



IFSC DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS RULES

Updated February 2023 – Approved 1 April 2023 by the XIX IFSC General Assembly

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 These rules (“the Rules”) were approved by the Plenary Assembly of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (“IFSC”) at Frankfurt on 27th January 2007. Amendments to the Rules were approved by the IFSC Plenary Assembly at Tokyo on 16th March 2019. The Rules apply to proceedings before the IFSC’s Disciplinary Commission (“the Disciplinary Commission”) and the IFSC Appeals Commission (“the Appeals Commission”).
- 1.2 The Rules can be amended by the Disciplinary Commission subject to approval by the IFSC Executive Board.
- 1.3 The World Anti-Doping Code 2022 (“the WADA Code”), including any future amendments is adopted as part of the Rules. Where there is any inconsistency between the WADA Code and any other part of the Rules, the WADA Code will apply.
- 1.4 Disciplinary proceedings can be taken in respect of the offences listed in the attached schedule of offences and sanctions.
- 1.5 The sanctions that can be imposed by the Disciplinary Commission are set out in the schedule of offences and sanctions.
- 1.6 The procedure under the Rules will be inquisitorial.
- 1.7 The aim of the Rules is to protect the fairness and integrity of the sport by regulating what actions constitute disciplinary infringements contrary to this principle, and handle these infringements through quick and fair disciplinary proceedings.
- 1.8 Disciplinary proceedings will be conducted in English. All documents sent to the Disciplinary Commission must be written in English.

Note: IFSC is not responsible for providing translations of documents or translators at hearings. Athletes (and other respondents) are responsible for obtaining their own translations and translators, if required.
- 1.9 Part 1 of the Rules concerns disciplinary proceedings against athletes who take part in IFSC approved competitions. Part 2 of the Rules concerns disciplinary proceedings against other persons and organisations described in Article 16. Part 3 of the Rules concerns the sanctions that can be imposed. Part 4 of the Rules concerns appeals. Part 5 of the Rules contains rules that apply to doping cases. Part 6 of the Rules deals with disputes between IFSC bodies.
- 1.10 The notes (shown in italics) are part of the Rules.

Part 1 – Disciplinary Proceedings Against Athletes

2. The Complaint

- 2.1 The following persons or organisations may file a complaint (the “Complainant”) to the Disciplinary Commission against an athlete (the “Athlete”):
- A Jury President (in respect of matters arising during or resulting from a competition at which he/she presided).
 - An IFSC delegate (in respect of matters arising at or from a competition which he/she attended).
 - The President of IFSC.
 - The IFSC Plenary Assembly.
 - Member Federations of IFSC.
 - An organiser of an IFSC-recognised event.

Note: IFSC delegates, Member Federations and organisers of IFSC-recognised events include delegates, member associations and appointed organisers of the competition bodies.

- 2.2 The complaint is to be made in writing, addressed to the President of the Disciplinary Commission (the “Disciplinary Commission President”), and must:
- Set out details of the alleged offence;
 - Attach all relevant documents and evidence which are or could be relevant to the complaint, even if such documents and evidence do not support the complaint. If any such documents or evidence are not currently available, the complaint will state when they are likely to be available;
 - Be submitted as soon as reasonably possible.

Note: Except from the written form, the complaint does not have to follow any further form requirements.

- 2.3 The Complainant must attach to the complaint all documents and evidence in their possession which are or could be relevant, even if such documents and evidence do not support the complaint.
- 2.4 In doping cases, the adverse analytical finding can constitute the complaint.

Note: Doping cases are defined in Article 31.1. Not all doping violations require an adverse analytical finding (for example, failure to provide “whereabouts” information and missing a test).

3. Examination of the Complaint

- 3.1 On receiving the complaint, the Disciplinary Commission President will conduct a check to ensure that:
- It complies with Article 2; and
 - There are sufficient grounds to move forward with disciplinary proceedings.
- 3.2 If the Disciplinary Commission President finds that the complaint does not comply with the requirements of Article 2 or does not provide sufficient grounds, the complaint will be dismissed and no disciplinary proceedings will be started. The President will communicate in writing to the Complainant the reasons for the decision.
- 3.3 The Disciplinary Commission President may request further information from the Complainant before deciding whether the complaint provides sufficient grounds to proceed.
- 3.4 If the Disciplinary Commission President finds that the complaint complies with Article 2 and provides sufficient grounds, the President will start disciplinary proceedings and, where appropriate, provisionally suspend the Athlete from IFSC competitions pending the completion of the disciplinary proceedings (see Article 12).

4. Disciplinary Panel: Composition, Voting, Resignation and Removal

- 4.1 The Disciplinary Commission President appoints a panel (“the Disciplinary Panel”) of three or five persons who must be appropriately experienced or qualified and, additionally, may be members of the Disciplinary Commission or of other IFSC commissions.

Note: The appointment of the Disciplinary Panel is the start of the disciplinary proceedings.

- 4.2 The Disciplinary Commission President will appoint one of the members of the Disciplinary Panel (who will be legally qualified) as chair (“the Disciplinary Panel Chair”). The Disciplinary Commission President will send the complaint and all supporting documents and evidence to the Disciplinary Panel Chair.
- 4.3 All decisions of the Disciplinary Panel will be made by simple majority. If the vote is tied, the Disciplinary Panel Chair will have the casting vote.
- 4.4 At any moment during disciplinary proceedings, a member of the Disciplinary Panel may resign if he/she can no longer serve because of illness or any other reason. The Disciplinary Commission President may appoint a replacement member.
- 4.5 At any moment during disciplinary proceedings, if a member of the Disciplinary Panel becomes aware of circumstances giving rise to a potential conflict of interest that could impair his/her impartiality in the case at hand, such member must bring these circumstances to the attention of the Disciplinary Commission President and may present his/her resignation. If the resignation is accepted, the Disciplinary Commission President may appoint a replacement member.
- 4.6 At any moment during disciplinary proceedings, if the Disciplinary Commission President becomes aware of circumstances giving rise to a potential conflict of interest that could impair the impartiality of a member of the Disciplinary Panel in the case at hand, the Disciplinary Commission President may remove and replace such member.

