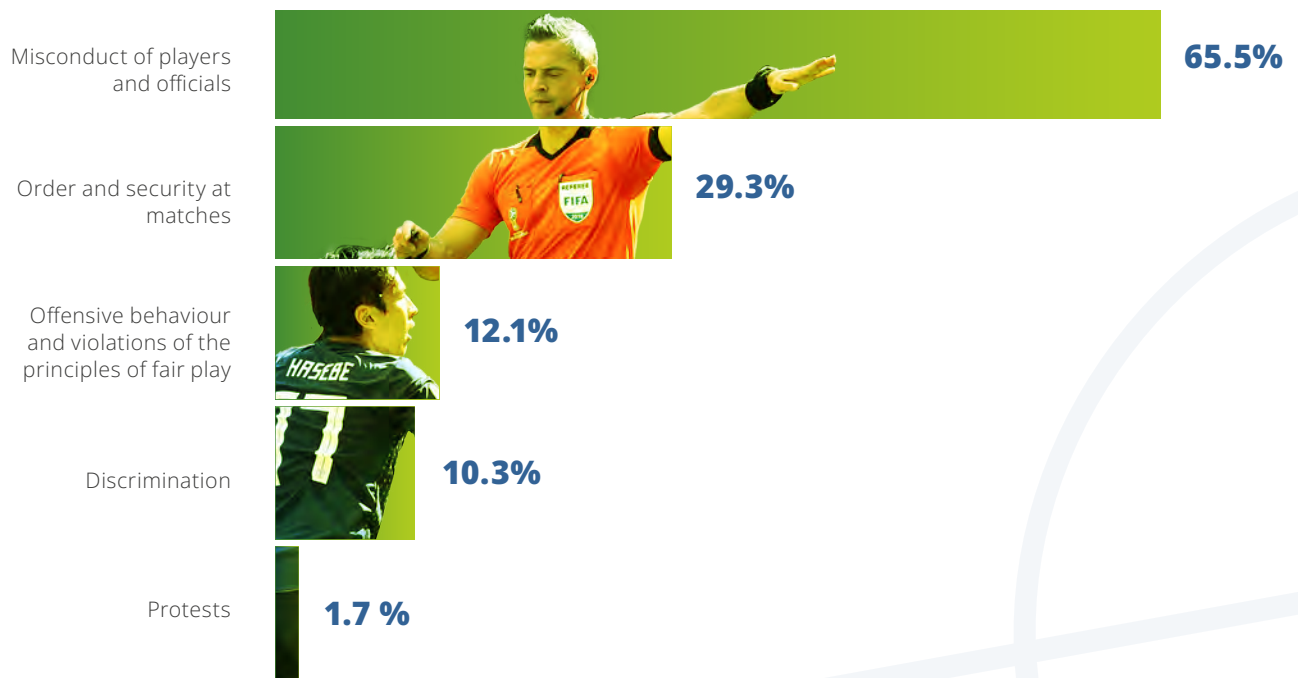
In so far as these 103 match-related cases were concerned, the vast majority were related to either a member association (52.4%) or a player (33.0%) as the respondent party. The remaining cases involved either a club or an individual (e.g. an official, coach or referee), accused of (a) match-related infringement(s).

Figure 4: Cases originating from match reports, by type of the accused party (2022/2023)



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 concerned the misconduct of players and officials (65.5%), i.e. a breach of article 14 (2023 ed.)/article 12 (2019 ed.) of the FDC. This was followed by infringements related to the maintenance of order and security at matches (29.3%), i.e. a breach of article 17 (2023 ed.)/article 16 (2019 ed.) of the FDC.

Figure 5: Infringements established in decided-upon match-related cases (2022/2023)



Note: the total may exceed 100% as there may be multiple infringements of the FDC in a single case (e.g. "Order and security at matches" and "Discrimination").

