

FUTSAL MALTA ASSOCIATION

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DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES & SANCTIONS

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A. REGULATIONS FOR THE CONTROL OF MISCONDUCT AND ALL KINDS OF INCIDENTS DURING FUTSAL MATCHES

1. LIABILITY OF CLUBS

- (a) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their players, committee members, officials and supporters within the venue or within the precincts of the venue where a match was played or was due to be played, before, during or after the end of such match and all matters relating thereto, shall be decided upon by the Control and Disciplinary Board of the Association hereinafter referred to as “the Board” according to the Regulations hereunder established referred to as “the Regulations”. For the purposes of this article “Precincts” shall mean wherever within the actual stadium and surrounding area of such stadium of approximately up to 200 metres. For the purposes of these regulations a “Club” shall mean to include, unless otherwise specified, its players and/or committee members and/or its officials and/or their supporters and/or any other person representing the Club in any other function. For the purposes of these regulations a “Match” shall mean to include, unless otherwise specified, all matches played in a competition directly run by the Futsal Malta Association “the Association” and includes friendly matches which are organized by the above.
- (b) A Club shall be called upon to account for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused by the Club even if a match, for any reason whatsoever, is subsequently declared null and void or has been discontinued or abandoned or did not take place at all and irrespective of whether the match is not deemed to be a competitive match.

2. LIABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

- (a) Individuals upon whom the Association has jurisdiction shall be also personally answerable for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused, or aided, or abetted by them together with the Club they represent as provided for in Regulation 1 above, which matters shall be dealt by the Board unless the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner or MFA Disciplinary Commissioner, as the case may be, as provided hereunder.
- (b) The Board shall also have the power to apply any of the regulations which fall under the sub-heading of the “FMA Disciplinary Commissioner” as provided hereunder if the matter so provided.

3. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

- (a) Unless otherwise prescribed, the disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed by the Board are the following:
- (i) In the case of Clubs:
- (1) to caution;
 - (2) to censure;
 - (3) to fine;
 - (4) to annul matches and possibly to order matches to be replayed;
 - (5) to deduct or completely annul points in competitions;

- (6) to declare matches forfeit;
- (7) to order matches to be played behind closed doors.

(ii) In the case of Individuals:

- (1) to caution;
- (2) to censure;
- (3) to fine;
- (4) to suspend (for a specific number of competitive matches and/or for a specified period of time, or suspension from all official functions);
- (5) to suspend for life.

(b) The penalties may be combined according to the gravity of the offence.

4. SPECIFIED CASES OF MISCONDUCT AND/OR INCIDENT AND PENALTIES

The following are specified cases of misconduct and/or incidents and penalties applicable to them:

a. A MATCH, WHICH FALLS SHORT OF ITS STIPULATED DURATION BECAUSE OF INCIDENTS

If a match falls short of its stipulated duration because of incidents and:

- (1) the cause, whatever this may be, is attributed to only one of the participating Clubs such Club shall:
 - (i) be considered to have lost the match and the match shall be awarded to the other Club;
 - (ii) and shall be further dealt with by the Board according to these regulations.
- (2) the cause, whatever this may be, is attributed to both participating Clubs both Clubs shall:
 - (i) be considered to have lost the match; and
 - (ii) and be further dealt with by the Board according to these regulations.

If, in the opinion of the Board, as a result of a match which has fallen short of its stipulated duration shall damage the interests of a third party Club, the Board, in further dealing with the Club/s responsible for this offence, shall consider this factor as a major aggravating circumstance when deciding the matter.

b. MATCH, WHICH FALLS SHORT OF ITS STIPULATED DURATION BECAUSE A TEAM OR BOTH TEAMS FAIL TO TAKE THE FIELD DURING THE COURSE OF A MATCH

If a match, after it has commenced, falls short of its stipulated duration because one of the teams or both teams either leave the field of play or fail to take the field of play after half-time or after any stoppage ordered by the referee and the cause is not attributed to “force majeure” but is attributed to a Club, or of both Clubs, the following punishments shall be meted out:

- (1) if the players are at fault:
 - (i) the guilty Club/s shall incur the penalties in accordance with Section A above; and

- (ii) the guilty players shall be suspended for a minimum period of three (3) years.
- (2) if the committee members, or any of them, and/or other officials and/or supporter/s of a Club, or of both Clubs are at fault:
- (i) the guilty Club/s shall incur the penalties in accordance with Section A above; and
 - (ii) the guilty Club/s shall be immediately suspended from the Competition in which the offence has taken place and the Club/s, at the end of the season, shall be relegated to a lower division or ousted out of the Futsal National League if the Club/s are competing in the lowest division. However, in the case of a Member Club which is entitled to play in the lowest division of the Futsal National League, it shall be fined the sum of five thousand euro (€5000) and shall be further punished with the loss of ten (10) points in the Futsal National League Competition.

Furthermore, the guilty individuals shall be dealt with by the Board according to these regulations.

c. CROWDING OF OFFICIALS OF THE GAME BY PLAYERS

- (i) A Club, which is found guilty of having crowded any of the Officials of the Game, shall be penalised with a fine of one hundred and fifty euro (€150).
- (ii) If the Board deems the case to be of a serious nature, it may further punish the guilty Club with the loss of points gained in the match in which the incident occurred. In such a case, the lost points shall not be awarded to the other Club and the result of the match shall stand.

d. BARRACKING BY PLAYERS

- (i) Whenever during a competitive match the referee raises both hands straight over his head, it shall be the duty of all the players, except the Captains, to retreat immediately within their own penalty area and they shall not leave the same until so authorised by the Referee.
- (ii) It shall be the duty of the second and/or third referees to report to the Referee any player who does not obey the “raised hands signal” and is not found within his penalty area immediately after the signal.
- (iii) A Club, which is found guilty that two or more of its players have been found guilty by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner of such breach, shall be penalised with a fine of one hundred and fifty euro (€150).

e. CAUSING THE LOSS OF THE BALL OF THE MATCH

- (i) A Club, which is found guilty that any of its players or any of its authorised persons stationed near the field of play have caused the loss of the ball/s supplied by the Association or by the other team, except as a result of active play, shall be liable to pay the value of the ball and shall be further dealt with as the Board shall deem fit.
- (ii) When such an offence is committed by one of the authorized persons stationed near the field of play, besides any sanctions that may be imposed on his/her Club, such person shall be fined twenty-five euro (€25).

