

# Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

passed on 29 August 2025

## DECISION BY:

**Jorge PALACIO (Colombia), Deputy Chairperson**  
**Lord VEEHALA (Tonga and New Zealand), Member**  
**Martin PROCHAZKA (Czechia), Member**

## ON THE CASE OF:

**CA River Plate**

(Decision FDD-24455, FDD-24503 & FDD-24587)

## REGARDING:

**Article 13 - Offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play (FDC\_25)**  
**in respect of art. 13.4 of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ Media and Marketing**  
**Regulations (MMR) and art. 4.3 of the FIFA Equipment Regulations (FER\_2025)**

**Article 15 - Discrimination and racist abuse (FDC\_25)**

**Article 17 - Order and security at matches (FDC\_25)**

**Article 17.2.b - Throwing of objects (FDC\_25)**

**Article 17.2.c - Lighting of fireworks or any other objects (FDC\_25)**

**Article 17.2.h - Lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium (FDC\_25)**

## I. FACTS

1. The following summary of the facts does not purport to include every single contention put forth by the parties 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. All the following matches were played in the scope of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ (collectively, the **Matches**), in which CA River Plate (the **Respondent** or **River Plate**) took part:
  - The match *CA River Plate vs. Urawa Red Diamonds* was played on 17 June 2025 (the **Match 1**).
  - The match *CF Monterrey vs. CA River Plate* was played on 21 June 2025 (the **Match 2**).
  - The match *FC Internazionale Milano v. CA River Plate* was played on 25 June 2025 (the **Match 3**).

### MATCH 1

3. FIFA's Anti-Discrimination Monitoring System Report (the **ADMOS Report**), indicated *inter alia* the following regarding Match 1:
  - A group of approximately 50 River Plate fans, scattered throughout the upper stand, chanted a homophobic chant. In Spanish, "*Es para vos, es para vos, bostero puto la puta que te parió*". In English, it can be translated to: "It's for you, it's for you, fucking faggot Boca fan."

### MATCH 2

4. The ADMOS Report indicated *inter alia* the following regarding Match 2:

#### CHANT 1

- Prior to kick-off, outside the stadium bowl, the seating area, but within the stadium perimeter River Plate fans chanted a homophobic chant (Chant 1) with the word puto in it. Around 16:46 a group of several hundred River Plate fans chanted it again. In Spanish, "*porque sos puto y cagón*". In English, it can be translated to: "because you're a faggot and a coward".
- Approximately 2000-3000 River Plate fans chanted the Chant 1 including the word 'puto'. The chant lasted for around 1 minute. The incident was repeated around 18:00 at the start of the game. The incident was repeated in the 14th/15th minute.

#### CHANT 2

- Around 16:52, outside the stadium, a group of several hundred River Plate fans chanted another homophobic chant (Chant 2) with the word puto in it. In Spanish, "*Así lloran todos los putos de Boca, oh oh*". In English, it can be translated to: "so all the Boca faggots cry, oh oh".

- Around the 86<sup>th</sup> minute of the game, the River Plate fans chanted the Chant 2 with the word puto in it. The incident was not repeated.

### CHANT 3

- Around 45 minutes before kick-off, a group of approximately 1000-2000 River Plate fans chanted a homophobic chant (Chant 3). River Plate fans chanted "*Andrada culo roto*", which means "Andrada broken ass" in English. The chant lasted for around 15 seconds. Andrada is a former player of Boca Juniors now playing for their opposite team, Monterrey. The incident was repeated around 18:00 at the start of the game- chant 3.

5. The Referee Report indicated the following regarding Match 2:

- *Smoke in both stands (CA River Plate and CF Monterrey Fans, since KO-3 until the end of the match. More details will be provided by Match Commissioner.*

6. The Match Commissioner Report indicated the following regarding Match 2:

- *Smoke devices activated from supporters of both teams in different times (more detail insupplementary report). A big flag (tifo) that was not approved, was opened by River Plate supporters KO-2min.*
- *One marketing infringement from River Plate. More details in the supplementary report.*
- *Around min 38, I could here the word "culero" from west stand which was a mixed area. It was not posible to identify from supporters of which team this came.*
- *One team official from River Plate wears a non-approved shirt (two logos / brands). Photo evidence was provided.*
- *Smoke devices were activated as follows: KO-8mins (sec 13); Min 82 - Sector 9/10.*
- *River plate supporters opened a big flag (tifo) that was not approved. Pictures provided.*