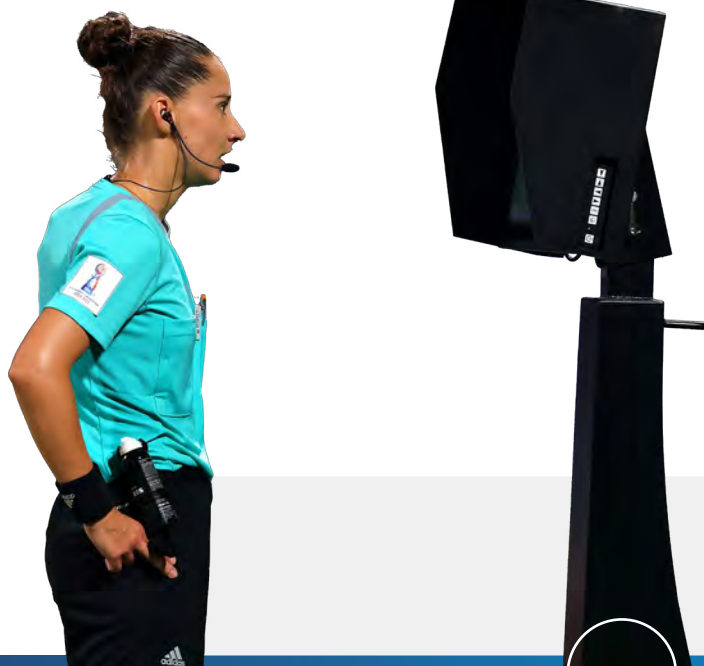
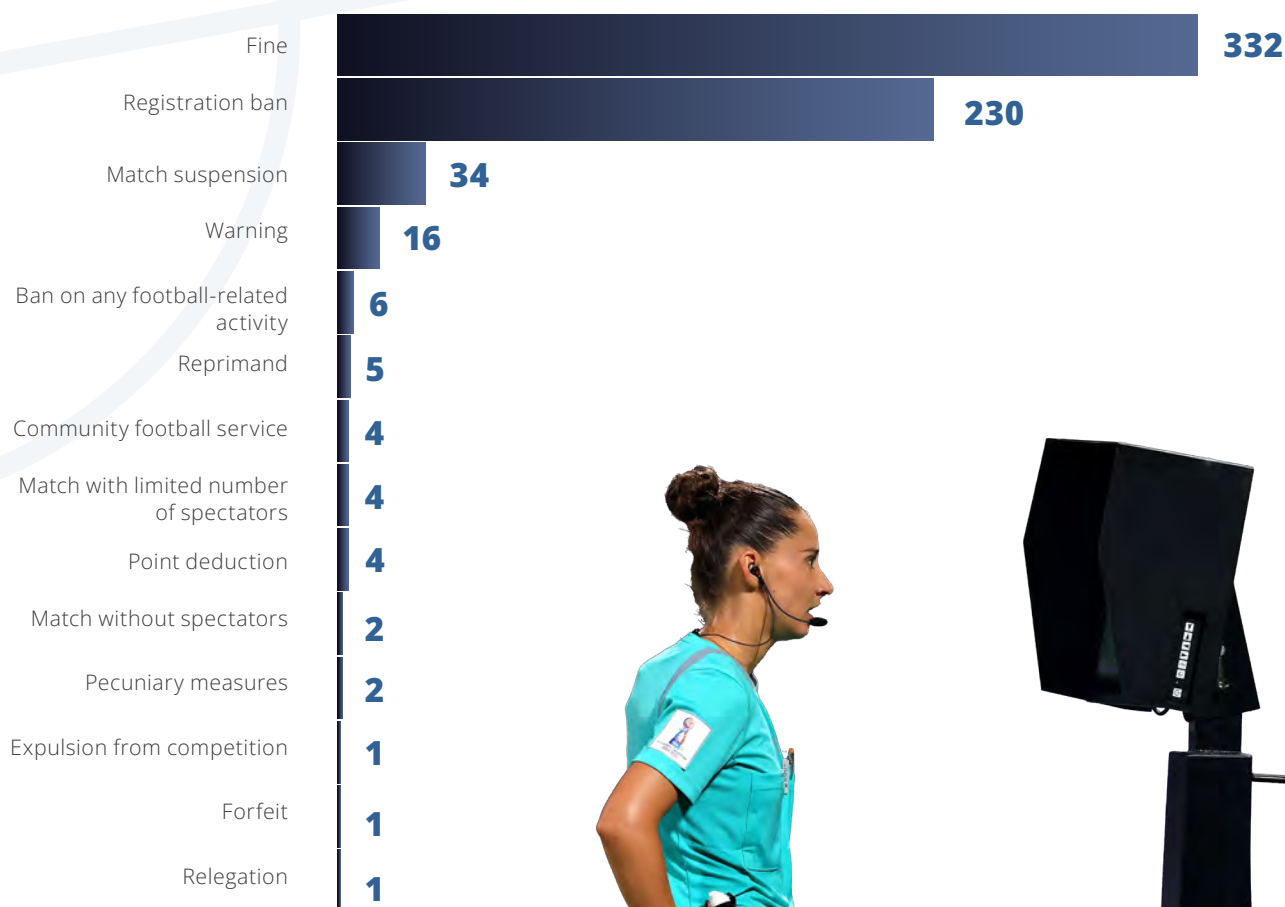
Sanctions imposed by the Disciplinary Committee

Article 6 of the FDC provides for the various disciplinary measures that may be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee and stipulates that they may be combined.

Fines are the most common form of sanction imposed on infringing parties by the Disciplinary Committee and the total value of such fines in 2022/2023 amounted to CHF 3.0 million (keeping in mind that the minimum fine that may be imposed in accordance with the FDC is CHF 100, whilst the maximum is set at CHF 1,000,000).

Furthermore, in 2022/2023, registration bans were imposed as a sanction by the Disciplinary Committee in 230 cases. A registration 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 (for further information regarding registration bans, including their scope of application, we kindly refer you to the content of [FIFA circular no. 1843](#)). By way of illustration, registration bans are commonly imposed by the Disciplinary Committee when a club has failed to respect a decision issued by a FIFA body, committee or instance or by CAS – breach of article 21 (2023 ed.)/article 15 (2019 ed.) of the FDC – with the registration ban aiming to induce the defaulting club to comply with the relevant decision so as to achieve (financial) justice for the football stakeholders, with the registration ban being – as a general rule – lifted once the decision is complied with.

