



DISCIPLINARY CODE OF THE IPF

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ARTICLE 1. - DISCIPLINARY REGIME

The sport disciplinary system of the International Padel Federation ("IPF") shall be governed by the rules and provisions of these regulations ("Disciplinary Code"), as well as the By-Law of the IPF ("By-Law"), the Code of Ethics of the IPF ("Code of Ethics") and any other applicable rules and regulations, including in relation to specific events, tours or events ("Other Rules"), adopted by the General Assembly of the IPF during an ordinary or extraordinary meeting ("General Meeting"), the Board of Directors of the IPF ("Board of Directors") or any other competent bodies of the IPF (Disciplinary Code, By-Law, Code of Ethics and Other Rules collectively "IPF Rules"). In case of discrepancy, the provisions of the By-Law shall prevail over any other provisions, while the Disciplinary Code shall prevail over the provisions of the Other Rules.

ARTICLE 2. - AREAS OF APPLICATION

1. The scope of application of the Disciplinary Code includes the infringements of the IPF Rules occurred during competitions and official activities organized by the IPF and any infractions committed "out-of-competition". The official activities, competitions and events of the IPF are those included in the official IPF calendar, even if they are organised by national federations affiliated to the IPF or third-party organisers authorised by the IPF.
2. In the absence of a specific provision in the Disciplinary Code or in other provisions of the IPF Rules, the Disciplinary Bodies, as defined hereinafter, shall rule according to the general principles set out in the Disciplinary Code and according to the general principles of justice, fairness and equality.
3. IPF may refrain from opening proceedings for cases with effect at national level only.
4. The IPF Rules apply to all national federations members of the IPF ("National Federations") and their officials - including all those individuals who "*de facto*" represent or manage them - as well as to managers, players, coaches, match's and competition' officials (e.g. umpires, supervisors and all subjects involved in refereeing activities) and anyone elected or assigned by the IPF to exercise a function, in relation to their interactions with the IPF and its organisation and their participation in official activities, competitions and events of the IPF.

ARTICLE 3. - DISCIPLINARY BODIES OF THE IPF - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The disciplinary power within the IPF shall be exercised by:
 - the Single Judge or the Disciplinary Committee, in the first instance;
 - the Appeal Committee, in the second instance(Single Judge, Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Committee, jointly "Disciplinary Bodies").
2. The Disciplinary Bodies shall be independent from the other bodies of the IPF.
3. The members of the Disciplinary Bodies shall be appointed by the Board of Directors among the individuals submitted by the President, as follows: at least 1 member for the role of Single Judge, at least 3 members for the Disciplinary Committee, of which one to act as President, and at least 3 members for the Appeal Committee, of which one to act as President. In making the appointment, care shall be taken to ensure that all members have a legal background and expertise. Upon their appointment, members of the Disciplinary Bodies must sign the declaration of interest policy provided for by the Conflict-of-Interest Policy of the IPF.
4. The members of the Disciplinary Bodies are independent and subject only to the applicable laws and IPF Rules and may not be instructed in their judgement. The members of the Disciplinary Bodies shall not receive any remuneration for their activities, but may claim reimbursement of their costs and expenses incurred in connection with their disciplinary activities.
5. The term of office of the members of the Disciplinary Bodies shall be four years, without prejudice to their re-election for subsequent terms.
6. Among their members, the Disciplinary Bodies will have their own secretary who will carry out organisational activities and tasks set forth in the Disciplinary Code.

7. The members of the Disciplinary Body must decline to participate in any decision whenever there are grounds for objecting their impartiality or if there is a conflict of interest. If a party files a challenge for bias with reasons, the member(s) of the Disciplinary Body concerned shall decide whether to resign from the case or not. If the member(s) concerned decide(s) not to resign, the party may ask the remaining members of the Disciplinary Body to decide upon the challenge.

8. The Board of Directors will decide on any replacement of a member of a Disciplinary Body, promptly identifying a replacing judge.