### **MATCH 3**

7. The ADMOS Report indicated *inter alia* the following regarding Match 3:

- After the match fans from River Plate started to say "negro de mierda", "puto", "mono" for the Internazionale players and match official.
- Approximately 3000-4000 River Plate fans chanted a homophobic chant including the word "puto" (Chant 1). The incident and chant was repeated - a group of approximately 3000-4000 River Plate fans chanted the same chant.

- Approximately 3000-4000 River Plate fans chanted another homophobic chant including the word 'puto' (Chant 2). The incident was repeated - a group of approximately 3000-4000 River Plate fans chanted the same chant.
8. The Referee Report indicated the following regarding Match 3:
- *After the match, Internazionale number 2 & River Plate number 21 were involved in a nonviolent confrontation which resulted in many people from both teams, players and officials, being involved in a confrontation. No violence was seen by the officials.*
9. The Match Commissioner Report indicated the following regarding Match 3:
- *Before the game red and white smoke came from River Plate fans.*
  - *A couple of Inter players immediately ran into the tunnel, at which time fans from the RIV supporters' section starting throwing food, drinks, and flag poles towards them. The confrontation calmed down after a few minutes and both teams returned to competitions area.*
10. In view of the foregoing, the Secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (the **Secretariat**) opened disciplinary proceedings against the CA River Plate (the **Respondent**) as follows:
- On 18 June 2025, with respect to potential breaches of art. 15 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**) in connection with the Match 1 (case ref. FDD-24455). 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.
  - On 23 June 2025, with respect to potential breaches of arts. 13, 15 and 17 (17.2.c and 17.2.h) FDC in connection with the Match 2 (case ref. FDD-24503). 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.
  - On 27 June 2025, with respect to potential breaches of arts. 15 and 17 (17.2.b and 17.2.c) FDC in connection with the Match 3 (case ref. FDD-24587). 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.
11. The Respondent submitted its position with the prescribed deadline in all three proceedings.
12. On 26 August 2025, the proceedings were referred to the Committee for decision. On 29 August 2025, the Committee rendered the decision, the terms of which were notified on the same date. The Respondent subsequently timely requested the grounds of the decision in line with art. 54 FDC.

## II. RESPONDENT'S POSITON

13. As to the Match 1 (case ref. FDD-24445), the position of the Respondent can be summarized as follows.

- River Plate condemns and repudiates the chant. However, it disputes the interpretation and scope of the chant under art. 15 FDC. The chant occurred during the celebration of the third goal and the footage shows only one dominant voice, with nearby fans not visibly participating. Moreover, the estimated number of 50 participants is considered excessive, and the chant was directed at Boca Juniors fans, not Urawa or its supporters.
- The term “*puto*” is argued to be colloquial, vulgar, and not homophobic in this context and no reaction from referees, players, or other spectators. In addition, Match Commissioner’s Report confirms no incidents occurred.
- River Plate has a strict internal protocol for identifying and sanctioning misconduct: disciplinary proceedings for members; admission bans for non-members and blocking access via River ID. Educational and awareness campaigns promote by the Respondent include: “La Pasión No Discrimina” with Fundación River Plate<sup>1</sup>; public guidelines on the club’s website<sup>2</sup>; announcements and educational content during matches, as well as collaboration with the Simon Wiesenthal Center on anti-discrimination initiatives.
- The Respondent requests: (i) consideration of its preventive efforts as mitigating factors (art. 15.7 FDC); (ii) limited application of strict liability, as CA River Plate was not the organising club and lacked control over the venue (art. 8) and (iii) reduction of any potential fine to the minimum, based on extenuating circumstances (arts. 25 and 15.6/15.7 FDC).

