



Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary Code 2026

(Issued and approved by the Executive Committee of the Bhutan Football Federation)



(Dasho Singye Palden Younten)
Royal Thimphu College FC, President



(Mr. Hishey Tshering)
Thimphu City FC, President



(Mr. Jigme Tsewang)
Transport United FC, President



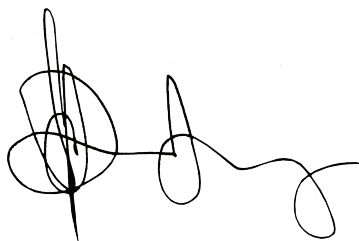
(Mr. Chencho Norbu)
Paro FC, Board Member



(Ms. Zimbiri)
Women's Representative
Bhutan Football Federation



(Mr. Pema Dorji)
Vice-President
Bhutan Football Federation



(Dasho Ugen Tsechup)
President
Bhutan Football Federation

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BHUTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



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Chapter 1: General Provisions

Objectives

1. This *Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary Code 2026* (the “Code”) sets out:
 - (a) disciplinary offences under the regulations of the Bhutan Football Federation (“BFF”);
 - (b) the sanctions for those offences;
 - (c) the organization, powers and function of the BFF judicial bodies; and
 - (d) the procedures that those bodies must follow when deciding cases.

Scope of application- competitions and activities

2. This Code applies to:
 - (a) every match and competition organized by BFF;
 - (b) every match and competition held under the auspices of BFF;
 - (c) every friendly interstate Match and/or national competition that requires authorization from the BFF;
 - (d) any football related activity within Bhutan; and
 - (e) any breach of BFF’s statutory objectives, as well as of a FIFA or AFC rule that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any BFF body.

Scope of application

3. The following are subject to this code:
 - (a) Clubs;
 - (b) members of the Clubs;
 - (c) officials;

- (d) players;
- (e) match officials;
- (f) football agents licensed by FIFA;
- (g) any other person appointed by BFF to perform a function, in particular in relation to a match, competition or other event organized by BFF.

Scope of progressive application

- 4. This Code applies to all disciplinary offenses committed following 2 May 2026.
- 5. This Code also applies to all disciplinary offenses committed prior 2 May 2026, if the sanction provided in this Code is more lenient than the sanction that applied under previous rules.
- 6. If a person was under BFF jurisdiction on the date of the alleged disciplinary offense, disciplinary proceedings against that person will not be discontinued solely because that person later ceases to be under BFF jurisdiction.

Applicable law

- 7. When deciding a case, the BFF judicial bodies must apply:
 - (a) BFF regulations, guidelines, directives and decisions;
 - (b) FIFA or AFC statutes, regulations, circulars, directives and decisions, and laws of the Game; and
 - (c) any relevant laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan that the competent judicial body considers applicable.

Disciplinary measures

- 8. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural and legal persons:

- (a) warning;
 - (b) reprimand;
 - (c) fine or any other financial sanction;
 - (d) order to return awards;
 - (e) withdrawal of a title;
 - (f) order to fulfil a financial obligation arising or existing in the context of a proceeding.
9. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed on natural persons:
- (a) Suspension for a specific number of matches or for a specific period;
 - (b) Ban from the dressing rooms and/or team bench;
 - (c) Community football service;
10. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed only on legal persons (including clubs):
- (a) ban on registering new players;
 - (b) annulment of the result of a match;
 - (c) deduction of points;
 - (d) relegation to a lower division;
 - (e) expulsion from an ongoing competition or from future competitions;
 - (f) forfeit of a match;
 - (g) order to replay a match;
 - (h) forfeiture of training rewards that are due;
 - (i) order to pay a specific amount to a club;
 - (j) order to refund any club grant or subsidy.
11. Fines must be at least Nu. 5,000/- or more than Nu. 500,000/-
12. Clubs are jointly liable for fines imposed on players and officials.
13. Disciplinary measures under this Code may be imposed singly or in combination.