- (iii) If the ball was lost as a result of active play, in the case that the ball was supplied by the Association, the Association will administratively and without the need of any disciplinary proceedings charge each Club of the participating teams one-half the value of the ball. However, if the ball was supplied by one of the teams, the owner of the ball will suffer the loss.

f. PLAYERS WHO BRING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE

A Club which is found guilty that two or more of its players have, during a match, brought the Game into disrepute, shall be dealt with by the Board according to these Regulations.

g. USE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY PLAYERS BEFORE AND AFTER A COMPETITIVE MATCH

A Club which is found guilty that any of its players, committee members and/or officials and/or supporters before or after a competitive match, in a stadium/football ground or in the precincts thereof, have used physical and/or moral violence or any other act whatever this may be against any Referees who are there in connection with a game in which they have officiated or are going to officiate, even if they have not officiated or are not going to officiate at a game in which the guilty person are or were involved, or against any committee member/s, or any other official/s, supporters of the opposing team or of any other team, shall be dealt with by the Board in accordance with these Regulations.

h. DAMAGES CAUSED TO THE STADIUM/GROUND

- (1) A Club, which is found guilty of having in any way caused damage to any part of the stadium/ground, shall be liable to make good the damage caused, and shall also be dealt with by the Board in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Association. In the case of matches played in sequence in the same stadium and the Board cannot ascertain who had caused the damage both Clubs whose supporters were staying in that part of the stadium where the damage was caused shall be held liable for the damages caused and for paying the resulting expenses.
- (2) The persons guilty of such an offence shall be dealt with by the Board in accordance with these Regulations.

i. USE OF DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOUR OR LANGUAGE OR USE OF BLASPHEMOUS LANGUAGE OR USE OF VULGAR OR OBSCENE OR INSULTING LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOUR OR USE OF PHYSICAL OR MORAL VIOLENCE BY PLAYERS OR OTHER AUTHORIZED PERSONS OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS OR SUPPORTERS

- (1) A Club which is found guilty on the occasion of a match, within the precincts of the stadium of the match,
- (i) of having publicly disparaged, discriminated against or denigrated someone in a defamatory manner on account of race or language or religion or ethnic origin; or
- (ii) of having perpetrated any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, including the display by supporters of banners bearing discriminatory slogans, or had used blasphemous language or had used vulgar or obscene or insulting language or behaviour in a chorus; or
- (iii) of having used physical or moral violence or any other wrongful act, whatever this may be, shall be punished as hereunder mentioned.

- (2) A Club which is found guilty on the occasion of a match, within the precincts of the stadium of the match,
- (i) of having used physical or moral violence against the referee or the other officials of the match or against any of the players taking part in the match (except in the case of players actually taking part in the match whilst engaged in an action during the match) or against any of the authorised persons sitting on the Reserves' Benches or against an FMA Official or the other FMA Council Member or against an FMA Board or Committee Member or Referee Observer/Venue Delegate or other FMA personnel, whether on duty or not, or against an active referee of the Association though not involved in the match or against a Committee Member of a Member Club shall be sanctioned as hereunder mentioned.
- (3) The sanctions applicable to the above mentioned offences are the following:
- (a) In the case that the offence consists in having, whether in a chorus or not, publicly disparaged, discriminated against or denigrated someone in a defamatory manner on account of race or language or religion or ethnic origin or of having perpetrated any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, including the display by supporters of banners bearing discriminatory slogans, or in the case that the offence consists in blasphemous language by the supporters in a chorus, the guilty Club shall be fined a maximum amount of seventeen thousand euro (€17,000) for each such offence committed during the season; and
 - (i) if the offence has been committed during a league match, the guilty Club shall have deducted three (3) points for the first such offence during the season, six (6) points for the second such offence during the same season whilst such club shall be relegated for the third such offence during the same season. Provided that in so far as the deduction of points is concerned, if the club has less points in the final classification-table than those deducted as a result of the application of this rule, those points which could not be deducted during the same season during which the offence was committed shall be recorded as deficit points in the league competition in the following season even if the club is relegated; or
 - (ii) if the offence has been committed during a match played on a knock-out basis, the Club shall be removed from the competition if the club had through that match proceeded to a further stage of the competition. If through that match the Club had not proceeded to a further stage in the competition it shall not be allowed to participate in the same competition during the following season. If the offence had taken place during the final match of such a competition, the club shall be declared to have lost the match if it had won the competition.
 - (iii) In deciding cases relating to offences under this section, the Board shall take into consideration any mitigating factors such as the level of the competition and the division or section in which the offending Club is competing.
 - (b) In the case that the offence consists in obscene and/or blasphemous language or wrongful act or behaviour by the club in a chorus, the Club shall be fined a minimum amount of one hundred euro (€100) for the first offence during the season and a minimum amount of one hundred and fifty euro (€150) for each and every such subsequent offence committed during the same season. However, if the obscene and/or blasphemous language or

wrongful act or behaviour includes the patron saint or saints of local cities, towns or villages, the sanctions under sub-clause (iii) (a) above shall apply.

- (c) In case that during the commission of any of the above mentioned offences musical instruments were used by supporters the club shall be prohibited from having its supporters use musical instruments during at least the rest of the season. If such prohibition is not adhered to, besides being punished for any other offence committed, the club concerned shall be guilty of an offence and shall be fined a minimum amount of five hundred euro (€500) for each such offence during the prohibition period.
- (d) In the case that the offence consists in physical violence the Club shall be fined a minimum amount of two hundred euro (€200) and the Board whilst deciding on the fine to be imposed, shall take into consideration the gravity of the case;
- (e) In the case that the club is found guilty that any of its players, the persons authorized to sit on the Reserves Benches or committee members or supporters had used physical violence against the referee or any of the other officials of the match or against any of the players taking part in the match (except in the case of players actually taking part in a match during an action in which they are engaged) or against any of the other players and the other persons authorised to sit on the Reserves' Benches or against an FMA Official or another FMA Council Member or an FMA Board or Committee Member or a Referee Observer/Venue Delegate or other FMA personnel or an active referee of the Association, if the offence produces physical injury to any of such person, besides penalties of a pecuniary nature and such other penalties, including the loss of points won during the match, which may be imposed on the guilty club as provided in the other rules and regulations of the Association, and besides the awarding of damages suffered by the injured person to such an injured person against the guilty club, such club shall be further punished as follows:
 - (i) if the offence has been committed during a league match or in connection with a league match and had produced an injury to any of the above-mentioned persons:
 - (a) if the injury was caused to any of the above mentioned persons, except the referee and the other officials of the match and was of a slight nature as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), the Club shall be fined two thousand and five hundred euro (€2500);
 - (b) if the injury was caused to the referee or to the other officials of the match and was of a slight nature as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), the club shall have two (2) points deducted;
 - (c) if the injury was caused to any of the above mentioned persons and was of a serious nature as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of Laws of Malta), the club shall have five (5) points deducted. Provided that in the case of deduction of points, if the club concerned has less points in the final classification-table than those deducted as a result of the application of this rule, those points which could not be deducted shall be recorded as deficit points in the league competition during the following season even if the club has been relegated.

