To the members of FIFA

Circular no. 1369

Zurich, 8 July 2013

SG/mca

Resolution on the fight against racism and discrimination

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the 63rd FIFA Congress held in Mauritius on 30 and 31 May 2013, the resolution on the fight against racism and discrimination was presented and unanimously adopted by the member associations present.

On behalf of the newly elected chairman of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, Claudio Sulser, we would like to provide you with some guidelines in reference to the above-mentioned resolution and in particular with regard to the sanctions mentioned therein.

The legal frame for infringements related to discrimination is given by art. 3 and art. 65 of the FIFA Statutes, as well as by art. 58 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (FDC). In this context, we wish to underline that the definitions of discrimination as provided for by the FIFA Statutes and the FDC are very broad.

As regards art. 58 of the FDC, the provision covers any offence to the dignity of a person or group of persons through contemptuous, discriminatory or denigratory words or actions concerning race, skin colour, language, religion or origin.

According to this article, sanctions may be imposed on natural persons, namely players, officials or even spectators, as well as on teams of a club or an association, or on clubs or associations themselves.

In this regard, a large number of sanctions may be imposed, such as a fine, match suspension, stadium ban, deduction of points, relegation to a lower division, an order to play a match behind closed doors, the forfeit of a match, or disqualification from a competition (art. 10 ff. of the FDC). As far as the fines are concerned, different minimum amounts are established in the FDC in order to reflect the severity of the infringements.
Finally, we wish to draw your attention to the fact that the sanctions provided for in the FDC are mandatory for all member associations and must be incorporated, without exception, in their own regulations in accordance with their internal association structure (art. 146 par. 2 of the FDC). Pursuant to art. 146 par. 3 of the FDC, the associations do, however, have some freedom with regard to the fines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and based on the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution by the FIFA Congress in Mauritius, we wish to emphasise that the member associations are requested to take the appropriate steps to include in their own regulations in the near future the two-stage approach foreseen by the resolution:

- For a first or minor offence, the sanctions of a warning, a fine and/or the playing of a match behind closed doors shall be applied.
- For reoffenders or for serious incidents, sanctions such as point deductions, expulsion from a competition or relegation should be applied.

We thank you for your attention and your valuable support in the fight against racism and discrimination.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Cc: FIFA Executive Committee
    FIFA Disciplinary Committee
    FIFA Appeal Committee