5. Notice of Complaint

- 5.1 Within three months of receiving the complaint, the Chair will send a Notice of Complaint (by email and/or by post) to the Athlete both through his/her national federation and at his/her home address (if available). This time limit may be extended by the Disciplinary Panel when deemed necessary in light of particular circumstances.

Note: WADA must be informed in writing when a Notice of Complaint is issued in a doping case – see Article 33.1.

- 5.2 The Notice of Complaint will:
- Include a summary of the complaint;
 - Provide, in attachment or through an indicated weblink, copies of all relevant documents, the Rules, the WADA Code (if relevant), appropriate extracts from the competition body’s competition rules (if relevant) and any other relevant rules and regulations;
 - Enclose the Reply to Complaint form;
 - Set out the time limits for replying to the Notice of Complaint;
 - Be signed by or on behalf of the Disciplinary Panel Chair;
 - Explain the reasons behind any extension of the time limit contained in Article 5.1.
- 5.3 In doping cases concerning the presence of a prohibited substance included in the World Anti-Doping Organisation’s Prohibited List, the Athlete will be sent a copy of the test result and be duly informed of his/her right to have the second sample tested and/or to provide a Therapeutic Use Exemption.

- 5.4 If the Athlete requests the second sample to be tested and this confirms the adverse analytical finding, the Athlete will bear the costs of the second test.

6. Reply to Complaint

- 6.1 If the Athlete denies the complaint or admits the complaint but wishes to provide information for the Disciplinary Panel to consider before making a decision on the applicable sanction,, his/her Reply to Complaint must be received by the Disciplinary Panel Chair within 21 days of the Athlete's receipt of the Notice of Complaint.
- 6.2 The Athlete may request in writing to the Disciplinary Panel Chair, within the time limit set in Article 6.1, to extend the time limit for the submittal of the Reply to Complaint.. The Disciplinary Panel will decide whether to extend the time limit and will inform the Athlete in writing of its reasoned decision.
- 6.3 If the Athlete does not complete and return the Reply to Complaint within the time limit in Article 6.1 (or within an extended time limit under Article 6.2), the Disciplinary Panel will make its decision on the complaint (including on the sanction) on the basis of the information contained or referred to in the Notice of Complaint and any further evidence obtained under Article 10.
- 6.4 If the Athlete denies the complaint, in the Reply to Complaint he/she must:
- State the arguments against the complaint;
 - Attach all documents and evidence on which he/she intends to rely;
 - Identify all witnesses (if any), including experts on whose evidence he/she intends to rely.
- 6.5 The Reply to Complaint must be signed by the Athlete.

7. Complaint Denied by the Athlete

- 7.1 If the Athlete denies the complaint, he/she has the right to a hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. To exercise this right, the Athlete must inform the Disciplinary Panel in the Reply to Complaint. The rules for hearings are set out in Article 9. If the Athlete does not request a hearing the following Articles 7.2 to 7.5 will apply.
- 7.2 If the Athlete does not request a hearing, the Disciplinary Panel will deal with the complaint on the basis of the information contained or referred to in the Notice of Complaint and the Reply to Complaint and any further evidence obtained under Article 10.

Note: Article 11 indicates the standard of proof to be used.

- 7.3 When the Disciplinary Panel has decided whether the complaint has been sufficiently proven or not, it will inform the Athlete in writing. If the complaint has been sufficiently proven, the Disciplinary Panel will give the Athlete the reasons for its decision in writing and will follow the procedure set out in Articles 7.4 and 7.5 when deciding the sanction to be imposed.
- 7.4 The Disciplinary Panel will allow the Athlete to bring forward any information for the Disciplinary Panel to consider when deciding the sanction to be imposed. The Disciplinary Panel Chair must receive this information within 14 days of the Athlete receiving notice of the Disciplinary Panel's decision under Article 7.3. The Disciplinary Panel is not obliged to consider any information submitted outside this time limit.
Note: If the complaint is sufficiently proven, the Athlete may send the Disciplinary Panel any information that he/she wants considered when it decides the sanction to be imposed, even if this information was not provided in the Reply to Complaint.
- 7.5 The Disciplinary Panel will decide the sanction to be imposed after the expiry of the time limit in Article 7.4 and will inform the Athlete in writing of its decision.

8. Complaint Admitted by the Athlete

- 8.1 If the Athlete admits the complaint, he/she may request for the sanction to be decided at a hearing. This request must be made in the Reply to Complaint within the time limit indicated in Article 6.1.

Note: There is an automatic right to a hearing when the complaint is admitted.

- 8.2 If the Athlete does not request a hearing or the Athlete's request for a hearing is refused, the Disciplinary Panel will decide the sanction to be imposed on the basis of information contained or referred to in the Notice of Complaint and Reply to Complaint and any further evidence obtained under Article 10. The Disciplinary Panel will inform the Athlete in writing of its decision.

9. The Hearing

- 9.1 This Article applies to any hearing held to decide whether a complaint is proven or not or to decide sanctions.

- 9.2 The location and time of the hearing shall be decided by the Disciplinary Panel, and the Athlete will be given at least 21 days' notice in writing. The Athlete may send the Disciplinary Panel Chair a reasoned, written request to adjourn the hearing to another date.