9. The Board of Directors of the IPF shall ensure the compliance of the Disciplinary Bodies' members with the provisions of the Disciplinary Code. The Board of Directors of the IPF has the power to remove from its office any member who was found to have breached the Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 4. - SINGLE JUDGE

1. The office of Single Judge will be taken by a single individual. More than just one Single Judge may be appointed with different competences (e.g. in relation to different competitions, tours, events).

2. The decisions of the Single Judge can be appealed before the Appeal Committee by any interested party.

3. The Single Judge has the power to impose disciplinary sanctions in relation to:

- facts, committed by players, coaches and assistants, during official IPF matches and competitions, on the basis of official reports or other documents drawn by the relevant match's and/or competition's officials;
- the regular running of a match or competition, with the exclusion of facts concerning on-court decisions having a technical or disciplinary nature taken by the match/tournament's officials;
- failure of players, coaches and assistants to comply with the requirements of a match or competition set forth by official IPF Rules;
- non-appearances of players and teams during IPF competitions.

4. Disciplinary proceedings before the Single Judge can be initiated *ex officio* or upon complaint submitted by an interested party:

- the opening of proceedings *ex officio* follows a formal report submitted by the supervisor of the competition ("Supervisor") any time the Supervisor believes that a potential disciplinary offence occurred on the basis of the documents received by the match officials may have occurred;
- the complaint of an interested party must be submitted to the Single Judge within five (5) days from the end of the relevant match.

ARTICLE 5 - DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AND APPEAL COMMITTEE

1. The Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee shall decide disputes of their competency sitting in a panel of 3 (three) members. The composition of the panel is decided by the president of the relevant disciplinary body.

2. The Disciplinary Committee has the first instance power to impose disciplinary sanctions in relation to all offences not under the sphere of competence of the Single Judge.

3. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee shall be taken by majority of votes among the relevant members. Abstentions are not allowed.

4. When necessary for a better assessment of the facts reported, the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee or of the Appeal Committee may request the advice of experts.

ARTICLE 6. - DISCIPLINARY LIABILITY

1. In deciding over the liability arising from the violation of the IPF Rules, the Disciplinary Bodies shall apply the general principles set forth under this article 6, as well as the those under articles 7-10 below.
2. In determining the type and extent of the sanction, including when a minimum and a maximum are indicated in the relevant provisions, the Disciplinary Bodies shall take into consideration:
 - objective and subjective elements of the violation;
 - the degree of the offender's guilt;
 - the consequences of the violation;
 - the behaviour of the accused individual(s) during the proceedings;
 - the existence of aggravating or mitigating circumstances, if any.
3. Unless expressly provided to the contrary, violations of the IPF Rules bring to the responsibility of individuals and/or entities regardless of whether the violation has been committed deliberately or negligently.
4. If several persons commit an offence jointly, each person incurs a disciplinary sanction as an offender.
5. Whoever intentionally induces another to intentionally commit a disciplinary offence incurs the same sanction as an offender. Whoever intentionally assists another in the intentional commission of disciplinary offence, incurs a sanction as an aider.
6. National Federations are directly liable for the violations of the IPF Rules committed by their presidents, board members, representatives, executives and any other individuals who "*de facto*" represent or manage them, or, whenever applicable according to the IPF Rules, their supporters. Sanctions shall be imposed on both the individuals and the National Federations; for the latter the sanction will be determined taking into account the role and the responsibilities of the individual within the National Federation.
7. National Federations are liable for the implementation of any sanction of the Disciplinary Bodies imposed against the above-mentioned persons. Any failure of a National Federation to implement any sanction of the Disciplinary Bodies may lead to a disciplinary action against the National Federation concerned.

