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IFSC DISCIPLINARY AND APPEAL RULES

In force from 27 January 2007

Amended 16 March 2019

IFSC Partners:





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Article 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 Management Committee.
- 1.3 The World Anti-Doping Code 2015 (with 2018 amendments) (“the Code”), including any amendment to it or any successor code, is adopted as part of the Rules. Where there is any inconsistency between the Code and any other part of the Rules, the 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 overriding aim of the Rules is for disciplinary proceedings to be dealt with fairly. This includes dealing with cases quickly and giving anyone subject to disciplinary proceedings the opportunity to put their case. The Rules are to be followed with this aim in mind.
- 1.8 Disciplinary proceedings will be conducted in English. All documents sent to the Disciplinary Commission must be written in English.

***Note:** The 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 concern disciplinary proceedings against athletes who take part in IFSC approved competitions. Part 2 of the Rules concern disciplinary proceedings against other persons and organisations described in Article 15. Part 3 of the Rules concern the sanctions that can be imposed. Part 4 of the Rules concern 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

Article 2. The complaint

2.1 The following persons or organisations can make a complaint to the Disciplinary Commission:

- A Jury President (in respect of matters arising at or 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 the IFSC.
- The IFSC Plenary Assembly.
- The IFSC Management Committee.
- Member Associations of the IFSC.
- An organiser of an IFSC recognised event.

Note: *IFSC delegates, Member Associations and organisers of IFSC recognised events include delegates, member associations and appointed organisers of the Competition Bodies.*

2.2 The complaint will be made in writing addressed to the President of the Disciplinary Commission (“the President”) and must:

- Set out details of the alleged offence.
- Attach all relevant documents and evidence. If any such documents are not currently available, the complaint will say when they are likely to be available.
- Be made as soon as practical.

Note: *The complaint is not a formal document and does not have to be in any particular form.*

2.3 The person or organisation making the complaint must send with the complaint all documents and evidence in their possession which are or could be relevant to the complaint, 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 30.1. Not all doping violations require an adverse analytical finding (for example, failure to provide “whereabouts” information and missing a test).*

Article 3. Checking the complaint

3.1 On receiving the complaint, the President will check the complaint to ensure that:

- It complies with Article 2; and
- The athlete has a case to answer.

- 3.2 If the complaint does not comply with the requirements of Article 2 or does not disclose a case to answer, no disciplinary proceedings will be taken. The President will write to the person or organisation making the complaint to explain the reasons for the decision.
- 3.3 The President can request further information from the person or organisation making the complaint, before deciding whether the complaint discloses a case to answer.
- 3.4 If the complaint complies with Article 2 and discloses a case to answer, the President will start disciplinary proceedings and, where appropriate, provisionally suspend the athlete from IFSC competitions pending the completion of the disciplinary action (see Article 11 below). The President will appoint a disciplinary panel (“the Disciplinary Panel”) of between two and five persons who are:
- Members of the Disciplinary Commission; and / or
 - Members of other IFSC commissions; and / or
 - Appropriately experienced or qualified (in respect of which, the President’s decision is final).
- 3.5 The President will appoint one of the members of the Disciplinary Panel (who will be legally qualified) as Chair of the Disciplinary Panel (“the Chair”). The President will send the complaint and all supporting documents and evidence to the Chair.
- Note:** The appointment of the Disciplinary Panel is the start of the disciplinary proceedings.*
- 3.6 The President can appoint him/herself to the Disciplinary Panel and as Chair.
- 3.7 All decisions of the Disciplinary Panel will be by majority vote. If there is a tied vote, the Chair will have the casting vote.
- 3.8 During disciplinary proceedings, a member of the Disciplinary Panel can resign if he/she can no longer serve because of a conflict of interest, illness or any other reason. The President can appoint a replacement member.

Article 4. Notice of complaint

- 4.1 Within three months of receiving the complaint, the Chair will send a Notice of Complaint (by email and/or by post) to the athlete at the athlete’s National Federation and to the athlete at his/her home address (if this is available). This time limit can be extended by the Disciplinary Panel where there is proper reason to do so.

***Note:** WADA must be informed in writing when a Notice of Complaint is issued in a doping case – see Article 32.1.*

4.2 The Notice of Complaint will:

- Give a summary of the complaint.
- Have attached to it copies of (or contain a weblink to) all relevant documents, the Rules, the Code (if relevant), appropriate extracts from the Competition Body's competition rules (if relevant) and any other relevant rules and regulations.
- Enclose a Reply to Complaint form.
- Set out the time limits for replying to the Notice of Complaint.
- Be signed by or on behalf of the Chair.
- Give the reasons for any extension of the time limit under Article 4.1.

