

**FIFA®**



# Disciplinary and Ethics Report 2023/2024

JULY 2024

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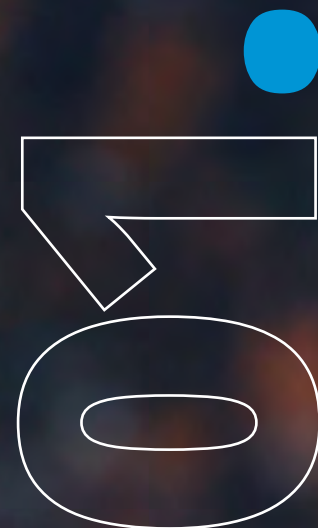
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# FOREWORD



Dear readers,

It is with great pleasure that FIFA presents to you the fifth edition of our annual Disciplinary and Ethics Report.

As with previous editions, this report offers a thorough overview of our main decision-making bodies, covering the sporting period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

This period proved to be both an active and eventful one for the FIFA judicial bodies, featuring one of FIFA's flagship events – the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023™ – the full enforcement of the 2023 editions of the FIFA Code of Ethics (FCE) and the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC), as well as the implementation of the FIFA Legal Portal as a mandatory tool.

FIFA launched the FIFA Legal Portal, a modern online platform through which proceedings before FIFA's judicial bodies are conducted, on 1 May 2022. The portal enables football stakeholders and legal representatives to lodge a claim and follow the relevant proceedings before FIFA's judicial bodies in a fully digital, user-friendly environment. As of 1 May 2023, all proceedings before the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and the FIFA Appeal Committee can only be initiated and processed exclusively through the portal. Similarly, any decisions and other documents exchanged between the FIFA Ethics Committee and the parties (including their legal representatives) must be conducted exclusively via the portal.

As in previous editions, this report is divided into two main sections. The first section provides a comprehensive overview of the activities undertaken by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee and the FIFA Appeal Committee, outlining the procedures followed and the challenges faced by both bodies. The second section analyses the activities of the FIFA Ethics Committee.

This continued initiative aligns seamlessly with our objectives of increasing transparency and maintaining the high standards upheld by the FIFA judicial bodies in recent years. These objectives underpin the several hundred cases that were investigated and decided upon by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, the FIFA Ethics Committee and the FIFA Appeal Committee during the reporting period.

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

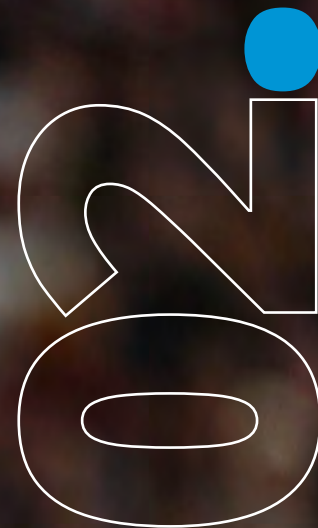
Yours faithfully,



**Carlos Schneider Salvadores**  
Director of Judicial Bodies



# FIFA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is competent to investigate and prosecute any potential breach of the FIFA regulations that does not fall under the jurisdiction of another FIFA body, and it 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 provisions thereof. In this regard, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee performs a crucial role in ensuring that FIFA's principal objectives, as outlined in 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. The current composition of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee is provided in Annexe A1.

## 2.1 Overview of cases received

Between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 (hereinafter "2023/2024"), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee received a total of 1,098 cases, of which 1,005 were resolved in the same period. It received a further 519 requests, 243 of which concerned requests to extend sanctions to have worldwide effect ("extension requests"), and the remaining 276 cases concerned other topics. The requests in the latter category were highly varied in their nature but mainly related to requests for information regarding disciplinary matters and/or matters that fall within the scope of the FDC.

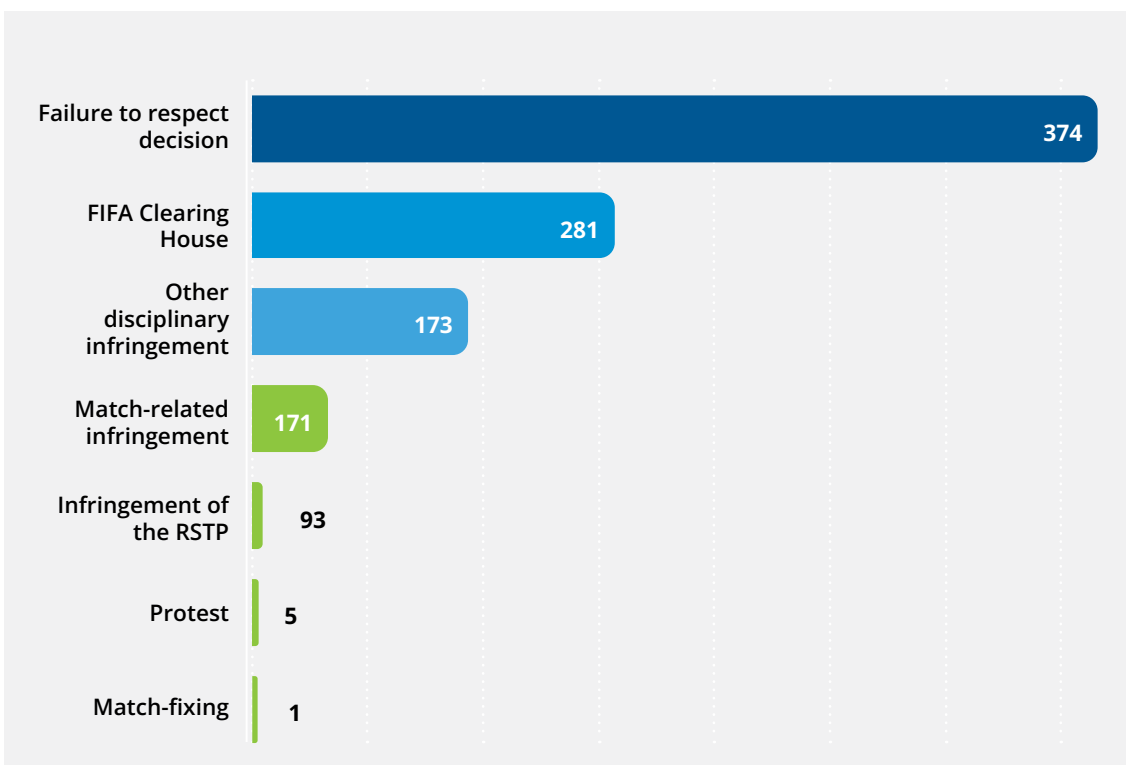
With regard to extension requests, when member associations, confederations or other organising sports bodies impose a sanction(s) on an individual in relation to serious infringements (e.g. discrimination, manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials, or forgery and falsification, as well as sexual abuse or harassment), they may request that the FIFA Disciplinary Committee extend the sanction(s) so as to have worldwide effect (see art. 70 of the 2023 ed. of the FDC). In making a decision to either approve or decline the request for the sanction to be extended, the chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee must ascertain whether the relevant conditions of the above-mentioned article have been fulfilled.

Of the 1,098 cases received that required a formal decision, the largest share (374) involved a failure to respect a previous decision issued 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 171 cases were directly related to matches and a further 93 involved a potential infringement of the FIFA Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP).

Further to the above, it is worth noting that the number of cases received as a result of the positive developments concerning the implementation of the FIFA Clearing House Regulations amounted to 281. The vast majority of these cases related to a club failing the first compliance assessment, and a smaller number concerned a failure to pay training rewards.

As for the remaining cases, five related to protests, one to match-fixing and 173 to other disciplinary infringements – the latter concerning, amongst other matters, breaches of registration bans.