14. As to the Match 2 (case ref. FDD-24503), the position of the Respondent can be summarized as follows.

- In addition to the legal arguments raised in FDD-24503 regarding the discriminatory chant, the Respondent argues that chants were not directed at Monterrey, but at Boca Juniors, CA River Plate’s traditional rival, and the club highlights the sociological context of football fan culture in Argentina and its ongoing efforts to address it.
- With regards to the pyrotechnics and the banner, the Respondent condemns those actions, and states that it lacked control over stadium access as it was not the organizing club. The Respondent highlights the internal protocols and the educational campaigns mentioned in the previous case.
- The same relief is requested as indicated for FDD-24445.

15. As to the Match 3 (case ref. FDD-24503), the position of the Respondent can be summarized as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.cariverplate.com.ar/junto-a-la-fundaci-n-river-se-present-la-campa-a-la-pasi-n-no-discrimina> & <https://fundacionriver.org.ar/la-pasion-no-discrimina>

<sup>2</sup> Available at: <https://www.cariverplate.com.ar/normas-y-recomendaciones-para-los-espectadores>

- In addition to the legal arguments raised in FDD-24503 & FDD-24445 regarding the discriminatory chant, and do not deny that the racist insults occurred. In addition, the Respondent argues that it condemns the use of pyrotechnics and object throwing, and that the club lacked control over stadium access and security, as it was not the organizing club. Furthermore, no images were provided of the smoke bomb, and the incidents did not affect the match's development.
- The same relief is requested as indicated for FDD-24445 and FDD-24503.

### **III. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

16. 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**

17. 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.
18. 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**

19. 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 dates in which the Matches were 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.

#### **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. Issues of review & infringements committed by the Respondent**

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 the following elements in connection with the Matches:

#### **Match 1**

- From the ADMOS Report: one instance of discriminatory (homophobic) chant.

#### **Match 2**

- From the ADMOS Report: three instances of discriminatory (homophobic) chants.
- From the Match Commissioner's Report: violation of equipment regulations, two instances of lighting of fireworks and lack of discipline/order in the stadium (flag).

#### **Match 3**

- From the ADMOS Report: three instances of discriminatory (homophobic) chants.
- From the Match Commissioner's Report: one instance of lighting of fireworks, one instance of throwing of multiple objects, one instance of (homophobic) chant and one instance of racist offenses.

26. The above being recalled, the Committee firstly wishes to point out that the Respondent argues that the alleged violations of Article 17.2(c) FDC lacks video evidence, undermining its right to a proper defence. It claims FIFA, as the event organizer, failed to prevent pyrotechnics from entering the stadium, implying shared responsibility. Regarding Article 15 FDC, the Respondent denies the chants were discriminatory but does not deny that they took place. The Respondent asserts that the term "puto" was misinterpreted and culturally refers to cowardice, not sexual orientation. It emphasizes the absence of discriminatory intent, lack of reaction from stakeholders, and invokes the principle of insignificance and relevant CAS jurisprudence.

27. 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.

***As to the discriminatory chants***

28. 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) [...]”.*

29. 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 FDC 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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 parties<sup>3</sup>.
33. 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 observer<sup>4</sup>. 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, the 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.)<sup>5</sup>.
34. At this junction, the Committee recalled that it had no doubts that approximately (i) 50 supporters had chanted the discriminatory chants during the Match 1, (ii) 2,000-3,000 had chanted the discriminatory Chant 1, several hundred chanted the Chant 2 and 1,000-2,000 fans chanted the discriminatory Chant 3 during the Match 2. In addition, further 3,000-4,000 had chanted discriminatory chants (Chant 1 and 2), as well as racist offenses were directed to the members of the opposite team during the Match 3. The Committee was comfortably satisfied that the chants

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<sup>3</sup> CAS 2016/A/4788.

<sup>4</sup> CAS 2015/A/3874.

<sup>5</sup> CAS 2007/A/1217.

and the racist offense occurred, furthermore because confirmed by the ADMOS Reports (and accompanying footage) and not denied by the Respondent. In this sense, the Committee carefully analysed the video footage that had been provided alongside the ADMOS Reports and found that the reported chants were clearly audible within the pertinent video footage applicable to each denoted incident.