4.3 In doping cases, the athlete will be sent a copy of the test result and informed of their right to have the second sample tested and/or to provide their Therapeutic Use Exemption for the presence of the prohibited substance.

4.4 If the athlete requests that the second sample is tested and this confirms the adverse analytical finding, the athlete will pay the costs of the second test.

Article 5. Reply to complaint

5.1 If the athlete denies the complaint or admits the complaint, but wants the Disciplinary Panel to consider any information before deciding on the sanction, he/she must send his/her Reply to Complaint to the Chair within the following time limit. The Chair must receive the Reply to Complaint within 21 days of the athlete receiving the Notice of Complaint.

Note: *The athlete must return the Reply to Complaint if he/she wants to:*

- *Deny the complaint; or*
- *Provide information for the Disciplinary Panel to consider when it decides the sanction.*

5.2 The athlete can apply in writing to the Chair, within the time limit in Article 5.1, for more time to reply to the Notice of Complaint. The Disciplinary Panel will decide whether to allow the athlete more time and will inform the athlete in writing of its decision.

5.3 If the athlete does not complete and return the Reply to Complaint within the time limit in Article 5.1 (or any extended time limit under Article 5.2), 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 9.

5.4 If the athlete denies the complaint, he/she must:

- Say why in the Reply to Complaint,
- Attach to the Reply to Complaint all documents and evidence on which he/she intends to rely, and

- Identify, in the Reply to Complaint, all witnesses (including experts) on whose evidence he/she intends to rely.

5.5 The Reply to Complaint must be signed by the athlete.

Article 6. Complaint denied

6.1 If the athlete denies the complaint, then he/she has the right to have the complaint dealt with at a hearing before the Disciplinary Panel. If the athlete wishes to exercise this right, he/she must inform the Disciplinary Panel in the Reply to Complaint. The rules for hearings are in Article 8. If the athlete does not request a hearing then Articles 6.2 to 6.5 (inclusive) will apply.

Note: *The athlete has a right to a hearing if he/she denies the complaint.*

6.2 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 9.

Note: *Article 10 deals with the standard of proof to be used.*

6.3 When the Disciplinary Panel has decided whether the complaint is proved, it will inform the athlete in writing. If the complaint has been proved, the Disciplinary Panel will give the athlete the reasons for its decision in writing and will follow the procedure in Articles 6.4 and 6.5 when deciding the sanction.

6.4 The Disciplinary Panel will allow the athlete to put forward any information which he or she wants the Disciplinary Panel to consider when deciding the sanction. The Chair must receive this information within 14 days of the athlete receiving notice of the Disciplinary Panel's decision under Article 6.3. The Disciplinary Panel is not obliged to consider any information submitted outside this time limit.

Note: *If the complaint is proved, the athlete can send the Disciplinary Panel any information that he/she wants considering when the sanction is decided, even if this information was not given in the Reply to Complaint.*

6.5 The Disciplinary Panel will decide the sanction to be imposed after the expiry of the time limit in Article 6.4 and will inform the athlete in writing of its decision.

Article 7. Complaint admitted

7.1 If the athlete admits the complaint, then he/she can request that the sanction is decided at a hearing. This request must be made in the Reply to Complaint within the time limit in Article 5.1.

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

- 7.2 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 9. The Disciplinary Panel will inform the athlete in writing of its decision.

Article 8. The hearing

- 8.1 This Article applies to any hearing to decide whether a complaint is proved or to decide sanctions.
- 8.2 The hearing will be at a place and a time decided by the Disciplinary Panel. The athlete will be given at least 21 days notice in writing of the hearing. The athlete can request that the hearing is adjourned to another date by writing to the Chair giving reasons for the request.
- 8.3 If the Disciplinary Panel and the athlete agree, the hearing can be conducted by video conference/Skype.
- 8.4 Unless the Disciplinary Panel decides otherwise, the hearing will be in public.
- 8.5 Hearings will be conducted fairly and in a manner decided by the Disciplinary Panel. Formal rules of evidence will not apply.

Note: Article 10 deals with the standard of proof to be used.