Figure 6: Disciplinary measures imposed by the Disciplinary Committee (2022/2023)



APPEAL COMMITTEE



The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee may be challenged either before the FIFA Appeal Committee or CAS, depending on the nature of the decision at hand and subject to the provisions of the FDC.

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. The decisions pronounced by the FIFA Appeal Committee are binding, notwithstanding any subsequent appeal that may be lodged before CAS.

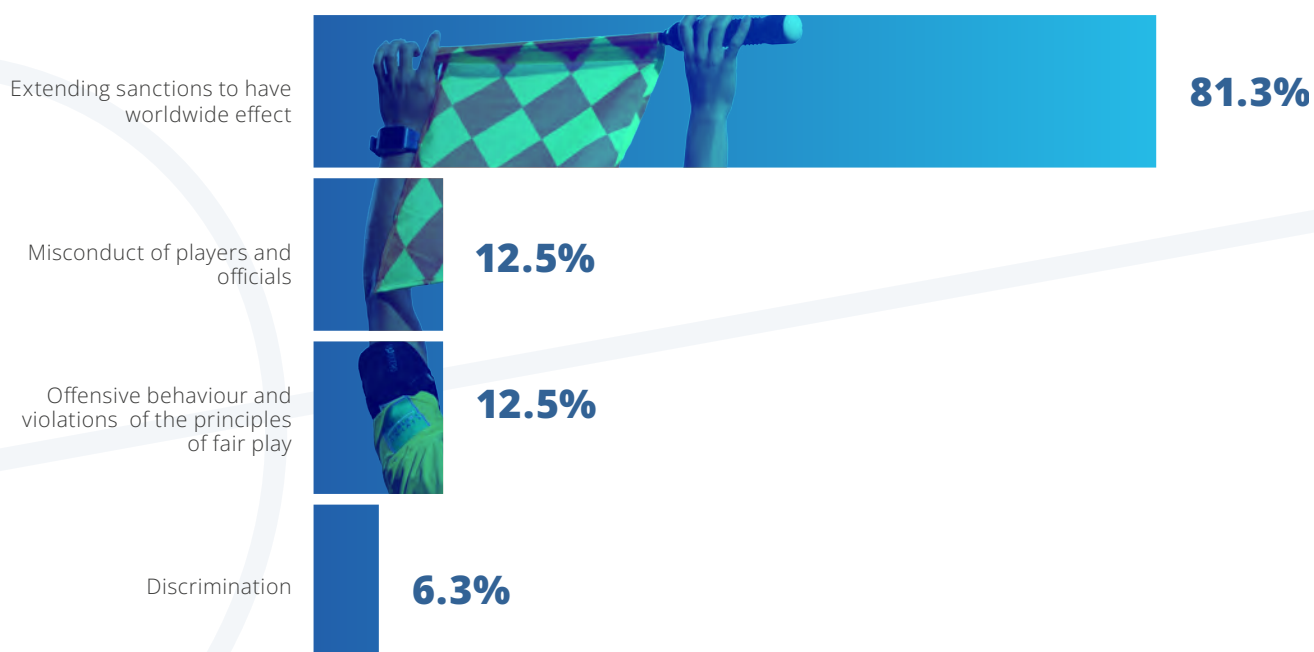
There are limitations to the types and/or kinds of decisions of the Disciplinary Committee that may be appealed before the Appeal Committee. Pursuant to article 61 of the FDC, an appeal may be lodged before the Appeal Committee against any decision passed by the Disciplinary Committee unless the disciplinary measure pronounced in the Disciplinary Committee decision is either: a warning, a reprimand, a suspension of up to two matches or up to two months (with the exception of doping-related decisions), 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). In such cases, as well as for any decisions passed by the Disciplinary Committee concerning an infringement of article 21 of the FDC, the potential appeal may instead be brought directly before CAS, without prejudice to the conditions established under the FIFA Statutes.



In light of the above, it should be noted that within the 2022/2023 period, the number of appeals received by the Appeal Committee was lower than last year.

In this respect, in 2022/2023, the Appeal Committee received a total of 16 appeals (eight of which were later withdrawn by the appellant) and passed 13 decisions within the same period. The vast majority of appeals received (81.3%) concerned a worldwide extension of a sanction imposed by a member association, confederation or another organising sports body. Among the 13 decisions, seven appeals were rejected, five were partially upheld and one was deemed inadmissible.

Figure 7: Appeals received by the Appeal Committee, by topic (2022/2023)



Note: the total may exceed 100% as a single case may concern multiple topics.

ETHICS COMMITTEE



The primary responsibility of the Ethics Committee, as one of FIFA's independent judicial bodies, is to investigate possible infringements of the [FIFA Code of Ethics](#) (FCE) and to sanction any established breach(es) accordingly. In this respect, all officials, players, match agents and football agents are subject to the FCE in relation 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.

The FIFA Ethics Committee is composed of 17 members and divided into two separate chambers – an investigatory chamber (eight members) and an adjudicatory chamber (nine members). As terms refer, the investigatory chamber is responsible for carrying out all investigative tasks, while the adjudicatory chamber is the branch that analyses and determines whether the investigation file is enough to establish a breach of conduct.



