



**CONTROL AND
DISCIPLINARY
BODY**



DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Precept

Deaf Champions League (DCL) Disciplinary Regulations serves the realisation of the 'Aims and Objectives' of DCL, as stated in the DCL Constitution. These regulations contain the substantive and formal provisions which govern the penalisation of breaches of duty.

Disciplinary powers

DCL's member associations, clubs, as well as their players and officials and members, submit to DCL's disciplinary powers, are bound by and recognise the DCL Constitutions, as well as all regulations and decisions issued by DCL, and observe the Laws of the Game as issued for football and futsal.

Subsidiary Law

In the absence of specific provisions in these Disciplinary Regulations and/or other DCL Regulations, DCL will make decisions using UEFA and/or FIFA Disciplinary Regulations and/or if necessary of recognised legal principles and in accordance with the justice and fairness.

Definitions

DCL = Deaf Champions League.

CDB = Control and Disciplinary Body.

Disciplinary bodies = CDB, Appeal Body, and Protest Committee.

FIFA = Federation Internationale de Football Association.

Hearings = like a court, where parties involved in an appeal case meet in person with the Appeals Body to discuss the appeal.

Management Committee = DCL Executive Board and additional committee members.

Parties = Member associations, clubs and individuals (e.g. players and officials).

UEFA = Union of European Football Associations.



PART ONE: Disciplinary Law

Article 1 – Principles of conduct

Member associations, clubs, as well as their players, officials and members, shall conduct themselves according to the principles of loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

For example, a breach of these principles is committed by anyone:

- a) Who engages in or attempts to engage in active or passive bribery and/or corruption;
- b) Whose conduct is insulting or otherwise violates the basic rules of decent conduct;
- c) Who uses sporting events for manifestations of a non-sporting nature;
- d) Whose conduct brings the sport of football, and DCL in particular, into disrepute;
- e) Who does not comply with instructions given by the referee or delegate;
- f) Who culpably reports for a match late or not at all;
- g) Who culpably causes a match to be interrupted or abandoned or who is responsible for its interruption or abandonment;
- h) Who lists on the match sheet a player who is not eligible to play;
- i) Who commits any other act likely to exert an improper influence on the progress and/or the result of a match.

Article 2 - Responsibility

Member associations and clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, members, supporters, and any other persons exercising a function at a match or during a DCL event on behalf of the Federation or club.

Article 3 – Principles

Unsporting conduct, breaches of the Laws of the Game, as well as infringements of DCL Constitution, Regulations, decisions, and directives are penalised by means of disciplinary measures.

Disciplinary measures may be taken against member associations, clubs, and individuals for offences before, during or after the match, and or DCL competitions/events.

Article 4 – Disciplinary measures

The following disciplinary measures may be imposed against member associations clubs and individuals:

- a) Warning,
- b) Financial sanction,
- c) Suspension for matches/period/competition,
- d) Deduction of points,
- e) Awarding of a match by default,
- f) Withdrawal of a title, benefits, and/or award.



Article 5 – Suspensions

Unless the disciplinary body decides otherwise, a player sent off the field or an official expelled from the technical area is automatically suspended for the next match of the competition in which the expulsion occurred.

Suspensions are served in the same competition, i.e. Football or Futsal, unless any disciplinary decision made specifically states that it is to be for all DCL competitions.

A team manager/coach who is suspended from carrying out their function may follow the match, for which he/she is suspended from the stands only. He/She is not allowed in the dressing room, tunnel or technical area before and during the match, nor is he/she allowed to make contact/communicate directly with his team.

Suspensions imposed on a player/coach apply to both their capacity as a player and as a coach.

See 'Part Three: Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions' for further details and guidance. (Page 10)

Article 6 – Scope of disciplinary decisions taken by the match referees

Disciplinary action may be taken even if the referee did not see gross unsporting conduct and was therefore unable to take any factual decision.

Disciplinary decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and cannot be reviewed by the DCL disciplinary bodies.

Only the consequences of a disciplinary decision taken by the referee may be reviewed by the disciplinary bodies in cases where such a decision had involved an obvious error, such as mistaking the identity of the person penalised.

In the event of serious offences, the suspension can be extended to include all competition categories.

Disciplinary decisions taken by the referee on the field of play are final and cannot be reviewed by the DCL disciplinary bodies.

Article 7 – Sanctions by member associations

Sanctions imposed by a member association may be extended to DCL competitions at the request of the member association concerned, particularly in cases of serious offences committed within their jurisdiction.

The request must be made in writing to DCL and be accompanied by all documentation relates to the case.