Figure 1: cases received by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, by case type (2023/2024)



## 2.2 Failure to respect decisions

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is an independent committee operating in line with FIFA's legal framework. It performs a key role by ensuring that decisions issued by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA and by CAS are respected by the various football stakeholders.

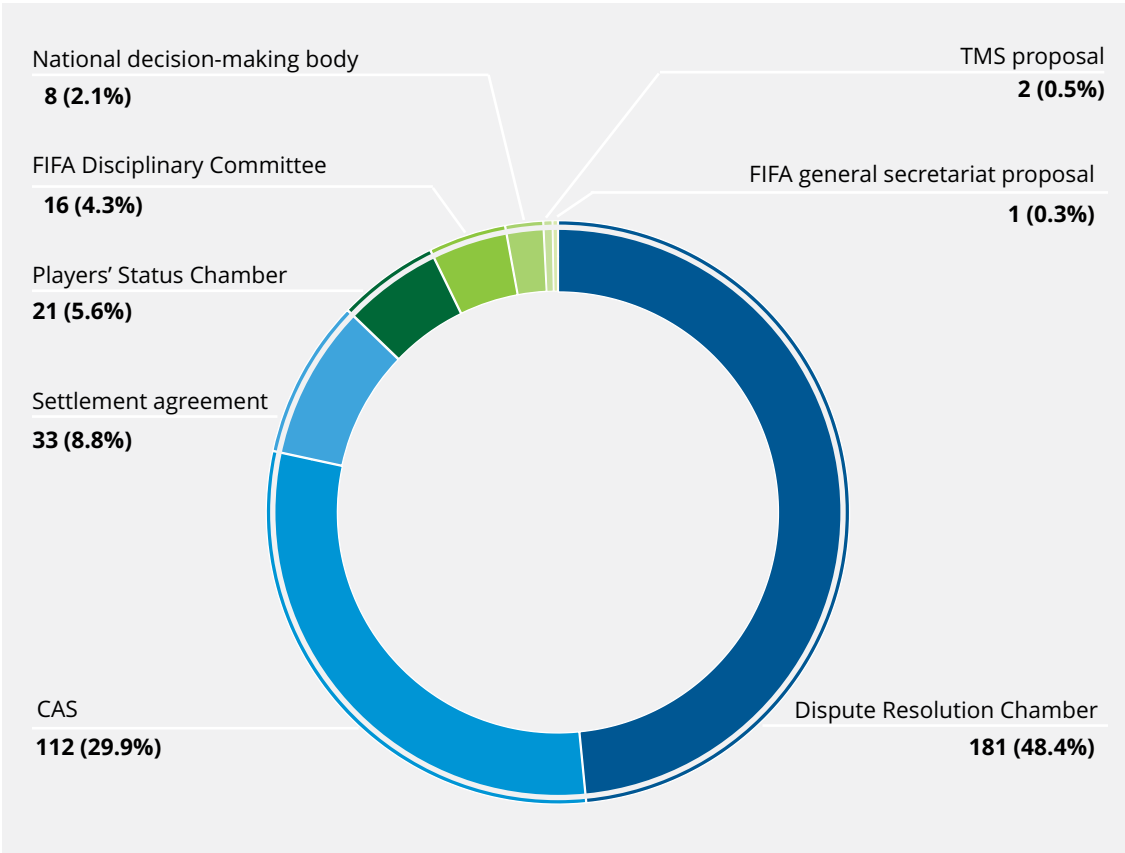
By virtue of the provisions of article 21 of the 2023 edition of the FDC (art. 15 of the 2019 ed. of the FDC), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions upon any non-compliant parties under its jurisdiction. In other words, when an entity (e.g. a club or an association) or an individual (e.g. a player, a coach or a football agent) under FIFA's jurisdiction fails to respect a decision issued by FIFA or by CAS, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions upon the defaulting party.

In 2023/2024, the number of cases concerning a potential infringement of article 21 (2023 ed.)/ article 15 (2019 ed.) of the FDC that reached the FIFA Disciplinary Committee amounted to 374. With regard to decisions that were not respected in such cases, 48.4% related to decisions passed by the Dispute Resolution Chamber and 29.9% to those issued by CAS, while settlement agreements constituted 8.8% of the total number of cases. The remaining cases concerned decisions rendered by the Players' Status Chamber (5.6%), the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (4.3%) and national decision-making bodies (2.1%), while proposals related to training rewards accounted for 0.5% of the cases – these cases are listed as “TMS proposal” since proceedings concerning entitlements to training rewards are made via the FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS). Finally, proposals by the FIFA general secretariat accounted for 0.3% of the cases.

This report includes a category of cases that did not feature in the 2022/2023 edition, namely cases concerning the failure to respect settlement agreements, of which there were 33 during 2023/2024. This owes to one of the amendments made to article 21 of the 2023 edition of the FDC, which was communicated via FIFA circular no. 1867. The amendment in question grants the FIFA Disciplinary Committee the competence to enforce private settlement agreements concluded in the context of disciplinary proceedings opened against a debtor in respect of a final and binding decision passed by a body, a committee, a subsidiary or an instance of FIFA or by CAS.



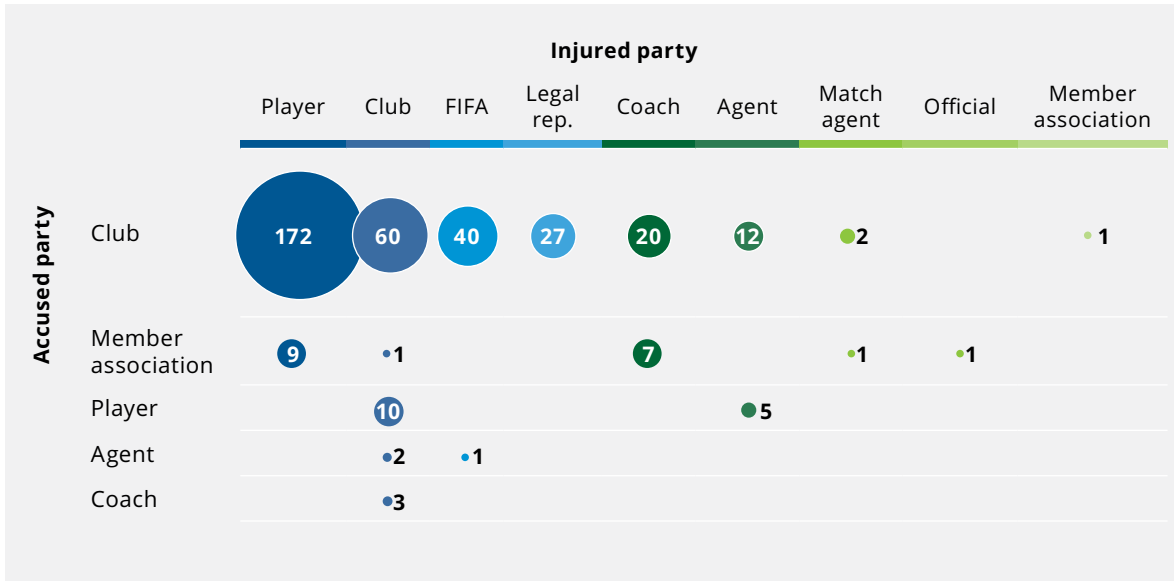
Figure 2: cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by the deciding body of the non-respected decision (2023/2024)



The largest share of cases concerning a potential failure to respect a decision involved a non-compliant club failing to respect a decision issued in favour of a player (172 cases). This was followed by cases in which the accused party was a non-compliant club against another club and those in which the accused party was a non-compliant club against FIFA (60 and 40 cases, respectively). When considered as a whole, the vast majority of cases arising as a result of article 21 (2023 ed.)/article 15 (2019 ed.) of the FDC involved the defaulting club as the non-compliant party (89.3%).