The investigatory chamber is responsible for investigating any potential breach of the FCE *ex officio* or on the basis of a complaint. Initially, the investigatory chamber will conduct a preliminary analysis of the facts and allegations in order to determine whether there are enough indicia to establish a *prima facie* case. Whenever this threshold is met, the investigatory chamber would subsequently initiate investigatory proceedings and notify the accused that they are party to an investigation carried out by the FIFA Ethics Committee. If the chief of investigation considers that there are sufficient grounds to establish that a breach of the FCE has occurred, the investigatory proceedings would be concluded and a final report submitted to the adjudicatory chamber together with the investigation files.

The adjudicatory chamber is the deciding and sanctioning body of the Ethics Committee. It examines the contents of the final report and the investigation files in order to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed with adjudicatory proceedings or to close the case. If adjudicatory proceedings are opened, the accused party will be notified accordingly and receive a copy of the investigation files. The parties will be granted the right to submit their position and to present and inspect evidence. The adjudicatory chamber will communicate its decision in full, written form at the latest 60 days after having notified the terms. If the party is found to have breached the FCE, the adjudicatory chamber could impose the following sanctions: a warning, reprimand, compliance training, return of awards, fine, social work, match suspension, ban from dressing rooms and/or substitutes' bench, ban on entering a stadium, and/or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

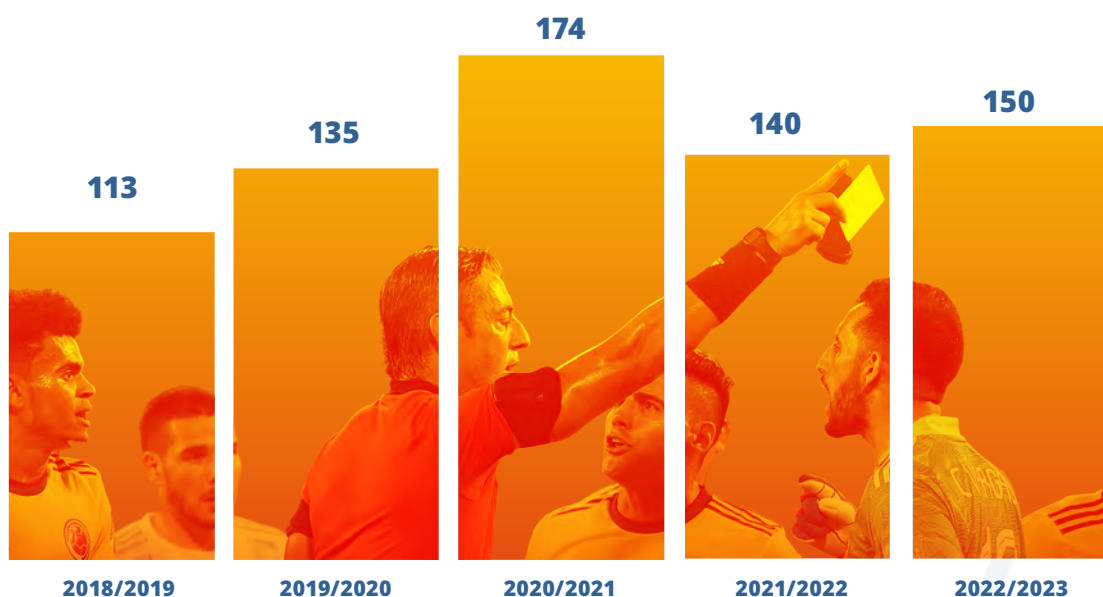
As a result of the separation of these chambers, the members of the Ethics Committee either serve in the investigatory chamber or the adjudicatory chamber. For the current composition of both the first and second chamber, we kindly refer you to the Annexe below.