35. The Committee then considered it appropriate to rely on the ADMOS Reports and the accompanying videos and news articles since it is permitted to do so under art. 39 FDC, which provides that “any type of proof may be produced”. On this basis, the Committee, whilst recognizing that the ADMOS Reports cannot be considered as being reports of a match official, accepted that the ADMOS Reports and the accompanying videos could nevertheless be taken into account and assessed as evidence.
36. In continuation, the Committee next observed from both ADMOS Reports that the chants at stake had all been made by supporters of the *Respondent*, a matter which the latter has also not contested. In any event, the Committee wished to point out that given that the two out of the three chants were clearly directed towards fans of rival Argentinian teams, any reasonable and objective observer could only have concluded regardless that the perpetrators of the above-outlined incidents were supporters of the Respondent. Equally, regarding Match 3, the racist remarks were directed at players of the opposing team.
37. The Committee then noted from the Respondent’s submissions that it challenged the connotation(s)/definitions assigned to the aforesaid Chants 1 and 2 within the ADMOS Reports. Whilst taking this into account, the Committee decided to endorse the observations from the ADMOS Reports in so far as the word “*puto*” (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 “*puto*” involving other Respondents (whereby it was also considered to be a discriminatory term on the grounds of FDD-15932, FDD-16685, FDD-24367, FDD-18582 and FDD-24551).
38. With regards to the expression “*culo roto*”, (which can be translated in English as “*broken ass*”), it refers to the act of anal sex and is used in this context as a homophobic insult to the player Andrada, a former Boca Juniors player who was playing for the opposite team, Monterrey. It implies that Andrada have been subjected to anal rape. Therefore, the Committee concluded that Respondent’s argument that this is a justifiable context-related expression shall not be regarded.
39. Furthermore, the Committee observed that the Respondent did not challenge the connotation of the expressions “*negro de mierda*” and “*mono*” (respectively “black piece of shit” and “monkey”). In this regard, the Committee clearly identify both terms as racially offensive. Specifically, the Committee noted that referring to a person as “*mono*” perpetuates dehumanizing stereotypes historically used to demean Black individuals. Likewise, the phrase “*negro de mierda*” is explicitly derogatory and discriminatory, reinforcing the misconception of racial inferiority and hostility.
40. In this context, the Committee recalled that any use of homophobic slur(s) and racist insults 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 is strictly prohibited and therefore warranting due sanction accordingly. The Committee was baffled by the appalling discriminatory behaviour of the Respondent's fans, who displayed homophobia in racism in an environment in which peace, congregation and positivity should be promoted.*

41. As a result, and in view of the above, the Committee deemed that the a significant number of supporters had performed 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.

***As to lighting of fireworks, throwing of objects and lack of order in the stadium***

42. In continuation, the Committee referred to art. 17 FDC which reads as follows:

**Art. 17 of the FDC – Order and security at matches**

- "1. Host clubs and member associations are responsible for order and security both in and around the stadium before, during and after matches. Without prejudice to their responsibility for the inappropriate behaviour of their own supporters, they are liable for incidents of any kind, including but not limited to those listed in paragraph 2 below, and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match. In particular, member associations, clubs and licensed match agents who organise matches shall:*
- a) assess the degree of risk posed by the match and notify the FIFA bodies of those that are especially high-risk;*
  - b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by the circumstances in and around the stadium before, during and after the match and if incidents occur;*
  - c) ensure the safety of the match officials and the players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;*
  - d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;*
  - e) ensure that law and order are maintained in and around the stadiums and that matches are organised properly.*
- 2. All member associations and clubs are liable for inappropriate behaviour on the part of one or more of their supporters as stated below and may be subject to disciplinary measures and directives even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organisation of the match:*
- a) the invasion or attempted invasion of the field of play;*
  - b) the throwing of objects;*
  - c) the lighting of fireworks or any other objects;*
  - d) the use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;*

- e) *the use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a message that is not appropriate for a sports event, particularly messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;*
- f) *acts of damage;*
- g) *causing a disturbance during national anthems;*
- h) *any other lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium”.*