Figure 3: cases originating from a failure to respect a decision, by category of the injured and the accused party (2023/2024)

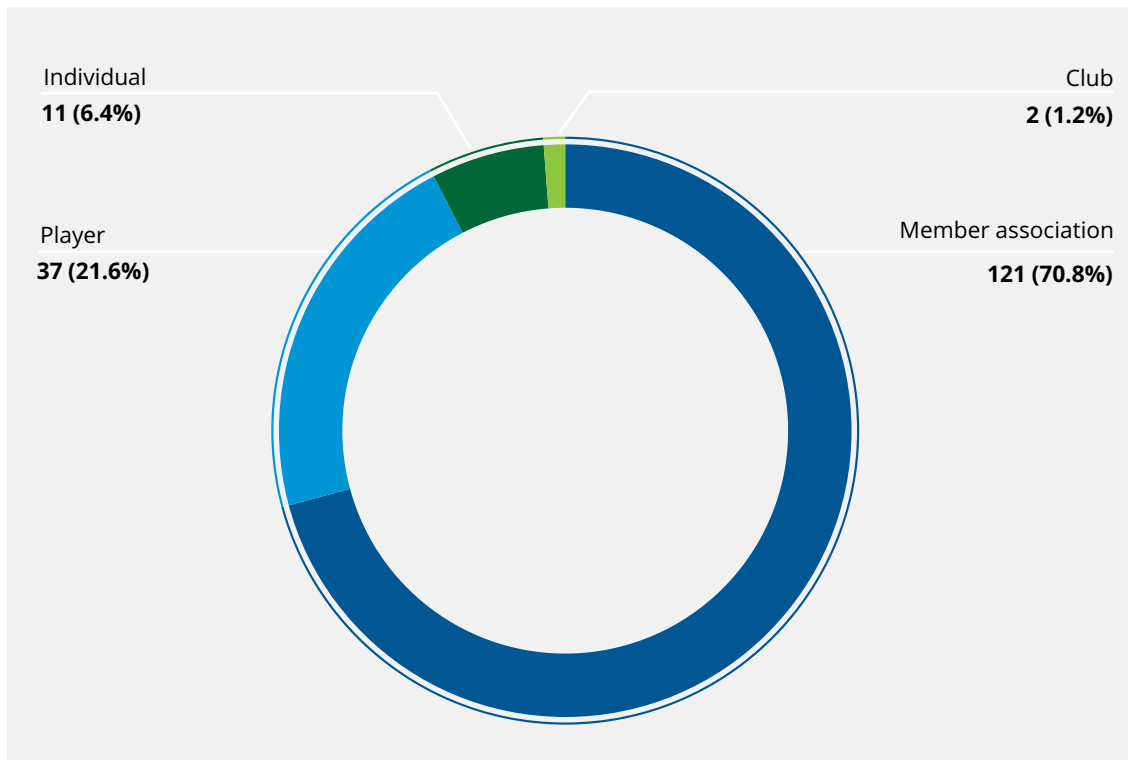


## 2.3 Match-related issues

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee is also responsible for deciding on cases about infringements of the FDC related to possible incidents that take place before, during or after a match for which FIFA is competent, regardless of whether they occur on or off the field of play.

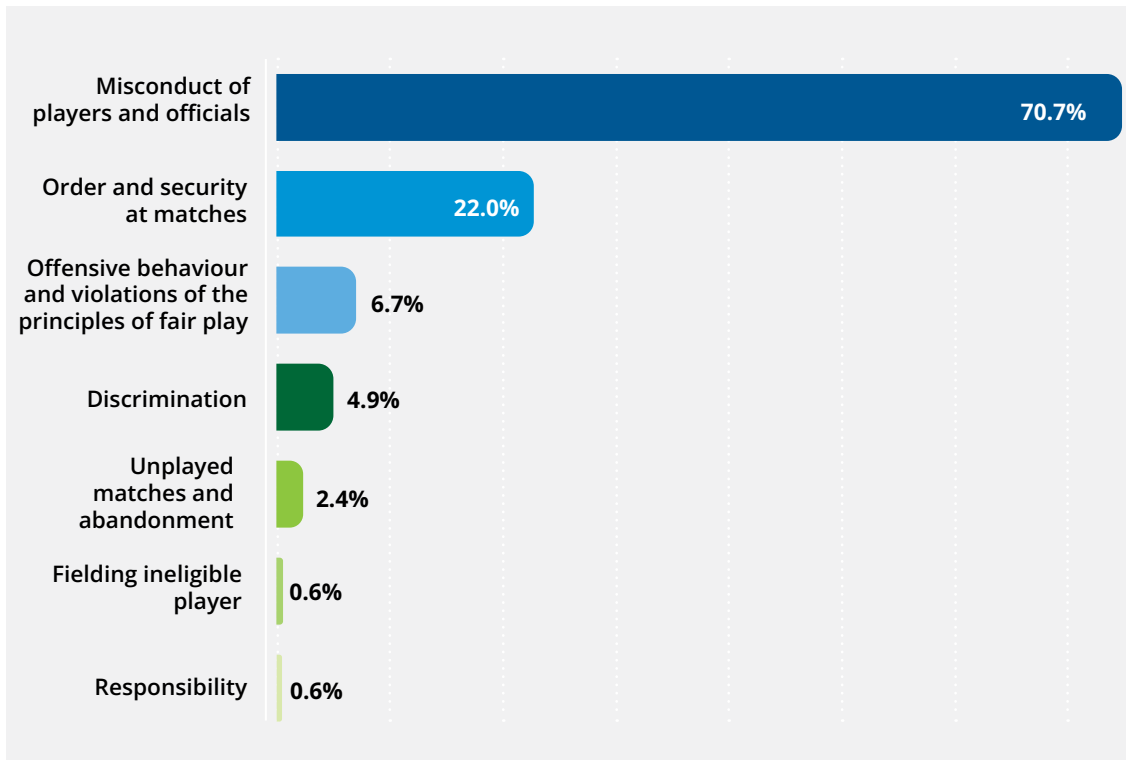
The FIFA Disciplinary Committee received a total of 171 match-related cases in 2023/2024. In almost all instances, a member association (70.8%) or a player (21.6%) was the respondent party. The remaining cases involved either an individual (e.g. an official, a coach or a referee) or a club being accused of one or more match-related infringements.

Figure 4: cases originating from match reports, by type of the accused party (2023/2024)



Of the match-related cases that were closed at the time of publication, the most common infringement of the FDC ruled by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee concerned the misconduct of players and officials (70.7%), 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 (22.0%), 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 (2023/2024)



NB: The total may exceed 100% because a single case may have involved multiple infringements of the FDC (e.g. "Order and security at matches" and "Discrimination").