- 9.3 If the Disciplinary Panel and the Athlete agree, the hearing may be conducted by virtually in video conference.

- 9.4 Unless the Disciplinary Panel decides otherwise, the hearing will be public.

- 9.5 Hearings will be conducted fairly, and in a manner decided by the Disciplinary Panel.

Note: Article 11 indicates the standard of proof to be used.

- 9.6 At hearings:

- The Disciplinary Panel may call witnesses (including experts).
- The Disciplinary Panel may accept evidence in writing or by telephone (also during the hearing).
- The Athlete may be represented by legal counsel or another person of his/her choosing.
- The Athlete may (subject to compliance with Article 6.4) call witnesses (including experts).
- The Athlete (or his/her representative) may question any witness who has given oral evidence at the hearing.
- The Athlete (or his/her representative) may address the Disciplinary Panel.

- 9.7 The Disciplinary Panel shall render its decision in writing within 14 days of the hearing. The decision and the reasoning shall be sent to the Athlete and his/her national federation.

Note: WADA and the relevant national anti-doping organisation must be sent a copy of the any decision regarding cases of doping – see Article 33.2.

- 9.8 If the Disciplinary Panel decides that the complaint has been proven, it shall render its decision and decide the sanction to be imposed at the hearing. The Athlete will be given the opportunity to put forward any information that he/she wants the Disciplinary Panel to consider when deciding the sanction.

- 9.9 The Disciplinary Panel may adjourn or postpone a hearing at any time.

- 9.10 Unless the Disciplinary Panel decides otherwise, all hearings will be conducted in English.



Notes: See Article 1.7. If the Athlete requires a translator, then he/she must arrange this him/herself. The Disciplinary Panel shall arrange for a translator to be at the hearing, if any witnesses are unable to give evidence in English or in the language chosen by the Disciplinary Panel.

- 9.11 The Athlete will be responsible for his/her costs relating to the hearing (including the costs of his/her witnesses, translator and representation), regardless of the outcome of the hearing.
- 9.12 The Athlete's national federation may attend the hearing as an observer.

10. Further Evidence

- 10.1 The Disciplinary Panel may, at any stage in the disciplinary proceedings (including before the Notice of Complaint is sent to the Athlete), request further evidence or information on any matter deemed relevant to the complaint. This may include evidence or information from any party, including:
- the Complainant;
 - any witness or potential witness;
 - any expert;
 - the Athlete.
- 10.2 Any further relevant evidence or information obtained by the Disciplinary Panel shall be disclosed to the Athlete, who may reply to it within a time limit decided by the Disciplinary Panel.

11. Standard of Proof

- 11.1 The standard of proof applied by the Disciplinary Panel shall be whether the complaint has been established to its comfortable satisfaction, bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation made. This standard of proof is greater than the balance of probabilities but less than beyond reasonable doubt.
- 11.2 Where the Athlete tries to prove any fact, the standard of proof to be applied is the balance of probabilities.
- 11.3 In doping cases, laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA") are presumed to have conducted sample analysis and custodial procedures in accordance with the international standards adopted by WADA (the "International Standards").
- 11.4 The Athlete may rebut the presumption set out in Article 11.3 by proving that there was a departure from the International Standards. In these circumstances, the Disciplinary Panel must be satisfied (using the standard of proof set out in Article 11.1) that this departure did not invalidate the test result before it relies on that test result.

Note: A departure from the International Standards will not automatically invalidate the test result.

- 11.5 Facts established by a court or disciplinary tribunal of competent jurisdiction which is not the subject of a pending appeal will be irrebuttable evidence against the Athlete, unless the Athlete establishes that the decision violated essential procedural rules..
- 11.6 The Disciplinary Panel may draw an inference adverse to the Athlete if the Athlete does not attend a hearing or participate in the disciplinary proceedings or answer questions posed by the Disciplinary Panel without good reason (to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel).

12. Provisional Suspension



12.1 The Disciplinary Commission President, before the formation of the Disciplinary Panel, or the Disciplinary Panel, once formed, may, at any time after receipt of the complaint and/or during the disciplinary proceedings, provisionally suspend the Athlete from IFSC competitions pending the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings.

12.2 In doping cases, any Athlete accused of a doping offence following an adverse analytical finding shall be immediately provisionally suspended.

Note: A decision to suspend shall usually be made when the Athlete is informed of the adverse analytical finding and of their right to have sample B tested.

12.3 In a non-doping case, if the decision to provisionally suspend the Athlete was made by the Disciplinary Commission President alone (rather than by the Disciplinary Panel), the Athlete may ask the Disciplinary Panel to review this decision.

Note: In non-doping cases, the Athlete will be informed of their right to have the provisional suspension reviewed at the moment when the Notice of Complaint is received. Reviews will be carried out by the Disciplinary Panel. In cases where the Disciplinary Commission President is also a member of the Disciplinary Panel, he/she must not take part in the review.

13. Appeals

13.1 The Athlete may appeal against any of the following decisions made by the Disciplinary Panel:

- That a complaint is sufficiently proven.
- The sanction imposed.
- Any provisional suspension imposed under Article 12.

13.2 In doping cases, the bodies that may appeal under Article 13.1 (in addition to the Athlete) are WADA, the Athlete's national federation and the relevant national anti-doping organisation. The time limit under Article 13.3 will apply to appeals by these bodies and will run from the time that the body receives written notice or confirmation of the decision appealed against.

Note: See Article 33.2 for the meaning of "relevant national anti-doping organisation".

13.3 All appeals must be made in writing to the Disciplinary Commission President. The Disciplinary Commission President must receive the Notice of Appeal within 14 days of the Athlete receiving written notice or confirmation of the decision appealed against. Appeals submitted after this time limit will not be considered.