43. In this respect, the Committee emphasised that it was clear from the wording of art. 17(1) FDC that its main purpose was to ensure that matches are properly organised so that no incident(s) could occur and disrupt any football match. In particular, the home association/club shall be held responsible for any incidents in and around the stadium but may be released from any disciplinary measures if it can prove that all of the necessary measures had been taken, *i.e.* that it was not negligent in the organisation of the Match.
44. By contrast to the first paragraph, the Committee subsequently observed that the second paragraph contained a strict liability rule according to which an association, whether home or visiting, is responsible for the behaviour of its own spectators.
45. The Committee noted that it was clearly reported by the Match Officials’ report that the three smoke grenades were ignited by the Respondent’s fans during the Match 2, as well as a non-approved was opened by the supporters. Furthermore, during Match 3, it was reported by the Match Commissioner that a smoke bomb was ignited, and several objects were thrown onto the pitch (*i.e.* food, drinks, and flag poles).
46. In this respect, the Committee wished to recall that in accordance with art. 40 FDC, the facts stated in the reports or records of the match officials are presumed to be correct, although evidence to the contrary may be presented. Yet, the Respondent has not presented any exculpatory evidence in this respect, while it challenged its responsibility as it was not the event organizer.
47. As outlined before, article 17 FDC constitutes the legal basis for any crowd disturbance and sets out the conditions under which a club may be sanctioned for incidents related to order and security at matches. Specifically, article 17(2) FDC further provides that all associations and clubs are liable for inappropriate behaviour by their supporters, including the lighting of fireworks, throwing of any objects, non-approved flag even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organization of the match.
48. In addition, the Committee recalled that article 8(1) FDC reinforces this principle by stating that infringements are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately or negligently. Associations and clubs may be held responsible for the behaviour of their supporters even if they can demonstrate the absence of fault or negligence.
49. Accordingly, the Respondent’s argument that it lacked control over the incidents or that FIFA, as the event organizer, bears exclusive responsibility is irrelevant under the strict liability regime. The purpose of the strict liability principle is to ensure that clubs take proactive and effective measures to prevent such conduct by their supporters, regardless of the venue or organizational arrangements.

50. Against this background, the Committee went on to confirm that lighting of fireworks and throwing of objects constitute breaches of art. 17(2) FDC, under lit. "b", "c" and "h".

***As to the violation of the equipment regulations***

51. In continuation, the Committee referred to art. 13 (1) FDC which reads as follows:

***13. OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND VIOLATIONS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY***

- 1. Member associations and clubs, as well as their players, officials and any other member and/or person carrying out a function on their behalf, must respect the Laws of the Game, as well as the FIFA Statutes and FIFA's regulations, directives, guidelines, circulars and decisions, and comply with the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.*

52. Moreover, the FIFA Equipment Regulations provides in art. 4 (3) that no clothing and/or equipment may be worn in any Controlled Area in non-compliance with the applicable regulations.

***4. General Principles***

*(...)*

- 4.3 No item (of Playing Kit or other clothing or equipment or otherwise) may be worn or used in any Controlled Area if FIFA considers that it:*

*4.3.1 is dangerous, offensive or indecent, includes political, religious, discriminatory or personal slogans, statements, or images, or otherwise does not comply in full with the Laws of the Game;*

*4.3.2 confers an unfair sporting advantage or fundamentally alters an essential aspect of the game;*

*4.3.3 seeks to imply a connection with FIFA, or to exploit goodwill belonging to FIFA, or otherwise constitutes Ambush Marketing; or*

*4.3.4 has not been formally approved, where required, by FIFA in accordance with Annexe B as being fully compliant with these Regulations and/or with any other applicable rules or regulations, and/or with any circulars, guidelines, directives, and/or decisions issued by FIFA.*

53. In this regard, one team official from River Plate has worn "a non-approved shirt (two logos/brands)", which is considered composite branding, and this is explicitly prohibited on Matchday, Matchday-1, or during any Official FIFA Media Activity or Competition-related event, according to art. 13(4)(i) and art. 13(5) of the MMR, as follows:

***13.4 Non-playing Equipment:***

***General rule:***

*Team Delegation Members are permitted to display an unlimited number of Club Partners on Non-playing Equipment (subject to compliance with the Equipment Regulations and all applicable laws of the Competition Territory) except for on Matchday and Matchday-1 or whilst attending any Official FIFA Media Activity or any other Competition-related event organised by or under the auspices of FIFA.*