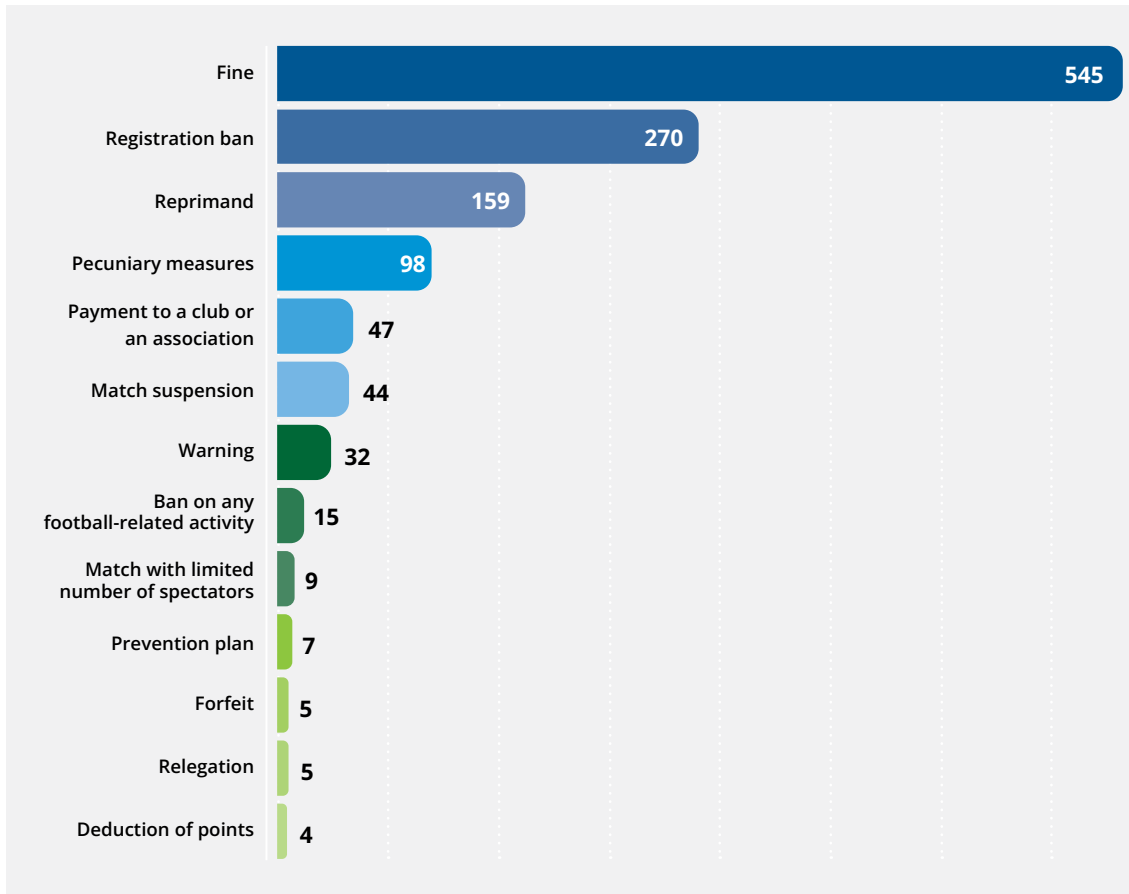
## 2.4 Sanctions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

Article 6 of the FDC (2023 ed.) lays out the disciplinary measures that the FIFA Disciplinary Committee can impose on natural and legal persons, and notes that the measures provided may be combined.

Fines are the most common form of sanction imposed on infringing parties by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, and the total value of fines in 2023/2024 amounted to CHF 5.4 million. It should be noted that, pursuant to the FDC, a fine imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee may range between CHF 100 and CHF 1,000,000.

The FIFA Disciplinary Committee issued 270 registration bans in 2023/2024. For the sake of clarity, in the context of disciplinary proceedings, a registration ban prevents a club from registering any player, either nationally or internationally, during the period in question. Further information regarding registration bans, including their scope of application, is provided in FIFA circular no. 1843. As an example, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee commonly imposes registration bans when a club has failed to respect a decision rendered by a FIFA body, committee, subsidiary or instance or by CAS, which is a breach of article 21 (2023 ed.) / article 15 (2019 ed.) of the FDC. A registration ban aims to induce the defaulting club to comply with the decision, with a view to achieving (financial) justice for the football stakeholders, and the ban is generally lifted once the decision is complied with.

Figure 6: disciplinary measures imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (2023/2024)





# FIFA APPEAL COMMITTEE



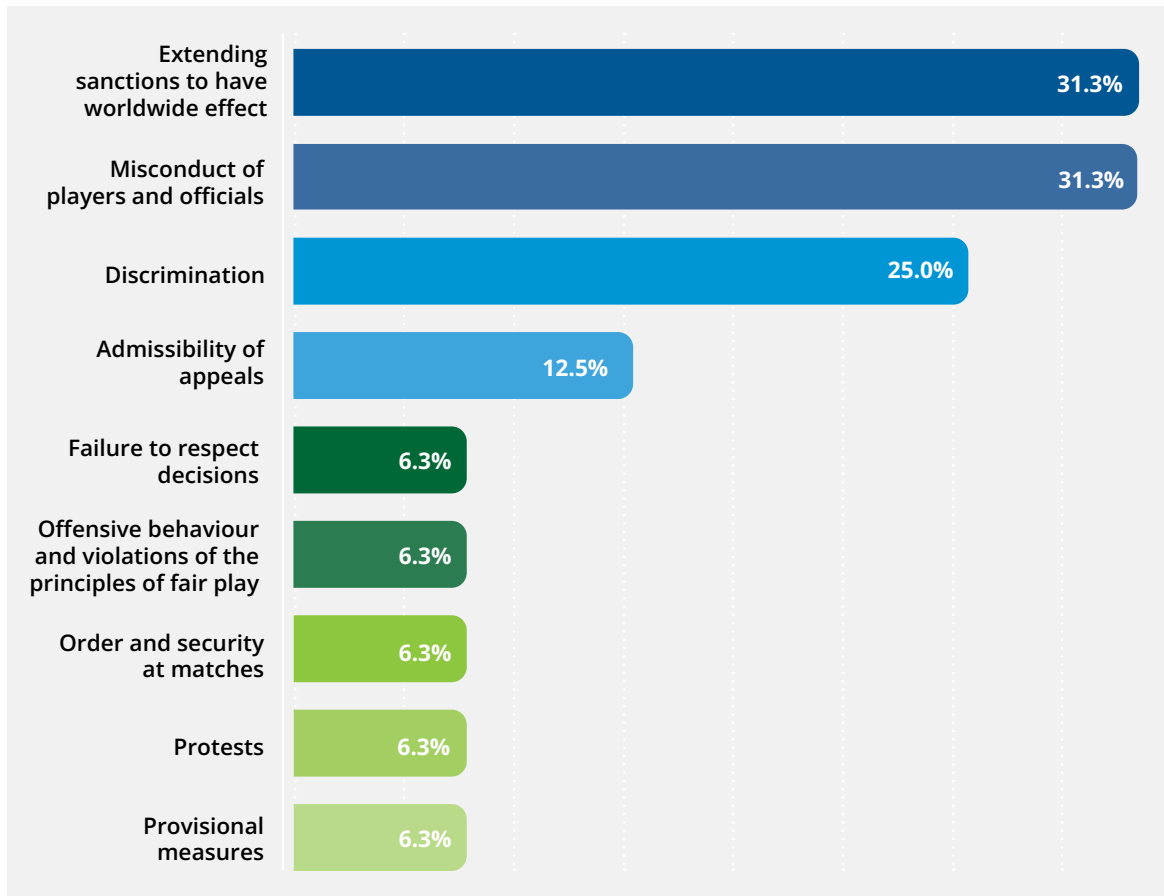
Decisions issued by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee can be challenged either before the FIFA Appeal Committee or CAS, depending on the nature of the decision and subject to the provisions of the FDC.

As the second instance and the last internal FIFA judicial body, the FIFA Appeal Committee has jurisdiction to process appeals against viable decisions rendered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee that are not declared as final by the relevant FIFA regulations. The decisions handed down by the FIFA Appeal Committee are binding, notwithstanding any subsequent appeal that may be lodged before CAS.

