

Date: 02 September 2025

Sent via FIFA Legal Portal to:
Chilean Football Association

Copy:
Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol

Notification of the grounds of the Decision

Ref. no. FDD-25020

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

Please find attached the grounds of the decision passed in the aforementioned case by the FIFA Appeal Committee on 21 August 2025.

We would appreciate your taking due note of this decision and ensuring its implementation.

Yours faithfully,

FIFA



Carlos Schneider

Decision of the FIFA Appeal Committee

passed on 21 August 2025

DECISION BY:

Neil EGGLESTON (USA), Chairperson

Bastian HASLINGER (Germany), Member

Salman AL-ANSARI (Qatar), Member

ON THE CASE OF:

Chilean Football Association
(Decision FDD-25020)

AGAINST:

Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee passed on 21 July 2025 (Ref. FDD-24322)

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 FIFA Appeal Committee (**the Appeal Committee**) has thoroughly considered any and all evidence and arguments submitted, even if no specific or detailed reference has been made to those arguments in the following outline and in the ensuing discussion on the merits.

A. Introduction

2. This case concerns the appeal brought by the Chilean Football Association (**FFCh** or the **Appellant**) in relation to the decision rendered by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee following several incidents during the 05 June 2025 FIFA World Cup 2026™ qualifier match between Chile and Argentina (the **Match**).
3. The FIFA Disciplinary Committee rendered a decision on 21 July 2025 (the **Appealed Decision**) and found the FFCh liable for breach of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, ed. 2025 (**FDC**), specifically the art. 15 (discrimination). The FFCh was sanctioned as described in continuation.

B. Facts relevant to the case

a. Match Commissioner Report

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

Incidents	
<i>Please describe any incidents of a possible discriminatory nature witnessed during the match. This may include, but is not limited to: chants, banners, gestures, flags or actions by any participant, fan or group at the stadium.</i>	
Did you witness incidents of a possible discriminatory nature? If so, provide all details in the next section.	Yes
1.1. Where did the incident take place? <i>Please give details on blocks, row numbers, section or specific area of the stadium etc.</i>	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.	<i>The incident took place before kick-off of the match (20:30 local time).</i>
1.4. Describe exactly what happened and how many people were involved.	<i>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.</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>"maricón" (in English: "faggot") is a discriminatory word that is homophobic.</i>
1.6. How did the players and/ or match officials (including referees) and/ or other fans react to the incident/s?	<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>

5. The ADMOS Report was further supported by video footage recorded by the observer present at the Match.
6. Accordingly, disciplinary proceedings were opened against the FFCh on 09 June 2025, and the FFCh timely submitted its position.
7. The matter was referred to the Committee on 17 July 2025. The operative part of the decision was notified to the FFCh on 22 July 2025, and the grounds on 04 August 2025.

b. The Appealed Decision

8. The Appealed Decision can be summarized as follows.
 - Approximately 8,000 Chilean supporters chanted a homophobic slur "*who doesn't jump is an Argentine faggot*" before the Match, during a pre-game show by a comedian. The chant was captured in the ADMOS report and corroborated by video evidence.
 - The FFCh did not deny the incident, but argued that it was brief, isolated, and involved only a small group of fans. It also claimed to have acted swiftly with audiovisual messages and

announcements to stop the behaviour. The FFCh also outlined several alleged preventive and corrective measures, including a public awareness campaign, ticketing clauses, enforcement protocols, and biometric fan identification.

- The Disciplinary Committee acknowledged the FFCh's efforts but emphasized that Article 15 FDC imposes strict liability for discriminatory conduct by supporters. This was the third such incident involving Chilean fans during the same competition (FDD-16004 & FDD-16330), qualifying the FFCh as a recidivist under Article 26 FDC. The Disciplinary Committee stressed the seriousness of the offense and the need for deterrent sanctions.
- FFCh was fined CHF 115,000 and ordered that FFCh's next 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), primarily behind the goals. Alternatively, the FFCh may fill those seats with community groups promoting anti-discrimination messages, subject to FIFA approval. The Appellant should submit to FIFA the proposed seating plan at the latest 15 days prior to said match. The FFCh must also submit an enhanced anti-discrimination action plan within six months. The Disciplinary Committee further decided to suspend the amount of CHF 50,000 of the abovementioned fine in line with Article 27 FDC for a period of 12 months.