*Training shirts, training jackets, anthem jackets and pre-match ceremony jackets:*

*On Matchday and Matchday-1, or whilst attending any Official FIFA Media Activity or any other Competition-related event organised by or under the auspices of FIFA, Club Partner sponsor advertising or recognition (not being of the manufacturer, which must be displayed in accordance with the Equipment Regulations) is permitted on the training shirts, training jackets, anthem jackets and pre-match ceremony jackets of Non-playing Equipment, provided that:*

- (i) the Club Partner's sponsor advertising represents a single brand and not any form of combination or composite branding. Combination or composite branding may include, by way of example only, sponsor advertising graphic representations composed of two or more distinct products or brands, or a composite brand name which, if separated, comprises two or more distinct brand names;*
- (ii) the Club Partner sponsor advertising displayed during the Competition:*
  - a. must correspond to the Club Partner sponsor advertising displayed on the training shirts, training jackets, anthem jackets and pre-match ceremony jackets worn by the relevant Participating Team in at least one official domestic competition and/or the international club competition that enabled the Participating Club to qualify for the Competition, throughout the latest or current season; or*
  - b. must correspond to the Club Partner sponsor advertising displayed on the front of the playing shirt in at least one official domestic competition and/or the international club competition that enabled the Participating Club to qualify for the Competition, throughout the latest or current season;*
- (iii) the surface area of the Club Partner sponsor advertising does not exceed 200cm<sup>2</sup> (two hundred square centimetres) on training shirts, save for anthem jackets and/or pre-match ceremony jackets, in which case the sponsor advertising must not exceed 20cm<sup>2</sup> (twenty square centimetres) and in each case such sponsor advertising must be positioned on the front of the shirt or jacket only; and*
- (iv) the advertising of tobacco or strong alcoholic beverages (e.g. liquors and spirits), as well as slogans of a political, sexist, religious or racist nature, or for other causes that offend common decency, are strictly prohibited.*

*(...)*

### *13.5 Other Equipment:*

*General rule:*

*Participating Clubs are permitted to display an unlimited number of Club Partners on Other Equipment (subject to compliance with the Equipment Regulations and all applicable laws of the Competition Territory) except for on Matchday and Matchday-1 or whilst attending any Official FIFA Media Activity or any other Competition-related event organised by or under the auspices of FIFA. Notwithstanding the above, no Club Partner branding shall be permitted on any Other Equipment which is provided by FIFA or a FIFA Partner at any time (including the official match ball).*

54. In this context, the Committee confirmed that the wearing of a non-approved shirt with composite branding by a River Plate team official constitutes a clear breach of the applicable FIFA regulations

pursuant to art. 13 of the FDC in connection with the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ Media and Marketing Regulations (MMR) and the FIFA Equipment Regulations.

### **Conclusion**

55. In light of the foregoing, the Committee was comfortably satisfied that the Respondent committed the following breaches:
- Article 13 - Offensive behaviour and violations of the principles of fair play
  - Article 15 - Discrimination and racist abuse
  - Article 17 - Order and security at matches
  - Article 17.2.b - Throwing of objects
  - Article 17.2.c - Lighting of fireworks or any other objects
  - Article 17.2.h - Lack of order or discipline observed in or around the stadium
56. Consequently, the Committee held that the Respondent had to be sanctioned accordingly.

## **2. The determination of the sanction**

57. 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.
58. 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).
59. As established above, the Respondent was found liable for the misbehaviour of its supporters in accordance with art. 17 FDC, as well as the discriminatory behaviour of its fans per art. 15 FDC and the wearing of a non-approved equipment.
60. 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).
61. 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.
62. 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. 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.