- (ii) if the offence has been committed during a match played on a knock-out basis or in connection with such a match, and had produced an injury to any of the above mentioned persons:
 - (a) if the injury was of a slight nature as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), the Club shall be fined two thousand and five hundred euro (€2500);
 - (b) if the injury was one of a serious nature as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), the Club shall be removed from the competition if the club had through that match proceeded to a further stage of the competition. If through that match the Club had not proceeded to a further stage in the competition it shall not be allowed to participate in the same competition during the following season. If the offence had taken place during the final match of such competition, the club concerned shall be declared to have lost the match if it had won the competition.
- (iii) If the offence had been committed during any competitive match, or in connection with such competitive match, and the injury caused to any of the above-mentioned persons produces death, the guilty club shall be removed from the Association.

j. OTHER OFFENCES BY SUPPORTERS

(i) THROWING OF OBJECTS ONTO THE FIELD OF PLAY AND THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

- (a) A minimum fine of fifty euro (€50) for each counted thrown object shall be imposed on a Club which is found guilty of the throwing objects onto the field of play or anywhere else within the precincts of the stadium;
- (b) When a team is on the field of play and the supporters of the team of the Club concerned fire petards or other explosive devices, which explode within the precincts of the stadium and/or land on the field of play, such Clubs shall be fined a minimum of one hundred euro (€100) for each counted thrown petard or other explosive device.
- (c) Offences which do not strictly fall under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) above but are of a similar nature, shall be punished as the Board shall deem fit.
- (d) If it cannot be ascertained which of the Clubs is guilty of an offence, both Clubs shall be fined the minimum and Clubs shall be responsible to make good any damages in equal portions.
- (e) If the incident/s above mentioned produce/s any of the injuries or effects as mentioned in Regulation 8 to any of the persons therein mentioned, the penalties therein mentioned shall apply.
- (f) A club which is found guilty of having in any way caused damage to stadium seats in a stadium/ground, shall be liable to make good the damage caused.

(II) DAMAGE CAUSED TO OFFICIAL FLAGS ON DISPLAY

A Club which is found guilty of having in any way damaged any of the official flags on display in a stadium/football ground, shall be liable to make good the damage caused and shall be further dealt with by the Board in accordance with these regulations as it may deem fit.

(III) INVASION OF THE FIELD OF PLAY

- (a) A minimum fine of one hundred euro (€100) shall be imposed on a Club which is found guilty of the invasion of the field of play by one or more of its supporters whilst the Referee and/or any of the Assistant referees are still on the field of play, or in its precincts, but not in the dressing room.
- (b) If, during such an invasion, the referee/timekeeper or any of the assistant referees or any player of the opposing team is manhandled, a minimum fine of two hundred and fifty euro (€250) shall be imposed on the guilty Club. Furthermore, the team of the offending Club shall be punished with the forfeiture of a maximum of three (3) points, not only in connection with the match in question, but also points which the team has already gained or may gain in the competition.
- (c) Offences, which do not strictly fall under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, but nevertheless qualify as an invasion of the field of play, shall be dealt with by the Board as it may deem fit.

(IV) INVASION OF THE RESERVED AREAS OF THE STADIUM/GROUND

A maximum fine of one thousand euro (€1000) shall be imposed on a Club which is found guilty that any of its supporters have entered the reserved areas of the stadium/ground, and/or the Referee's dressing room without the requisite authority.

(V) DISRUPTION OF PRESENTATION CEREMONIES

A maximum fine of two thousand euro (€2000) shall be imposed on a Club which is found guilty that any of its supporters and/or committee members and/or official's and/or players have disrupted an official presentation ceremony.

(VI) ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INCIDENTS, AND/OR AIDING, AND/OR ABETTING INCIDENTS CAUSED BY SUPPORTERS

- (a) If any of the committee members or other officials of a Club are found guilty of having participated in, or of having instigated, or of having incited their supporters to perpetrate any of the offences under paragraph (i), (iv), (v) and (vi) above, the offending Club shall be further punished with the loss of a minimum of three (3) points and a maximum of six (6) points in the competition in which the incident/s occurred if the competition is run on a league basis. If the offending Club has less points in the final classification than those deducted as a result of the application of this rule, the points which could not be deducted shall be recorded as deficit points in the same competition in the Division it shall compete during the following season, if it is taking part in such competition.
- (b) If the competition is run on a knock-out basis, the Club shall be disqualified from the competition. If the incident/s occurred during the final match, or replay of the final match, in case such Club has won the match, it shall be declared to have lost the match.

- (c) The persons found guilty of such offences shall be dealt with by the Board in accordance with these Regulations.

k. MASCOTS

In the event that the Association allows a Club to be assisted by a Mascot, such Mascot shall ipso jure be subject to these regulations, and shall be deemed to be a “Club Official” when determining any offences which may be committed by the said Mascot.

l. OFFENCES

Any club which is found guilty of having acted contrary to the spirit of sportsmanship and good conduct and which acts have not been specifically provided for by these Regulations shall be liable to a punishment which the Board, according to the circumstances of the case, shall deem fit to impose.

B. THE PLAYERS' AND CLUB OFFICIALS' DISCIPLINARY CODE

5. FMA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONER & DEPUTY COMMISSIONER/S

The Council shall appoint a FMA Disciplinary Commissioner and shall, in its discretion, give him the necessary and appropriate powers, rights and functions in accordance with the Statute of the Association, with the provisions of this Code and with the decisions and directives which the Council may make or give from time to time.

The Council shall also appoint also a person or other persons to act as substitute for the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner when the latter is for any reason unable to execute his functions. All that which applies to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall apply to a Deputy Commissioner.

6. SECRETARY & DEPUTY SECRETARY

The Council shall also appoint a Secretary and Deputy Secretary and shall, in its discretion, give him the necessary and appropriate powers, rights and functions in accordance with the Statute of the Association, with the provisions of this Code and with the decisions and directives which the Council may make or give from time to time.