13.4 The Notice of Appeal must state the reasons for the appeal, provide all necessary information and attach copies of all documents and evidence that the Athlete wishes to rely upon, and shall be signed by the Athlete.

13.5 The appeals procedure is detailed under Part 4 of the Rules.

13.6 The Athlete has a further right of appeal against the appeals decision, to the Court of Arbitration for Sport ("CAS").

13.7 The decision appealed against shall remain in force pending the outcome of the appeal unless it is suspended under Article 29.1.

14. Time Limits

14.1 The Disciplinary Panel may extend any time limit set in these rules (except for the time limit under Article 13.3), if it deems it necessary to ensure the fairness of the disciplinary proceedings.

- 14.2 Time limits shall not be extended after the Disciplinary Panel has taken a final decision in a case, except in exceptional circumstances.

Note: A final decision includes a decision on whether the complaint is sufficiently proven and a decision on the sanction to be imposed.

15. Notices

- 15.1 Notices given by an Athlete under these rules may be given by:
- fax, to the fax number provided on the Notice of Complaint, or
 - post or hand delivery, to the address provided on the Notice of Complaint, or
 - e-mail, to an e-mail address provided by the Disciplinary Panel Chair for this purpose.
- 15.2 The Disciplinary Panel may give any notice under these rules to the Athlete by:
- fax, if the Athlete has provided the Disciplinary Panel or IFSC with a fax number for this purpose, or
 - post or hand delivery to the Athlete's home address or to the address of the Athlete's national federation, or
 - e-mail, to an email address provided by the Athlete for this purpose.
- 15.3 If notices are sent by either the Athlete or the Disciplinary Panel by post, the date of delivery will be deemed to be 7 days after posting, unless proven otherwise.
- 15.4 If the Athlete communicates with the Disciplinary Panel Chair by e-mail, the e-mail address used by the Athlete will be considered to have been provided for the purpose of Article 15.2.

Note: E-mail may be used where the Disciplinary Panel Chair and the Athlete agree. However, signed copies of the Notice of Complaint, Reply to Complaint and Notice of Appeal must also be sent by post or fax (see Articles 5.2, 6.5 and 13.4).

16. Minors

- 16.1 A minor is a person under 18 years old. If, under the national law applicable to the Athlete, the age of majority is an age other than 18 years, the Athlete will inform the Disciplinary Panel and provide proof of this and of his/her date of birth.
- 16.2 The Rules will apply to minors with the following modifications:
- All notices sent to the Athlete's home address shall be addressed to the Athlete's parent or guardian.
 - The Reply to Complaint must be signed by the Athlete's parent or guardian (it may be signed by the Athlete as well).
 - The identity of the Athlete will be kept confidential (except to IFSC officials and the Athlete's national federation) and he/she will be referred to by an initial in any documents intended for circulation outside IFSC or the Athlete's national federation.
- 16.3 In doping cases, minors are subject to the same rules and sanctions (contained in the Rules and in the WADA Code) as adults.



Part 2 – Disciplinary Proceedings Against Other Persons and Organisations

17. Respondents

- 17.1 Disciplinary proceedings may be taken against any of the following persons or organisations (“Respondents”):
- Member Federations of IFSC;
 - Members of Member Federations of IFSC;
 - Officials of IFSC;
 - In relation to breaches of the IFSC Code of Conduct, against persons bound (Art. 1 IFSC Code of Conduct), by other persons bound.
 - In relation to breaches of the IFSC Safeguarding Policy, against all individuals covered (Article 3.1 IFSC Safeguarding Policy), by other individuals covered.
- 17.2 All of the Articles in Part 1 of the Rules apply also to disciplinary proceedings against Respondents. In such cases, the word “Athlete” shall be replaced with the word “Respondent”.
- 17.3 In disciplinary proceedings against Respondents, both the Respondent and the person or organisation that made the complaint (the “Complainant”) shall have the right of appeal under Article 13.
- 17.5 All of the Articles in Part 5 of the Rules apply to doping cases involving Respondents.

18. Suspension and Expulsion

- 18.1 The Disciplinary Panel may, at any time during the disciplinary proceedings, suspend the Respondent from all IFSC activities, including but not limited to competitions and membership of and participation in any and all IFSC bodies, pending the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings.
- 18.2 Where the Respondent is an organisation, the suspension shall also serve as a suspension of all members of that organisation from all IFSC activities.
- 18.3 A Respondent may appeal against a suspension under Article 13.
- 18.4 The suspension of a Member Federation from IFSC must be approved by the IFSC Executive Board before it comes into effect. The expulsion of a Member Federation from the IFSC must be ratified by the IFSC General Assembly before it comes into effect.

Part 3 – Rules on Sanctions

19. Types of Sanctions

19.1 The sanctions for each disciplinary offence are set out in the attached Schedule of Offences and Sanctions. These sanctions include:

- Warnings for minor offences and, in exceptional circumstances, for more serious offences;
- Fines, in addition to or as an alternative to other sanctions, for more serious or repeat offences;
- Bans, in addition to or as an alternative to other sanctions, for more serious or repeat offences.

Note: Sanctions for doping cases are set out in the WADA Code.

19.2 Where a range for a sanction is given, the Disciplinary Panel shall decide the level of sanction to apply after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case and any previous disciplinary proceedings (in which the complaint was proven) against the Athlete / Respondent.

19.3 Where the list of sanctions is given for an offence:

- If “and” appears between items in the list, the sanctions must be applied cumulatively. All of the sanctions must be imposed;
- If “and/or” appears between items in the list, the sanctions may be applied in isolation, in any combination, or cumulatively.