There are restrictions on the kinds of decisions passed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee that may be brought before the FIFA Appeal Committee. Pursuant to article 61 of the 2023 edition of the FDC, an appeal may be brought before the FIFA Appeal Committee against any decision rendered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee unless the disciplinary measure pronounced is either a warning, a reprimand, a suspension of up to two matches or of up to two months (with the exception of doping-related decisions), a fine of up to CHF 15,000 in cases concerning a member association or a club, or of up to CHF 7,500 in other cases. Any decision passed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee resulting from an infringement of article 21 of the 2023 edition of the FDC that may not be appealed before the FIFA Appeal Committee may instead be brought directly before CAS, without prejudice to the conditions established under the FIFA Statutes.

In 2023/2024, the number of appeals received by the FIFA Appeal Committee amounted to 20 (two of which were subsequently withdrawn by the appellant), and it passed 16 decisions within the same period. The largest share of the received appeals concerned either a worldwide extension of a sanction imposed by a member association, a confederation or another organising sports body, or misconduct of players and officials, with both categories accounting for 31.3% of the appeals. Of the 16 decisions, nine appeals were rejected, one was partially upheld and six were deemed inadmissible.

Figure 7: appeals received by the FIFA Appeal Committee, by topic (2023/2024)



NB: The total may exceed 100% because a single case may have concerned multiple topics.



# FIFA ETHICS COMMITTEE



As one of FIFA's judicial bodies, the independent FIFA Ethics Committee holds the primary responsibility to investigate and judge potential infringements of the FCE and to sanction any established breach(es) accordingly. In this respect, the FCE applies to all officials, players, match agents and football agents in relation to any conduct – other than that 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 behaviour, such as corruption, or violations of physical and/or mental integrity.

The FIFA Ethics Committee, which is composed of 17 members, is divided into two separate chambers: the investigatory chamber, which consists of eight members, and the adjudicatory chamber, which comprises nine members. The investigatory chamber is responsible for conducting all investigatory tasks, while the adjudicatory chamber examines whether the investigation file is sufficient to establish a breach of conduct.

The investigatory chamber is responsible for investigating any potential breaches of the provisions of the FCE *ex officio* or on the basis of a complaint. The investigatory chamber conducts a preliminary analysis of the facts and allegations, with a view to determining whether there are enough indicia to establish a *prima facie* case. If the threshold is met, the investigatory chamber subsequently initiates investigatory proceedings and notifies 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 are concluded and a final report is submitted to the adjudicatory chamber together with the investigation files.

The adjudicatory chamber is the deciding and sanctioning body of the FIFA Ethics Committee. It examines the contents of the final report and the investigation files to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed with adjudicatory proceedings or whether the case should be closed. If adjudicatory proceedings are opened, the accused party is notified accordingly and receives a copy of the investigation files. The parties are granted the right to submit their position and to present and inspect evidence.

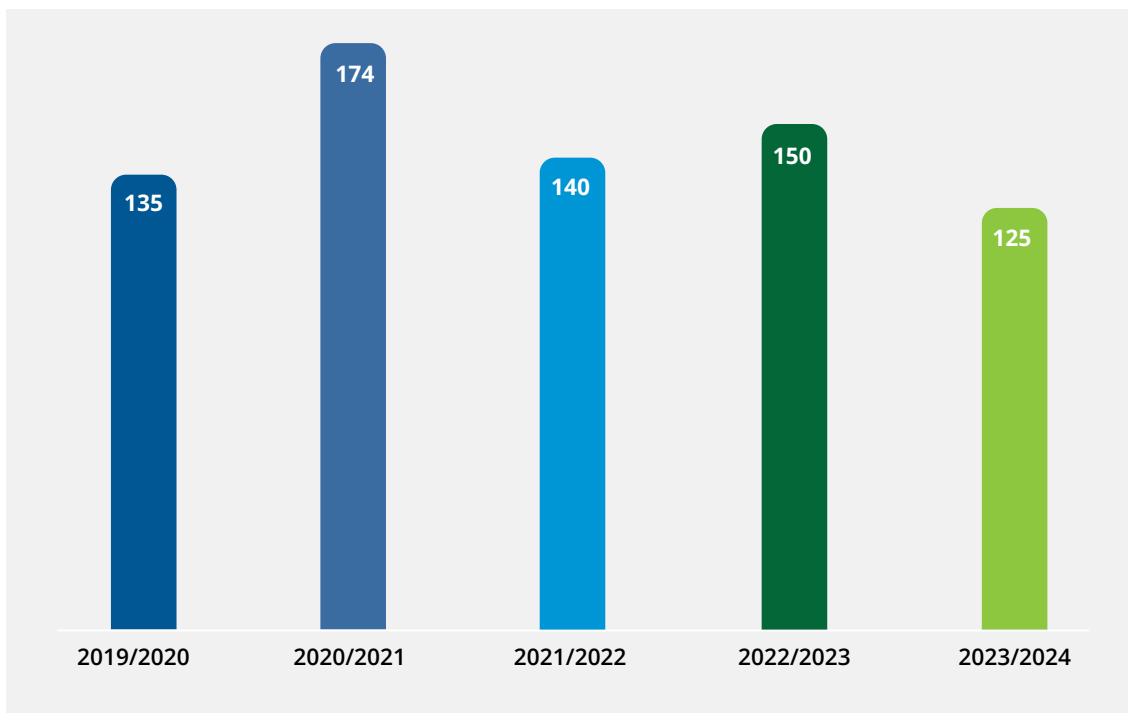
The adjudicatory chamber communicates its decision in full, written form at the latest 60 days after having notified the terms. If the party is found to have breached the FCE, the adjudicatory chamber may impose the following sanctions: a warning, a reprimand, compliance training, return of awards, a fine, community football service, a match suspension, a ban from dressing rooms and/or the team bench, a ban on entering a stadium, and/or a ban on taking part in any football-related activity.

Due to the separation of these chambers, the members of the FIFA Ethics Committee either serve in the investigatory chamber or the adjudicatory chamber. The current composition of both chambers is provided in Annexe A3.

## 4.1 Investigatory chamber

The investigatory chamber initiated a total of 125 investigations in 2023/2024.

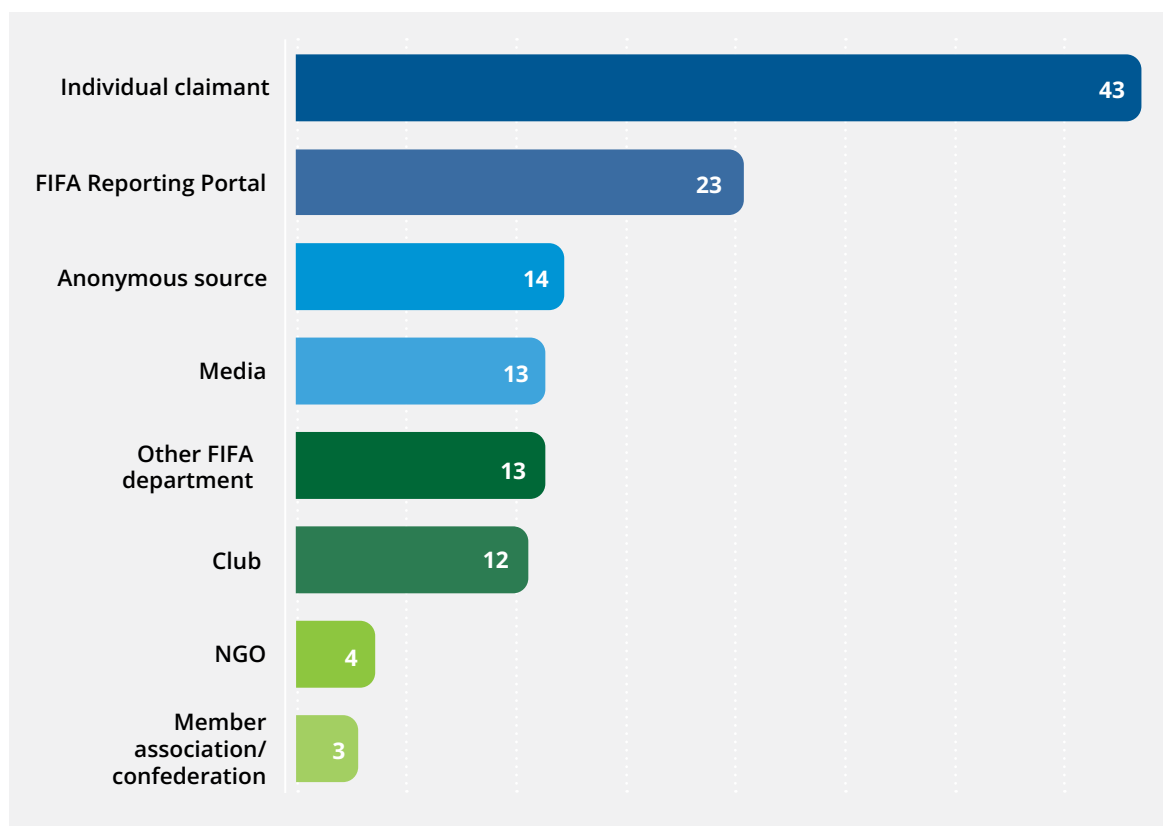
Figure 8: number of cases received by the investigatory chamber



