

Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

passed on 10 December 2025

DECISION BY:

Jorge PALACIO (Colombia), Deputy Chairperson

ON THE CASE OF:

Hussein Ali Jasim Al-Saedi
(Decision FDD-26313)

REGARDING:

Article 14.1.e - Serious foul play (FDC_25)

I. FACTS OF THE CASE

1. The following summary of the facts does not purport to include every single contention put forth by the parties in these proceedings. However, the presiding member of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (**the 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 of its position and in the ensuing discussion on the merits.
2. On 9 December 2025, a match was played between representative teams of the Algeria and Iraq in the scope of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ preliminary competition (**the Match**).
3. In this context, the Referee indicated in his report (**the Referee Report**) that one of the players of the representative team of Iraq, number 7, Mr Hussein Ali Jasim Al-Saedi (**the Player** or **the Respondent**), was sent-off for a “*serious foul play*”. The same description is found on the Match Commissioner Report.
4. Based on the above, on 10 December 2025, the Secretariat to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (**the Secretariat**) opened disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent for potential breach of art. 14.1(e) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**). The Secretariat issued a proposal to the Respondent in accordance with art. 58 FDC as read in conjunction with Annexe 1 FDC (the **Proposal**) and granted the Respondent two (2) days to reject the Proposal and provide his position.
5. The Respondent rejected the Proposal on the same day and requested regular disciplinary proceedings to be conducted.
6. Later on 10 December 2025, the matter was submitted to the Committee for decision, the operative part of which was notified to the Respondent on the same day.
7. The Respondent subsequently requested the grounds of the decision within the deadline set forth under art. 54 FDC.

II. RESPONDENT'S POSITION

8. The position submitted by the Respondent can be summarised as follows:
 - The Referee Report classified the incident under offence code (H) – “*Serious foul play*”, with no aggravating circumstances, no violent conduct, no brutality, and no misconduct beyond the initial challenge.
 - The Match Commissioner’s Report contains the same classification and includes no additional elements that would justify increasing the sanction beyond the standard automatic one-match suspension under Article 66.4 of the FDC.
 - The Secretariat’s proposal to impose a two-match suspension pursuant to Article 14.1(e) FDC goes beyond what is supported by the official reports, which do not indicate violent conduct, use of

excessive force beyond the tackle, intentional endangering of the opponent, or any post-incident misconduct.

- Consistent FIFA jurisprudence confirms that a serious foul play in the absence of aggravating factors must result in an automatic suspension for one (1) match only.
- Accordingly, the FIFA Disciplinary Committee should impose only a one-match suspension.

III. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

9. In view of the circumstances of the present matter, the Committee decided to first address the procedural aspects, namely, its jurisdiction and the applicable law, before entering into the substance of the matter and assessing the possible breaches committed, as well as the potential sanctions, if applicable, resulting therefrom.

A. Jurisdiction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

10. 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.
11. Notwithstanding the above and for the sake of good order, the Committee found it worthwhile to emphasize that, on the basis of art. 6 of the Regulations for the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ (**FAC Regulations**) and art. 2.1 FDC read together with arts. 55 and 56 FDC, it was competent to decide on the present matter.
12. In addition, the Committee recalled that, in line with art. 58 FDC, where a party rejects the proposed sanction from the Secretariat (as *in casu*), the matter shall be referred to it for a formal decision to be rendered.
13. Moreover, in line with art. 57.1(a) FDC, the Committee found that a member of the Committee can rule on the matter alone as a single judge.
14. In view of the above, the Committee confirmed that it was competent to evaluate the present case and to impose sanctions in case of corresponding violation(s).

B. Applicable law

15. In continuation, the Committee deemed that the substance of the matter should be analysed under the September 2025 edition of the FDC, which was the edition in force at the time of the incident in question, i.e. the foul committed by the Respondent at the Match.
16. The Committee then turned to the specific provision applicable to the present case – art. 14 FDC ("*Misconduct of players and officials*") – which reads as follows:

"1. Players and officials shall be suspended for misconduct as specified below and may be fined accordingly:

[...]

e) *at least two matches for serious foul play*".

17. The Committee underlined that art. 14.1 FDC provides for the (minimum) disciplinary sanction(s) to be imposed on players or officials in case of misconduct during a match.
18. Furthermore, the Committee underlined that pursuant to art. 14.6 FDC, the competent FIFA judicial body may decide to impose additional disciplinary measures on the player or official concerned (on top of the minimum (sporting) sanction(s) to be imposed for a specific offence as per art. 14.1 FDC).