ARTICLE 7. - BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. The following are the basic principles for the exercise of the disciplinary power by the Disciplinary Bodies:
 - No double sanction for the same violation (*ne bis in idem*).
 - Application with retroactive effect of provisions more favourable for the accused, if no final decision has been adopted by the Disciplinary Bodies.
 - No sanctions for an infraction not typified at the moment of its commission (*nulla poena sine lege*).
 - Right to be heard.
 - The standard of proof in all matters under the Disciplinary Bodies shall be the comfortable satisfaction.
2. The decisions of the Disciplinary Bodies shall provide the following elements:
 - facts ascertained by the Disciplinary Body,
 - summary reasons explaining why a sanction was taken or, on the contrary, the reasons explaining why no sanction was imposed,
 - the payment of the contributions to the legal expenses borne by the Parties, if deemed appropriate,
 - the consequences of failure to respect the decisions,
 - the time limits for the appeal.

ARTICLE 8. - EXEMPTING CIRCUMSTANCES

1. No sanction shall be applied by the Disciplinary Bodies whenever the violation is only due to:
 - fortuitous events;
 - force majeure;
 - the legitimate defense applied proportionally against the offence received.
2. Whenever the violation is only partially due to one of the reasons above, the sanction is mitigated.

ARTICLE 9. - MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The sanction is reduced in the following cases:

- spontaneous mitigation of the consequences arising from the disciplinary violation;
- provocation;
- full and unconditioned cooperation with the Disciplinary Bodies;
- plea bargaining;
- absence of any disciplinary records.

ARTICLE 10. - AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The sanction is aggravated in the following cases:

- recidivism, i.e. having been the accused sanctioned for the same offence during the previous 3 years;
- premeditation;
- bad faith or lack of sportsmanship during the proceedings.

ARTICLE 11. - VERY SERIOUS, SERIOUS AND MINOR DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

1. The following are considered very serious disciplinary offences within IPF:

- a. Abuse of authority.
- b. Failure to comply with decisions or sanctions (including precautionary measures) imposed by IPF bodies. The violation is concrete only if the decision or the sanction is enforceable.
- c. Acting in such a way as to manipulate competition results, or to influence the course or the result of the competitions, in any improper way (e.g. as providing, requesting, receiving, seeking, or accepting a benefit related to the manipulation of a competition).
- d. Aggressive and unsportsmanlike behaviour against match officials, other players, coaches, managers, the public and any other individual involved in IPF competitions and activities, also through public statements or conducts that incite to violence.
- e. Participation, without authorization, in competitions organized by countries or local promoters that support racial discrimination or that are subject to sports sanctions imposed by IPF.
- f. Organization of padel activities or competitions, having the name and/or character of international, without having received the corresponding authorization from IPF. The word "International" or alike terms cannot be included under any reference in the name of a padel competition, without the expressed authorization of the IPF.
- g. Public conducts that affect the dignity and the decorum of the sport of padel.
- h. Alteration, either personally or through a third person, of the sports equipment as provided for by IPF Rules.
- i. Forgery or intentional alteration of data provided to IPF bodies for the issuance of any type of authorization or license or for the participation in IPF competitions (e.g. nationality, age, gender).
- j. Failure of National Federations to carry out ordinary activities within its territory.
- k. Failure to fulfil financial obligations imposed by IPF Rules.
- l. Failure to fulfil financial obligations for the participation in official IPF competitions or in competitions organized by National Federations.
- m. Breach of the Code of Ethics.

2. The following are considered serious disciplinary offences within IPF:

- n. Very serious infractions with a lower degree of gravity.
- o. Unjustified absence in official matches. A pair or a team shall be considered absent when not ready to play on court within 10 minutes from the scheduled time of the match. A pair or a team considered absent will automatically lose the match and the opposing pair or team will automatically win it. The sanction provided for in this article shall not be applied when the pair or the team informed the IPF, by email, of the non-attendance at least 24 hours before the beginning of the match, or immediately after the end of the previous match, if the latter terminated less than 24 before the match

concerned.