C. Proceedings before the FIFA Appeal Committee

9. The Appellant submitted its intention to appeal and paid the appeal fee on 07 August 2025. Subsequently, the FCCh filed its appeal Brief on 12 August 2025. The Appellant's submissions are detailed in continuation.
10. On 19 August 2025, the Secretariat informed that the case had been referred to the Appeal Committee for adjudication.
11. The Appeal Committee decided on the matter as to the substance on 21 August 2025. The operative part of the decision was notified to the Appellant on the same day. Subsequently, the Appellant requested the grounds of the decision within the deadline set forth by art. 54, FDC.

II. APPELLANT'S POSITION

12. The position of the Appellant is summarized hereafter.
13. The FFCh argues that the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's decision contains significant errors in its assessment, particularly in failing to properly consider the immediate and effective response by the match organizers to the discriminatory chants that led to the sanction. FFCh promptly displayed anti-discrimination messages on the stadium's giant screen, using the hashtag "#conrespeto" and encouraging respectful support for the national team. Simultaneously, the stadium's audio system reinforced this message, urging the crowd to cease the offensive chants, which successfully stopped within 20 seconds and did not recur throughout the Match.
14. The FFCh highlights the lack of proportionality in the sanctions imposed. The Appealed Decision fails to conduct a substantive evaluation of the preventive measures and evidence presented by the FFCh. Among these efforts are the use of a special public address system during the Match to promote

respectful behaviour, the immediate activation of that system when chants began, and a high-impact audiovisual campaign led by Argentine comedian Jorge Alís, which conveyed a message of fraternity and respect. This campaign, reinforced by the appearance of the iconic Chilean character “Condorito,” aimed to ridicule xenophobic attitudes through satire and promote a positive fan culture. FFCh asserts that this initiative demonstrates the absence of intent or negligence and should be considered a material and significant act of good faith, serving as a key mitigating factor.

15. In addition, FFCh implemented changes to ticketing terms and conditions, explicitly prohibiting homophobic chants and applying its “*Protocolo de Derecho de Admisión*” (Admission Rights Protocol) which allows for sanctions of up to four years of stadium bans for identified offenders. The Appellant also deployed the National Fan Registry (RNH), a pioneering biometric system that enables post-match identification and sanctioning of individuals. A pilot test of this system was conducted during the Match, further demonstrating FFCh’s commitment to accountability and prevention.
16. FFCh emphasizes that the discriminatory chants occurred in specific sections of the stadium and did not reflect widespread behaviour among attendees. A proper analysis of the extent of the conduct should have been undertaken by the Disciplinary Committee, especially considering that the involved spectators represented less than one-fifth of the total audience. The absence of such analysis contributes to the disproportionality of the sanctions.
17. Finally, FFCh argues that the requirement to invest CHF 65,000 in an anti-discrimination plan, while simultaneously being subjected to a 50% stadium capacity restriction, exacerbates the financial impact and hinders the implementation of the very measures demanded by FIFA. The FFCh reiterates its commitment to eliminating discriminatory conduct and urges that its sustained efforts be duly considered by FIFA’s disciplinary bodies, ensuring that sanctions for fan-related incidents do not become an unduly burdensome penalty.

Exhibits

- Video of anti-discrimination of the campaign “*Campaña contra la Xenofobia y la Discriminación*” featuring comedian Jorge Alís and character “Condorito”, which was displayed on the stadium’s screen.
- Detailed script of the audiovisual activation referred above.
- Copy of the ticket sales terms and conditions applicable to the Match, which include the clauses on spectator behavior and the sanctions for the chanting of discriminatory songs.
- Admission Rights Protocol (*Protocolo de Derecho de Admisión*), allowing sanctions up to 4 years of stadium ban for offenders.
- National fan registry (RNH) with the biometric system for identifying and sanctioning fans.
- Record of the 8,397 registered fans from the affected stadium sector, for internal investigation and sanctioning.
- Proof of payment of the costs associated with the prevention policy implemented for the Match: CLP \$10,524,360 for campaign production and CLP \$119,956 for audio operations.

