

To the members of FIFA
and the confederations



Circular no. 948

Zurich, 11 January 2005
GS/hta-sma

Automatic suspension following red card/TV evidence

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the successful and productive FIFA Disciplinary Seminar on 9 December 2004, we would like to take this opportunity to provide you with further information on article 83 (Specific jurisdiction of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee) and article 102 (Various types of proof) of the FIFA Disciplinary Code - FDC.

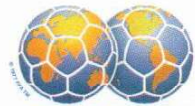
I. Automatic suspension following red card

With reference to article 83 FDC, the basic principle to be applied is that if a player is sent off, he must be automatically suspended for the next match in the competition in which he received that red card. This automatic suspension applies to a sending off as a result of two yellow cards as well as to a "direct" sending off (immediate red card offence). The relevant Disciplinary Committee may also extend the duration of the suspension (art. 19 par. 4 FDC).

However, as a basic rule, the relevant Disciplinary Committee may not alter or annul any of the referee's decisions regarding incidents that occurred during the game. Nevertheless, art. 83b) FDC provides for one exception. According to this provision, the Disciplinary Committee may rectify obvious errors in the referee's disciplinary decisions. The term "obvious refereeing error" refers to incidents in which it has been proven that the referee mistakenly sent off the wrong player or made a serious and obviously incorrect decision (wrongful dismissal).

II. TV evidence

According to article 102 FDC, the following types of proof, in particular, are admissible: reports from referees, assistant referees, match commissioners and referee inspectors, declarations from the parties and witnesses, production of documents, expert opinions and audio or video recordings. With regard to audio or video recordings and TV evidence, it should be noted that audio and video recordings are always to be regarded as additional, and as such, secondary types of proof. In other words, audio and video recordings may always be used to help to determine the severity of the punishment to be imposed.



FIFA

For the Good of the Game

When determining the facts of a case, audio and video recordings may be referred to and considered as authentic types of proof for incidents where the referee has made an obvious error, and for incidents where the referee did not see or hear the following violations of the FIFA Disciplinary Code:

1. Serious infringements as described in article 52 FDC (e.g. spitting);
2. Physical injury and violence (art. 47 and 48 FDC);
3. Serious infringements of fair play;
4. Racist comments or conduct (article 55 FDC).

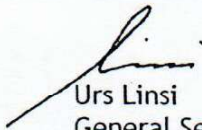
Furthermore, only recordings from licensed broadcasters are admissible, and these recordings must be submitted to the Disciplinary Committee within 72 hours. In tournaments, however, these recordings must be submitted at least 12 hours before the next match.

Therefore, we would like to ask that you adapt your disciplinary regulations and inform your Disciplinary Committee accordingly.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Urs Linsi
General Secretary

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
FIFA Referees' Committee