

Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

passed on 21 July 2025

DECISION BY:

Jorge PALACIO (Colombia), Deputy Chairperson
Lord VEEHALA (Tonga and New Zealand), Member
Paola LÓPEZ BARRAZA (Mexico), Member

ON THE CASE OF:

Chilean Football Association
(Decision FDD-24322)

REGARDING:

Article 15 - Discrimination and racist abuse (FDC_25)

I. FACTS

1. The following summary of the facts does not purport to include every single contention put forth by the actors at these proceedings. However, the Disciplinary Committee (the **Committee**) has thoroughly considered in its discussion and deliberations any and all evidence and arguments submitted, even if no specific or detailed reference has been made to those arguments in the following outline of its position and in the ensuing discussion on the merits.
2. The match between the representative teams of *Chile vs Argentina* was played on 05 June 2025 in the scope of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition (the **Match**).
3. The Match Commissioner of the Match cited the following incidents in his report (the **MC Report**):

Approximately 8,000 Chile fans chanted, "porompompom, porompompom, el que no salta es Argentino maricón" (in English: "porompompom, porompompom, who doesn't jump is an Argentine faggot") before the match, during a pre-game show by a comedian. The chant lasted for about 20 seconds.

4. In addition, FIFA's Anti-Discrimination Monitoring System provided the Secretariat to the FIFA Judicial Bodies (the **Secretariat**) with a report, citing *inter alia* the following (**the ADMOS report**):

1.1. Where did the incident take place? Please give details on blocks, row numbers, section or specific area of the stadium etc.	Northeast Stands, called "Andes" section.
1.2. Was the incident caused by fans of Team A or Team B?	Team A (Chile)
1.3. Exact time when the incident took place, including minutes of the match.	The incident took place before kick-off of the match (20:30 local time).
1.4. Describe exactly what happened and how many people were involved.	Approximately 8,000 Chile fans chanted, "porompompom, porompompom, el que no salta es Argentino maricón" (in English: "porompompom, porompompom, who doesn't jump is an Argentine faggot") before the match, during a pre-game show

	<i>by a comedian. The chant lasted for about 20 seconds.</i>
<i>1.5. Please describe the meaning of actions or signs/ flags/ banners/ clothing or other items of a possible discriminatory nature and specify if the incident related to race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason.</i>	<i>"maricón" (in English: "faggot") is a discriminatory word that is homophobic</i>
<i>1.6. How did the players and/ or match officials (including referees) and/ or other fans react to the incident/s?</i>	<i>There was no reaction, however, during the chant there was a pre-game message on the video board requesting respect. But this was not necessarily in reaction to the chant, only a pre-match sign</i>
<i>1.7. Other details of the incident you would like to mention.</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>1.8. If it was a repeated incident provide information about the frequency and duration. Please note the time, duration, location and number of people involved for each repeated incident.</i>	
<i>1.9. Links to submitted evidence. Evidence is uploaded in FIFA Cargo folder.</i>	<i>CHI v ARG_Evidence_MD15_FIFA Qualifier_05-06-2025</i>

5. The ADMOS Report was further supported by video footage recorded by the observer present at the Match.
6. On 09 June 2025, in view of the foregoing, the Secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (the **Secretariat**) opened disciplinary proceedings against the Chilean Football Association (the **Respondent**) with respect to potential breaches of arts. 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**). The Respondent was provided with the aforementioned report(s) and granted a six (6) day deadline within which to provide the Secretariat with its position.
7. On 13 June 2025, the Respondent submitted its position.

8. On 21 July 2025, the matter was submitted to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee for decision. The operative part of the decision was notified to the Respondent on 22 July 2025. It subsequently timely requested the grounds of the decision in line with art. 54 FDC.