19.4 In cases involving minors:

- Fines shall not be imposed;
- The Disciplinary Panel shall take the Athlete’s age into consideration when deciding the sanction.

Note: Article 19.4 does not apply to doping cases – see Article 16.3.

20. Suspension of Sanctions

20.1 The Disciplinary Panel may, where it deems appropriate, suspend the operation of a ban or a fine or part of a ban or a fine for a period of up to 2 years.

20.2 If during the period of a suspension of a sanction, the Athlete / Respondent is proven to have committed another offence under the Rules, the ban or fine imposed for the original offence shall come into effect immediately (together with any sanction imposed for the further offence). In exceptional cases, the Disciplinary Panel may suspend the original sanction for a further period.

20.3 The Disciplinary Panel may not suspend the following sanctions:

- A life ban;
- Any ban or fine described as “automatic” in the Schedule of Offences and Sanctions.

20.4 If a ban of 2 years or more is imposed, no more than half the ban may be suspended.

20.5 Articles 20.1 to 20.4 (included) do not apply to doping cases.

21. Bans

- 21.1 In the Schedule of Offences and Sanctions, the following ranges of ban shall apply:
- Range 1: 1 to 3 months
 - Range 2: 3 to 6 months
 - Range 3: 6 to 12 months
 - Range 4: 1 to 2 years
 - Range 5: 2 to 10 years
 - Range 6: Life
- 21.2 If an Athlete, team member, official or organiser is banned, then he/she cannot be involved, regardless of the role, in any IFSC competition for the period of the ban.
- 21.3 IFSC competitions include competitions run, organised, or authorised by Member Federations .
- 21.4 A ban shall start on the date decided by the Disciplinary Panel. If an Athlete has been suspended under Article 12, the ban shall normally start on the date of the suspension.

22. Fines

- 22.1 In the Schedule of Offences and Sanctions, the following ranges of fine (in Euros) shall apply:
- Range A: 25 to 100 Euros
 - Range B: 100 to 200 Euros
 - Range C: 200 to 400 Euros
 - Range D: 400 to 600 Euros
 - Range E: 600 to 800 Euros
 - Range F: 800 to 1,000 Euros
- 22.2 All fines must be paid within 28 days, unless a longer period is granted by the Disciplinary Panel.
- 22.3 If a fine is not paid within the required time, the case shall be referred back to the Disciplinary Panel, which can:
- In cases concerning an Athlete, ban the Athlete until the fine is paid;
 - In cases concerning a Respondent, suspend the Respondent from IFSC until the fine is paid.

Note: The Disciplinary Panel will usually warn the Athlete / Respondent before banning or suspending them under this Article. If an organisation is suspended, then all of its members are suspended automatically (see Article 18.2).

23. Warnings

- 23.1 Where a warning is given as a sanction, the Disciplinary Panel shall warn the Athlete / Respondent about his/her/its future conduct.
- 23.2 A warning shall be taken into consideration in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings against the Athlete / Respondent.
- 23.3 When a warning has been given, any further offence of the same type shall be treated as a second offence.

24. Exceptional circumstances

- 24.1 When the Disciplinary Panel must decide whether there are 'exceptional circumstances' in a case, it shall consider only specific unusual factors concerning the Athlete / Respondent and/or the offence.

Note: In doping cases, the provisions in the WADA Code concerning exceptional circumstances shall apply.

25. Doping Cases

25.1 In doping cases, the Disciplinary Panel shall follow the sanctions set out in the WADA Code. Where there is any inconsistency between the WADA Code and any other part of the Rules, the WADA Code shall apply.

Note: Doping cases are defined in Article 31. The WADA Code is the World Anti-Doping Code, as defined in Article 1.2, which is adopted as part of the Rules.

Part 4 – Rules About Appeals

26. The Appeal Panel

26.1 The appealing Athlete/Respondent/Complainant (the “Appellant”) must send the Notice of Appeal to the President of the Appeals Commission (“the Appeals President”) within 14 days of receiving written notice or confirmation of the decision appealed against. Appeals submitted after this time limit will not be considered.

Note: The Notice of Appeal must comply with Article 13.

26.2 The Appeals President shall send a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the Chair of the Disciplinary Panel that made the original decision that is being appealed against. The Disciplinary Panel Chair shall send to the Appeals President copies of all the documents and evidence that were considered by the Disciplinary Panel when it made the original decision.

Note: The documents and evidence shall include:

- The Notice of Complaint and the documents attached to it.
- The Reply to Complaint and the documents attached to it.
- The original decision.
- Any further evidence disclosed to the Appellant under Article 10.
- Any statements and reports of witnesses and experts.
- Any other evidence submitted to the Disciplinary Panel by the Appellant.

26.3 The Appeals President shall appoint an appeal panel (“the Appeal Panel”) of three to five legally qualified members. The Appeals President shall appoint one member of the Appeal Panel as chair (“the Appeal Chair”).

Note: There is no requirement that the members of the Appeal Panel must be members of the IFSC Appeals Commission, just that they are legally qualified and suitable.

26.4 The Appeals President may appoint him/herself to the Appeal Panel and as Appeal Chair.

26.5 All decisions of the Appeal Panel shall be made by simple majority. If the vote is tied, the Appeal Chair shall have the casting vote.

26.6 During the appeal proceedings, a member of the Appeal Panel may resign if he/she is no longer in position to serve because of a conflict of interest, illness or any other reason. The Appeals President may appoint a replacement member.

27. The Appeal Procedure

27.1 The Appeal Panel may:

- Obtain further evidence under Article 10.
- Consider further evidence submitted by the Appellant that was not submitted to the Disciplinary Panel during the disciplinary proceedings.