Directives

14. A directive is an order that requires those affected to act or refrain from acting in a specific way.
15. In addition to disciplinary measures, the BFF judicial bodies may issue directives that:
 - (a) set out how a disciplinary measure must be carried out, and
 - (b) state when and under what conditions the disciplinary measure takes effect.
16. The BFF judicial bodies may also order a club to pay compensation if the club is liable for damage under clause 8 of this Code.

Responsibility

17. Unless this Code state otherwise, disciplinary offences are punishable whether they are committed deliberately or negligently. In particular, clubs may be held responsible for the conduct of its members, players, officials, supporters and any other person acting on its behalf, even if the Club can show that it was not at fault or negligence.
18. Any person who participates in committing a disciplinary offence, or who induces another person to commit an offence, whether as instigator or accomplice, may also be sanctioned.

Decisions of the referee

19. Decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and may not be reviewed by BFF judicial bodies.
20. If a referee's decision involves an obvious error, such as mistaken identity of the person penalized, the BFF judicial bodies may only review the disciplinary consequences of that decision. In cases of mistaken identity, disciplinary

proceedings may be opened only against the person who was actually at fault.

21. A protest against a caution, or against a sending-off following two cautions, is admissible only if it is based on a claim of mistaken identity of the player.
22. In cases of serious misconduct, disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee and assistant referees did not see the incident and therefore did not take any action during the match.
23. The provisions of this Code on protests against match results affected by a referee's decision that clearly violates a rule continue to apply.

Chapter 2: Offences and Penalties

Offensive Behaviour and violations of fair play

24. Clubs and their players, officials, members and any other person acting on their behalf must:
 - (a) respect the Laws of the Game;
 - (b) comply with BFF regulations, directives, guidelines and decisions; and
 - (c) uphold the principles of fair play, loyalty and integrity.
25. A person may be subject to disciplinary measures, for example, if they:
 - (a) seriously breach basic standards of decent conduct;
 - (b) insult any person or organization by using offensive gestures, signs or language;
 - (c) use a sports event for demonstrations of a non-sporting nature;
 - (d) behave in a way that brings the sport of football or BFF into disrepute;
 - (e) deliberately alter the age of players stated on identity cards used in age-restricted competitions.

Misconduct of players and officials

26. Players and officials who commit misconduct are subject to suspension and may be fined, as follows:

- (a) one-match suspension for a player who is sent off for denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity;
- (b) at least a one-match suspension, or a suspension for an appropriate period, for unsporting behavior towards an opponent or any other person who is not a match official;
- (c) at least a one-match suspension for an official who is sent off for dissent by word or action;
- (d) at least a one-match suspension for deliberately receiving a yellow or red card, including to secure a suspension for a future match or to obtain a clean record;
- (e) at least a two-match suspension for serious foul play;
- (f) at least a two-match suspension for provoking spectators by any means;
- (g) at least a two-match suspension, or a suspension for a specific period, for intentionally causing a match official to make an incorrect decision, or for supporting an obvious error by a match official so that the official makes an incorrect decision;
- (h) at least a three-match suspension for violent conduct;
- (i) at least a three-match suspension, or a suspension for a specific period, for assaulting an opponent or another person (other than a match official), including by elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting;
- (j) at least a four-match suspension, or a suspension for a specific period, for serious unsporting behavior towards a match official;
- (k) at least a fifteen-match suspension, or a suspension for a specific period of not less than fifteen matches, for assaulting a match official, including by elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting.