II. RESPONDENT'S POSITON

9. The position of the Respondent can be summarized as follows:

- The Respondent acknowledges the occurrence of a chant deemed homophobic by FIFA, but contends that the incident was isolated, brief in duration (approximately 20 seconds), and perpetrated by a minority of attendees. The Respondent asserts that it responded immediately and appropriately by deploying audiovisual messages and stadium announcements aimed at curbing the chant and promoting respectful conduct.
- In its defense, the Respondent outlines a comprehensive suite of preventive and corrective measures implemented prior to and during the Match, including but not limited to: the activation of a public awareness campaign featuring prominent cultural figures; the incorporation of explicit behavioral clauses in ticketing terms and conditions; the enforcement of the *Protocolo de Derecho de Admisión*; and the deployment of the *Registro Nacional del Hinch*a (National Fan Registry - RNH), a biometric identification system enabling post-event accountability.
- The Respondent further emphasizes its ongoing commitment to anti-discrimination efforts, citing prior collaborations with civil society organizations and its willingness to engage with FIFA in the development of enhanced compliance frameworks. It also details the financial expenditures incurred in executing these measures, amounting to approximately CHF 16,720.
- In conclusion, the Respondent petitions the Disciplinary Committee to dismiss the charges or, alternatively, to apply mitigating considerations pursuant to Article 25 of the FDC, thereby reducing or waiving any sanctions, particularly those affecting stadium attendance capacity.

III. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

10. In view of the circumstances of the present case, the Committee decided to first address the procedural aspects of the case, *i.e.* its jurisdiction and the applicable regulatory framework, before proceeding to the merits of the case and determining the possible infringements as well as the possible resulting sanctions. In doing so, the Committee, reiterated that it has considered all the facts, allegations, legal arguments and evidence provided by the

Respondent, and in the present decision had only referred to those observations and evidence regarded as necessary to explain its reasoning.

A. Jurisdiction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

11. First of all, the Committee noted that at no point during the present proceedings did the Respondent challenge its jurisdiction or the applicability of the FDC.
12. Notwithstanding the above and for the sake of good order, the Committee found it worthwhile to emphasise that, on the basis of art. 2.1 FDC read together with art. 56 FDC, it was competent to evaluate the present case and to impose sanctions in case of corresponding violations.

B. Applicable law

13. In order to duly assess the matter, the Committee firstly began by recalling the content and the scope of the relevant provisions of the 2025 edition of the FDC, which was, in its view, the edition applicable to the present issue. In particular, considering the date in which the Match was played, the Committee considered that the merits and the procedural aspects of the present case should be covered by the 2025 edition of the FDC.
14. With respect to the applicable regulations, the Committee referred to art. 15 FDC which reads as follows:

Art. 15 of the FDC – Discrimination and racist abuse

"1. Any person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason shall be sanctioned with a suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specific period, or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.

[...]

6. If one or more supporters of a representative team or club engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1 above, the member association or club responsible will be subject to the following disciplinary measures, even if the member association or club concerned can prove the absence of any fault or negligence:

- a) For a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least CHF 20,000 shall be imposed on the association or club concerned, unless this would lead to an unreasonable financial impact on the affected member association or*

club, in which case the fine may be reduced, on an exceptional basis, to no less than CHF 1,000. As an exception to article 6.4 of this Code, the maximum fine to be imposed in cases of racist abuse against a player, match official, coach, other team official or any other person exercising an official role during a match shall be CHF 5,000,000;

b) For recidivists or repeat incidents, or if the circumstances of the case require it, disciplinary measures such as the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a match, expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division may be imposed on the association or club concerned.

7. The competent judicial body may deviate from the above minimum sanctions if the association and/or club concerned commits to developing, in conjunction with FIFA, a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be approved by FIFA and shall include, at least, the following three focus areas:

a) Educational activities (including a communication campaign aimed at supporters and the general public). The effectiveness of the campaign will be reviewed regularly.

b) Stadium security and dialogue measures (including a policy on how offenders will be identified and dealt with through football sanctions, a policy on escalation to state (criminal) legal authorities, and a dialogue with supporters and influencers on how to create change).

c) Partnerships (including working with supporters, NGOs, experts and stakeholders to advise on and support the action plan and ensure effective and ongoing implementation) [...]”.

15. Art. 15 FDC represents the continuation of art. 4 of the FIFA Statutes, which strictly prohibits racist abuse and discrimination of any kind and on any grounds. In particular, this provision of the Disciplinary Code aims to punish the perpetrator(s) of the racist and discriminatory acts, but also holds the clubs and association to which the perpetrator(s) belongs responsible for this behaviour in accordance with art. 15.2 FDC.

16. Through this strict liability rule, the club or association concerned is responsible for the misconduct of its supporters even if it is not at fault. As such, the Committee is empowered to sanction not only the perpetrator of the racist or discriminatory act, but also the club/association to which the latter belongs, in order to implement FIFA's zero-tolerance policy on discrimination.