- 27.2 When deciding whether or not to consider further evidence submitted by the Appellant under Article 27.1, the Appeal Panel shall assess the explanation of the Appellant as to why this evidence was not submitted to the Disciplinary Panel during the disciplinary proceedings.
- 27.3 The Appeal Panel shall decide whether a hearing is necessary or not.. When deciding this, the Appeal Panel shall take into consideration all of the relevant circumstances of the case, including:
- The grounds of appeal put forward by the Appellant (the “Grounds of Appeal”).
 - The wishes of the Appellant.

Note: There is no automatic right to a hearing. If the appeal involves new evidence that should be given orally, then a hearing will usually be allowed. The purpose of the appeal is to review the Decision, not to re-hear the case (see Article 28.1).

- 27.4 Article 9 (except for Articles 9.1, 9.7 and 9.8) shall apply to appeal hearings.

28. The Appeal Decision

- 28.1 The Appeal Panel shall review, based on the grounds contained in the Grounds of Appeal, the original decision to determine whether it complies with the Rules.
- 28.2 When the Appeal Panel considers further evidence under Article 27.1, it shall determine whether the original decision would have complied with the Rules, had the Disciplinary Panel been in possession of this evidence at the time.
- 28.3 The Appeal Panel may:
- Confirm the Decision (or part of it), and/or
 - Cancel the Decision (or part of it), and/or
 - Modify the Decision (or part of it).

Note: The Appeal Panel’s decision must be confirmed in writing (see Articles 27.4 and 9.6). WADA must be sent a copy of the Appeal Panel’s decision in a doping case – see Article 33.2.

29. Suspension of Sanction Imposed

- 29.1 The Appeal Panel may, in exceptional circumstances, suspend the sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Panel in the original decision, pending the outcome of the appeal.

Note: Normally, the sanction shall remain in force until the appeal is decided (see Article 13.7). See Article 24.1, for the meaning of ‘exceptional circumstances’.

30. Right of Further Appeal

- 30.1 The decision of the Appeal Panel may be appealed against before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), subject to its rules.

Part 5 – Rules About Doping Cases

31. Doping Cases

- 31.1 A doping case is any disciplinary case to which the WADA Code applies.

Note: There are other Rules that apply specifically to doping cases – Articles 1.3, 2.4, 5.3, 5.4, 11.3, 11.4, 12.2,

13.2 and 25 and offence (1) in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

32. Recognition of Decisions by Other Organisations

- 32.1 The IFSC Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions will recognise and respect any of the decisions referred to in Article 32.3 that are taken by a signatory to the WADA Code, provided the decision is consistent with the Code and is within the signatory's authority.
- 32.2 The IFSC Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions may recognise and respect any of the decisions referred to in Article 32.3 that are taken by a body that has not recognised the WADA Code if the rules of that body are otherwise consistent with the WADA Code.
- 32.3 The decisions that Articles 32.1 and 32.2 apply to are decisions concerning testing, therapeutic use exemptions, hearing results and other final adjudications.

33. Reporting to WADA

- 33.1 The IFSC Disciplinary Commission will inform WADA in writing when a notice of complaint concerning a doping case is issued.

Note: Article 5.1 deals with issuing Notices of Complaint.

- 33.2 The IFSC Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions will send WADA and the relevant anti-doping organisation a copy of any final decision made in doping cases, at the same time as the decision is sent to the Athlete or other Respondent.

Note: Article 9.6 deals with decisions in disciplinary and appeal proceedings (see also Article 27.4). The relevant anti-doping organisation is the anti-doping organisation for country of the Athlete / Respondent. The term "anti-doping organisation" is defined in the WADA Code.

Part 6 – Rules about disputes between IFSC bodies

34. Disputes between IFSC bodies

- 34.1 This Article deals with disputes between any of the following bodies ("the Bodies"):
- 34.1.1. The Member Federations of IFSC;
 - 34.1.2 The IFSC Executive Board; and
 - 34.1.3 The IFSC Continental Councils.
- 34.2 Any of the Bodies may refer a dispute to the President of the Disciplinary Commission. The referral shall not be admitted if there are any outstanding disciplinary or appeal proceedings arising from the same facts that gave rise to the dispute.
- 34.3 The President of the Disciplinary Commission shall appoint a panel of between 2 and 5 people to determine the dispute, of which one shall serve as chair.
- 34.4 The procedure followed for the determination of the dispute shall be decided by:
- 34.4.1 Before the appointment of the panel, by the President of the Disciplinary Commission; and
 - 34.4.2 After the appointment of the panel, by the panel itself.



- 34.5 Subject to 34.4 above, the President of the Disciplinary Commission and/or the panel shall usually follow the procedure set out in the following Articles of the Rules with any necessary modifications – 1.2, 1.6-1.8, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2-3.8, 9.2-9.6, 9.9-9.11, 10.1, 10.2, 11.1, 11.2, 14.1, 14.2 and 15.1-15.4.
- 34.6 Necessary modifications will include:
- 34.6.1 Substituting the word “Body” for the word “Athlete” in the Articles set out in 34.5 above (where appropriate); and
 - 34.6.2 Any other modifications that are considered appropriate by the President of the Disciplinary Commission and/or the panel for the just and expedient resolution of the dispute.
- 34.7 The President of the Disciplinary Commission and/or the panel may give directions to the Bodies that are considered to be necessary for the just and expedient resolution of the dispute, including that:
- 34.7.1 The Bodies shall provide written evidence and/or submissions and answer any questions considered appropriate.
 - 34.7.2 The dispute is dealt with on the basis of written evidence and submissions or at a hearing. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no automatic right to a hearing.
 - 34.7.3 The dispute is referred to mediation or some other form of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- 34.8 Any Body involved in the dispute may appeal against the final determination of the dispute by the panel to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (in Lausanne, Switzerland), which will be dealt with subject to the rules of that court. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no right of appeal to the IFSC Appeals Commission.