Discrimination

27. A person commits the offence of discrimination if they damage the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people by contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions based on race, skin colour, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, wealth, birth, status or any other similar ground. A person who commits the offence of Discrimination is subject to a suspension of at least ten matches or a specific period, and/or any other appropriate disciplinary measure.
28. The competent judicial body may impose a lower sanction than the minimum set out above if the club concerned agrees, in cooperation with BFF, to develop a comprehensive plan to combat discrimination and prevent repeat incidents. That plan must be approved by BFF and must cover at least the following three areas:
- (a) educational activities, including a communication campaign aimed at supporters and the general public, with regular review of its effectiveness;
 - (b) stadium security and dialogue measures including:
 - i. a policy on identifying offenders and imposing football sanctions on them,
 - ii. a policy on referring cases to the competent state (criminal) authorities, and
 - iii. structured dialogue with supporters and influencers on how to achieve change.
 - (c) partnerships, including cooperation with supporters, NGOs, experts and other stakeholders to advise on and support the action plan and to ensure effective and ongoing implementation.
29. A person who is found under this Code to have been a victim of potential discriminatory behavior may:
- (a) be invited by the judicial body to make an oral or written victim impact statement;

- (b) request the reasoned decision in proceedings; and
- (c) lodge an appeal and participate as a party in disciplinary appeal proceedings, in line with this Code.

30. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a referee abandons a match because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the match will be declared forfeited.

Unplayed matches and abandonment

31. If a match cannot start or cannot be completed for reasons other than force majeure, and the reason is the behavior of a team or behavior for which a club is responsible, that club will be sanctioned with:

- (a) a fine of at least Nu. 50,000/-, or
- (b) an amount equal to the total cost price of hosting a similar match, and the match will either be forfeited or replayed.

32. Additional disciplinary measures may also be imposed on the club concerned.

33. If a match is abandoned and must be replayed in full, all cautions issued during the abandoned match are cancelled.

34. If a match is abandoned, in particular for reasons of force majeure, and is resumed from the minute at which play was stopped, all cautions imposed before abandonment remain valid for the remainder of the match.

35. If a match is to be replayed, all cautions received by the teams in the original match remain in force.

Protests

36. A Club may lodge protests in writing, addressed to the General Secretary of BFF through the Match Commissioner, within one hour of the end of the match. The protest must be submitted in hard copy and state the essential facts and the damage

claimed.

37. The protesting Club must then submit a full written report within 24 hours of the end of the match, setting out the detailed grounds for the protest.
38. The protest fee is Nu. 10,000/-. It must be paid to BFF when the protest is lodged and will be reimbursed only if the protest is fully upheld.
39. A protest is admissible only if it is based on one of the following grounds:
 - (a) the participation of an ineligible player, because the player did not meet the conditions in the relevant BFF regulations;
 - (b) an unfit field of play, provided that the referee was informed of the problem as soon as it was reported or observed (either in writing before the match, or orally during the match by a team captain in the presence of the opposing team's captain);
 - (c) an obvious error by the referee, as defined in clause 19- 23 (Decision of the referee) of this Code, in which case the protest may concern only the disciplinary consequences of that obvious error.

Manipulation of football matches and competitions

40. Any person who, directly or indirectly, by act or omission, unlawfully influences or manipulates the course, result or any other aspect of a match or competition, or conspires or attempts to do so by any means, will be sanctioned with:
 - (a) a ban of at least five years on taking part in any football-related activity; and
 - (b) a fine of at least Nu. 500,000/-.
41. In serious cases of manipulation of football matches and competitions, a longer ban, including a lifetime ban on taking part in any football-related activity, will be imposed.
42. If a player or official engages in behavior described above, the player's or official's Club may be sanctioned with:
 - (a) forfeit of the match concerned; or

(b) exclusion from another competition, where necessary to protect the integrity of the competition.

43. If a player or official engages in behavior related to serious cases of manipulation of football matches and competitions, Additional disciplinary measure may be imposed along with the above sanctions.

44. Any Person bound by this Code must cooperate fully with BFF in efforts to prevent and combat the manipulation of matches and competitions. In particular, they must immediately and voluntarily report to the Competitions Department (which shall serve as the interim secretariat to the Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary and Ethics Committee) any approach, activity or information that may be directly or indirectly related to possible manipulation of a match or competition as described above. Any breach of this duty will be sanctioned with:

(a) a ban of at least two years on taking part in any football-related activity;
and

(b) a fine of at least Nu. 50,000/-.