- 8.6 At hearings:
- The Disciplinary Panel can call witnesses (including experts).
 - The Disciplinary Panel can accept evidence in writing or by telephone (as well as hearing evidence at the hearing).
 - The athlete may be represented by a lawyer or some other person.
 - The athlete can (subject to having complied with Article 5.4) call witnesses (including experts).
 - The athlete (or his/her representative) can question any witness who has given oral evidence at the hearing.
 - The athlete (or his/her representative) can address the Disciplinary Panel.
- 8.7 The Disciplinary Panel will usually give its decision in writing within 14 days of the hearing. All decisions and the reasons for decisions will 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 decision in a doping case – see Article 32.2.

- 8.8 If the Disciplinary Panel decides that the complaint has been proved and gives its decision at the hearing, then it will also decide the sanction to be imposed at the hearing. The athlete will be given the opportunity at the hearing to put forward any information that he/she wants the Disciplinary Panel to consider when deciding the sanction.
- 8.9 If the Disciplinary Panel decides that the complaint has been proved and the decision is not given at a hearing, then the Disciplinary Panel will follow the procedure in Article 6.4 when deciding the sanction.
- 8.10 The Disciplinary Panel can adjourn or postpone a hearing at any time.
- 8.11 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 will arrange for a translator to be at the hearing, if any witnesses that it is calling are unable to give evidence in English.
: Hearings will normally be in English.

- 8.12 The athlete will be responsible for his/her costs relating to the hearing (including the costs of his/her witnesses, translator and representation) whatever the outcome of the hearing.
- 8.13 The athlete's National Federation can attend the hearing as an observer.

Article 9. Further evidence

- 9.1 The Disciplinary Panel can, at any stage in the disciplinary proceedings (including before the Notice of Complaint is sent to the athlete), request further evidence or information on anything that is relevant to the complaint. This can include evidence or information from any party, including:
- the person or organisation who made the complaint;
 - any witness or potential witness;
 - any expert;
 - the athlete.
- 9.2 Any relevant further evidence or information obtained by the Disciplinary Panel will be disclosed to the athlete who can reply to it within any time limit decided by the Disciplinary Panel.

Article 10. Standard of proof

- 10.1 The standard of proof to be applied by the Disciplinary Panel is whether the complaint has been established to the comfortable satisfaction of the Disciplinary Panel bearing in mind the seriousness of the allegation made. This standard of proof is greater than on the balance of probabilities but less than beyond reasonable doubt.

- 10.2 Where the athlete tries to prove any fact, the standard of proof to be applied is on the balance of probabilities.
- 10.3 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”).
- 10.4 The athlete can rebut the presumption set out in Article 10.3 by proving that there was a departure from the International Standards. If this happens, the Disciplinary Panel must be satisfied (using the standard of proof set out in Article 10.1) 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.

- 10.5 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 to which those facts applied unless the athlete establishes that the decision violated principles of natural justice.
- 10.6 The Disciplinary Panel can draw an inference adverse to the athlete if the athlete does not attend a hearing or participate in the disciplinary proceedings or answer questions put to him/her by the Disciplinary Panel without good reason (to be determined by the Disciplinary Panel).

Article 11. Provisional Suspension

- 11.1 The Disciplinary Panel or the President can, 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.

- 11.2 The Disciplinary Panel will normally suspend any athlete who is accused of a doping offence, where the complaint is supported by an adverse analytical finding.

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

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

Note: This rule does not apply to doping cases, where the rules concerning provisional suspensions are set out in the Code. In non-doping cases, the athlete will be informed of their right to have the provisional suspension reviewed when they

receive the notice of complaint. Reviews will be carried out by the Disciplinary Panel (which can include the President).

Article 12. Appeals

- 12.1 The athlete and, in doping cases, the bodies referred to in Article 12.7 can appeal against any of the following decisions made by the Disciplinary Panel:
- That a complaint is proved.
 - The sanction imposed.
 - Any provisional suspension imposed under Article 11.
- 12.2 All appeals must be made in writing to the President within the following time limit. The 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 and the decision will be final.
- 12.3 The Notice of Appeal must state the reasons for the appeal, give all information and attach copies of all documents and evidence that the athlete wishes to rely upon and be signed by the athlete.
- 12.4 The appeal will be dealt with under Part 4 of the Rules.
- 12.5 The athlete has a further right of appeal against the decision on the appeal, to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (in Lausanne, Switzerland), which will be dealt with subject to the rules of that Court.
- 12.6 The decision appealed against will remain in force pending the outcome of the appeal unless it is suspended under Article 28.1.
- 12.7 The bodies that can appeal in doping cases under Article 12.1 (in addition to the athlete) are WADA, the athlete's National Federation and the relevant national anti-doping organisation. The time limit under Article 12.2 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 32.2 for the meaning of "relevant national anti-doping organisation".*

Article 13. Time limits

- 13.1 The Disciplinary Panel can extend any time limit under these rules (except the time limit under Article 12.2), if it decides that it is necessary to do so to deal with the disciplinary proceedings fairly.