63. Against such background, whilst acknowledging the efforts of the Respondent by way of the various preventative measures and initiatives it had undertaken towards fighting discrimination, 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 thousands of people were involved in several incidents, which occurred in three different matches.
64. As such, the Committee considered that, in line with art. 15(6) FDC and art. 6 (4) FDC, a fine of CHF 70,000 was in order as well one match to be played with a limited number of spectators. However, considering the circumstances of the case at hand and particularly the previous predisposition of the Respondent to fight discrimination, the Committee decided to make use of the exception under art. 15(7) and deviate from the minimum sanctions as long as the Respondent commits to developing, in conjunction with FIFA, a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. The plan shall be developed by the Respondent within the next three months counted as from the notification of this decision, utilizing the fine imposed, and shall be approved by FIFA considering the three focus areas outlined in the provision in question.
65. With regard to the match to be played with a limited number of spectators, the Committee held that such measure has to be implemented on the occasion of the next senior level male 11-a-side domestic home match to be played by the Respondent in case it fails to implement the prevention plan.
66. In this respect, the Committee considered that at least 15% of the available seats shall be closed during the match subject to the above sanction, should it have to be enforced, and said closure to be implemented primarily in the stands behind the goals. The concerned seating plan is also subject to FIFA's approval.
67. In continuation in respect of art. 17 FDC, the Committee therefore held that in the present circumstances a fine was the appropriate measures with which to sanction the Respondent for the infringements of art. 17(2)(b) and (c).
68. Given the above and with respect to the fine to be imposed, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with art. 6.4 FDC, in general, it may not be lower than CHF 100, nor greater than CHF 1,000,000.
69. Therefore, taking into account the entirety of the case file, the Committee determined that a fine amounting to CHF 6,500 was to be considered appropriate and proportionate, in line with Annexe 1 FDC. This fine was calculated as follows: CHF 5,000 for the throwing of ten (10) objects plus CHF 1,500 for the lighting of three (3) fireworks, with each individual violation assessed at CHF 500.
70. With regards to the violation of art. 17(2)(h) and art. 13 FDC, the Committee considered that issuing a warning was the appropriate sanction in both cases.

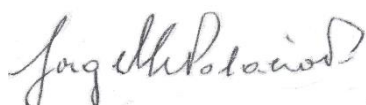


71. On a final note, the Committee stressed that all above measures were considered justified, specifically taking into account the nature of the incidents which occurred during the Matches at stake. In fact, it was expected by the Committee that such sanctions would serve to have the necessary deterrent effect in order to avoid similar incidents in the future.

## Decision

1. The Respondent, CA River Plate, is found responsible for the discriminatory behaviour of its supporters in connection with the following matches in the scope of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™: *CA River Plate vs. Urawa Red Diamonds*, played on 17 June 2025 (**Match 1**), *CF Monterrey vs. CA River Plate*, played on 21 June 2025 (**Match 2**) and *FC Internazionale Milano v. CA River Plate*, played on 25 June 2025 (**Match 3**) (collectively, the **Matches**).
2. The Respondent is ordered to pay a fine to the amount of CHF 70,000 in respect of point 1 above.
3. In accordance with art. 15 par. 7 as well as art. 7 par. 2 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code, the following directives shall apply to the above sanctions:
  - a) The Respondent shall, within three months of the notification of the present decision, invest the fine due as per point 2 above towards the implementation of a comprehensive plan to ensure action against discrimination and to prevent repeated incidents. 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 Respondent will be ordered to play its next senior level male 11-a-side domestic match with a limited number of spectators. During the match subject to the above sanction, the Respondent must close at least 25% (twenty five percent) of the available seats, such closure being required to be implemented primarily within the stands behind the goals. In addition, the Respondent must submit to FIFA the proposed seating plan at the latest 15 days prior to said match for FIFA's approval.
4. The Respondent is further found responsible for the inappropriate behaviour of its supporters (throwing of objects and lighting of fireworks) in connection with Match 2 and Match 3.
5. The Respondent is ordered to pay a fine of CHF 6,500 in respect of point 4 above. This fine must be paid within 30 days of the notification of the decision.
6. The Respondent is further found responsible for violation art. 13 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code in respect of art. 13.4 of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025™ Media and Marketing Regulations (MMR) and art. 4.3 of the FIFA Equipment Regulations (FER\_2025) in connection with Match 2. The Respondent is issued with a warning in this respect.
7. The Respondent is further found responsible for the lack of discipline and order in the stadium in connection with Match 2. The Respondent is issued with a warning in this respect.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



**Jorge PALACIO (Colombia)**

Deputy Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

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### **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.