Given that any person is entitled to file a complaint regarding potential breaches of the FCE before the secretariat of the investigatory chamber, the claims received originate from a broad range of sources. In 2023/2024, the sources included complaints from anonymous claimants, as well as individuals and the media, while complaints were also received through the FIFA Reporting Portal or forwarded by other FIFA departments, clubs, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and member associations and confederations.



Figure 9: originating sources of the investigations opened (2023/2024)



### How to report misconduct

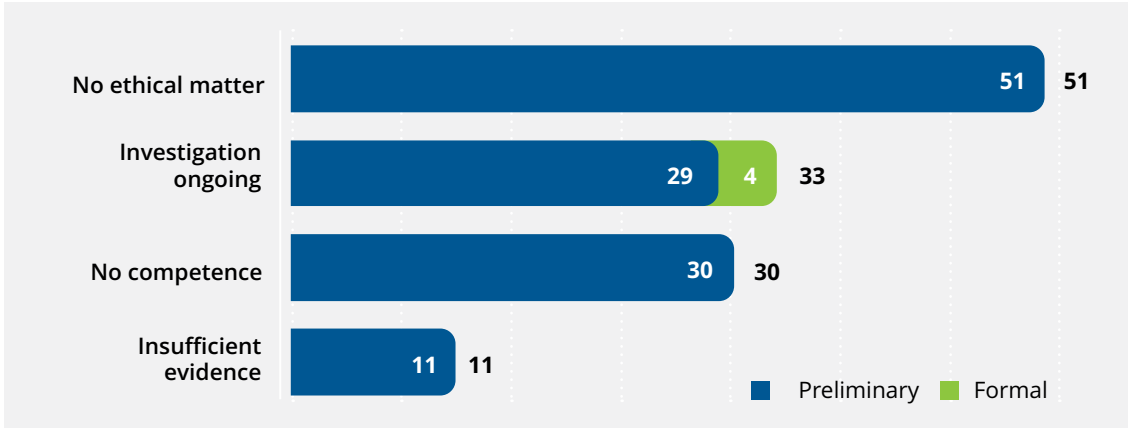
Pursuant to article 60 of the FCE, any person may file a complaint regarding potential breaches of the code with the secretariat of the investigatory chamber.

1. Via email: [secretariat-investigatory-chamber@fifa.org](mailto: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  
396 Alhambra Circle, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Coral Gables, Miami, Florida, 33134, USA

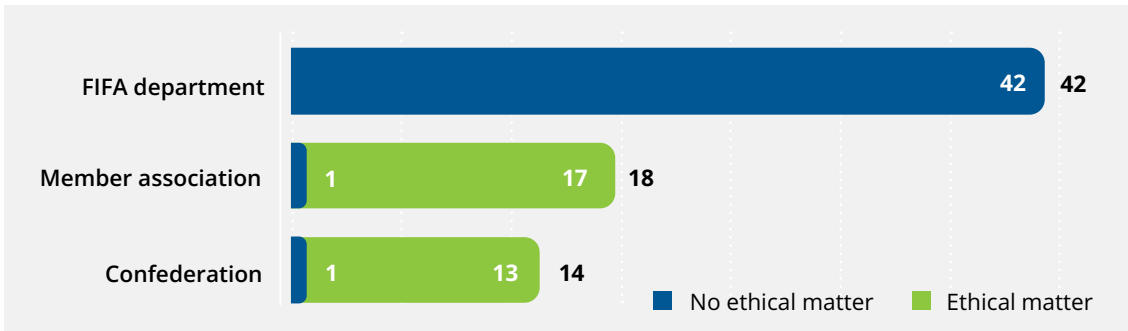
Ninety-one of the 125 investigatory proceedings initiated in 2023/2024 were completed and closed within the same period. A total of 51 cases were closed because, based on the content of the complaints, the investigatory chamber did not identify any potential breach of the FCE, i.e. the complaint was not of ethical nature. Thirty investigatory proceedings were closed because the FIFA Ethics Committee was not competent to address them (cf. art. 31 of the FCE). Eleven cases were closed due to a lack of sufficient evidence to establish a violation of the FCE, and the remaining 33 investigations were ongoing at the time of publication.

Figure 10: outcome/status of the investigatory proceedings initiated in 2023/2024



In the cases in which the FIFA Ethics Committee does not identify an ethical matter or lacks exclusive competence to investigate and judge the conduct of the individuals bound by the FCE (cf. art. 31 par. 1 of the FCE), the investigatory chamber may transfer the complaint to another FIFA department and/or to other bodies outside of FIFA, such as confederations or member associations, which may then proceed to initiate proceedings against the accused party/parties within their respective jurisdiction(s). In 2023/2024, this occurred in 81 cases, with 42 transferred to another FIFA department, 18 to a member association and 14 to a confederation. The remaining seven cases were not transferred to another entity because they had no relation to football.