45. The Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is competent to investigate and decide on all conduct, on or off the field of play, related to the manipulation of football matches and competitions.

Failure to respect decisions

46. Any person who fails to pay another person (including a player, coach or club) or BFF a sum of money, in whole or in part, despite being ordered to do so by a BFF body, committee or instance:

(a) will be fined for failing to comply with the decision and may be subject to additional disciplinary measures; and, where necessary:

(b) will be given a final deadline of 30 days to pay the amount due or to comply with the decision.

If the debtor is a Club:

- (c) after expiry of the final deadline, and if the Club continues to default or fails to comply fully with the decision, the Club will be banned from registering new players until the full amount has been paid or the non-financial decision has been complied with;
- (d) in the event of continued failure (for example, where a registration ban has already been served for more than three full and consecutive registration periods after notification of the decision), repeated offenses, serious infringements, or where a full registration ban cannot be imposed or served, the club may also be sanctioned with deduction of points and/or relegation to a lower division.

If the debtor is a natural person:

- (e) after expiry of the final deadline, and if that person continues to default or fails to comply fully with the decision, a ban on taking part in any football-related activity for a specific period may be imposed, in addition to other disciplinary measures.

47. The Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is competent to decide cases involving failure to comply with settlement agreements concluded in disciplinary proceedings in relation to a final and binding financial decision of any BFF body, committee or instance.

Forgery and falsification

48. Any person who, in connection with football activities, forges a document, falsifies a genuine document, or uses a forged or falsified document will be sanctioned with:

- (a) a fine; and
- (b) a ban of at least six matches, or a ban for a specific period of no less than 12

months.

49. A club may be held responsible for acts of forgery or falsification committed by its officials and/ or players.
50. Despite the provisions on forgery and falsification in this Code, any investigation or prosecution by competent state authorities may proceed. This Code does not limit or override any legal rights or obligations arising from such investigations or prosecutions.

Chapter 3: Implementation of Disciplinary Measures

Enforcement of sanctions

51. The limitation period to enforce disciplinary measures is five years.
52. This five-year period starts on the date when the final decision takes effect.

Determining the disciplinary measure

53. The competent judicial body decides the type and extent of disciplinary measures in light of the objective and subjective elements of the offense, taking into account any aggravating and mitigating circumstances.
54. When determining the disciplinary measure, the judicial body must consider all relevant factors, including:
- (a) any assistance and substantial cooperation by the offender in uncovering or proving a breach of any BFF rule;
 - (b) the circumstances of the case;
 - (c) the degree of the offender's guilt; and
 - (d) any other relevant circumstances.
55. In exercising its discretion, the relevant BFF judicial body may reduce a disciplinary measure or decide not to impose any disciplinary measure at all.

Chapter 4: Organisation and Competence

General rule

56. The BFF judicial bodies are competent to investigate, prosecute and sanction conduct that falls within the scope of this Code.

Composition of BFF judicial bodies

57. For the purposes of this Code, the BFF judicial bodies are:

- (a) the Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (the “Committee”); and
- (b) The Appeal Committee.

58. Each BFF judicial body consists of a chairperson, a deputy chairperson and such number of members as BFF decides.

59. The chairperson and deputy chairperson and other members of the BFF judicial bodies are appointed by BFF for a term of four years.

Independence and impartiality

60. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and all other members of the BFF judicial bodies must be impartial.

61. A Member of a BFF judicial body must not decide a case if there are legitimate grounds to doubt their independence or impartiality or if there is a conflict of interest. That member must disclose any circumstance that may give rise to such doubt.

62. If there are legitimate doubts about the independence or impartiality of a member of a BFF judicial body, any party may challenge that member, no later than two days before the date on which the judicial body is due to decide the case.

63. The chairperson decides any challenge against a member. If the challenge concerns

the chairperson, the deputy chairperson, or, if the deputy is unavailable, the longest-serving member present, decides the challenge.