- p. Committing obscene acts audible and/or visible, which could not be considered to be a very serious offence (e.g. words commonly known as rude or offensive heard by match officials, spectators and tournament organizers; signs or gestures with hands, balls and/or rackets that commonly have obscene meaning).
- q. Inciting the public against match officials or opponent athletes.
- r. Match officials will be responsible for the following infractions, even if committed involuntarily, in tournaments and activities where they hold authority:
 - Non-compliance with IPF Rules.
 - Drawing errors.
 - Falsification of sporting results.
 - Damaging or favouring, clearly and unjustly, a player or a team through their on-court decisions.
 - Forgery of the report of a match or of a competition.
 - Allowing the participation of a player who does not comply with requirements provided for that particular competition or who was previously sanctioned and could not play or who failed to pay the participation fee for that activity/competition.
 - Failure to notify the Disciplinary Bodies of any disciplinary offence which has come to their attention within three (3) working days following knowledge thereof.
 - Unjustified preclusion to IPF competent individuals from accessing the competitions' report.
 - Failure to promptly inform opposing players or teams of the non-appearance of their rivals.
 - Failure to apply on-court disciplinary sanctions as provided under the Disciplinary Code.
- s. Breach of the Code of Ethics with a lower degree of gravity.

3. The following are considered minor disciplinary offences within IPF:

- t. Any gesture or conduct, which constitutes disregard to the match officials, opposing players and/or public.
- u. Passive attitude in the fulfilment of orders and instructions received from IPF authorities in the exercise of their functions.
- v. Poor conservation of social premises, sports facilities and other materials to be used during IPF events or competitions.
- w. Aggressive and unsportsmanlike behaviour with a lower degree of gravity.

ARTICLE 12. - DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

1. Disciplinary sanctions may only be imposed by Disciplinary Bodies as a consequence of a case file and disciplinary proceedings opened for this purpose in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.

2. The following sanctions may be imposed for the commitment of disciplinary offences depending on their gravity:

On legal entities

- a. Warning.
- b. Reprimand.
- c. Fines of not less than 600 Euros and not more than 30,000 Euros.
- d. Closure of sports venues and facilities for a period ranging from four matches to one year.
- e. Obligation to host events behind closed-door.
- f. Withdrawal (reduction) of benefits granted by the IPF Rules for a maximum period of one year.
- g. Prohibition to organize IPF events for a time up to 2 (two) years.

On natural persons

- a. Warning.
- b. Reprimand.
- c. Fines of not less than 3,000 Euros and not more than 30,000 Euros.
- d. Loss of position or points in the official ranking of the IPF.
- e. Withdrawal of a title or award.
- f. Prohibition of access to premises and venues during IPF activities or competitions for a time not exceeding five (5) years.
- g. Withdrawal (reduction) of benefits granted by the IPF Rules for a maximum period of one (1) year.
- h. Disqualification from a competition in progress and/or exclusion from future completion(s) organized by the IPF from

- two (2) months to five (5) years.
- i. Suspension or removal from office.
 - j. Suspension from carrying out a function for a specified number of competitions or for a specified period of time.
 - k. Temporary or definitive ban to assume any role within IPF bodies.

ARTICLE 13. - COMMON RULES FOR THE DETERMINATION AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS

1. A combination of disciplinary sanctions may be imposed for a single offence.
2. Irrespective of the sanctions that may be applicable, the Disciplinary Bodies shall have the power to alter the outcome of matches or competitions if found that they were manipulated.

ARTICLE 14. - STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS

1. No disciplinary sanction may be imposed if three (3) years, one (1) year or (2) months have elapsed since the disciplinary offence was committed, depending on whether the sanction is very serious, serious or minor.
2. The limitation period starts on the day following the commitment of the offence. The limitation period is interrupted by the opening of a disciplinary procedure and from that date it shall begin to run afresh.
3. Expiry of the limitation period without the opening of any disciplinary procedure will result in the relevant decision to be deprived of its effects.

PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

ARTICLE 15. - OPENING OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

1. Disciplinary proceedings may be opened *ex officio* on the findings of an investigation (e.g. Supervisor's report) or upon a written and reasoned complaint addressed to the Secretariat of the IPF to the address secretaria@padelfip.com.
2. Appeal proceedings may be opened upon a written and reasoned complaint by the interested parties against a decision of the Single Judge or the Disciplinary Committee to the Appeal Committee to be submitted to the Secretariat of the IPF to the address secretaria@padelfip.com.