17. In particular, the Committee wished to emphasise that the abovementioned principle of strict liability is a fundamental element of the football regulatory system, as well as one of the few legal tools to prevent misconduct by supporters from occurring and going unpunished.
18. Furthermore, the Committee highlighted that it should be kept in mind that discriminatory behaviour can be intentional but also unintentional in the sense that even if the use of the terms was not intentionally addressed to a specific person or group of persons for discriminatory purposes, these terms and expressions may still be insulting in the eyes of third parties¹.
19. Finally, the Committee recalled that according to the jurisprudence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the term "supporter" is an open concept, which must be assessed from the perspective of a reasonable and objective observer². This means that the behaviour of the person may lead a reasonable and objective observer to conclude that the latter is a supporter of that particular club/association. Moreover, CAS specified that the behaviour of individuals and their location in and around the stadium are important criteria in determining the team they support, as well as symbols worn or held by the individuals (shirts, hats, etc.)³.

C. Standard of proof

20. Firstly, the Committee recalled that, as a generally rule, the burden of proof regarding disciplinary infringements rests on the FIFA Judicial Bodies (cf. art. 41 FDC). In other words, the Committee is required to prove the relevant infringement(s) at stake.
21. Secondly, the Committee pointed out that, according to art. 39.3 FDC, the standard of "*comfortable satisfaction*" is applicable in disciplinary proceedings. According to this standard of proof, the onus is on the sanctioning authority to establish the disciplinary violation to the comfortable satisfaction of the judging body, taking into account the seriousness of the allegation.
22. Finally, the Committee further referred to art. 40 FDC, according to which the facts contained in the match officials' reports, as well as in the supplementary reports or correspondence submitted by the match officials, are presumed to be accurate – this, whilst bearing in mind that proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.
23. Having clarified the foregoing, the Committee proceeded to consider the merits of the case.

D. Merits of the case

¹ CAS 2016/A/4788

² CAS 2015/A/3874

³ CAS 2007/A/1217

1. Issues of review

24. The relevant provisions having been recalled, and the above having been established, the Committee proceeded to analyse the evidence at its disposal, in particular the documentation and information provided in the scope of the present disciplinary proceedings, in order to determine the potential violations of the FDC.
25. In this context, the Committee acknowledged that both the MC Report and the ADMOS Report confirm that the chant "porompompom, porompompom, who doesn't jump is an Argentine faggot" (the **Chant**) was sung by approximately 8,000 fans before the Match, during a pre-game show by a comedian. The chant lasted for about 20 seconds.
26. The above being recalled, the Committee firstly wishes to point out that the Respondent did not deny said incident. Rather, the Respondent argues that it was brief, isolated, and involved only a small group of fans. It also claims to have acted swiftly with audiovisual messages and announcements to stop the behavior. The Respondent also outlined several alleged preventive and corrective measures, including a public awareness campaign, ticketing clauses, enforcement protocols, and biometric fan identification.
27. As such, with the foregoing in mind and whilst also recounting that the facts as contained within the match officials' reports and/or records are presumed to be accurate (cf. art. 40 FDC), the Committee was comfortably satisfied that the chant occurred, furthermore because confirmed by the ADMOS Report.
28. In this sense, whilst acknowledging, as aforementioned, that the Respondent had not contested that the incident (the chant(s) related to the Match had occurred, the Committee nevertheless carefully analysed the video footage that had been provided alongside the ADMOS Report and found that the reported chant(s) was clearly audible.
29. In continuation, the Committee next observed from both ADMOS Report that the chant(s) at stake had been made by the supporters of the Chilean national team, a matter which was not contested by the Respondent. In any event, the Committee wished to point out that given that the chant(s) was clearly directed towards the opposite team, any reasonable and objective observer could only have concluded regardless that the perpetrators of the above-outlined incidents were supporters of the Chilean team. As a result, the Committee was likewise comfortably satisfied that the abovementioned incident(s) was committed by supporters of the Chilean team.
30. The above being determined, the Committee subsequently turned to its analysis of the abovementioned incident(s) in order to assess whether any provisions of the FDC had been breached by the Respondent.