13.2 Time limits will 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 proved and a decision on the sanction to be imposed.

Article 14. Notices

14.1 Notices given by athletes under these rules may be given by:

- fax to the fax number given on the Notice of Complaint, or
- post or hand delivery to the address given on the Notice of Complaint, or
- e-mail, to an email address provided by the Chair, for this purpose.

14.2 The Disciplinary Panel may give any notice under these rules to the athlete by:

- fax, if the athlete has provided the Disciplinary Panel or the 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.

14.3 If notices are sent (either by the athlete or the Disciplinary Panel) by post, the date of delivery (unless proved otherwise) will be deemed to be 7 days after posting.

14.4 If the athlete communicates with the Chair by e-mail, the e-mail address used by the athlete will be considered to have been provided for the purpose of Article 14.2.

Note: E-mail can be used where the 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 4.2, 5.5 and 12.3).

Article 15. Minors

15.1 Subject to Article 15.2, a minor is a person under 18 years old.

15.2 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.

15.3 The Rules will apply to minors with the following modifications:

- All notices sent to the athlete's home address will be addressed to the athlete "care of" their parent or guardian.
- The Reply to Complaint must be signed by the athlete's parent or guardian (it can be



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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 the IFSC or the athlete's national federation.

15.4 Minors are subject to the same rules and sanctions (contained in the Rules and in the Code) as adults concerning doping cases.

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Part 2 – Disciplinary proceedings against other persons and organisations

Article 16. Respondents

- 16.1 Disciplinary proceedings can be taken against any of the following persons or organisations (“Respondents”):
- Member Associations of the IFSC
 - Members of Member Associations of the IFSC
 - Officials of the IFSC.
- 16.2 All of the Articles in Part 1 of the Rules, except for Article 12, apply to disciplinary proceedings against Respondents. Where the word “athlete” appears in those Articles, it will be replaced with the word “Respondent”.
- 16.3 In addition to the Respondent’s right of appeal under Article 12, the person or organisation that made the complaint (“the Complainant”) against the Respondent can appeal against the decisions set out in Article 12.1.
- 16.4 All of the Articles in Part 4 of the Rules apply to appeals by Complainants. Where the term “athlete/the Respondent” appears in those Articles, it will be interpreted as if it had been replaced with the word “Complainant”.
- 16.5 All of the Articles in Part 5 of the Rules apply to doping cases involving Respondents.

Article 17. Suspension and expulsion

- 17.1 The Disciplinary Panel can, at any time during the disciplinary proceedings, suspend the Respondent from a Competition Body pending the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings.
- 17.2 The suspension will also operate as a suspension of all members of that organisation from the competitions of that Competition Body.
- 17.3 A Respondent can appeal against a suspension under Article 12.
- 17.4 The suspension or expulsion of a Member Association from the IFSC must be ratified by the IFSC Management Committee before it comes into effect.

Part 3 - Rules about sanctions

Article 18. Types of sanctions

18.1 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 Code.

18.2 Where a range for a sanction is given, the Disciplinary Panel will decide the level of sanction to apply after considering the circumstances of the case. This will include considering any previous disciplinary proceedings (in which the complaint was proven) against the athlete / Respondent.

Note: The word “Respondent” is defined in Article 16.1.

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

- If “and” appears between items in the list, then the Disciplinary Panel must apply a sanction from every item in the list;
- If “and/or” appears between items in the list, then the Disciplinary Panel must apply a sanction from at least one item in the list and can also apply sanctions from the other items in the list.

Note: When the list of sanctions says “and”, all of the sanctions must be imposed. When the list says “and/or”, any or all of the sanctions can be imposed.

18.4 In cases involving minors:

- Fines will not be imposed
- The Disciplinary Panel will take the athlete’s age into consideration when deciding the sanction.