Investigatory chamber

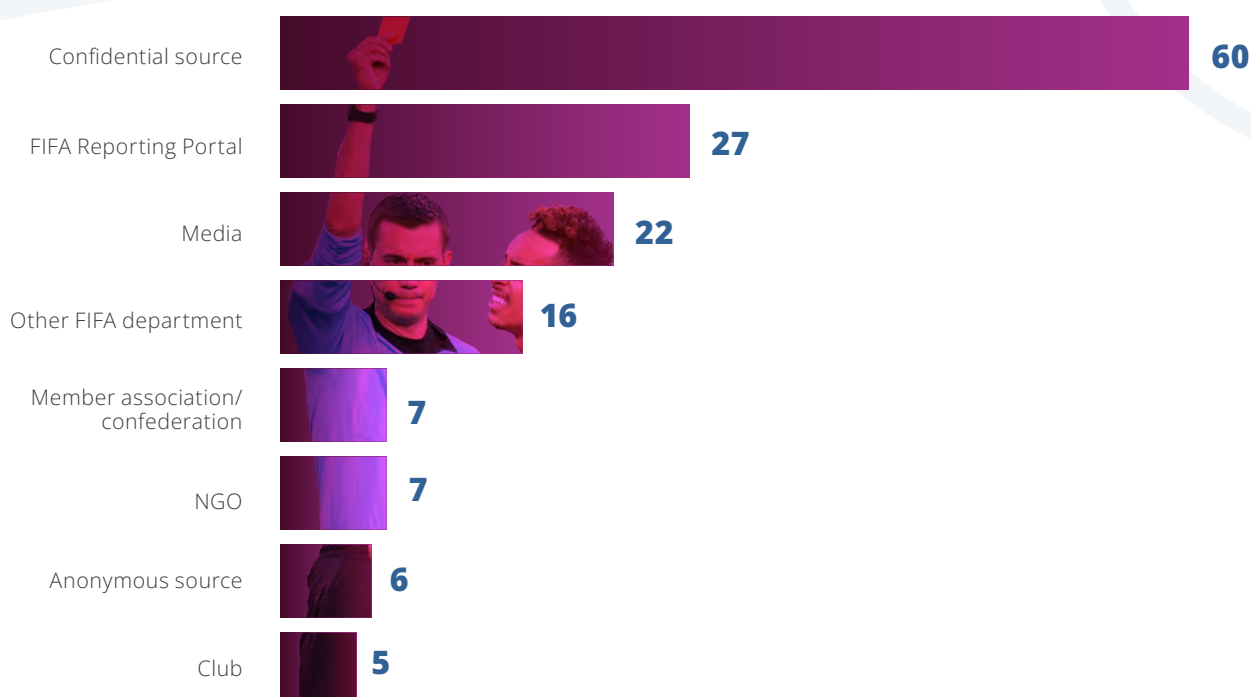
In the period between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, the investigatory chamber opened a total of 150 investigations, representing a 7.1% increase in comparison to the previous year.

Figure 8: Number of cases received by the investigatory chamber



As any person is allowed to file a complaint regarding potential breaches of the FCE before the secretariat of the investigatory chamber, the range of claim sources varies broadly. This includes complaints from anonymous or confidential claimants, members of the media, complaints received through the FIFA Reporting Portal or forwarded by other FIFA departments, member associations, confederations, clubs or non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Figure 9: Originating sources of the investigations opened in 2022/2023



How to report misconduct

With reference to article 60 of the FCE, any person may file a complaint regarding potential breaches of the code with the secretariat of the investigatory chamber.

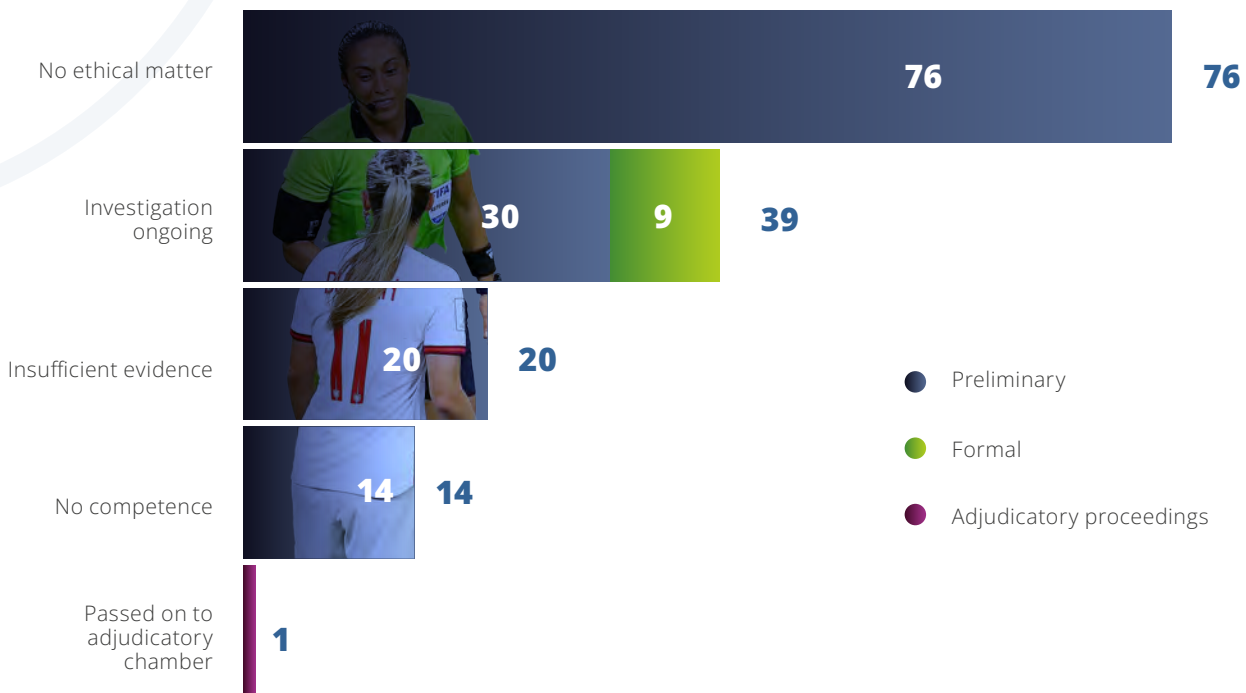
1. Via email: secretariat-investigatory-chamber@fifa.org
2. Via the [FIFA Reporting Portal](#) (anonymous option available)
3. Via post: Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
FAO the Ethics Committee
FIFA-Strasse 20, P.O. Box 8044 Zurich

10

Investigations passed on to the adjudicatory chamber in 2022/2023 (nine received before 1 July 2022)

During the review period (1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023), 110 of the 150 investigatory proceedings were already completed and closed within the same period. A total of 76 of these cases were closed because the investigatory chamber did not identify any potential breach of the FCE from the contents of the complaints, i.e. the complaint was not of ethical nature. Fourteen investigatory proceedings were closed because the Ethics Committee was not competent to address them (cf. art. 31 of the FCE). Twenty cases were closed due to insufficient evidence to establish a violation of the FCE, and one case was passed on to the adjudicatory chamber (NB: nine further cases that were received before 1 July 2022 were passed on to the adjudicatory chamber in the 2022/2023 period).