ARTICLE 16. - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

1. The expedited procedure is applicable for disciplinary proceedings related to the breach of the rules of the game which fall within the competency of the Single Judge. This procedure shall ensure the regular and smooth running of the competition and, at the same time, guarantee the right to be heard of the interested parties.
2. An expedited procedure can be initiated in accordance with the provisions of article 4 of the Disciplinary Code.
3. In the event of an expedited procedure initiated *ex officio*, the secretary of the Single Judge shall notify the parties with a description of the circumstances brought to its attention and grant them a 3-day time limit to submit their positions in relation thereof.
4. In the event of an expedited procedure initiated upon complaint submitted by a party, the other parties shall be granted a five (5) day term to submit their position along with any evidentiary measures they intend to rely on.
5. The Single Judge shall decide on the grounds of: (i) official documents drawn up by match officials (e.g. report, minutes, any other significant documents) and (ii) the allegations and pieces of evidence timely and duly provided by the parties.

6. The Single Judge's decision may be appealed to the Appeal Committee within five (5) days from the notification of the decision to the parties.
7. Regardless of the disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed as a result of disciplinary proceedings, the Single Judge may decide not to homologate the result of a match or competitions, duly motivating its decision.
8. For any items not detailed in this provision, the ordinary procedure set out under article 18 of the Disciplinary Code shall apply.

ARTICLE 17. - EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

1. The emergency procedure shall apply whether serious or very serious offences to the rules of the game, which lead the match official to temporarily suspend the alleged offender party, occur during an IPF official competition.
2. In this event, the Single Judge will require the alleged offender party to submit a written statement on the allegations he/she is accused of within 3 (three) hours or the different term deemed appropriate. If, following the party's submission, the sanction of temporary suspension is confirmed, it becomes definitely enforceable against the party, save for his/her right of appeal.
3. The appeal shall be decided by the Appeal Committee before the start of the next match involving the concerned party (terms shall be set by the Appeal Committee on a case-by-case basis).

ARTICLE 18. - ORDINARY PROCEDURE

1. The ordinary procedure shall apply to disciplinary offences different from breaches of the rules of the game, in accordance with the principles and rules detailed below.
2. An ordinary procedure can be initiated *ex officio* or upon the complaint submitted by an interested party.
3. The president of the Disciplinary Body may reject the request to initiate disciplinary proceedings if the information available shows that:
 - a) the fact clearly does not represent a disciplinary offence,
 - b) the possible disciplinary liability has become moot as a result of death, cessation without legal succession or alike events,
 - c) the fact has already been adjudicated by a final and binding decision.
4. Whenever disciplinary proceedings can be initiated, the secretary of the Disciplinary Committee shall notify the concerned parties with:
 - a) copy of the documents on the basis of which the disciplinary proceedings were initiated, including the complaint submitted by a party, if any;
 - b) the subject matter and legal basis for disciplinary proceedings;
 - c) the conduct on which the disciplinary action is based;
 - d) if a hearing is to be held (always by electronic means, i.e. conference call or video conference), the time and place of the hearing. The accused party must take part in the hearing.
5. Starting from the notification set out in clause 4 of this article, the party(ies) have ten (10) days to submit his/her/its/their statement of defence, along with any evidentiary measures (call of witnesses to be heard during the hearing, written statements, expert opinions, documents, videos, etc.), to the Disciplinary Committee.
6. The proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee must be concluded by a decision with concise grounds within a maximum of sixty (60) days from the date of initiation, without prejudice to the provisions under article 20 of the Disciplinary Code.

ARTICLE 19. - APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. All decisions of the Single Judge and the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the Appeal Committee within 15 (fifteen)

days from their notification.