2. Infringements committed by the Respondent

13. To begin with, the Committee recalled that it had no doubts that approximately 8,000 supporters had chanted the Chant during the Match.
14. Moreover, the Committee recalled that the aforementioned chants were clearly audible within the video footage at the Committee's disposal.
15. The Committee then noted from the Respondent's submissions that it did not challenge the connotation(s)/definitions assigned to the aforesaid chants within the ADMOS Report. Whilst taking this into account, the Committee decided to endorse the observations from the ADMOS Reports in so far as the word "maricón" (which can be translated in English as "faggot"), is homophobic. In particular, the Committee noted that the foregoing would be in line with some of its previous considerations in other decisions regarding the meaning of the word in question.
16. In this context, the Committee recalled that any use of homophobic slur(s) by supporters constituted a clear violation of art. 15 FDC, in so far that the former *"offends the dignity or integrity of (...) a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words (...) on account of (...) sexual orientation"* – any behaviour(s) of this kind being strictly prohibited and therefore warranting due sanction accordingly.
17. As a result, and in view of the above, the Committee deemed that the 8,000 supporters had performed a discriminatory chant(s) in the Match in violation of art. 15 (1) FDC, thus incurring the liability of the Respondent under the aforementioned principle of strict liability contained in art. 15(6) FDC - the Committee therefore holding that the Respondent had to be sanctioned accordingly.
18. The Committee both commended and praised the various efforts and initiatives implemented by the Respondent with the aim of preventing its supporters from engaging in discriminatory conduct. However, the Committee underlined that it did not follow – as suggested by the Respondent - that the Respondent was therefore to be excluded and/or excused from the strict liability it incurred for any determined discriminatory behaviour(s) and/or conduct of its supporters – such principle (of the strict liability of the Respondent for the former) being expressly enshrined under art. 15 (6) FDC.

3. The determination of the sanction

31. The Committee observed in the first place that the Respondent was a legal person, and as such was subject to the sanctions described under art. 6.1 and 6.3 FDC.

32. For the sake of good order, the Committee underlined that it is responsible to determine the type and extent of the disciplinary measures to be imposed in accordance with the objective and subjective elements of the offence, taking into account both aggravating and mitigating circumstances (art. 25.1 FDC).
33. As established above, the Respondent was found liable for the discriminatory behaviour of its supporters in accordance with art. 15 FDC.
34. In this respect, the Committee emphasised that FIFA has a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination and reiterated that any incidents in that regard should be condemned in the strongest possible terms as well as with sanctions that reflect the seriousness of the offence(s).
35. In continuation, the Committee recalled that, in so far that discriminatory incidents are concerned, it was in principle bound by the minimum sanctions foreseen under art. 15(6)(a) FDC if a first offence, and additional disciplinary measures under art. 15(6)(b) FDC for reoffenders or if the circumstances of the case require it.
36. For a first offence, the Committee observed that the minimum sanction is playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least CHF 20,000.
37. For a recidivist or repeat incidents, or if the circumstances of the case require, the Committee observed that disciplinary measures at its disposal included the implementation of a prevention plan, a fine, a points deduction, playing one or more matches without spectators, a ban on playing in a particular stadium, the forfeiting of a match, expulsion from a competition or relegation to a lower division may be imposed on the association or club concerned.
38. Against such background, whilst acknowledging and praising, as previously mentioned, the efforts of the Respondent by way of the various preventative measures and initiatives it had undertaken towards fighting discrimination and homophobia, the Committee held that it could not ignore the seriousness of the incidents at hand. Indeed, the Committee noted that the offence was particularly serious considering that 8,000 people were involved in the incident.
39. Additionally, the Committee also deemed it pertinent to point out that similar discriminatory behaviours from Chilean supporters had previously occurred during the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition⁴. As such, given that the incidents at stake in the present case were of similar nature and had been committed within less than three years of the previous offences, the Committee was satisfied that the present matters constituted a case of

⁴ FDD-16004 & 16330.

recidivism in the sense of art. 26 FDC and that the Respondent therefore undoubtedly qualified as a reoffender, thus justifying the application of art. 15(6)(b) FDC.