Note: See Article 15, which contains rules about minors. Article 18.4 does not apply to doping cases – see Article 15.4.

Article 19. Suspension of sanctions

19.1 The Disciplinary Panel can, where it considers 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.

***Note:** As well as suspending all of a ban or fine, part of the ban or fine could be suspended (but see Article 19.4). For example, if a six month ban was imposed, half of it could come into effect immediately and half of it could be suspended. Sanctions apart from bans and fines (for example, the return of stolen property) cannot be suspended.*

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

19.3 The Disciplinary Panel cannot suspend the following sanctions:

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

19.4 If a ban of 2 years or more is imposed, not more than half the ban can be suspended.

19.5 Articles 19.1 to 19.4 (inclusive) do not apply to doping cases.

***Note:** The Code only permits the suspension of sanctions in doping cases in very limited circumstances.*

Article 20. Bans

20.1 In the Schedule of offences and sanctions, the following scales of ban will apply:

- Scale 1: 1 to 3 months
- Scale 2: 3 to 6 months
- Scale 3: 6 to 12 months
- Scale 4: 1 to 2 years
- Scale 5: 2 to 10 years
- Scale 6: Life

20.2 If an athlete, team member, official or organiser is banned, then he/she cannot be involved, as an athlete, team member, official or organiser, with any IFSC competition for the period of the ban.

20.3 IFSC competitions include competitions run, organised or authorised by Member Associations.

20.4 A ban will start on the date decided by the Disciplinary Panel. If the athlete has been suspended under Article 11, the ban will normally start on the date of the suspension.

Article 21. Fines

21.1 In the Schedule of offences and sanctions, the following scales of fine (in Euros) will apply:

- Scale A: 25 to 100 Euros
- Scale B: 100 to 200 Euros
- Scale C: 200 to 400 Euros
- Scale D: 400 to 600 Euros
- Scale E: 600 to 800 Euros
- Scale F: 800 to 1,000 Euros

21.2 All fines must be paid within 28 days, unless the Disciplinary Panel allows a longer period.

21.3 If a fine is not paid within the required time, the case will be referred back to the Disciplinary Panel, which can:

- Ban the athlete until the fine is paid;
- In the case of another Respondent, suspend the Respondent from the 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 17.2).*

Article 22. Warnings

22.1 Where a warning is given as a sanction, the Disciplinary Panel will warn the athlete / Respondent about his/her/its future conduct.

22.2 A warning will be taken into consideration in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings against the athlete / Respondent.

Note: *When a warning has been given, any further offence of the same type will be treated as a second offence.*

Article 23. Exceptional circumstances

23.1 When the Disciplinary Panel has to decide whether there are “exceptional circumstances” in a case, it will consider only specific unusual factors concerning the athlete / Respondent and/or the offence.



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

Article 24. Doping cases

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

Note: Doping cases are defined in Article 30. The 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

Article 25. The appeal panel

25.1 The President will send the Notice of Appeal to the President of the Appeals Commission (“the Appeals President”).

Note: *The Notice of Appeal must comply with Article 12.*

25.2 The President will send a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the Chair of the Disciplinary Panel that made the decision that is being appealed against (“the Decision”). The chair of the Disciplinary Panel will send to the Appeals President copies of all the documents and evidence that were considered by the Disciplinary Panel when it made the Decision.

Note: *The documents and evidence will include:*

- *The Notice of Complaint and the documents attached to it.*
- *The Reply to Complaint and the documents attached to it.*
- *The Decision.*
- *Any further evidence disclosed to the athlete/Respondent under Article 9.*
- *Any statements and reports of witnesses and experts.*
- *Any other evidence submitted to the Disciplinary Panel by the athlete/Respondent.*

25.3 The Appeals President will appoint an appeal panel (“the Appeal Panel”) of between three and five members, who will be legally qualified. The Appeals President will appoint one member of the Appeal Panel as chair (“the Appeal Chair”).

Note: *The actions required by Articles 24.1 – 3 should be carried out as soon as practicable after the President of the IFSC has received the Notice of Appeal.*

: There is no requirement that the members of the Appeal Panel should be members of the IFSC Appeals Commission, just that they are legally qualified and suitable, in the opinion of the Appeals President (whose decision will be final).

25.4 The Appeals President can appoint him/herself to the Appeal Panel and as Appeal Chair.

25.5 All decisions of the Appeal Panel will be by majority vote. If there is a tied vote, the Appeal Chair will have the casting vote.