7. JURISDICTION OF THE MFA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONER AND OF THE FMA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONER

(A) MFA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONER

- (i) The MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall have jurisdiction to take cognizance of and decide all cases related to players and Club officials or any other person who features on the official match report of the relative match as follows:
 - (a) all cases of incidents reported by the Referee to have been committed by players who may take part in a match and by Club officials authorised to sit on the substitutes' bench or authorised to perform a function in the dressing-rooms area/s or on or near the field of play in connection with such match in a competition directly run by the Association for which a Referee and/or second/third referees of the Association has or have been appointed to officiate, provided such incidents take place on the field of play or within its vicinity (including the dressing-room areas) and which take place either prior, or during or after such match, even if such match, for any reason whatsoever, is subsequently declared null and void or has been discontinued or abandoned or did not take place at all; and
 - (b) all cases of incidents reported by the Referee to have been committed by players and by Club officials who perform any function whatsoever in connection with a match, for which a Referee of the Association has been appointed to officiate, and which take place on the field of play or within its vicinity, including the dressing-rooms area/s, either before, or during or after such match, even if such match, for any reason whatsoever, is subsequently declared null and void or has been discontinued or abandoned or did not take place at all; and

- (c) any other incident which the Council or the Executive Committee of the Association may bring to the cognizance of the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner in connection with any match as described in para. (a) and (b) above.
- (ii) When taking cognizance of cases in relation to players and Club officials or any other person who features on the official match report of the relative match, the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner will decide the matter in accordance to the rules, bye-laws, and regulations of the Malta Football Association.
- (iii) The MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall send a copy of his decision to the General Secretary of the Association.
- (iv) Any decision taken by the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall also apply in relation to any futsal competitive matches.

(B) FMA DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONER

- (i) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall have jurisdiction to take cognizance of and decide all other cases, which are not related to players and to Club officials or any other person who features on the official match report of the relative match as defined in Regulation 7(A)(i) of this Code.
- (ii) When taking cognizance of these cases, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner will decide the matter in accordance to the provisions of this Code and all other rules, bye-laws, regulations of the Association.

8. NORMAL AND SPECIAL SITTINGS

- (i) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall normally hold his sitting every Wednesday by not later than six o'clock in the afternoon except on public holidays. In this latter case, the sitting shall be held on Thursday by not later than six o'clock. If such Thursday happens to be a public holiday the sitting shall be held in the morning.
- (iii) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall hold a Special Sitting to deal with incidents reported by the Referee:
 - (a) when a match has to be repeated or replayed before the day when the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner holds his normal sitting in accordance with para. (i) above or;
 - (b) in the case when the Club of the players or officials reported by the referee in a competitive match is involved in another competitive match before the day when the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner hold his normal sitting in accordance with para. (i) above.

9. PROCEEDINGS

- (i) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall proceed with a case:

- (a) if the General Secretary of the Association, by not later than the time appointed by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner for the sitting, shall have received a Referee's report of matches played during the previous week or of matches played previously; and
 - (b) in the case of a special sitting, the General Secretary of the Association, by not later than the time appointed for the sitting, shall have received the Referee's report of the match or matches in connection with which the special sitting is held. However, in case that the General Secretary of the Association has not received the Referee's report by the time fixed for the special sitting, the case shall be dealt with during the next normal sitting of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner; and
 - (c) when a case has been referred to him by the MFA Appeals Board or the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner; and
 - (d) when a report has been forwarded to him by the Council or the Executive Committee and the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner is satisfied that the Club of the player/s and/or official/s reported has been informed of the details of the report and of the date and time of the sitting not less than one day before the day of the sitting.
- (ii) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be assisted by the Secretary to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner or another person nominated to act as a Secretary to keep the minutes of the proceedings and to render all the necessary assistance to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner.
- (iii) (a) In the case of proceedings arising solely from the Referee's report, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall base his decision on the contents of the Referee's report and if available on the report of the Match Inspector.
- (b) In the case of proceedings arising from a report by the Council or the Executive Committee, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall base his decision on that evidence which the Council or the Executive Committee would have indicated to the Commissioner.
- (iv) It is at the discretion of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner as to the manner in which he formulates his decision so long as the penalty inflicted is clear and the section/s of this Code on which the penalty is based is clearly indicated.

10. PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS

- (i) (a) The decisions of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be communicated by electronic mail as soon as practically possible after the end of the sitting. This does not apply to decisions by the MFA Disciplinary Board and results updated on the MFA Official Website.
- (b) The decisions of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner become public as soon as they have been sent by electronic mail.
- (c) The MFA Disciplinary Board decisions become official and public as soon as they are posted on the MFA Official website.

- (ii) Players, Club officials and Member Clubs are in duty bound to inform themselves of the decisions of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner. The onus is on each Member Club to inform themselves about Disciplinary Decisions mentioned in (c) above.
- (ii) In the case of a motivated decision, the concerned players, Club officials and Member Clubs shall be entitled to get from the General Secretary of the Association an authenticated copy of the decision against the payment of a fee. The fee shall be established by the Council.

11. PUNISHMENTS

- (i) (a) The punishments which the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner may impose are the following:
 - A reprimand.
 - A severe reprimand.
 - A fine.
 - Suspension for a specified number of matches and/or a specified period including life-long suspension.
- (b) Punishments are to be considered in an ascent of four degrees from the lowest degree (a reprimand) to the highest (suspension).
- (c) When the punishment for an offence is a reprimand the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner may decide to impose the punishment of severe reprimand depending on the gravity of the case.
- (d) These sanctions may be combined.
- (e) A period suspension of six months (6) or more shall be deemed to be a suspension from all official futsal activities of the Association including an official match whether competitive or friendly.
- (f) A period suspension of less than six months (6) shall be deemed to be a suspension from taking part as a player or as an official in any competitive local match played under the jurisdiction of the Association. Such suspension shall apply to him in his capacity **both** as a player and as an official.
- (g) (i) In the case that the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner decides to impose a period suspension of nine (9) months or less for an offence which had been committed by a player, if such suspension would extend beyond the beginning of the coming month of June, he shall increase such suspension by another two (2) months. In such a case, in his decision, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall clearly specify that he had applied the provisions of this sub-clause and shall also indicate the exact date when the whole suspension will expire.
- (ii) Punishments awarded shall not apply to international matches whether competitive or friendly. However, in the case of an offence of a serious nature, the Council shall in its discretion have the right to communicate a decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner to FIFA.

- (iii) Saving the provisions of the articles mentioned above, in the case of a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years, although found guilty, a conditional suspended sentence, or a caution which shall be recorded, or a suspended sentence for a fixed period, or an absolute discharge may be awarded by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner in his discretion.
- (iv) In the case of Team Captains, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner may, in his discretion, suspend the player from the Team's Captaincy either for a fixed period of time or for life, as the case may be.
- (v) A player or a Club official who has been sent off during a competitive match shall incur as a minimum penalty a suspension of one (1) match. The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner however, in inflicting the penalty, shall take this one match suspension into consideration.