Meetings

64. At the request of the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, if both are absent, the longest-serving available member, and depending on the seriousness of the potential infringement, the Competitions Department (acting as interim secretariat to the Committee) convenes the number of members needed for each meeting.

65. The chairperson, deputy chairperson and members conduct meetings and take the decisions that this Code authorizes them to take.

Confidentiality

66. Members of the BFF judicial bodies must keep confidential all information disclosed to them in the course of their duties, including the facts of the case, the deliberations and the decisions.

67. BFF may make public the opening of proceedings and decisions that have already been notified to the addressees.

68. Any person who is required to participate in, or who is subject to, a disciplinary investigation or disciplinary proceedings must keep all related information confidential at all times, unless the chairperson of the judicial body expressly allows disclosure in writing. Any breach of such duty may be sanctioned.

69.If a member of a judicial body breaches the confidentiality obligation, that member must be suspended from the Committee until further notice by BFF.

Secretariat

70. The Competitions Department acts as the interim secretariat to the Committee until a permanent secretariat is established. For all purposes of this Code, the

“secretariat” means the Competitions Department.

71. BFF must provide the judicial bodies with the necessary support and infrastructure.

The judicial bodies may be assisted by legal counsel or experts.

72. The secretariat is responsible for administrative work and for drafting decisions.

73. The secretariat manages case files. Decisions and related files must be kept for at least ten years.

74. The secretariat keeps records of cautions, sending-off and match suspensions in BFF's data system. The secretariat confirms such records in writing to the club concerned.

75. The secretariat conducts any investigations required, on its own initiative where necessary.

76. The following general principles apply to investigations:

(a) BFF may investigate possible offenses covered by this Code.

(b) In principle, when an investigation is opened, the parties concerned are informed, unless such notification is not considered appropriate.

(c) Investigations may involve written inquiries, engagement of third parties (including forensic firms), questioning of individuals, on-site inspections, document requests and expert opinions.

77. An investigation may be reopened if new facts or evidence emerge suggesting that an offense under this Code may have been committed.

Integrity experts

78. The secretariat may appoint one or more integrity experts to support investigations into potential breaches of BFF regulations.

79. An integrity expert may request that disciplinary proceedings be opened and may propose disciplinary measures against clubs and individuals.

80. The integrity experts must remain impartial and meet the independence criteria defined by the secretariat for the duration of their engagement. The requirements for their appointment and role are set in a circular issued by the secretariat.

Exemption from liability

81. Except in cases of gross culpability, the members of the BFF judicial bodies and the secretariat are not liable for acts or omissions connected with disciplinary proceedings.

Evidence, evaluation of evidence and standard of proof

82. Any type of proof may be submitted.

83. The competent judicial body has full discretion to evaluate the evidence.

Match officials' reports

84. Facts stated in match officials' reports, and in any additional reports or correspondence from match officials are presumed to be accurate. A party disputing those facts may submit evidence to prove that they are inaccurate.

Burden of proof

85. The burden of proving disciplinary infringements lies with the BFF judicial bodies.

86. Any party claiming a right based on an alleged fact bears the burden of proving that fact. During the proceedings, the party must submit all relevant facts and evidence of which it is aware at that time, or of which it should have been aware by exercising due care.

Witnesses

87. Witnesses must tell the absolute and complete truth and must answer questions to

the best of their knowledge and judgement.

88. Each party is responsible for ensuring the attendance of its own witnesses and for paying any related costs and expenses.

Representation and assistance

89. Parties may be represented by legal counsel at their own cost. If so, a duly signed power of attorney must be submitted.

90. If a party is not required to appear in person, it may be represented.

Legal aid

91. To safeguard their rights, individuals bound by this Code who lack sufficient financial means may request legal aid from BFF for proceedings before the BFF judicial bodies.

92. Applicants for legal aid must submit a reasoned request with supporting documents.

93. The chairperson of the Committee decides on requests for legal aid. This decision is final.

Communication with the parties

94. All parties must be notified of decision.

95. Communications from the secretariat are sent to the email address provided by the party concerned. Email is a valid and binding means of communication and is sufficient to establish time limits and whether they have been complied with.