- 25.6 During the appeal proceedings, a member of the Appeal Panel can resign if he/she can no longer serve because of a conflict of interest, illness or any other reason. The Appeals President can appoint a replacement member.

Article 26. The appeal procedure

26.1 The Appeal Panel can:

- Obtain further evidence under Article 9.
- Consider further evidence submitted by the athlete/Respondent that was not submitted to the Disciplinary Panel.

Note: *The athlete/Respondent does not have an automatic right to submit new evidence to the Appeal Panel (see Article 26.2).*

26.2 When deciding whether to consider further evidence submitted by the athlete/Respondent under Article 26.1, the Appeal Panel will consider the explanation of the athlete/Respondent as to why this evidence was not submitted to the Disciplinary Panel.

26.3 The Appeal Panel will decide whether the appeal should be dealt with at a hearing or without a hearing. When deciding this, the Appeal Panel will take into consideration all of the relevant circumstances of the case including:

- The grounds of appeal put forward by the athlete/Respondent (“the Grounds of Appeal”).
- The wishes of the athlete/Respondent.

Note: *There is no automatic right to a hearing. The Appeal Chair will ask the athlete/Respondent if he/she/it wants a hearing. If the appeal involves new evidence that should be given orally, then a hearing will usually be allowed. If it does not, then a hearing will not usually be allowed. The purpose of the appeal is to review the Decision, not to re-hear the case (see Article 27.1).*

26.4 Article 8 (except for Articles 8.1, 8.7 and 8.8) will apply to appeal hearings.

Article 27. The appeal decision

27.1 The Appeal Panel will review, on the grounds contained in the Grounds of Appeal, the Decision to decide whether it complies with the Rules.

Note: *It is not the function of the Appeal Panel to conduct a re-hearing of the case. The Appeal Panel will only consider whether the decision complies with the Rules, on the basis of the Grounds of Appeal. The Appeal Panel does not have to review the decision on grounds that are not included in the Grounds of Appeal.*

27.2 When the Appeal Panel considers further evidence under Article 26.1, it will decide whether the Decision would have complied with the Rules, if the Disciplinary Panel had considered the further evidence, when it made the Decision.

Note: *The Appeal Panel will consider whether the Decision would have had to be different, to comply with the Rules, if the Disciplinary Panel had considered the further evidence.*

27.3 The Appeal Panel can:

- Confirm the Decision (or part of it), and/or
- Cancel the Decision (or part of it), and/or
- Vary the Decision (or part of it).

Note: *The Appeal Panel's decision must be confirmed in writing (see Articles 26.4 and 8.6). WADA must sent a copy of the Appeal Panel's decision in a doping case – see Article 32.2.*

Article 28. Suspension of sanction imposed

28.1 The Appeal Panel can, in exceptional circumstances, suspend the sanction imposed by the Decision, pending the outcome of the appeal.

Note: *Normally, the sanction will remain in force until the appeal is decided (see Article 12.6). See Article 23.1, for the meaning of “exceptional circumstances”.*

Article 29. Right of further appeal

29.1 The athlete/Respondent has a further right of appeal against the decision of the Appeal Panel to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport (in Lausanne, Switzerland), which will be dealt with subject to the rules of that Court.

Part 5 – Rules about doping cases

Article 30. Doping cases

30.1A doping case is any disciplinary case to which the Code applies.

Note: There are other Rules that apply specifically to doping cases – Articles 1.3, 2.4, 4.3, 4.4, 10.3, 10.4, 11.2, 12.7 and 24 and offence (1) in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

Article 31. Recognition of decisions by other organisations

- 31.1 The IFSC Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions will recognise and respect any of the decisions referred to in Article 31.3 that are taken by a signatory to the Code, provided the decision is consistent with the Code and is within the signatory's authority.
- 31.2 The IFSC Disciplinary and Appeals Commissions may recognise and respect any of the decisions referred to in Article 31.3 that are taken by a body that has not recognised the Code if the rules of that body are otherwise consistent with the Code.
- 31.3 The decisions that Articles 31.1 and 31.2 apply to are decisions concerning testing, therapeutic use exemptions, hearing results and other final adjudications.

Article 32. Reporting to WADA

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

Note: Article 4.1 deals with issuing Notices of Complaint.

- 32.2 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 8.6 deals with decisions in disciplinary and appeal proceedings (see also Article 26.4). 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 Code.

