



Football Laws and Regulations

There are several rules and guidelines to a respectful and non-discriminatory social interaction in the context of football. This factsheet serves as an overview of regulations from the United Nations, FIFA and UEFA that address the topic of discrimination. However, reinforcing these guidelines is a challenge and responsibility for national associations, clubs, coaches, players, officials and fans. Knowing about them is the first step.

The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 2

"Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty."

Article 7

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."

<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

The Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA)

FIFA Code of Ethics (2012 edition)

Article 23 – Non-discrimination

"Persons bound by this Code may not offend the dignity or integrity of a country, private person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason."

Article 24 – Protection of physical and mental integrity

- 1 "Persons bound by this Code shall respect the integrity of others involved. They shall ensure that the personal rights of every individual whom they contact and who is affected by their actions is protected, respected and safeguarded."
- 3 "Sexual harassment is forbidden. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances that are not solicited or invited. The assessment is based on whether a reasonable person would regard the conduct as undesirable or offensive. Threats, the promise of advantages and coercion are particularly prohibited."



FIFA Code of Conduct (2012 edition)

Article 3.2 Respect and dignity

“We treat everyone with respect, and protect the personal dignity, privacy and personal rights of every human being.”

Article 3.3 Zero tolerance of discrimination and harassment

“We are committed to a diverse culture. There shall be no discrimination as a result of race, ethnicity, origin, skin colour, nationality, religion, age, gender, language, physical appearance, sexual orientation or political opinion, or engagement in any kind of verbal or physical harassment based on any of the above-mentioned or any other criteria”



FIFA Governance Regulations (FGR)

Duties, powers, responsibilities and organisation of FIFA bodies and holders of key positions

Article 14 – Role, duties, powers and responsibilities

- 2 Principles, rights and values that should be promoted by the President as a vanguard:
 - c “Non-discrimination, gender equality, equal treatment in general, and the stance against racism”

Article 31 – Football Stakeholders Committee

- 2 Committee’s main duties
 - h “To address fair play matters, promote the concept fair play, promote gender equality in football and fight discrimination in football worldwide”

FIFA Disciplinary Code (2011 edition)

Article 58 – Discrimination

- 1 Anyone who discriminates an individual person or group of people with words or actions shall be suspended for at least five matches. Also there shall be a stadium ban and a fine.
 - (a) “Anyone who offends the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, colour, language, religion or origin shall be suspended for at least five matches. Furthermore, a stadium ban and a fine of at least CHF 20,000 shall be imposed. If the perpetrator is an official, the fine shall be at least CHF 30,000.”
<http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/official-documents/law-regulations/>



The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) UEFA Disciplinary Regulations (Edition 2016)

Article 14 – Racism, other discriminatory conduct and propaganda

- 1** “Any person under the scope of Article 3 who insults the human dignity of a person or group of persons on whatever grounds, including skin colour, race, religion or ethnic origin, incurs a suspension lasting at least ten matches or a specified period of time, or any other appropriate sanction.”
- 2** “If one or more of a member association or club’s supporters engage in the behaviour described in paragraph 1, the member association or club responsible is punished with a minimum of a partial stadium closure.”
- 3** “The following disciplinary measures apply in the event of recidivism:
 - a a second offence is punished with one match played behind closed doors and a fine of € 50,000;
 - b any subsequent offence is punished with more than one match behind closed doors, a stadium closure, the forfeiting of a match, the deduction of points and/or disqualification from the competition.”
- 4** “If the circumstances of the case require it, the competent disciplinary body may impose additional disciplinary measures on the member association or club responsible, such as the playing of one or more matches behind closed doors, a stadium closure, the forfeiting of a match, the deduction of points and/or disqualification from the competition.”
- 5** “If the match is suspended by the referee because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the match may be declared forfeit.”
- 6** “The above disciplinary measures may be combined with specific directives aimed at tackling such conduct.”

UEFA Media & public relations Resolution aimed at combatting racism and discrimination in football, that was ratified by the UEFA Executive Committee in 2013

- The Professional Football Strategy Council supports a zero tolerance policy.
- There shall be consequences regarding to racism as one form of discrimination.
- There are also other forms of discrimination that are also unconditionally forbidden.

“Finally, the Professional Football Strategy Council acknowledges that racism is one form of discrimination, but that, unfortunately, other forms of discrimination also manifest themselves from time to time in football. It expresses its full and unconditional opposition to any form of discrimination.”

http://www.uefa.org/MultimediaFiles/Download/Regulations/uefaorg/UEFACompDisCases/02/37/00/86/2370086_DOWNLOAD.pdf
<http://www.uefa.org/mediaservices/mediareleases/newsid=1934768.html>