96. Parties must ensure that their contact details, including address, telephone number and email address, are accurate and kept up to date at all times.

Effects of decisions

97. Decisions take effect as soon as they are notified.
98. Cautions, sending-off and automatic match suspensions take immediate effect in subsequent matches, even if notification reaches the Club concerned at a later time.

Provisional measures

99. The chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may issue provisional measures where necessary to:
- (a) ensure the proper administration of justice;
 - (b) maintain sporting discipline;
 - (c) avoid irreparable harm; or
 - (d) protect safety and security.
100. The chairperson or nominee is not required to hear the parties before issuing provisional measures.
101. Provisional measures issued by the chairperson of the Committee or their nominee may be appealed in accordance with this Code. The appeal must reach BFF in writing, with reasons, within three days of notification of the contested measure. The chairperson of the Appeal Committee, or their nominee, decides such appeals as a single judge. That decision is final.
102. A provisional measure may last for up to 90 days. The duration of any measure may be deducted from the final disciplinary sanction. In exceptional cases, the chairperson of the competent judicial body, or their nominee, may extend a provisional measure by up to an additional 90 days.

Chapter 5: Decision-making process

Convocation, rights of the parties, hearings, decisions, communications and confidentiality

103. As a general rule, there are no oral statements and the BFF judicial bodies decide on the basis of the written file.
104. At the reasoned request of a party, or on the initiative of the chairperson or the deputy chairperson, a hearing may be held and the parties may be summoned to attend.
105. Unless this Code provides otherwise, before a decision is made, the parties are entitled to:
 - (a) submit written statements;
 - (b) inspect the case file; and
 - (c) request copies of the case file.
106. The BFF judicial bodies may hold hearings and take decisions even if one or all parties are absent.
107. If several proceedings are opened against the same club or individual, the competent judicial body may join the cases and issue a single decision.
108. At any time before the relevant judicial body meets to decide a case, a party may accept responsibility and request that a specific sanction be imposed. The judicial body may decide the case on the basis of that request or impose any sanction it considers appropriate under this Code.
109. All communications concerning a club or individual (including notifications of proceedings and decisions of the BFF judicial bodies) are addressed to the club, which must, where appropriate, notify the individual concerned. All such communications are sent by email from the secretariat.

Decisions

110. Decisions are taken by simple majority of the members present. If case of a tie, the chairperson has the casting vote.
111. The BFF judicial bodies may take decisions in in-person meetings, by telephone conference, by video conference or by any similar method.
112. As a rule, the BFF judicial bodies first issue only the operative part (terms) of a decision. Only that part is notified to the parties, who are informed that they have ten days from notification to request a reasoned decision in writing. If no such request is made, the decision becomes final and binding and the parties are deemed to have waived their right to appeal.
113. A reasoned decision must include at least:
 - (a) a brief summary of the facts, which does not need to address every contention;
 - (b) the provision(s) that have been infringed;
 - (c) the considerations relevant to the possible breach of BFF regulations; and
 - (d) the criteria used to determine the sanction.
114. If a reasoned decision is requested within the time limit, the time limit for lodging an appeal starts only when the reasoned decision is notified. Only parties to whom the decision is addressed may request reasons.
115. Any appeal lodged before the notification of the reasoned decision is treated solely as a request for reasons.
116. Requesting a reasoned decision does not suspend enforcement of the decision, which takes effect as soon as it is notified, except for orders to pay a sum of money.
117. The competent judicial body may correct calculation mistakes or any other obvious error in a decision at any time.

Chapter 6: Bhutan Football Federation Disciplinary and Ethics Committee

Commencement of proceedings

118. The secretariat of the Committee opens proceedings:

- (a) on the basis of match officials' reports;
- (b) where a protest has been lodged;
- (c) at the request of the BFF Executive Committee;
- (d) at the request of the integrity expert;
- (e) at the request of any entity working on ethics issues;
- (f) on the basis of a report filed by a BFF body, committee, instance or by the BFF administration;
- (g) on the basis of documents received from a public authority; or
- (h) on its own initiative.