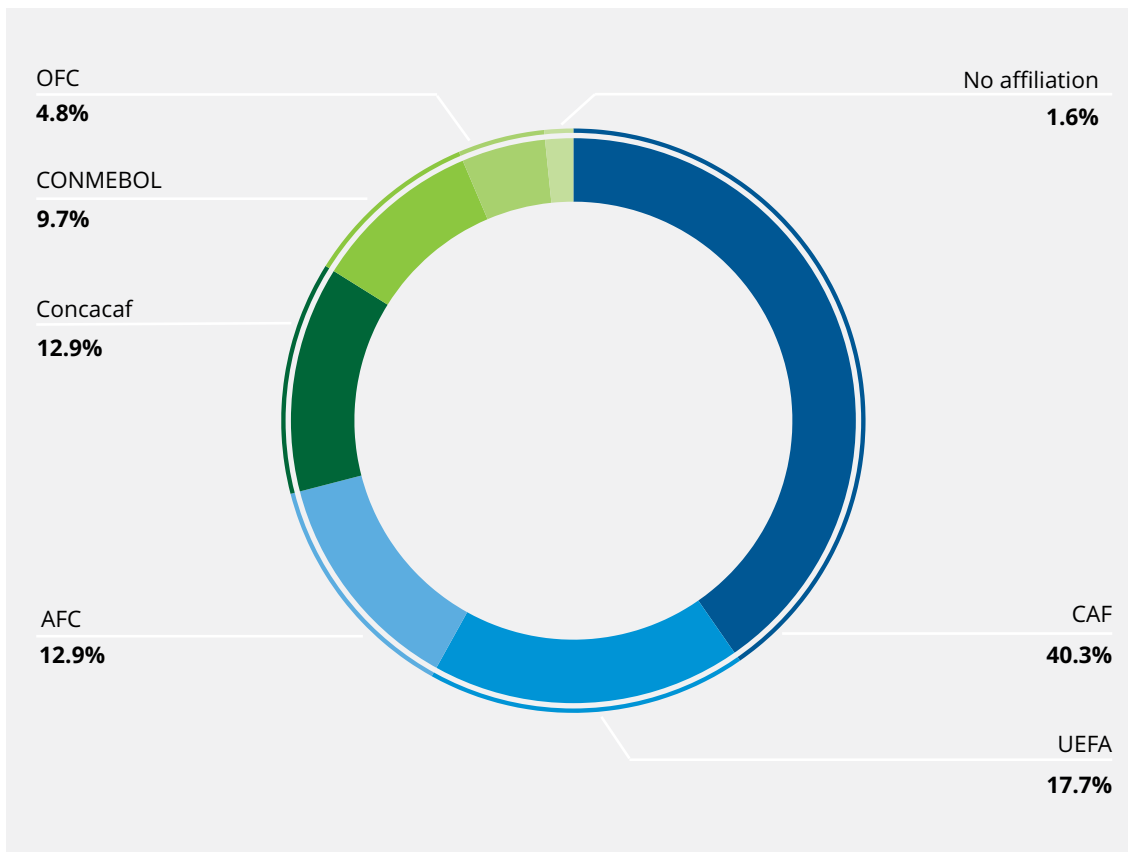
Figure 11: entities to which investigatory proceedings received in 2023/2024 were subsequently transferred, by type of matter



On the basis of article 31 paragraph 2 of the FCE, the FIFA Ethics Committee is entitled to decide on matters affecting players, coaches or any other official bound by the FCE when a conduct does not fall under the competence of a confederation or a member association, when no formal investigation has been initiated by the competent confederation or member association 90 days after FIFA was informed of the matter, or when the relevant confederation or member association agrees with FIFA to confer the competence regarding the matter. This occurred on two separate occasions in 2023/2024.

At the time of publication, 60 investigatory proceedings were ongoing.<sup>1</sup> Fifty-two of these were preliminary and eight were formal investigations. In 40.3% of these proceedings, the respondent belonged to an association affiliated to CAF or to CAF itself. This is followed by respondents affiliated to UEFA, which accounted for 17.7% of the total.

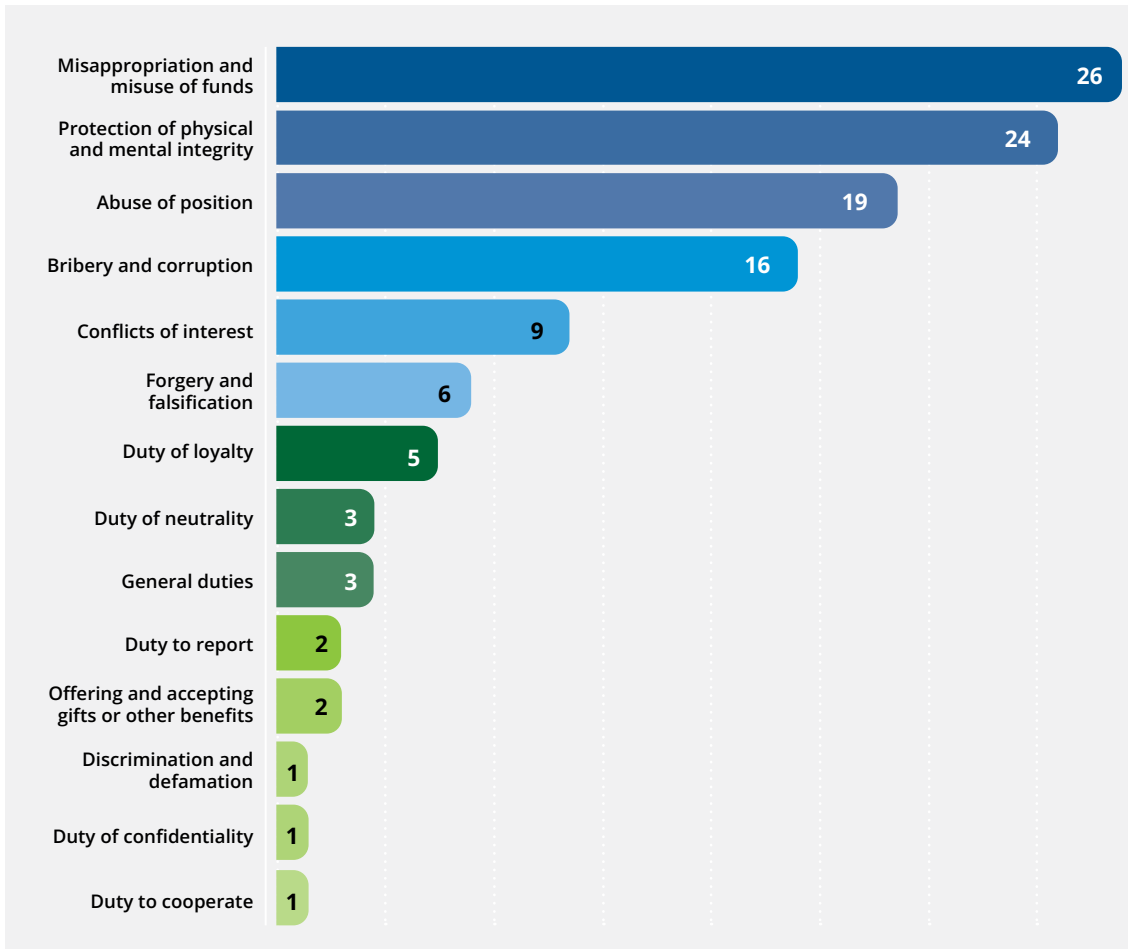
Figure 12: ongoing investigatory proceedings, by the respondent's confederation



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

<sup>1</sup> This includes investigations that were opened prior to 2023/2024.