12. OFFENCES AND RELATED PUNISHMENTS IN THE CASE OF COMPETITIVE MATCHES

A. OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

- (1) Any player or Club official who is found guilty of having used violence against any of the Match Officials, that is to say, he had:
 - (a) Used any object or any part of his body to strike an official, the penalty awarded shall be given according to the gravity of the assault as follows:
 - (i) If the assault is considered as a minor one where no bodily harm is caused to the official, a player shall be suspended for twelve (12) months while a club official shall be suspended for two (2) years.
 - (ii) If the assault has caused bodily harm which is not of a grievous nature a player shall be suspended for three (3) years while a club official shall be suspended for five years.
 - (iii) If the assault has caused grievous bodily harm as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta) both a player and a club official shall be suspended for life.
 - (b) Physically obstructed the movement of an official either on the field of play or on his way from or back to the dressing room a player shall be suspended for three (3) matches while a club official shall be suspended for three (3) months.
 - (c) Spat at an official a player shall be suspended for six (6) months while a club official shall be suspended for one (1) year.
 - (d) Attempted to act in an aggressive manner as described in paras. 1 (a) and/or 1 (b) above a player shall be suspended for three (3) matches while a club official shall be suspended for three (3) months.
 - (e) Acted in an aggressive manner but had not committed or attempted to commit any of the acts described in paras. 1 (a) or 1 (b) above a player shall be

- suspended for three (3) matches while a club official shall be suspended for three (3) months.
- (2) (i) Any player who is found guilty of:
- (a) indecent conduct towards a Match Official by words or deed, shall be suspended for three (3) matches;
 - (b) indecent assault, which is not considered as very serious, on a Match Official, shall be suspended for one (1) year;
 - (c) indecent assault, which is considered as very serious, on a Match Official, shall be suspended for five (5) years.
- (ii) In case that the offences mentioned in sub-clause (i) above are committed by a Club Official, the period of suspension shall be twice the period of suspension therein mentioned.
- (3) (a) When in the opinion of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner more evidence other than the Referee's and/or Match Inspector's report is needed in a particular case, he shall suspend the player or Club Official indefinitely without deciding the case and shall refer the case to the General Secretary of the Association to provide him with any further evidence which may be available within such period as the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner may decide. Such period shall neither be less than eight (8) working days nor shall it be more than fifteen (15) working days.
- (b) When the period fixed by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner expires, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall decide the case by also taking into consideration any such other evidence which may have been provided to him.
- (c) If the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner decides to penalise the player or Club Official concerned, the period of indefinite suspension shall be taken into consideration.
- (4) Any player who is found guilty of having committed any of the following offences, that is to say, he had:
- (a) threatened and/or insulted an Official by words or deeds, shall be suspended for three (3) matches on the first instance and for six (6) matches for every similar subsequent offence during the same season;
 - (b) passed remarks or made denigratory gestures towards an Official, except when such remarks or gestures allude to bribery, shall be suspended for two (2) matches on the first instance and for four (4) matches for every similar subsequent offence during the same season;
 - (c) passed remarks or made denigratory gestures which allude to bribery towards an Official, shall be suspended for five (5) matches in the first instance and for six months for every similar subsequent offence during the same season;

- (d) continued to argue with the official after having been ordered to desist he shall be fined ten euro (€10);
 - (e) disobeyed or opposed an Official's decision, he shall be fined fifteen euro (€15);
 - (f) not obeyed the Official's signal, except in the case of the Captain, to retreat to his own penalty area immediately, he shall be penalised with the suspension of one (1) match besides any other penalty which may be imposed for having committed any other offence;
 - (g) entered or left the field of play during a match without the Referee's permission, shall be reprimanded;
 - (h) not departed himself well in relation to, or used ungentlemanly conduct towards an Official, shall be penalised with a suspension of one (1) match on the first instance and with for two (2) matches for every similar subsequent offence during the same season.
- (5) (a) Any Club official who is found guilty of having committed any of the offences mentioned under clause (4) above shall be penalised as follows in the case of the first offence during the season:
- (i) in the case that the penalty applicable to a player is a suspension, either to twice the number of matches or to twice the period of suspension, as the case may be; and
 - (ii) in the case that the penalty applicable is a fine, to twice the amount of the fine and to a one (1) match suspension; and
 - (iii) in case that the penalty applicable is a reprimand or a severe reprimand, to a one (1) match suspension.
- (b) A Club official who during the same season is found guilty for the second time or on any subsequent occasion of having committed again the same offence, the penalty applicable shall be twice the punishment awarded in the case of the first same offence.
- (c) In the case of the second offence or on any subsequent offence committed against a Match Official by the same offender, except in the case of the Team's Coach, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner, besides penalizing the offender, may make a recommendation to the Council to prohibit such Club Official from sitting on the Reserves' Benches even after the inflicted suspension would expire.
- (6) The provisions of this section shall apply from the moment anyone of the Match Officials shall arrive at the locality where the match is to be played and shall continue to apply until the departure of such Official from the same locality.

B. OFFENCES AGAINST A PLAYER

- (1) Any player who is found guilty of having used violence against another player, including a player of his team, that is to say, he had:
 - (a) Whilst not playing or exchanging the ball, in a violent manner used any object or any part of his body to strike another player the penalty shall be given according to the gravity of the assault as follows:-
 - (i) for a minor assault causing no bodily harm he shall be suspended for three (3) matches.
 - (ii) for an assault causing bodily harm which is not of a grievous nature he shall be suspended for six (6) matches.
 - (iii) for an assault causing grievous bodily harm as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta) he shall be suspended for a period of five (5) years or life, depending on the gravity of the case.
 - (b) Whilst playing or exchanging the ball, in a violent manner, used any part of his body, the penalty shall be given according to the consequences suffered by the other player as follows:
 - (i) if, as a result of such an act, the other player had suffered no consequence, he shall be suspended two (2) matches in the case of the first offence and for four (4) matches for any similar offence during the same season;
 - (ii) if, as a result of such an act, the other player had suffered a bodily harm which is not grievous in nature, he shall be suspended for six (6) matches;
 - (iii) if, as a result of such an act, the other player had suffered a grievous bodily harm as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), he shall be suspended for a minimum of eight (8) matches and a maximum of twelve (12) matches depending on the gravity of the injury suffered.
 - (c) Attempted to commit a violent act not while playing or exchanging the ball he shall be fined fifteen euro (€15) in the case of the first offence and for two (2) matches for any similar offence during the same season;
 - (d) Committed a violent act other as mentioned in sub-clause (a) above not while playing the ball or exchanging the ball, he shall be suspended for three (3) matches in the case of the first offence and for six (6) matches for any similar offence during the same season;
 - (e) adopted a fighting attitude, the penalty shall be a reprimand on the first instance and a fine of fifteen euro (€15) for every similar offence during the same season.