PART TWO: Disciplinary Procedure

Article 8 – Administration of disciplinary matters

The DCL's Management Committee (or Executive Board) as per DCL's Constitution shall deal with matters arising from the constitution or from the way that DCL is administered as an organisation. DCL's Constitution Section 9 deals with the procedure.

The DCL shall arrange the following;

1. A Control and Disciplinary Body.
2. A Protest Committee for each DCL competition.
3. An Appeal Body.

Article 9 – Composition

The Control and Disciplinary Body (CDB) is composed of a chairperson and up to two (2) members.

Outside DCL competitions, the chairperson of the CDB (or their nominee) can take decisions alone as a judge, if the sanction is limited to a warning, a fine of up to EUR 50, a player suspension or suspension from carrying out a function for up to two matches, as well as urgent cases.

The Protest Committee (during the DCL competitions) is composed of three (3) to five (5) members. The members are nominated and notified before each DCL competition and those members can be as such:

1. DCL Technical Director
2. Referee Liaison Officer (RLO)
3. Representative of Local Referees or Head Referee
4. DCL Representative
5. NDSF Representative (Local)

The Protest Committee for each competition will communicate together at a time decided upon by the chairperson of the committee. The DCL Representative will be the chairperson of the committee.

The Appeal Body is composed of one (1) to three (3) members.

The members on the Appeal Body cannot be the same as those on the Control and Disciplinary Body or the protest Committee.

Article 10 – Competence

The Management Committee handles disciplinary cases arising from the Constitution and administration of the DCL in general.



The CDB handles disciplinary cases arising from the regulations, official reports, etc. in relation to the DCL competitions, which arises outside the actual period of when the relevant DCL competitions is being scheduled (and when a Protest Committee has not yet been set up for the relevant DCL competition – e.g. withdrawal before/after a DCL Draw).

The Protest Committee handles disciplinary cases arising from the regulations, official reports, etc. and any protests submitted to DCL in relation to a DCL competition, which arises before, during or immediately after the DCL Competitions (i.e. up to 1 week after the competition).

The Protest Committee has the authority to deal with any issues/disputes not covered within the General and Technical Regulations and impose action and/or financial sanctions as they see appropriate.

The Appeal Body handles appeals made against decisions of the Management Committee, CDB and Protest Committee.

Article 11 – Languages

All written communication shall be in English, with International Sign Communication acceptable for any videos that is used or submitted to DCL.

Article 12 – Instigation of disciplinary proceedings

The instigation of proceedings is announced in writing to the parties concerned, in particular:

- a) On the basis of official reports,
- b) If a protest had been lodged,
- c) For reported violations of DCL's Constitution, regulations and decisions,
- d) At the request of the DCL President.

If proceedings are instigated against individuals, the Management Committee, CDB or Protest Committee notifies the member association or club concerned, who are bound to inform the individual concerned in person. Notification is issued electronically or personally by letter.

However, the instigation of proceedings on receipt of the referees match report does not require the individual/club being notified if it is clear that an offence has been committed (e.g. player sent off for violent conduct, coach dismissed from technical area, etc.) on the field of play or in view of those presence at the match.

Article 13 – Declaration of protest

During DCL Competitions;

Protests must reach the DCL Secretary, or pre-notified representative in writing, and be paid for, stating the reasons, within 2 hours of a match/incident. A standard protest form is available for use and the protest fee is stated in the General Regulations (DCL's Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions).



This 2-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of a competition, the corresponding competition's Technical Regulations **can shorten the protest deadline** appropriately.

All other times (Outside DCL Competitions);

Protests must reach the DCL Secretary in writing stating the reasons, within 3 days of an incident. A standard protest form is available for use and the protest fee is stated in the General Regulations (DCL's Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions).

The 3 days-time limit can only be extended in special circumstances, e.g. public holidays. The payment of the protest fee **must be paid within 5 days**. The protest will not be reviewed until the payment has been made.

Article 14 – Reasons for protest

Protests concerning the state of the field of play must be submitted to the referee in writing by the relevant official before the match. If the state of field of play becomes questionable in the course of the match, the team captain must inform the referee, as well as the captain of the opposing team, orally without delay.

Protests cannot be lodged against factual decisions taken by the referee.

A protest against a caution or expulsion from the field of play after two cautions is admissible only if the referee's error was to mistake the identity of the player.

Article 15 – Notification of the protest decisions

Decisions shall be notified within 24 hours during DCL competitions, or within 2 weeks if outside DCL competitions.