Request for relief

18. The Appellant requests the following relief:

- The Appeal Committee to admit the appeal and issue a decision whereby the FFCh is not found responsible for any violation of Article 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code.
- Without prejudice to the foregoing to amend and, ultimately, reduce the sanctions imposed, both with respect to the monetary fine of CHF 115,000 and the restriction of 50% of available seating at its next home match. The Appellant requests that the Committee consider applying either one of these sanctions, or any other measure it deems appropriate and proportionate.

III. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

19. In view of the circumstances of the present matter, Appeal Committee decided to address the procedural aspects of the present matter, namely, the jurisdiction and the applicable law, before entering into the substance of the matter.

A. Jurisdiction of the FIFA Appeal Committee and applicable law

20. Firstly, the Appeal Committee noted that at no point during the present proceedings did the Appellant challenge the jurisdiction of the Appeal Committee, or the applicability of the FDC.
21. Secondly, the Appellant recalled that the procedural aspects of the matter at stake were governed by the 2025 FDC, in particular considering that (i) the 2025 FDC entered into force on 1 June 2025, (ii) the Match occurred on 05 June 2025, and (iii) the present appeal was lodged by the Appellant on 12 August 2025.
22. In these circumstances, art. 4 FDC establishes that the current edition of the FDC shall apply to all disciplinary offences committed following the date on which it comes into force.
23. In light of the foregoing and following the provision of art. 4(1) FDC, the Appeal Committee established that both the merits and the procedural aspects of the present case should fall under the 2025 edition of the FDC.
24. Consequently, the Appeal Committee considered that, in accordance with art. 60 in conjunction with art. 61 of the FDC, it was competent to hear the appeal lodged by the Appellant against the decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee.
25. The Appeal Committee also confirmed that since the requirements under art. 60 FDC are met, the appeal is admissible.
26. Additionally, the Appeal Committee drew special attention to art. 15 FDC as being of relevance in assessing the current matter, this without prejudice that other rules may also be at stake. It recalled in this respect that art. 15 FDC constitutes the legal basis for discipline regarding cases concerning behavior and the responsibility of member associations for the discriminatory behavior of their fans.
27. This being established, the Appeal Committee subsequently turned its attention to the merits of the present case.