- (2) Any Club official who is found guilty of having committed any of the offences under para. 1 (a) (i), 1 (a) (ii), 1 (c) or 1 (d) against a player, shall be suspended from one year to five years. If a Club Official is found guilty of the offence under para. 1(a) (iii) the punishment applicable shall be a suspension of five (5) years or life depending on the gravity of the case.
- (3) When any offence under para. 1 (a) (i) or 1 (a) (ii) or para. (i) (a) (iii) above has been committed by a player or by a Club official against a player and in the opinion of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner more evidence than the Referee's report and/or the Match Inspector's report is needed, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall suspend the player or Club official concerned indefinitely without deciding the case and refer the case to the General Secretary of the Association to provide him with such further evidence as may be available. The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall nevertheless proceed to decide the case within fifteen (15) days of his request to the General Secretary even if no further evidence has been provided to him.
- (4) Any player who is found guilty of having committed any of the following offences, that is to say, he had:
 - (a) spat at another player, shall be penalised with a suspension of three (3) matches in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of four (4) matches for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season;
 - (b) publicly disparaged, discriminated against or denigrated someone in a defamatory manner on account of race or colour or language or religion or ethnic origin or perpetrates any other discriminatory and/or contemptuous act, shall be penalized with a suspension of five (5) matches and with a fine of a maximum of twelve thousand euro (€12,000);
 - (c) defamed or gravely insulted another player, shall be penalised with a suspension of one (1) match in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of two (2) matches for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season;
 - (d) used vulgar or obscene language towards a player but without defaming such player, shall be penalised with a fine of twenty euro (€20);
 - (e) played in a very rough manner, the penalty applicable shall be a reprimand in the case of the first offence and a fine of fifteen euro (€15) for every similar offence during the same season;
 - (f) played in a rough manner, the penalty applicable shall be a reprimand in the case of the first offence and a fine of ten euro (€10) for every similar offence during the same season;
 - (g) made offensive or denigratory gesture or gestures towards another player, besides a gesture or gestures of a racist nature, shall be penalised with a suspension of one (1) match in the case of the first offence and two (2) matches for every similar offence during the same season. However, if such a gesture or

gestures, is or are also, in the opinion of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner (who may at his discretion use also video evidence to arrive at his decision), obscene, the offending player shall be penalised with a suspension of four (4) matches in the case of the first offence and six (6) matches for every similar offence during the same season;

- (h) in any other manner not deported himself well in relation to, or used ungentlemanly conduct towards another player, the penalty applicable shall be a reprimand in the case of the first offence and a fine of ten euro (€10) for every similar offence during the same season.
- (5) Any Club official who is found guilty of having committed any of the offences under sub-clauses (4)(a) or 4(b), shall be penalized with a suspension of six (6) months in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of one (1) year for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season, and in the case of the offences under sub-clauses (4)(c) to (4)(h), shall be penalized with a fine of forty euro (€40) in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of three (3) months for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season. Furthermore, in the case of the offence under sub-clause 4(b) above, such official shall be also fined the amount of up to seventeen thousand euro (€17,000) for each and every such offence.
- (6) When any of the offences mentioned under sub-clauses 1 (a) (i) and (ii), (b) or (c) and subclauses 4 (c), (g) or (h) had been committed by a player or by a Club Official under provocation the penalty shall be reduced. Where a lower and a higher penalty are envisaged the lower penalty shall apply. In other cases the prescribed penalty shall be reduced by half.

C. GENERAL OFFENCES

- (i) Any player who is found guilty of:
 - (a) having exposed any private part of his body, if such action is deemed not to have been intended as an insult to anybody, shall be suspended for three (3) matches, whilst if such action is deemed to have been intended as an insult towards anybody, shall be suspended for seven (7) matches in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of three (3) months for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season;
 - (b) having uttered words of a racist nature or made gestures of a racist nature which were not directed against anybody in particular, shall be suspended for three (3) matches in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of six (6) matches for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season;
 - (c) having used blasphemous language, shall be penalised with a fine of fifteen euro (€15) in the case of the first offence and thirty euro (€30) for every similar offence during the same season;

- (d) having used vulgar and/or obscene language, shall be penalised with a reprimand in the case of the first offence and with a fine of fifteen euro (€15) for every similar offence in the same season;
 - (e) time-wasting during a match, shall be penalised with a reprimand in the case of the first offence and with a fine of fifteen euro (€15) for every similar offence during the same season;
 - (f) actions which because of their repetition were deemed by the Referee to be a cause of irritation to himself or to a player, shall be reprimanded in the case of the first offence and fined fifteen euro (€15) for every similar offence during the same season;
 - (g) having intentionally handled the ball, shall be penalised with a fine of ten euro (€10);
 - (h) having removed his shirt, shall be fined twenty-five euro (€25);
 - (i) having revealed an undershirt which contains slogans or advertising, shall be fined twenty-five euro (€25) in the case of the first offence and shall be suspended for one (1) match for every similar offence during the same season;
 - (j) having failed, after having been sent off the field of play or outside the precincts of the field of play by the referee for having committed an offence, to go without undue delay outside the precincts of the field of play, shall be suspended for one (1) match for this other offence;
 - (k) having committed any other offence which is not contemplated in this Code but is calculated to bring the game into disrepute, shall be penalised with a fine of twenty five euro (€25) as a minimum and/or with suspension for not more than five (5) matches as a maximum depending on the gravity of the case.
- (ii) Any Club official who is found guilty of having committed any of the offences under sub-clauses (i) (a) or (i) (b) shall be suspended for three (3) months in the case of the first offence and with a suspension of six (6) months for every subsequent similar offence committed during the same season.
 - (iii) Any Club Official who is found guilty of having committed the offence under sub-clause (i) (k) shall be suspended for three (3) matches or for a period of three (3) months depending on the gravity of the case.
 - (iv) Any Club official who is found guilty of having committed any of the offences under sub-clause (i) above, except in the case of offences under sub-clauses (i) (a), (i) (b) and (i) (k), shall be penalised with a fine of between twenty-five euro (€25) and fifty euro (€50) and/or with a suspension of between one (1) month and six (6) months depending on the gravity of the case.

D. OFFENCES AGAINST COMMITTEE MEMBERS, OTHER OFFICIALS, RESERVE PLAYERS AND OTHER PERSONS, INCLUDING SPECTATORS

A player or a Club official who is found guilty of having committed an offence mentioned in this section against committee members, other officials, reserve players or any other person, including spectators, shall be penalised in accordance with the applicable provisions of this section as if such offence was committed against a player.