Those concerned are notified of decisions by the Management Committee/CDB/Protest Committee in writing. Disciplinary measures against individuals are communicated only to the member association or club concerned. The notification, where appropriate, contains a brief summary of the grounds, as well as the verdict and notice of the right to appeal. The notification is issued electronically or personally by letter.

The protest fee will be returned only if the protest is valid (correct).

Article 16 – Appeal Body

The Appeal Body deals with appeals lodged against decisions made by the Management Committee, CDB or Protest Committees.

Appeals against decisions made by the CDB and Protest Committees are admissible, but not in the case of:

- a) A warning,



- b) Financial sanctions up to 50 Euros,
- c) Match suspension or suspension from carrying out a function for one competition match.

Article 17 – Declaration of appeal

DCL Competitions;

Appeals must be lodged with the DCL Secretary, or pre-notified representative, for the attention of Appeal Body in writing, and **be paid for first within 24 hours** of the contested decision. A standard appeal form is available for use and the appeal fee is stated in the General regulations (DCL's Schedule of Fees and Financial Sanctions).

This 24-hour time limit cannot be extended. For the sake of the smooth running of a competition, the corresponding competition's Technical Regulations **can shorten the appeal deadline appropriately**.

All other times (Outside DCL Competitions);

Appeals must be lodge with the DCL Secretary in writing, for the attention of the Appeal-Body, within three days of the contested decision. The reason for appealing must be explained fully in writing. A standard appeal form is available for use and the appeal fee is stated in the General Regulations (DCL's Schedule of Fees).

The 3 days-time limit can only be extended in special circumstances, e.g. public holidays. The payment of the appeals fee **must be paid within 5 days (from the incident relating to the appeal)**. The appeal will not be reviewed until the payment has been made.

If these appeal deadlines are not observed, the chairperson will decide not to consider the appeal. The deadlines stipulated in the paragraphs above cannot be extended.

Article 18 – Notification of the appeal decisions

Decisions shall be notified within 24 hours during DCL competitions, or within 2 weeks if outside DCL competitions.

Those concerned are notified of decisions by the Appeal Body in writing. Disciplinary measures against individuals are communicated only to the member association or club concerned. The notification, where appropriate, contains a summary of the grounds and the verdict. The notification is issued electronically or personally by letter.

The appeal fee will be returned only if the appeal is valid (correct).

Article 19 – Hearings



The Appeal Body Committee has the right to decide if it is appropriate to hold a 'hearing'. If so, the 'hearing' shall be conducted in an appropriate manner allowing the parties and witnesses to participate in a fair manner.

Article 20 – Non payment of financial sanctions

If a sanction is applied to **an individual** and moves to another club, that individual cannot participate in any DCL event until the financial sanction (and any suspensions if applicable) is paid.

- The sanction can be increased by 20% after 12 months of non payment. (Round up to the nearest full € Euro)
- The sanction can be increased a further 20% after 24 months of non payment. (Round up to the nearest full € Euro)

If a sanction is applied to **a club**, that club cannot participate in any DCL event until the financial sanction is paid.

- The sanction can be increased by 20% after 12 months of non payment. (Round up to the nearest full € Euro)
- The sanction can be increased a further 20% after 24 months of non payment. (Round up to the nearest full € Euro)
- If the club has not paid the financial sanction **after the 3rd season**, then the Management Committee has the authority to inform the Executive Committee, who propose at the next congress for action to be taken against the club. Such action can be the suspension of all clubs under the same National Deaf Sports Federation.

Only the Management Committee has the authority to waive any of the above and to cancel any financial sanction in the event of any unusual circumstances. Written requests to be granted dispensation from paying the financial sanction, due to unusual circumstances, must be sent to the DCL General Secretary.

PART THREE: Schedule of Disciplinary Sanctions

Article 21 – Guidelines of disciplinary sanctions

The below schedule provides guidance as to levels of disciplinary sanctions that can be applied by DCL. The schedule is not exhaustive and DCL can refer to UEFA's List of Disciplinary Measures if necessary, but are encouraged to not apply the same sanction level as UEFA.