2. The appeal shall include:
 - a. The name, surname of the natural person or the legal entity concerned (in the latter case, the name and surnames of the legal representative shall be indicated).
 - b. Reference to the decision appealed against, the allegations and any evidence that substantiate the request for appeal.
 - c. Place, date, signature of the appellant.
3. The Appeal Committee will follow the ordinary procedure set out in article 18, clauses 4, 5 and 6, of the Disciplinary Code.
4. The Appeal Committee will uphold, modify or annul the appealed decision, and in the event of modification, it cannot be detrimental for the interested party if he/she/it is the sole appellant.
5. If the Appeal Committee finds a procedural issue of the first instance proceedings, it may order the retroaction of the procedure until the moment when said irregularity occurred, providing instructions for the correct continuation of the proceedings.
6. Appeals shall be decided within sixty (60) days from their filing, without prejudice to article 20 of the Disciplinary Code. The Appeal Committee shall issue its decisions with concise grounds.

ARTICLE 20. - EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINES

The competent Disciplinary Body may dispose the reduction or extension of the time limits provided for under the Disciplinary Code whenever deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE 21. - SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS

1. Any and all sanctions and disciplinary measures shall be effective from the date of the written notification of the decision to the persons or bodies concerned unless mentioned otherwise in the decision. The appeal shall have no suspensive effect of the decision, unless otherwise decided by the Appeal Committee upon request of the affected party.
2. The concerned party may also seek the suspension of a disciplinary sanction by submitting a reasoned written request to the Disciplinary Body that imposed it, and the latter may reasonably suspend its execution.

ARTICLE 22. - APPEAL TO THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS)

In accordance with article 27 of the By-Law, the decisions of the Appeal Committee can only be appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve the dispute definitively in accordance with the Code of sports-related arbitration. The language of the proceedings shall be English. The time limit for the appeal to be filed is twenty-one (21) days after communication of the decision concerned. Any decision taken by CAS will be final and binding on all parties concerned.

ARTICLE 23. - RIGHT OF INTERVENTION

Any person or entity, whose rights or legitimate interests may be affected by the filing of disciplinary proceedings may request to intervene therein. The Disciplinary Body shall rule on whether to admit or not an intervening party. Whether he/she/it is admitted, thereafter, he/she/it shall be considered as party of the proceedings.

ARTICLE 24. - PROVISIONAL MEASURES

Disciplinary Bodies may adopt the provisional measures deemed appropriate in order to ensure the effectiveness of their future resolutions. Provisional measures may be taken at any stage of the proceedings *ex officio* or upon request. The adoption of

provisional measures must be motivated with concise grounds.

ARTICLE 25. - JOINT PROCEEDINGS

Disciplinary Bodies may join two or more proceedings having identity and analogy on a subjective or objective nature.

ARTICLE 26. - REGISTRATION OF SANCTIONS

The Secretariat of the IPF shall keep a record of the sanctions imposed to natural persons or legal entities. Said registry shall be available to all members of the IPF.

ARTICLE 27. - PUBLICATION OF DECISIONS

Decisions of the Disciplinary Bodies are public and published on IPF website, subject to the right to confidentiality which the party concerned may apply for with a motivated request.

ARTICLE 28. - COMMUNICATIONS

1. Any resolution, procedural order and decision affecting a party involved in disciplinary proceedings will be validly communicated when hand-delivered by personal delivery or by an internationally recognised courier service, or when transmitted by e-mail to the official address communicated to the IPF upon confirmation of receipt. Failure to confirm receipt when requested by the IPF may be considered a disciplinary violation.

2. In the event that disciplinary sanctions are imposed immediately after the conclusion of a match, a public communication of the competent Disciplinary Body is sufficient to make it/them enforceable, without prejudice to the right of the competent body to proceed with personal communication.

3. Communications to a party who is affiliated to a Member National Federation (official, athlete, coach, match officials, etc.) shall be sent also to the party's National Federation.

ARTICLE 29. - LANGUAGE

The language of the disciplinary procedure is English or Spanish. All documents submitted and correspondence sent by and between the parties must be in English or Spanish.

ARTICLE 30. - FINAL DISPOSITION

The Disciplinary Code will enter into force the day following the final approval by the General Meeting of the IPF.