Figure 13: potential infringements in ongoing investigatory proceedings

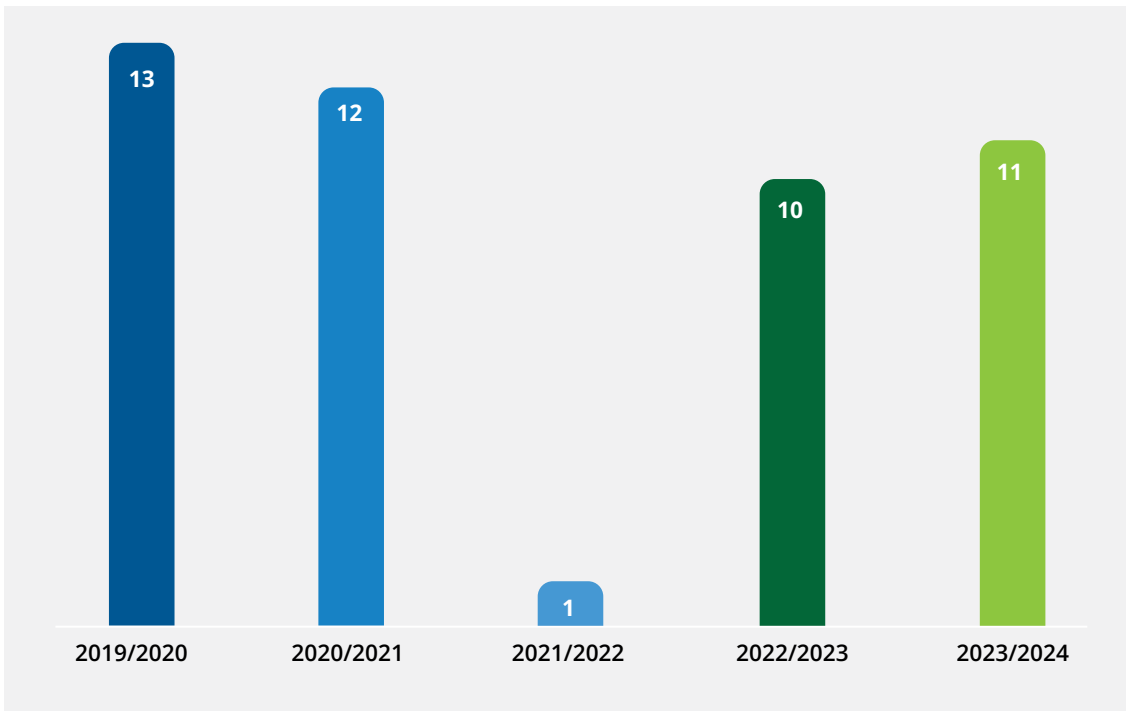


NB: The total may exceed the number of ongoing investigations because a single case may involve multiple infringements of the FCE.

Once the investigation has been completed, the investigatory chamber prepares a final report on the investigation proceedings, stating the rules that have been breached for which they require the adjudicatory chamber to make a judgement (cf. art. 64 of the FCE).

The number of final reports forwarded by the investigatory chamber to the adjudicatory chamber in 2023/2024 amounted to 11, which is one more than in 2022/2023.

Figure 14: number of final reports passed on to the adjudicatory chamber

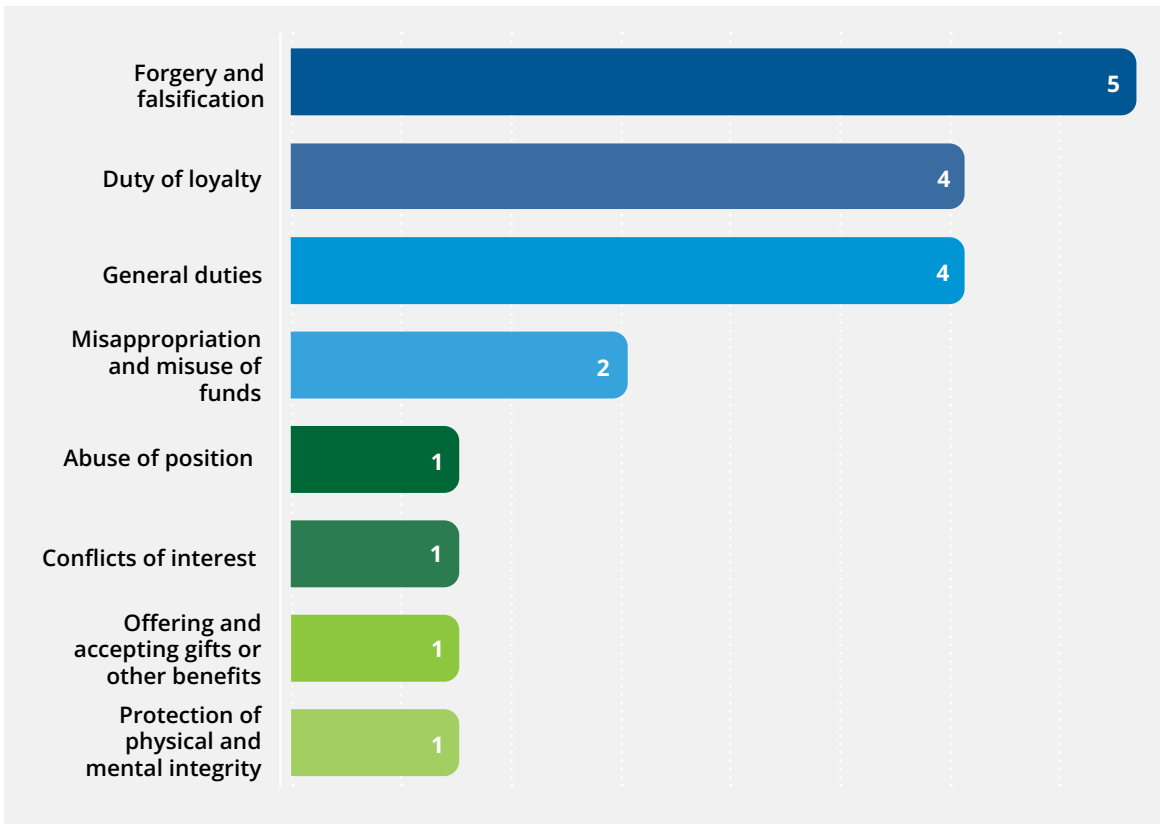


## 4.2 Adjudicatory chamber

The adjudicatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee is responsible for examining the investigation files forwarded by the investigatory chamber. In particular, it determines whether any breaches of the FCE can be established. In 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 above, the number of cases transferred to the adjudicatory chamber stayed the same with respect to the previous reporting period. A significant proportion of the cases involved breaches of forgery and falsification, and of duty of loyalty. The adjudicatory chamber rendered a total of nine decisions in 2023/2024, including two plea bargain agreements that were reached between the parties and the chairman of the investigatory chamber for minor offences. The adjudicatory chamber imposed provisional measures in one instance.

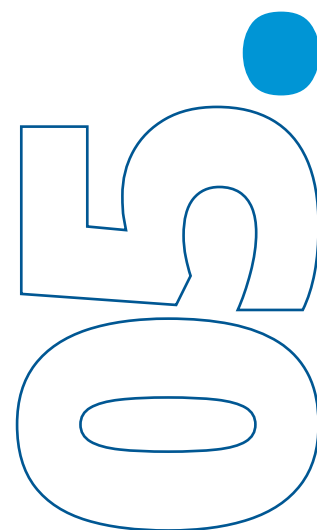
Figure 15: infringements established in decisions issued by the adjudicatory chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee (2023/2024)



NB: The total may exceed the number of decisions because a single case may have involved multiple infringements of the FCE (e.g. "Forgery and falsification" and "Duty of loyalty").



# ANNEXE CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEES



## A1 FIFA Disciplinary Committee

In accordance with article 31 of the 2023 edition of the FDC, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee is composed of the following members, appointed at the proposal of member associations, confederations, players, clubs and leagues.

### 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

## A2 FIFA 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



## A3 FIFA Ethics Committee

### Investigatory chamber

Chairman	
Martin Ngoga	Rwanda

Deputy chairman	
Bruno De Vita	Canada
Parusuraman Subramanian	Malaysia

Members	
Margarita Echeverría	Argentina
Jiahong He	China PR
Janet Katisya	Kenya
Alena Lapteva	Russia
John Tougon	Vanuatu

### Adjudicatory chamber

Chairman	
Vassilios Skouris	Greece

Deputy chairman	
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

## Disclaimer

With regard to any potential technical references included in this report, please be advised that in the event of any contradiction between this report and the actual text of the relevant regulations, the latter always prevails. Equally, this report cannot alter any existing jurisprudence of the competent decision-making bodies and is without prejudice to any decision that these bodies might be called upon to pass in the future. The information contained in this report is based on data provided directly by football stakeholders in the FIFA Transfer Matching System (TMS) and the FIFA Legal Portal. FIFA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness and reliability of this information. Due to the nature of the FIFA TMS and FIFA Legal Portal databases, the presence of pending cases, the potential cancellation of transfers and data corrections, numbers may differ from one report to another. In the event of any contradiction between this report and other FIFA publications, the most recent always prevails. All information contained herein is exclusively owned by FIFA, except where stated otherwise.

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