Schedule of Offences and Sanctions

	Offence	Sanction
		Note: See Articles 21.1 and 22.1, for definitions of the ranges of bans and fines.
(1) Doping	<p>(i) As set out in the WADA Code.</p> <p>Note: The WADA Code is the World Anti-Doping Code. See Articles 1.2 and 25.1. This applies to Member Federations and all team members including trainers and doctors.</p> <p>(ii) Offensive or abusive conduct towards a doping control official or other person involved in doping control, where this conduct falls short of tampering (as defined by the WADA Code).</p>	<p>As set out in the WADA Code.</p> <p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2-4 ban. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 5 ban. <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 5-6 ban.
(2) Competition rules	(a) Offences committed in the competition area, isolation and transit zones by an athlete or team member.	
	(i) Gathering information regarding a route which the athlete is to attempt beyond what is permitted by the competition rules.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range A fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range B fine; and/or • Range 1 ban. <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2-3 ban.
	(ii) Gathering and/or communicating information to other athletes beyond what is permitted by the competition rules.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range 1 ban. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2 ban
	(iii) Distracting or interfering with any athlete who is preparing for or is attempting a route.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range 1 ban. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2 ban.
	(iv) Failing to comply with the instructions of the judges, organisers, or IFSC officials.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range A fine. <p>Second offence</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range B-C fine. <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range C-D fine and/or • Range 1-2 ban.
	(v) Refusing to conform with the advertising regulations governing clothing and equipment.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range B-C fine for contravening the surface rules; and/or • Range 2 ban for displaying prohibited advertising. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range D-E fine for contravening the surface rules; and/or • Range 3 ban for displaying prohibited advertising.
	(vi) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance during a competition.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range 1-2 ban; and/or • Range B-C fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2-3 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Range B-D fine.
	(vii) Abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour directed towards IFSC officials, organisers, team members (including athletes), or any other person.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 3-5 ban; and • Range C-E fine. <p>If the abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour is directed towards an IFSC official, the minimum ban will be one year.</p> <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 5-6 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Range B-D fine. <p>If the abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour is directed towards an IFSC official, the minimum ban will be 10 years.</p>
	(b) Offences committed outside the competition area but in the public area, at the competition venue, or at any accommodation or facilities used in connection with the competition by an athlete or team member.	
	(i) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance.	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range 1-2 ban; and/or • Range B-C fine.

		<p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 2-3 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Range B-D fine.
	<p>(ii) Abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour directed towards IFSC officials, organisers, team members (including athletes), or to any other person.</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 3-5 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Range C-E fine. <p>If the abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour is directed towards an IFSC official, the minimum ban will be one year.</p> <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 5-6 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Range B-D fine. <p>If the abusive, threatening, or violent behaviour is directed towards an IFSC official, the minimum ban will be 10 years.</p>
(3) Theft	<p>Theft by an athlete or team member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during a competition, or • at the competition venue, or • at any accommodation or facilities used in connection with the competition. 	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of stolen property or reimbursement of its value within one month, and • Range 1-3 ban. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of stolen property or reimbursement of its value within one month, and • Range 3-4 ban. <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return of stolen property or reimbursement of its value within one month, and • Range 4-6 ban. <p>Failure to return stolen property or reimburse its value within 28 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic ban until stolen property is returned or its value reimbursed, and • Range A-C fine.
(4) Damage to property	<p>Damage by an athlete or team member to any property belonging to another person or organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • during a competition, or • at the competition venue, or • at any accommodation or facilities used in connection with the competition. 	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement of the value of damaged property within one month, and • Range 1-3 ban. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement of the value of damaged property within one month, and • Range 4 ban.