Figure 10: Outcome/status of the investigatory proceedings initiated in 2022/2023



In situations in which the Ethics Committee did not identify an ethical matter or in which it did not have exclusive competence to investigate and judge the conduct of the persons bound by the FCE (cf. art. 31 par. 1 of the FCE), the investigatory chamber could transfer the complaint to another department within FIFA and/or to other bodies outside of FIFA, such as confederations or associations, which may then proceed to initiate proceedings against the accused parties within their respective jurisdiction. Of the 90 such cases received in 2022/2023, 68 were transferred to another department within FIFA, eight to a member association and seven to a confederation. The remaining seven cases were not transferred to another entity because they had no relation to football.

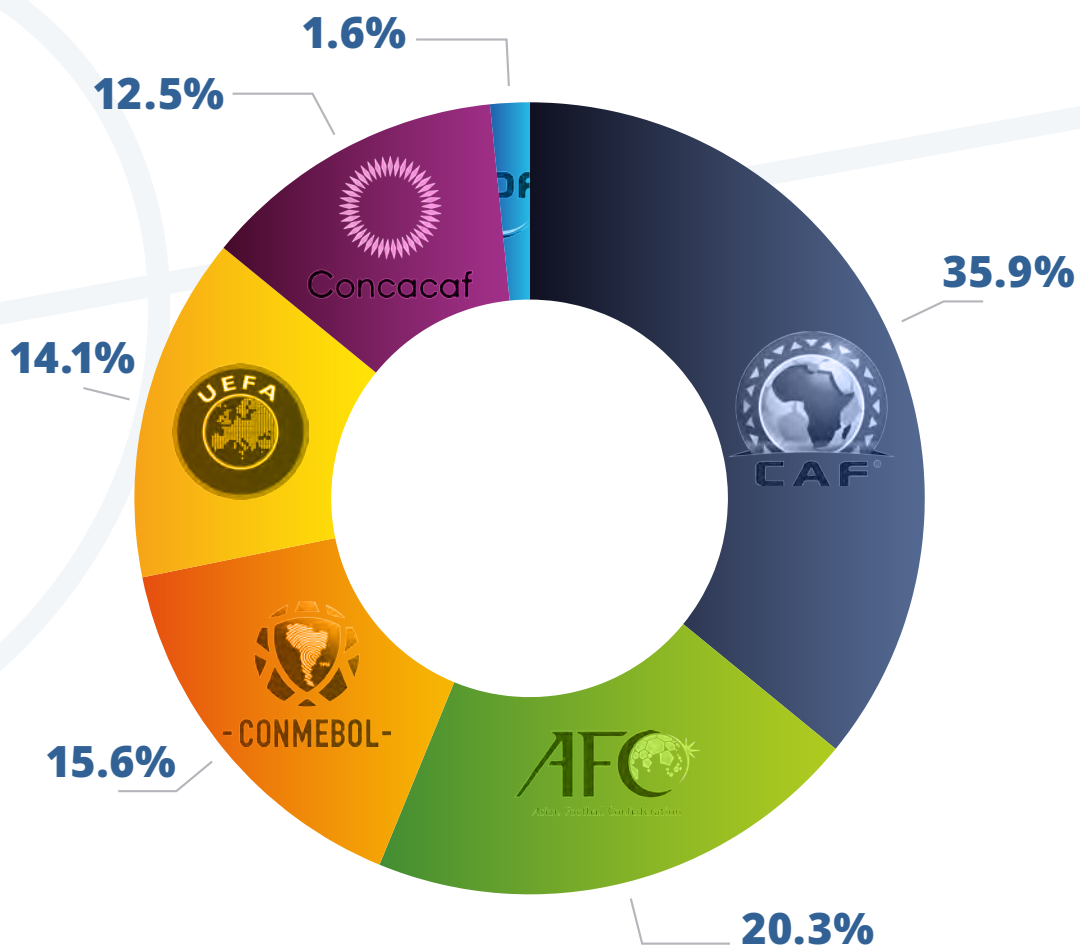
Figure 11: Entities to which investigatory proceedings received in 2022/2023 were subsequently transferred, by type of matter



This being said, whenever a conduct does not fall under the competence of a confederation or member association, when no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation or member association 90 days after the matter became known to FIFA, or when the relevant confederation or member association agrees with FIFA to confer the competence, the Ethics Committee will be entitled to investigate and judge the respective matter on the basis of article 31 paragraph 2 of the FCE. In 2022/2023, this occurred on 11 separate occasions.