13. OFFENCES AND RELATED PUNISHMENTS IN THE CASE OF FRIENDLY MATCHES

NOT APPLICABLE

14. INCITEMENT AND OTHER FORMS OF COMPLICITY

- (i) Whosoever is found guilty of inciting another person to commit anyone of the offences mentioned in this Code shall be regarded as an accomplice to any of the offences committed.
- (ii) The rules relating to complicity under the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta), shall apply to this Code.
- (iii) (a) The penalties contemplated in this Code as to be inflicted upon the author of an offence shall apply to an accomplice.

(b) In the case of incitement, if no offence was committed, a person who is found guilty of incitement shall be penalised with a fine up to a maximum of twenty-five euro (€25) or with suspension of not more than one (1) month or with both a fine and a suspension according to the gravity of the case.

15. SELF-DEFENCE AND EXCESS IN SELF-DEFENCE

- (i) No offence is committed if one commits an act in the defence of himself or of another.
- (ii) Whosoever exceeds in self-defence or retaliates in a way that he commits an offence mentioned in this Code shall be considered as having acted under provocation in terms of article 8 (B) (6) above.

16. CASES OF REPETITION

- (i) (a) In the case of offences by players, if during the same season a player has been shown the “yellow card” in a competitive match for the fourth time in the same competition and all the four (4) cautions have been confirmed by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner, upon the confirmation of the fourth caution, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner, besides applying the penalties prescribed for the offences committed and which are decided upon by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner on that occasion, shall suspend the player for one (1) match in that same competition and for the fact alone of the fourth caution having been confirmed.

- (b) The suspension mentioned in para. (i) (a) above, shall be applied each time a player totals four (4) confirmed cautions during the same season in the same competition. However, a suspension as a result of a caution or a sending-off shall not be counted. Furthermore, in the case of a match which is declared null and void by the competent authorities of the Association, a single “yellow card” during such match shall not count as one of the four (4) “yellow cards” provided that such single “yellow card” had not already been taken into consideration by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner to suspend the player for one (1) match.

17. CASES OF SERIOUS NATURE

- (i) In cases of a serious nature, if the penalties applicable are fixed, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be entitled to increase the penalty at his own discretion and in doing so the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall take into consideration the conduct of a player or an official in the previous five (5) seasons although the player or the official concerned is not deemed to be a relapser.
- (ii) In increasing the penalty, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall hand out a suspension which does not exceed one (1) year.

18. YOUTH PLAYERS

- (i) (a) Without prejudice to the provisions of para. (iii) of article 7, a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years and who is found guilty of an offence which is not deemed to be of a serious nature, may be discharged on condition that he shall not commit another offence within a period to be established by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner.
 - (b) If such player commits another offence within the conditional period he shall be deemed to be a relapser and the penalty applicable to him shall be awarded in its maximum.
 - (c) If such a player commits another offence after the conditional period has expired, such player shall not be deemed to be a relapser but shall only be penalised for the new offence.
- (ii) A conditional discharge may be given only once to the same player during the same season.

19. AMATUER PLAYERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

When the penalty which the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner must or may impose in accordance with the provisions of this Code consists of a fine the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall, instead of imposing the relative fine, suspend the player for one (1) match if the fine to be imposed is ten euro (€10) or less and two (2) matches if the fine to be imposed is more than ten euro (€10).

20. FIRST OFFENCE

- (i) When a player, whatever his age, is found guilty of a first offence and such offence is not deemed to be of a serious nature, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner may, after declaring such player guilty, discharge him unconditionally on the grounds that the offence is the player's first ever offence.
- (ii) Such player shall not be regarded as a recidivist if he commits again the same offence or any other offence during the same season.

21. EXECUTION OF DECISIONS

- (i) (a) Decisions of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner relating to suspensions shall take immediate effect unless the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner, for special reasons to be stated in the decision, specifies a date when the suspension shall become operative.
- (b) In the case of period suspensions, the months and the years shall be reckoned according to the calendar.
- (c) The right to lodge an appeal or the actual filing of the petition of appeal against a decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner, shall not operate as a bar to the operation of the suspension inflicted.
- (ii) (a) Fines shall be paid within the period of fifteen (15) days from the date of the decision.
- (b) When a fine has not been paid within the time limit mentioned in para.(a) above, such fine shall be paid by the Member Club for whom the player had played when the offence for which he was fined was committed. Such payment shall be made in accordance with the Rules of the Statute of the Association.
- (c) In case of Member Clubs, if a fine has not been paid in accordance with sub-clause (ii) (b) above, after seven (7) days' written notice by the Association to the Member Club and the player concerned have elapsed the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall double the fine.

22. NORMAL SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

- (i) Except in the cases mentioned above, match suspensions shall be served in the same competition.
- (ii) Period suspensions of one (1) month or more shall apply to all the competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- (iii) The suspension of a player for a match shall be deemed to have been served in a scheduled match which is either abandoned or discontinued or which does not take place because one or both teams do not turn up on the field of play for such match or because such match is declared null and void by the competent authorities of the Association. However, any suspension deemed to have been served shall come again into force for the same match if it is decided by the competent authorities of the Association that the match in which such

suspension was deemed to have been served should be played or replayed as the case may be.

- (iv) In the case that the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner has inflicted on the same player penalties which consist both in a period suspension and in a number of matches, such penalties shall be served in the first place by the serving of the period suspension and in the second place by the serving of the match suspension or suspensions after the period suspension has been served.

23. SPECIAL SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

- (i) In case that a suspension of a match or a number of matches cannot be served in the same competition of the Association, during the same season, the suspension shall be served in the first competition of the Association, for which the player is eligible to play during the same season.
- (ii) If such suspension cannot be served in any competition of the Association, during the same season, then the suspension shall be served in the first competition of the Association, for which the player will be eligible to play during the next season.
- (iii) (a) If a player who has been suspended for one (1) match or for a number of matches plays in a competitive match whilst he is suspended, such player shall be further suspended for another two (2) matches for every such offence.
- (b) If a player who has been suspended for a period plays in a competitive match during the period of his suspension, such player shall be further suspended for two (2) matches if he takes part in a competitive match during the period of his suspension and subsequently he shall be suspended for four (4) matches for each and every time he takes part in a competitive match during the same period of his suspension. Such matches shall be served after the expiry of the period for which he was originally suspended.
- (c) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall not take into account any claim that the player and/or his Club were unaware of the original suspension or of the regulations.
- (d) Any such further suspension shall be inflicted and shall be without any prejudice to any forfeiture of points and/or other penalties which his Club may incur or may have incurred for having made use of such a suspended player in a competitive match.
- (iv) (a) A suspension for one (1) match or for a number of matches in connection with an offence or offences committed in a friendly match, shall be served in the first competitive match or matches of the Association, as the case may be, and for which a player is eligible to play after the decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner.
- (b) A suspension for a match or for a number of matches in connection with an offence/s committed in a match of a friendly tournament shall be served in the same tournament. If the suspension cannot be served in the same tournament either because the tournament has for any reason ended or been suspended, the suspension shall be served in the first and subsequent competitive matches of the Association which is/are held after the end or suspension of such tournament.