		<p>Failure to reimburse value of damaged property within 28 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic ban until the value of damaged property is reimbursed, and • Range A-D fine.
(5) Cheating	<p>Any deliberate action by an athlete or team member, at any time, to try to gain an unfair advantage in a competition for him / herself or any other person.</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 3 ban, and • Range A-D fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range 4-6 ban.
(6) Competing whilst banned	<p>(i) Competing or attempting to compete whilst banned.</p> <p>Note: For this offence, “banned” includes suspended. This offence occurs when an athlete is banned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Rules and competes or attempts to compete in a IFSC competition; or • Under the WADA Code (whether by IFSC, a Member Federation or any other signatory to the WADA Code) and competes or attempts to compete in a IFSC competition; or • By IFSC or a Member Federation under the WADA Code and competes in any competition organised or authorised by any other signatory to the WADA Code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Range 3-6 ban.
	<p>(ii) Permitting, assisting, or encouraging an athlete to compete or to attempt to compete whilst banned.</p> <p>Note: This offence can be committed by a team member, an official or a Member Federation. This offence requires the person committing it to know that the athlete was banned. A Member Federation will be assumed to know if one of their members is banned, unless it proves otherwise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of team members, Range 2-6 ban. • In the case of a Member Federation, Range D-F fine and/or suspension or expulsion from the relevant competition body. • In the case of an official, suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC completion for a period of between 2 years and life.
(7) Offences by officials (including IFSC officials and organisers) in relation to competitions	<p>(i) The following behaviour by an official at a competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross incompetence; • Deliberate bias towards an athlete or team; • Unauthorised disclosure of restricted information (e.g. concerning routes) to any person; • Offensive behaviour towards an athlete or any member of a team; • Violence or the threat of violence against any person; • Failing to follow the regulations in the IFSC Handbook. 	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indefinite suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition, until IFSC is satisfied that the official is suitable to do so, and • In the case of violence or threatened violence or unauthorised disclosure, the suspension will be for a minimum of 1 year. • The Disciplinary Panel can recommend a minimum period of suspension of up to 2 years. <p>Second offence</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition, except in exceptional circumstances when the sanctions for the first offence set out above will apply (any further offence will be treated as a second offence with no reduction for exceptional circumstances).
	<p>(ii) The following actions by an official at or after a competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public criticism (at any time) by an official of any decision of any other official or body at a competition at which that official acted. This does not include discussion or criticism within any IFSC body. • A member of an appeal jury disclosing to any person any information about the deliberations of the jury (except for the decision made by the jury). 	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warning, and/or • Indefinite suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition, until IFSC is satisfied that the official is suitable to do so. • The Disciplinary Panel can recommend a minimum period of suspension of up to 2 years. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition, except in exceptional circumstances when the sanctions for the first offence set out above will apply (any further offence will be treated as a second offence with no reduction for exceptional circumstances).
(8) Offences by Member Federations	<p>(i) Failing to pay any sum due to IFSC.</p> <p>Note: Member Federations are responsible for paying various fees, including: membership, competition entry, international licence, appeal fees – see section 3.7 of the IFSC Handbook.</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Suspension from IFSC until the fee is paid; and/or • Range C-F fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension from IFSC until the fee is paid; and/or • Range C-F fine; and/or • Expulsion from IFSC. <p>Note: The suspension of a Member Federation results in the automatic suspension of all its members (see Article 18.2).</p>
	<p>(ii) Breaching its responsibilities under section 3.2 of the IFSC Handbook and/or encouraging, aiding, or permitting its members to commit offences under (1) to (7) above.</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Suspension from IFSC until the breach is remedied; and/or • Range C-F fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension from IFSC until the breach is remedied; and/or • Range C-F fine; and/or • Expulsion from IFSC.
	<p>(iii) Breaching its obligations under the IFSC Statutes, Bye-laws and regulations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Range C-F fine; and/or

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension or expulsion from IFSC.
(9) Bringing the sport into disrepute	<p>Any action, omission or statement that has damaged or is likely to damage the reputation of competition climbing and/or the IFSC and/or the Competition Bodies.</p> <p>Note: This offence can be committed by an athlete, a member association and an official.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale D-F fine; and/or • Scale 1-6 ban; and/or • In the case of a Member Association, suspension or expulsion from the IFSC; and/or • In the case of an official, suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition for a period of between six months and two years.
(10) Serious misconduct	<p>Any serious wrongful action, omission or statement including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse of minors • Racial abuse or harassment • Sexual abuse or harassment • Discrimination <p>Note: This offence can be committed by an athlete, a member association and an official.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 1-6 ban, and • Scale A-F fine, and • In the case of a Member Association, suspension or expulsion from the relevant Competition Body; and • In the case of an official, suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC completion for a period of between one year and life.
(11) Betting and gambling offences	<p>(a) Betting or gambling in respect of any IFSC competition by anyone involved with that competition or with IFSC, including athletes, team members, coaches, representatives of national federations, organisers and IFSC officials.</p> <p>Note: This does not apply to betting or gambling by spectators.</p>	<p>Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.</p>
	<p>(b) Deliberately failing, for reward or for the promise of reward, to perform to your abilities.</p> <p>Note: Reward includes any type of benefit to the person committing the offence or to another person.</p>	<p>Range 5-6 ban; and Range E-F fine.</p>
	<p>(c) Instructing, facilitating, or encouraging others to bet or gamble in respect of any IFSC competition.</p> <p>Note: This does apply to betting or gambling by spectators.</p>	<p>Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.</p>
	<p>(d) Inducing, instructing, or encouraging any other person to commit a betting or gambling offence.</p>	<p>Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.</p>
	<p>(e) Ensuring or attempting, for reward, to ensure the occurrence of a particular incident that is subject to a bet.</p>	<p>Range 5-6 ban; and Range E-F fine.</p>
	<p>(f) Providing or receiving a reward in circumstances that might reasonably be expected to bring the sport or IFSC into disrepute.</p>	<p>In exceptional cases: a warning. In other cases: Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.</p>

	(g) Using any 'sensitive' or 'inside' information for betting or gambling purposes, including disclosing such information (with or without reward) where one knows or might reasonably be expected to know that this information could be used for betting or gambling.	In exceptional cases: a warning. In other cases: Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.
	(h) Failing to disclose without undue delay to IFSC full details of any approaches, invitations to engage in conduct or incidents that would or could involve a betting or gambling offence.	In exceptional cases: a warning. In other cases: Range 3-6 ban; and Range C-F fine.
	(i) Failing to co-operate with any investigation carried out by IFSC concerning alleged betting or gambling, including failure to provide information, records, and documents (such as itemised telephone bills, bank statements and access to computers and other forms of electronic storage).	Range 4-6 ban; and Range D-F fine.
	(j) Assisting or covering up any betting or gambling offence.	Range 4-6 ban; and Range D-F fine.
(12) Breaches of the IFSC Code of Conduct	Any breach by persons covered by the IFSC Code of Conduct of the rules of conduct imposed therein.	All available sanctions (warnings, fines, bans, suspensions, expulsions) are applicable in isolation, in any combination, or cumulatively, at the discretion of the adjudicating panel in relation to the gravity of the breach and to the individual or body responsible.
(13) Breaches of the IFSC Safeguarding Policy	Any instance of harassment and abuse carried out by persons covered by the IFSC Safeguarding Policy.	All available sanctions (warnings, fines, bans, suspensions, expulsions) are applicable in isolation, in any combination, or cumulatively, at the discretion of the adjudicating panel in relation to the gravity of the breach and to the individual or body responsible.