At the time of publication, there were 64 investigatory proceedings ongoing.¹ Forty-seven of these were preliminary and 17 were formal investigations. In 35.9% of these proceedings, the respondent belonged to an association affiliated to CAF or to CAF itself. This is followed by respondents affiliated to the AFC, which account for 20.3% of the total.

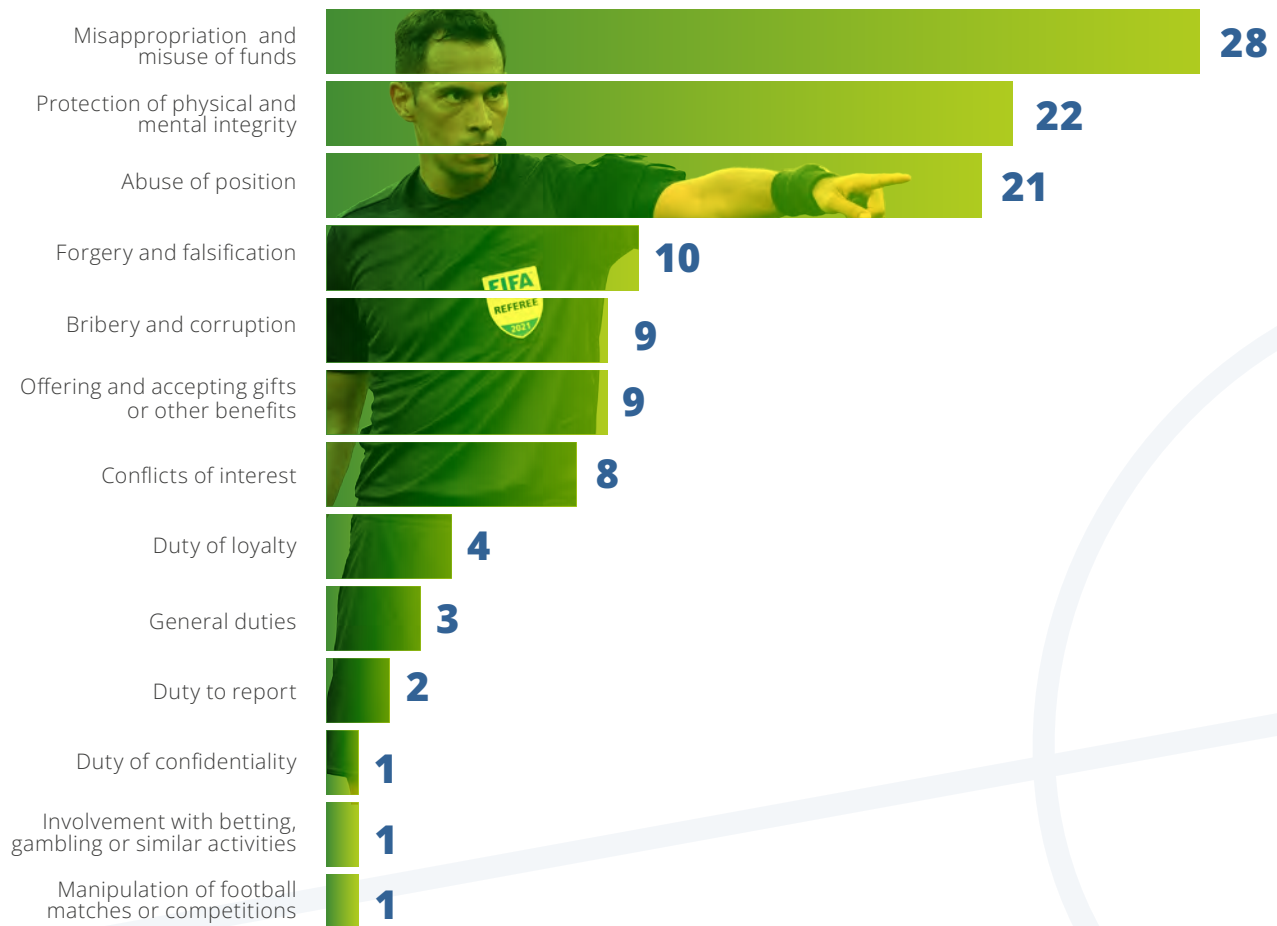
Figure 12: Ongoing investigatory proceedings, by the respondent's confederation



¹These also include investigations that were opened prior to the review period: 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

The three most common allegations in these proceedings fell into the categories of misappropriation and misuse of funds, protection of physical and mental integrity, and abuse of position.

Figure 13: Potential infringements in ongoing investigatory proceedings



Note: the total may exceed the number of ongoing investigations because there can be multiple infringements in a single case.

Adjudicatory chamber

As indicated above, the adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee is responsible for examining the results/case files of the investigations conducted by the investigatory chamber. In particular, it determines whether any breaches of the FCE can be established. In addition, within specific cases, the adjudicatory chamber is also competent to issue a provisional sanction on an individual in order to ensure that investigatory proceedings are not interfered with or when a breach of the FCE appears to have been committed and a decision on the merits of the case may not be taken early enough (cf. art. 86 of the FCE).