- (c) A period suspension which extends beyond the end or suspension of a friendly tournament or a lifelong suspension inflicted in connection with an offence/s committed in a match of a friendly tournament, will be applicable to the competitions of the Association if such suspension is imposed or confirmed by the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner.

24. BREACHING OF A SUSPENSION ORDER

- (i) Players or other individuals who are serving a period suspension or who have been suspended for one (1) match or for a number of matches, on the occasion of competitive matches which are organised by the Association or by a Member Association and for which a referee of the Association has been appointed to officiate, may not enter those areas of the stadium or ground which are reserved for players and other authorised persons until they have fully served their suspension.
- (ii) A player or another individual who breaches a suspension order as mentioned in para. (i) above, shall be reported to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner who shall proceed on such a report in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.
- (iii) If the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner finds such a player or other individual guilty of having breached a suspension order, he shall inflict a new suspension which shall be double the original suspension inflicted on such a player or other individual. This new suspension shall commence to run from the date of the decision finding such player or other individual guilty and punishing such player or other individual in accordance with the provisions of this rule.
- (iv) In case that such a player or individual is again found guilty of having breached this new suspension order, the new suspension inflicted in accordance with the provisions of para. (iii) above shall be deemed to have been an original suspension for the purpose of this rule.

25. APPEALS

- (a) (i) Any right of appeal from any decision of the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the MFA Statute and the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Malta Football Association. Moreover, any such appeal from any decision of the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be determined in accordance with the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Malta Football Association.
- (ii) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner or an Officer of the Association shall have the right to attend the sitting of the MFA Appeals Board as an interested party.
- (iii) The MFA Appeals Board shall send a copy of any decision confirming, altering, amending or revoking a decision of the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner, to the Secretary General of the Futsal Malta Association.
- (iv) Any decision taken by the MFA Appeal Board following an appeal from the MFA Disciplinary Commissioner shall also apply in relation to any futsal competitive matches.

- (b) (i) There shall also be a right of appeal against the decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner if:
 - (a) it is alleged that a procedural irregularity has been committed by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner; or
 - (b) it is alleged that the wrong person was convicted by the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner; or
 - (c) except in the case of an indefinite suspension in the case where a suspension of more than two matches for the same offence or a period suspension exceeding one month for the same offence has been inflicted, provided that in the case of concurrent suspensions inflicted by the Commissioner on the same player during the same sitting but for different offences, even if such offences had taken place during the same match, both in the case of a suspension not exceeding two (2) matches for the same offence and in the case of a suspension not exceeding one (1) month for the same offence, there shall be no right of appeal.
- (ii) The appeal shall be heard by the MFA Appeals Board and any such appeal from a decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Code and the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association.
- (iii) The provisions of the Statute of the MFA relative to the filing of the appeal and of the formation of the MFA Appeals Board shall apply to an appeal from a decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner unless these are in conflict with the rules established hereunder and in which case these rules shall apply in the case of such an appeal.
- (iv) An appeal shall not have a delaying effect on the decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner which shall remain operative until such decision is canceled or mitigated by the Appeals Board.
- (v) A player, an official or a Club which desires to make an appeal must file a petition in writing accompanied by a deposit of seventy-five euro (€75) within six (6) days of the decision of the Commissioner. A petition of appeal shall not concern more than one (1) player or official.
- (vi) The MFA Appeals Board shall consider as a means of evidence:
 - (a) the report of the Referee, the report of the Match Inspector, if any, and any other evidence produced before the Commissioner; and
 - (b) the appellant; and
 - (c) if it considers practical and necessary the Referee and the assistant referees, if any, and the Match Inspector, if any; and
 - (d) any other evidence which it deems necessary.
- (vii) The MFA Appeals Board shall normally hold its first sitting within one (1) week after the filing of the appeal and shall give its decision as early as practically possible. In the case of an allegation of mistaken identity only the appeal shall be heard before the next competitive match involving the player in question.

- (viii) (a) The MFA Appeals Board shall be assisted by the Secretary to the Board or another person nominated to act as a Secretary to keep the minutes of the proceedings and to render all the necessary assistance to the Board.
- (b) The FMA Disciplinary Commissioner or an Officer of the Association shall attend the sitting of the MFA Appeals Board as an interested party to uphold the decision of the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner.
- (ix) (a) In order that an appeal under clause 25(b)(i)(b) may succeed, the MFA Appeals Board must be satisfied not only that the person convicted was wrongly convicted due to an error in identity but also that clear proof is brought forward as to who is the real offender.
- (b) When an appeal is upheld under this clause, the MFA Appeals Board shall cause a copy of the decision to be sent to the appellant and to his club as well as to the club of the real offender, if different from the club of the person freed, and shall refer the documents of the case and/or the other evidence to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner.
- (c) When a case has been referred by the MFA Appeals Board to the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner as provided in clause 25(b) (ix) (b) above, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner shall, during his first sitting after such reference, judge again the matter by declaring guilty the person whose name has been referred to him and punish him for the offence/s committed. In so doing, the FMA Disciplinary Commissioner is not bound by the punishment which had been inflicted on the wrong person.
- (d) The MFA Appeals Board shall decide on the costs of the appeal and on the forfeiture of the deposit if the appeal is not upheld.
- (e) If the MFA Appeals Board is of the opinion that a frivolous or irresponsible appeal has been lodged, besides ordering the forfeiture of the deposit and condemn the appellant to pay the costs of the appeal, it shall impose a fine not exceeding one hundred and fifty euro (€150) upon the appellant.
- (f) The decision of the MFA Appeals Board is final and binding unless a reference could be made or has been made to the Independent Arbitration Tribunal established by the MFA's Statute. In the latter case, the decision of the Independent Arbitration Tribunal shall be final and binding and the said decision shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Code and the rules, bye-laws and regulations of the Association.

26. APPOINTMENT OF EXPERTS

- (i) The Board may appoint directly a number of experts to assist them in specific issues which require specific expertise, such as but not limited to medical experts. Such experts should not be involved directly with clubs as players or officials.

27. AMENDMENTS

- (i) This Code may be amended from time to time by the Council as it may deem fit and necessary.
- (ii) New offences or more severe penalties shall not have a retroactive effect.