C. Standard of proof

19. With the above established, the Committee recalled that the burden of proof lies with FIFA, which is required to prove the infringement under art. 41.1 FDC.
20. Secondly, the Committee pointed out that, according to art. 39.3 FDC, the standard of proof to be applied in FIFA disciplinary proceedings is that of "*comfortable satisfaction*". In other words, 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(s).
21. Finally, the Committee referred to art. 40 FDC, according to which the facts contained in the match officials' reports and in any additional reports or correspondence submitted by them are presumed to be accurate, bearing in mind that proof of their inaccuracy may be provided.
22. Having clarified the foregoing, the Committee proceeded to consider the merits of the case.

D. Merits of the dispute

1. Issue of review

23. The Committee started to analyse the evidence at its disposal, specifically the Referee Report, to determine the potential violation(s) of the FDC.
24. In this context, the Committee observed from the Referee Report that the Respondent was sent off in the 5th minute of the Match for a "*serious foul play*".
25. The Respondent does not challenge the occurrence of the incident or its qualification as a serious foul play. The Respondent only challenges the consequences that arise from the incident.
26. Therefore, and considering the presumption of accuracy of the Referee Report pursuant to art. 40 of the FDC, the Committee was comfortably satisfied to conclude that the incident occurred and fell within the scope of art. 14.1(e) FDC. Accordingly, the Respondent should be sanctioned for the incident.

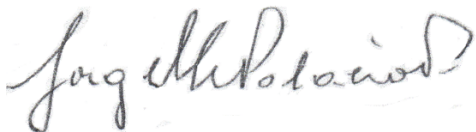
2. The determination of the sanction

27. In this context, the Committee observed in the first place that the Respondent was a natural person, and as such was subject to the sanctions described under arts. 6.1 and 6.2 FDC.
28. As established above, the Respondent was sent off by the referee for a serious foul play, meaning that his misconduct should be sanctioned in accordance with art. 14.1(e) FDC, which provides for a minimum suspension of two matches for such an offence.
29. The Committee then recalled that it is bound by the minimum sanctions foreseen under this provision, in that it may not impose a sanction under the minimum. Nevertheless, in line with art. 14.6 FDC, the Committee may impose additional disciplinary measures on top of the minimum sanction.
30. The Committee rejected the Respondent's argument that pursuant to art. 66.4 FDC the minimum sanction applicable is a one match suspension. Said provision stipulates that a player who is sent off is automatically suspended from the subsequent match. It does not, however, limit the suspension to a single match. In fact, the same provision provides unequivocally that "[t]he FIFA judicial bodies may impose additional match suspensions and other disciplinary measures". As established above, in the present case, the minimum sanction applicable is a two-match suspension pursuant to art. 14.1(e) FDC.
31. Against such background, 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).
32. In this respect, the Committee acknowledged that the Respondent presented a clean record with respect to the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™.
33. In view of this, the Committee considered the minimum sanction under the applicable provision, i.e. a suspension of two (2) matches, to be appropriate and proportionate to the offence committed. The Committee did not find any aggravating circumstances to warrant an increase of the minimum sanction.
34. Finally, the Committee decided – on the basis of art. 14.1 FDC, as well as Circular no. 7 of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ dated 20 October 2025 – to impose a fine to the amount of CHF 7,500. The Committee deemed that this fine was proportionate to the offense committed and should have the expected deterrent effect on the Respondent. The Committee further confirmed that the sanction at hand shall be served with the automatic match suspension during the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ (i.e. match *Jordan v. Iraq* played on 12 December 2025) as well as in accordance with art. 69 FDC, in particular with the consideration that the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™ is considered a friendly competition.

Decision

- 1. The Respondent is found responsible for violating Article 14.1.e - Serious foul play (FDC_25) in connection with the match *Algeria v. Iraq* played on 09 December 2025 in the scope of the FIFA Arab Cup Qatar 2025™.**
- 2. The Respondent is suspended for two (2) matches, including the automatic match suspension which will be served during the match *Jordan v. Iraq* played on 12 December 2025. The remaining suspension will be served in accordance with art. 69 FDC.**
- 3. The Respondent shall pay a fine to the amount of CHF 7,500.**

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jorge PALACIO (Colombia)

Deputy Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

NOTE RELATING TO LEGAL ACTION:

According to art. 61.1(c) of the FDC, read together with arts. 47.2 and 50.3 of the FIFA Statutes, this decision is final and binding and may not be appealed to the FIFA Appeal Committee or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), with the exception of the fine imposed, which can be appealed directly before CAS (art. 50.1 of the FIFA Statutes read together with art. 61 of the 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.