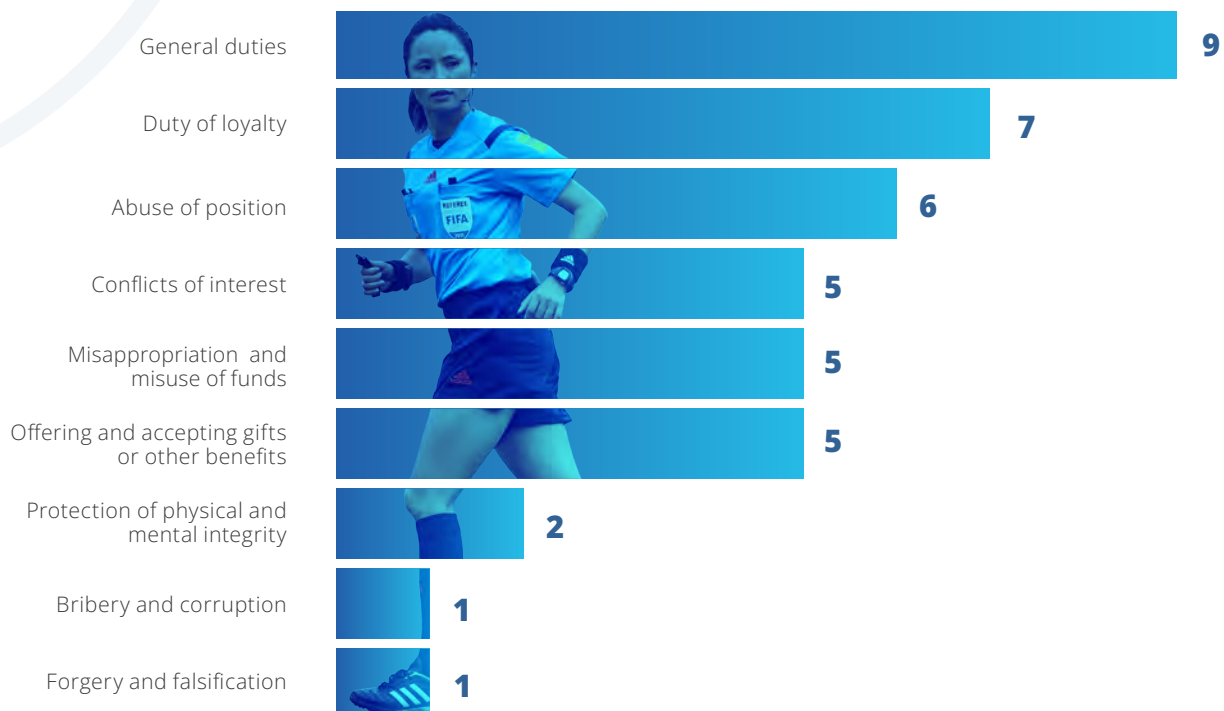
As anticipated in last year's report, the number of cases transferred to the adjudicatory chamber has increased significantly, with a large proportion of the cases received concerning abuse of position and/or the misappropriation and misuse of funds. In total, the adjudicatory chamber passed **ten decisions in 2022/2023** and additionally imposed provisional measures in five instances.

This being said, whilst acknowledging that a large proportion of complaints concerning sexual and/or psychological harassment 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, it nevertheless remains that in the present sporting period, a concerning number of such cases were decided upon by the adjudicatory chamber, this particularly in the context of the (extension of) provisional sanctions whilst the investigations of the investigatory chamber remain ongoing.

In this respect, it is also to be noted that, in order to provide greater protection to victims of such conduct of the utmost gravity, significant amendments have been implemented under the 2023 edition of the FCE in so far that potential offences of sexual abuse or harassment are no longer subject to a limitation period (cf. art. 13) and likewise, the victims' status as a party to the applicable proceedings has now been clarified, thereby allowing them to appeal the related decision(s) passed by the adjudicatory chamber before CAS (cf. art. 24).

Figure 14: Infringements established in decisions by the adjudicatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee (2022/2023)

Note: the total may exceed the number of decisions because there can be multiple infringements in a single case (e.g. "Abuse of position" and "Misappropriation and misuse of funds").



ANNEXE - CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES



Disciplinary Committee

Chairman	
Jorge Palacio	Colombia
Deputy chairman	
Kwasi Anin-Yeboah	Ghana
Members	
Arnaud Dumont	Tahiti
Francisco Schertel Mendes	Brazil
Gudni Bergsson	Iceland
José Ernesto Mejía	Honduras
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



Appeal Committee

Chairman

Neil Eggleston	USA
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Deputy chairman

Thomas Bodström	Sweden
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Members

Andrés Patón	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	Turks and Caicos Islands
Oscar Chiri	Peru
Salman Al Ansari	Qatar
Samuel Ram	Fiji

Ethics Committee

Investigatory chamber

Chairman	
Martin Ngoga	Rwanda
Deputy chairmen	
Bruno De Vita	Canada
Parasuraman Subramanian	Malaysia
Members	
Margarita Echeverría	Costa Rica
Jiahong He	China PR
Janet Katisya	Kenya
Alena Lapteva	Russia
John Tougon	Vanuatu

Adjudicatory chamber

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

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