119. Any person or body may report conduct that appears to breach BFF regulations to the BFF judicial bodies. Such complaints must be made in writing. BFF may open an investigation and appoint an integrity expert to investigate any such complaint.

Jurisdiction

120. The Committee is competent to sanction any breach of BFF regulations that does not fall within the jurisdiction of another body.

121. In particular, the Committee is responsible for:

- (a) sanctioning serious infringements that were not noticed by match officials;
- (b) correcting obvious errors in a referee's disciplinary decisions;
- (c) extending the duration of a suspension that was automatically incurred by a

- sending- off; and
- (d) imposing additional sanctions.
122. If appropriate, the chairperson or deputy chairperson may refer a case directly to the Appeal Committee for decision.

Jurisdiction of chairperson of the Committee

123. The chairperson may act as a single judge and may delegate this function to another member of the Committee. Acting as a single judge, the chairperson or nominee may in particular:
- (a) decide urgent or protest cases;
 - (b) decide whether disciplinary proceedings should be opened, stayed or closed;
 - (c) suspend a person for up to five matches or for up to three months;
 - (d) impose a fine of up to Nu. 50,000/-;
 - (e) extend a sanction;
 - (f) decide disputes arising from objections to Committee members;
 - (g) issue, amend or cancel provisional measures;
 - (h) decide cases involving the matters referred to in clause 16 of this Code;
 - (i) decide cases involving order and security at matches; and/or
 - (j) decide cases of unplayed or abandoned matches.
124. Under the direction of the chairperson or deputy chairperson, the secretariat assigns cases to single judges. Proceedings before a single judge are conducted in accordance with this Code.

Closure of proceedings

125. Proceedings may be closed where:

- (a) the parties reach an agreement;
- (b) a party is subject to insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings under national law and is legally unable to comply with an order;
- (c) a club is disaffiliated from BFF; or
- (d) the alleged violation has not been proven.

Chapter 7: Appeal Committee

Jurisdiction

126. The Appeal Committee decides appeals against any decision of the Committee that is not declared final or referable to another body under BFF regulations, and on cases referred to it by the chairperson of the Committee or deputy chairperson.
127. The Appeal Committee also decides appeals against decisions of the Committee under the BFF Code of Ethics.
128. A party wishing to appeal must notify the Appeal Committee in writing within three days of notification of the grounds of the decision. This notice of appeal may be lodged with the Competitions Department, acting as interim secretariat to the Appeal Committee.
129. Within five days of expiry of the deadline for the notice of appeal, the appellant must submit a written appeal brief. The appeal brief must contain:
- (a) the relief sought;
 - (b) a statement of facts;
 - (c) the evidence relied on;
 - (d) a list of proposed witnesses with a brief summary of their expected testimony;

and

(e) the appellant's conclusions.

130. The appellant may not submit further written submissions or evidence after the deadline for filing the appeal brief.

131. In urgent cases or during final competitions, the chairperson may shorten the deadline for submitting these documents.

Admissibility of appeals

132. An appeal may be lodged with the Appeal Committee against any decision of the Committee, except where the disciplinary measure is:

(a) a warning;

(b) a reprimand;

(c) a suspension of up to two matches or up to two months;

(d) a fine up to Nu. 50,000/- imposed on a club, or up to Nu. 30,000/- in all other cases;

(e) A decision taken under clause 16 of this Code.

133. Only a reasoned decision may be appealed.

134. If the Committee imposes more than one disciplinary measure, an appeal is admissible if at least one of those measures exceeds the limits set out above. In that case, the appeal body may examine only those sanctions that exceed the limits.

Standing to appeal

135. Any party to proceedings before the Committee may appeal to the Appeal Committee, provided it has a legally protected interest in doing so.

