

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES IN FOOTBALL

An International and Comparative Analysis

Marc Cavaliero and Michele Colucci (eds.)

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INTRODUCTION

International and national football associations have their own autonomous power to create, apply, and enforce disciplinary rules in order to regulate the activities of the sports stakeholders and deal in a fair and fast way with any infringements.

In doing so, they also act according to the “specificity of sport” in view of preserving the integrity of competitions at national and international level.

Therefore, if an association member, a club, a player, or any stakeholder that falls under the jurisdiction of FIFA, a confederation or a national federation does not comply with these rules, the relevant committee may impose disciplinary sanctions.

In such a context, it is important to identify what constitutes a disciplinary infringement as well as the relevant judicial process that leads to the appropriate sanctions.

Each judicial body of an international or a national federation is competent to investigate and sanction, as the case may be, any infringement that occurs in the frame of a match or a competition, which falls within that federation’s responsibility. However, a disciplinary body may be competent to sanction any other violations of the relevant regulatory framework.

The book has three main sections.

The first one reviews the FIFA and regional Confederations (AFC, CAF, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL, OFC, UEFA)’ disciplinary regulatory framework and focus on the relevant jurisprudence of their disciplinary bodies.

The second section covers disciplinary rules and procedures enacted by 19 major sports associations all over the world.

The last one is devoted to a thorough, comparative analysis targeting the number of differences and peculiarities found in all those national and international disciplinary systems. The critical work ends with a reasonable, constructive argument on the need of promoting a certain degree of those disciplinary systems’ harmonization because of their mutual interaction and problems arising from different disciplinary measures for the same infringements.

This book is quite unique for its content but also for the participation of leading international experts in the field. Therefore, we wish to sincerely thank all our trusted colleagues and friends who found the time to share with us their knowledge and experience.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Antonella Frattini for her precious and patient support in the editing process, to our brilliant young colleague Andrew Visnovsky for his linguistic revision and his very pertinent comments, to Arielle and Liesbeth for their patience and devotion during the whole process, and to Durante Rapacciuolo for his always critical and stimulating analysis.

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Marc Cavaliero and Michele Colucci