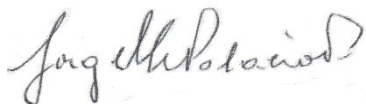
40. Having established the above, the Committee was satisfied that harsh sanctions were necessary considering that the previous ones failed to have the expected deterrent effect on those perpetrating the discriminatory chants. The various measures implemented by the Respondent unfortunately failed to be fruitful in eradicating the discriminatory chants. At the same time, the Committee took note of the measures adopted by the Respondent in respect of article 25 FDC.
41. As such, the Committee considered that, in line with art. 15(6) FDC and art. 6 (4) FDC, a fine of CHF 115,000 and one match to be played with a limited number of spectators (specifically, closure of at least 50% of the available seats in its next A level FIFA competition match) was the most appropriate and proportionate measure to be imposed upon the Respondent in response to the discriminatory behaviours of its spectators. The Committee further decided to suspend the amount of CHF 50,000 of the fine in line with article 27 FDC for a period of 12 months.
42. With regard to the match to be played with a limited number of spectators, the Committee held that such measure had to be implemented on the occasion of the next (A level) FIFA competition home match to be played by the Respondent. In this respect, the Committee considered that at least 50% of the available seats shall be closed during the match subject to the above sanction. However, the Committee considered it reasonable, pursuant to art. 7(2) FDC, to grant the Respondent the alternative to fill said percentage of seats with community and/or special interest groups (such as families, students, and anti-discrimination organisations), provided that the proposed seating plan include action against discrimination (e.g. having the spectators wear anti-discrimination shirts and/or displaying anti-discrimination banners) and that the seating plan is approved by FIFA.
43. Lastly, with the aim of further combatting the behaviour it is sanctioning, the Committee also determined it appropriate that the Respondent be required to implement and/or further develop a comprehensive plan (to be developed in conjunction with FIFA) to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents in accordance with art. 15(7) FDC.
44. The Committee was hopeful in its outlook that such sanctions would (finally) serve to have the necessary deterrent effect, both on the Respondent and its supporters, in order to avoid the occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

Decision

1. The Respondent, the Chilean Football Association, is found responsible for the discriminatory behaviour of its supporters in connection *Chile vs Argentina* played on 05 June 2025 in the scope of the FIFA World Cup 2026™ preliminary competition.
2. The following disciplinary measures are imposed on the Respondent, subject to point 3 below:
 - a. The Respondent is ordered to pay a fine to the amount of CHF 65,000, such fine to be invested towards an anti-discrimination plan as specified in point 3.a below.
 - b. The Respondent is ordered to pay a further fine of CHF 50,000, such fine being suspended for a period of 12 (twelve) months.
 - c. The Respondent is ordered to play either its next (A level) FIFA competition match or its next (A level) Tier 1 International Match (international friendly match), whichever may occur first, with a limited number of spectators. During the match subject to the above sanction, the Respondent is ordered to close at least 50% (fifty percent) of the available seats, such closure being required to be implemented primarily within the stands behind the goals. In addition, the Respondent shall submit to FIFA the proposed seating plan at the latest 15 days prior to said match.
3. In accordance with art. 7 par. 2 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the following directives shall apply to the above sanctions:
 - a. The Respondent shall, within six months of the notification of the present decision, invest the fine due as per point 2.a. above towards the implementation and/or further development of a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents, in compliance with art. 15 par. 7 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The plan shall be approved by FIFA.
 - b. In case of failure by the Respondent to comply with point 3.a. within the stipulated deadline granted, the suspension foreseen under point 2.b. shall be revoked and both the non-suspended fine (point 2.a.) and the suspended fine (point 2.b) shall be fully paid to FIFA within 30 days.
4. As an alternative to closing 50% (fifty percent) of the available seats as per point 2c. above, the Respondent may, subject to the approval by FIFA, fill said percentage of seats with

community and/or special interest groups (such as families, students, and anti-discrimination organisations). The proposed seating plan must include action against discrimination (e.g. having the spectators wear anti-discrimination shirts and/or displaying anti-discrimination banners). The Respondent shall submit said plan at the latest ten (10) days before said match.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jorge PALACIO (Colombia)

Deputy Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

LEGAL ACTION:

This decision can be contested before the FIFA Appeal Committee (art. 60 FDC). Any party intending to appeal must announce its intention to do so in writing, *via* the FIFA Legal Portal, within three (3) days of notification of the grounds of the decision. Reasons for the appeal must then be given in writing, *via* the FIFA Legal Portal, within a further time limit of five (5) days, commencing upon expiry of the first-time limit of three (3) days (art. 60 par. 4 FDC). The appeal fee of CHF 1,000 shall be transferred to the aforementioned bank account upon submission of the appeal brief (art. 60 par. 6 FDC).

NOTE RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF THE FINE:

Payment can be made either in Swiss francs (CHF) to account no. 0230-325519.70J, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH85 0023 0230 3255 1970 J or in US dollars (USD) to account no. 0230-325519.71U, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH95 0023 0230 3255 1971 U, with reference to the abovementioned case number.