Part 6 – Rules about disputes between IFSC bodies

Article 33. Disputes between IFSC bodies

33.1 This Article deals with disputes between any of the following bodies (“the Bodies”):

- 33.1.1 The IFSC Management Committee;
- 33.1.2 International Federation for members of the IFSC;
- 33.1.3 The IFSC’s Executive Board; and
- 33.1.4 The IFSC Continental Councils.

33.2 Any of the Bodies can refer a dispute to the President of the Disciplinary Commission. The President of the Disciplinary Commission will not accept the reference of any dispute if there are any outstanding disciplinary or appeal proceedings arising from the same facts or issues that give rise to the dispute.

33.3 The President of the Disciplinary Commission will appoint a panel of between 2 and 5 people to determine the dispute (“the Panel”) and a chair of the Panel. The President of the Disciplinary Commission can appoint him/herself to the Panel and/or as Chair of the Panel.

33.4 The procedure followed for the determination of the dispute will be decided by:

- 33.4.1 Before the appointment of the Panel, by the President of the Disciplinary Commission; and
- 33.4.2 After the appointment of the Panel, by the Panel.

33.5 Subject to 33.4 above, the President of the Disciplinary Commission and/or the Panel will 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, 8.2-8.6, 8.9-8.11, 9.1, 9.2, 10.1, 10.2, 13.1, 13.2 and 14.1-14.4.

33.6 Necessary modifications will include:

- 33.6.1 Substituting the word “Body” for the word “athlete” in the Articles set out in 33.5 above (where appropriate); and
- 33.6.2 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.

33.7 The President of the Disciplinary Commission and/or the Panel can give directions to the Bodies that he/she/it consider to be necessary for the just and expedient resolution of the dispute including directing that:

- 33.7.1 The Bodies provide written evidence and/or submissions and answer any questions that he/she/it considers appropriate.



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- 33.7.2 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.
- 33.7.3 The dispute is referred to mediation or some other form of Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- 33.8 Any Body involved in the dispute can 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.

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Schedule of Offences and Sanctions

	Offence	Sanction
		<i>Note: See Articles 20.1 and 21.1, for definitions of the scales of bans and fines</i>
<u>(1) Doping</u>	<p>(i) As set out in the Code</p> <p><i>Note: The Code is the World Anti-Doping Code. See Articles 1.2 and 24.1. This applies to member associations and all team members including trainers and doctors.</i></p> <p>(i) 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 Code)</p>	<p>As set out in the Code</p> <p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 2-4 ban <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 5 ban <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 5-6 ban
<u>(2) Competition rules</u>	(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 that which is permitted by the competition rules	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale A fine <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale B fine; and/or • Scale 1 ban <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 2-3 ban
	(ii) Gathering and/or communicating information to other athletes beyond that which is permitted by the competition rules	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale 1 ban



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		<p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 2 ban
	<p>(iii) Distracting or interfering with any athlete who is preparing for or is attempting a route</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale 1 ban <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 2 ban
	<p>(iv) Failing to comply with the instructions of the judges or organisers or IFSC officials</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale A fine <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale B-C fine <p>Third offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale C-D fine and/or • Scale 1-2 ban
	<p>(v) Refusing to conform with the advertising regulations governing clothing and equipment</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale B-C fine for contravening the surface rules; and/or • Scale 2 ban for displaying prohibited advertising <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale D-E fine for contravening the surface rules; and/or • Scale 3 ban for displaying prohibited advertising
	<p>(vi) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance during a competition</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale 1-2 ban; and/or • Scale B-C fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 2-3 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Scale B-D fine.



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



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		<p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 5-6 ban (except in exceptional circumstances); and • Scale B-D fine <p>If the abusive, threatening or violent behaviour is towards an IFSC official, the minimum ban will be 10 years.</p>
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<p><u>(3) Theft</u></p>	<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 • Scale 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 • Scale 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 • Scale 4-6 ban <p>Failure to return stolen property or reimburse its value within 28 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban until stolen property is returned or its value reimbursed (automatic), and • Scale A-C fine
<p><u>(4) Damage to property</u></p>	<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 value of damaged property within one month, and • Scale 1-3 ban <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement of value of damaged property within one month, and • Scale 4 ban <p>Failure to reimburse value of damaged property within 28 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban until value of damaged property reimbursed (automatic), and • Scale A-D fine