B. Merits

28. The Appeal Committee recalled that, on the basis of the Appealed Decision and the arguments of the Appellant, the central elements that must be analyzed are whether mitigating circumstances exist and the applied sanction is proportionate.
29. Accordingly, the Appeal Committee then proceeded to address the second issue at stake as raised by the Appellant
30. In doing so and following a thorough review of the case file and the grounds of appeal, the Appeal Committee concurred with the Appealed Decision's conclusion that Chilean supporters engaged in discriminatory chanting during the Match. This chant, specifically the phrase "*porompompom, porompompom, el que no salta es Argentino maricón* ", was noted in the case file and at no point the Appellant challenged the occurrence of such discriminatory incident.
31. The Appeal Committee underlined that this chant was clearly audible in the video evidence submitted alongside the ADMOS Report. The term "maricón", which is often translated as "faggot", is a homophobic slur. The discriminatory nature of this term has been recognised in FIFA jurisprudence on several occasions, as evidenced for instance by decisions FDD-16004, FDD-16330, FDD-16005, FDD-19344 and FDD-23340.
32. The Appeal Committee wished to reiterate that such language constitutes a violation of Article 15(1) of the FDC, which prohibits any conduct that offends the dignity or integrity of individuals or groups on the basis of sexual orientation. The use of homophobic slurs by supporters, regardless of context or intent, falls within the scope of this provision. In accordance with Article 15(6) FDC, associations are subject to strict liability for the discriminatory conduct of their supporters, irrespective of any preventive or corrective measures they may have implemented.
33. In this regard, the Appeal Committee acknowledges the various initiatives undertaken by the FFCh to prevent discriminatory behaviour, including the anti-discrimination messages on the stadium's screen as an immediate response by the match organizers to the discriminatory chants. In addition, the Appeal Committee has duly noted the awareness campaigns, the terms and conditions applied to the ticket holders, the admission rights protocol and the biometric system for identifying and sanctioning individuals. In the Appeal Committee's view, these efforts are commendable and were duly considered as mitigating factors by the Appealed Decision – which, for instance, did not outright determine that the FFCh's next match should be played without or with a limited number of spectators and allowed for an alternative seating plan. However, the principle of strict liability remains applicable and cannot be displaced by such measures alone. Furthermore, there was no evidence that any individual was sanctioned by the FFCh in this regard, in spite of all the measures adopted. In the Appeal Committee's view, any such measures adopted by the FFCh are moot if they do not end up in identifying and sanctioning the concerned individuals.
34. The Appeal Committee also gave due consideration to the Appellant's assertion that the chant was purportedly sung by less than 20% of the supporters. While the Appeal Committee concurred that this figure represents a part of the total attendance, any instance of discriminatory behaviour constitutes a disciplinary infringement under Article 15(1) FDC, regardless of the number of individuals involved. The threshold for liability is not based on the scale of the misconduct but on its nature and impact. In any case, 8,000 supporters is a considerable number.

35. The Appeal Committee finds that this factor does not outweigh the aggravating element of recidivism, as the FFCh has previously been sanctioned for similar conduct, including in case FDD-16004 & 16330. The recurrence of such behaviour, despite prior disciplinary measures and preventive efforts, underscores the need for a firm and consistent response.
36. As highlighted before, in assessing the proportionality of the sanction, the Appeal Committee found the Disciplinary Committee exercised its discretion appropriately by opting for a sanction that included alternative measures rather than imposing a full or partial stadium closure. This approach – so deemed the Appeal Committee – reflects a balanced application of the FDC, taking into account both the seriousness of the offence and the mitigating circumstances presented by the FFCh in strict and correct application of article 25 FDC. Furthermore, the Appeal Committee finds that the fine imposed was found to be both adequate and consistent with established precedents. For comparison:
- In the case FDD-23340, the Colombian Football Federation was fined CHF 80,000 and subjected to a 25% spectator limitation and a similar order to implement preventive measures.
 - In the cases FDD-16004 & FDD-16330, the FFCh was fined CHF 30,000 (plus CHF 50,000 suspended), with a 50% spectator limitation and a similar order to implement preventive measures.
 - In the case FDD-24367, the Argentinian Football Association was fined CHF 60,000 (plus CHF 60,000 suspended), with a 25% spectator limitation and a similar order to implement preventive measures.
37. In light of these precedents, the Appeal Committee ruled that the sanction imposed on the Appellant is proportionate and consistent with FIFA's disciplinary framework.

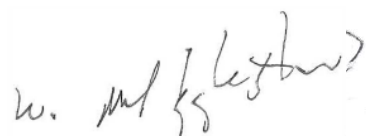
C. Conclusion

38. As a result, the Appeal Committee concluded that the appeal must be rejected in its entirety, and the Appealed Decision confirmed in full. It also decided that the costs of these proceedings of CHF 1,000 should be borne by the Appellant. This is offset against the appeal fee paid.

DECISION OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

- 1. The appeal lodged by the Appellant, Chilean Football Association, against the Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee passed on 21 July 2025 is dismissed. Consequently, said decision is confirmed in its entirety.**
- 2. The costs and expenses of these proceedings in the amount of CHF 1,000 are to be borne by the Appellant. The amount is set off against the appeal fee of CHF 1,000 already paid.**

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Neil Eggleston

Chairperson of the FIFA Appeal Committee