136. Clubs may appeal decisions sanctioning their players, officials or members.

Deliberations and decisions

137. The Appeal Committee deliberates in private.
138. In an appeal, the Appeal Committee has full power to review the facts and the law.
139. The Appeal Committee may uphold, amend or overturn the contested decision. In case of a fundamental procedural flaw, the Appeal Committee may overturn the decision and refer the case back to the Committee for reassessment.
140. If only the accused appeals, the sanction may not be increased.
141. If new disciplinary offenses come to light while an appeal is pending, they may be dealt within the same proceedings and the sanction may be increased.

Jurisdiction of the chairperson ruling alone

142. The chairperson of the Appeal Committee (or, in its absence, the deputy chairperson) may act as a single judge and:
 - (a) decide preliminary procedural issues, including admissibility of the appeal;
 - (b) decide urgent or protest cases;
 - (c) decide an appeal against a decision extending a sanction;
 - (d) resolve disputes arising from objections to Appeal Committee members;
 - (e) decide appeals against provisional measures imposed by the chairperson of the Committee;
 - (f) issue, amend or cancel provisional measures;
 - (g) decide appeals where the sanction imposed by the Committee is a fine of up to Nu. 50,000/-, or a suspension from playing or performing a function for up to five matches, or for up to 12 months; and/or
 - (h) act at the request of the parties.

Effects of appeal

143. An appeal does not suspend the decision, except in respect of orders to pay a sum of money.
144. On receipt of reasoned request, the chairperson, the deputy chairperson or, in their absence, the longest-serving available member, may grant a stay of execution.

Chapter 8: SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Expulsion and match suspension

145. A player who has been sent off must remain in the team dressing room. The player may sit in the stands, provided:
- (a) their safety and integrity are protected; and
 - (b) they are no longer wearing their playing kit;
146. A player who is serving a match suspension:
- (a) may sit in the stands but not close to the field of play, provided their safety and integrity are protected; and
 - (b) must not enter the dressing room or technical area before or during the match, take part in the warm-up, or sit on the team bench. After the final whistle, a suspended player may join the team in the dressing room.
147. An official who has been sent off, or is serving a match suspension:
- (a) may sit in the stands but not close to the field of play, provided their safety and integrity are protected; and
 - (b) must not enter the dressing room, tunnel or technical area or communicate with any person involved in the match- including players or technical staff- by any means, before or during the match.
148. A sending-off automatically leads to a suspension from the next match. The BFF

judicial bodies may impose extra match suspensions and other disciplinary measures.

149. An automatic suspension and any additional match suspension must be served even if the sending-off occurred in a match that is later abandoned, annulled, forfeited and/or replayed.
150. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is treated as served only if the team of the suspended player was not responsible for the circumstances leading to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit.
151. A suspension is considered no longer pending if a match is retrospectively forfeited because a player took part while ineligible. This also applies to any suspension imposed on that ineligible player.

Carrying over cautions

152. If a person receives cautions in two separate matches in the same BFF competition, they are automatically suspended from the next match in that competition. This suspension must be served before any other suspension. The Committee may, in exceptional cases and before the start of a competition decide to depart from or amend this rule. That decision is final and binding.
153. Cautions received in one competition are not carried over to another competition.
154. If a player is sent off with a direct red card, any caution received earlier in the same match remains valid.

Carrying over match suspensions

155. As a general rule, any match suspension (for players and other persons) is carried over from one round to the next in the same competition.
156. A suspension resulting from multiple cautions in different matches of the same competition is never carried over to another competition.

Chapter 9: SPECIAL PROVISION

Recognition of FIFA and AFC statutes and legal instruments.

157. The BFF judicial bodies are competent to apply provisions from FIFA and AFC statutes and other legal instruments where this Code does not contain a relevant provision.

Chapter 10: Final Provisions

Amendments

158. This Code may be amended by the BFF Executive Committee, in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Entry into Force

159. This Code enters into force on 6 May, 2026 and replaces all previous disciplinary codes of BFF.

Thimphu, 6 May, 2026
For the BFF Executive Committee