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<p><u>(5) Cheating</u></p>	<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"> • Scale 3 ban, and • Scale A-D fine. <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 4-6 ban
<p><u>(6) Offences by officials (including IFSC officials and organisers)</u></p>	<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, for example 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 the 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 one year. • The Disciplinary Panel can recommend a minimum period of suspension of up to two 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 (and any further offence will be treated as a second offence with no reduction in the sanction for exceptional circumstances)
	<p>(ii) The following actions by an official at or after a competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 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 the IFSC is satisfied that the official is suitable to do so. • The Disciplinary Panel can recommend a minimum period of suspension of up to two 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



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		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 in the sanction for exceptional circumstances).
<u>(7) Offences by member associations</u>	<p>(i) Failing to pay any sum due to the IFSC.</p> <p><i>Note: Member associations are responsible for paying various fees including: membership, competition entry, international licence and appeal fees – see section 3.7 of the IFSC Handbook. The suspension or expulsion of a Member Association must be ratified by the IFSC Management Committee before it comes into effect – see Article 17.4</i></p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Suspension from the IFSC until the fee is paid; and/or • Scale C-F fine <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension from the IFSC until the fee is paid; and/or • Scale C-F fine; and/or • Expulsion from the IFSC <p><i>Note: If an organisation is suspended, then all of its members are suspended automatically (see Article 17.2).</i></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 (6) above.</p>	<p>First offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Suspension from the IFSC until the breach is remedied; and/or • Scale C-F fine <p>Second offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspension from the IFSC until the breach is remedied; and/or • Scale C-F fine; and/or • Expulsion from the IFSC
	<p>(iii) Breaching its obligations under the IFSC's statutes, bye-laws and regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning; and/or • Scale C-F fine; and/or • Suspension or expulsion from the IFSC



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<p><u>(8) Bringing the sport into disrepute</u></p>	<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><i>Note: This offence can be committed by an athlete, a member association and an official.</i></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.
<p><u>(9) Serious misconduct</u></p>	<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><i>Note: This offence can be committed by an athlete, a member association and an official.</i></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.
<p><u>(10) Competing whilst banned</u></p>	<p>(i) Competing or attempting to compete whilst banned</p> <p><i>Note: For this offence, "banned" includes suspended. This offence occurs when an athlete is banned:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Rules and competes or attempts to compete in a IFSC competition; or • Under the Code (whether by the IFSC, a member association or any other signatory to the Code) and competes or attempts to compete in a IFSC competition; or • By the IFSC or a member association under the Code and competes in any competition organised or authorised by any other signatory to the Code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Scale 3-6 ban
	<p>(ii) Permitting, assisting or encouraging an athlete to compete or to attempt to compete whilst banned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of team members, Scale 2-6 ban • In the case of a Member Association, Scale D-F fine and/or





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	<p>Note: This offence can be committed by a team member, an official or a member association. This offence requires the person committing it to know that the athlete was banned. Member associations will be assumed to know if one of their members is banned, unless it proves otherwise.</p>	<p>suspension or expulsion from the relevant Competition Body; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of an official, suspension from acting as an official in any IFSC competition for a period of between two years and life.
<p><u>(11) Betting and gambling offences</u></p>	<p>(a) Betting or gambling in respect of any IFSC competition by anyone involved with that competition or with the 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 (provide they are not involved with the IFSC or the IFSC competition in any other way)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	<p>(b) Deliberately Failing, for 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 or the promise of such reward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 5-6 ban; and • Scale E-F fine
	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	<p>(d) Inducing, instructing or encouraging any other person to commit a betting or gambling offence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	<p>(e) Ensuring or attempting to ensure the occurrence of a particular incident that is subject to a bet for reward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 5-6 ban; and • Scale E-F fine



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	(f) Providing or receiving a reward in circumstances that might reasonably be expected to bring the sport or the IFSC into disrepute.	In exceptional cases: a warning. In other cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	(g) Using any “sensitive” or “inside” information for betting or gambling purposes, including disclosing such information (with or without reward) where you know 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	(h) Failing to disclose without undue delay to the 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 3-6 ban; and • Scale C-F fine
	(i) Failing to co-operate with any investigation carried out by the 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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 4-6 ban; and • Scale D-F fine
	(j) Assisting or covering up any betting or gambling offence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale 4-6 ban; and • Scale D-F fine