Article 22 - Misconduct of players and officials

The following player/official sanctions apply for competitions matches:



- a) Suspension for **one** competition match or for a specified period for:
 1. A second caution in the same match (i.e. double yellow card),
 2. Receiving a 'Red card' in a match,
 3. Repeated protests against or failure to comply with the referee's orders,
 4. Insulting players or others present at the match,
 5. Unsporting conduct,
 6. Provoking spectators,
 7. Playing when not eligible to do so;
- b) Suspension for **two** competition matches or for a specified period for insulting and/or directing abusive language at a match official and/or DCL official;
- c) Suspension for **two** competition matches or for a specified period for clearly receiving a yellow or red card on purpose;
- d) Suspension for **two** competition matches or for a specified period for clearly ignoring/abusing a suspension currently imposed on an individual;
- e) Suspension for **three** competition matches or for a specified period for assaulting players or others present at the match;
- f) Suspension for **four** competition matches or for a specified period for acting with the obvious intent to cause any match official to make an incorrect decision or supporting his error of judgement and thereby causing him to make an incorrect decision;
- g) Suspension for **five** competition matches or for a specified period for serious assault;
- h) Suspension for **ten** competition matches or for a specified period for assaulting any match official.

Suspensions can be combined with fines.

In the event of serious offences, a suspension may be increased and/or extended to include all DCL competitions.

If the match is abandoned or awarded by default, the cautions, dismissals and misconduct will still be punishable.

If a match is replayed in full, any cautions in the original match will be cancelled.

If a match is suspended by the referee because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the match may be declared forfeit.

Football; when a club team receives **5 or more individual disciplinary sanctions** during a football match, then disciplinary sanction will be taken against the club team after the match.

Futsal; when a club team receives **4 or more individual disciplinary sanctions** during a futsal match, then disciplinary sanction will be taken against the club team after the match.

Article 23 - Limitation of suspensions

The guidance with regards to when a suspension can be removed if the financial sanction has been paid is as follows;



After 2 seasons, if a player/official has not managed to fulfil the suspensions and had **less than 5 matches' suspension**, then they are wiped off. However, any financial sanctions not paid are to remain, and the player/official cannot participate until payment of the sanctions.

Players/officials with **more than 4 matches' suspension** require the Control and Disciplinary Body to review and approve each individual case.

Article 24 - Order and security at DCL competitions

Host clubs/associations are responsible for order and security both inside and around the stadium before, during and after matches. They are liable for incidents of any kind and may be subject to disciplinary measures unless they can prove that they have not been negligent in any way in the organisation of the match.

All clubs and associations are liable for the following misconduct behaviour on the part of their supporters and may be subject to disciplinary measures even if they can prove the absence of any negligence in relation to the organisation of the match:

- a. The invasion of the field of play (including in futsal halls);
- b. The throwing of objects, which potentially endangers the physical integrity of others present at the match or impacting on the process of the match;
- c. The lighting of fireworks or any other objects (e.g. flares);
- d. The use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices;
- e. The use of gestures, words, objects or any other means to transmit a provocative message that is not fit for a sports event, particularly provocative messages that are of a political, ideological, religious or offensive nature;
- f. Acts of damage to property in and around the stadium/halls;
- g. Any other misconduct observed inside or around the stadium.

Article 25 - Schedule of disciplinary sanctions.

	1st Offence	2nd Offence
<p><u>Disciplinary sanctions in a match by a club:</u></p> <p>Football – 5 cards or more in a match.</p> <p>No previous record: Warning</p> <p>Have previous record: 50€</p> <p>Football – 8 cards or more in a match.</p> <p>No previous record: 50€</p> <p>Have previous record: 75€</p>		
<p><u>Disciplinary sanctions in a match by a club:</u></p> <p>Futsal – 4 cards or more in a match.</p> <p>No previous record: Warning</p> <p>Have previous record: 50€</p> <p>Futsal – 6 cards or more in a match.</p> <p>No previous record: 50€</p> <p>Have previous record: 75€</p>		
<p><u>Disciplinary offences by individuals:</u></p> <p>Linking to Article 22 above; Minimum 20€ : Maximum 250€</p>	Fine	50% extra
<p><u>Disciplinary offences by clubs:</u></p> <p>Late Team sheet before the match (each competition only) 10€</p> <p>Late kick off/start match (each competition only) Warning</p> <p>Irresponsible/frivolous protest (each competition only) 20€</p> <p>Guideline for financial sanctions to the Clubs: Minimum 10€ : Maximum 3000€</p>		20€ 20€ 50€

<u>Other misconduct offences:</u>		
DCL will look at history of clubs' misconduct when applying sanctions.		
Invasion of field of play (including in futsal hall)		
- Individual	50€	75€
- Group of people/fans, etc.	100€	150€
- Media member of club	100€	150€
Lighting of fireworks/flares (per firework/flare)	150€	225€
Use of laser pointer or similar	100€	150€
Throwing of objects	100€	150€
Inappropriate messages not fit for a sport event	100€	150€
Act of damage (Minimum. Reports of any damage must include the costs of repairs, to assist with the sanction level if it is to be below the minimum.)	Minimum 100€	

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