NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

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1. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

(a) This National Code of Conduct and Ethics (***Code***) aims to promote and strengthen the reputation of football in Australia by establishing a standard of conduct expected from all Constituents. In addition, it seeks to deter conduct that could impair public confidence in the safe, fair, honest and ethical conduct of Matches and Competitions or in the integrity and good character of Football and its participants.

(b) Each person who is bound by this Code should be aware of the impact their conduct may have on the integrity of Football and must respect the regulatory framework that applies. They must perform their duties, obligations and responsibilities with dignity and in an ethical manner at all times. They must always continually strive to enhance and protect the reputation of Football.

(c) To assist Constituents to understand this Code and their rights and responsibilities, FA is responsible for developing and implementing an education plan addressing its content and subject matter and may direct Constituents to education resources and training materials provided by Sport Integrity Australia or the Australian Sports Commission. A Football Administrator may, from time to time, direct certain Constituents to undertake education, which will be relevant and proportionate to their level of participation in Football and the associated integrity risks.

(d) Professional Players, Representative Players and Officials are the public face of Football in Australia. They are therefore subject to greater scrutiny and behavioural standards as set out in this Code.

(e) This Code:

(i) forms part of the FA Statutes;

(ii) applies to the conduct and behaviour of FA and Constituents;

(iii) applies to all forms of Football under FA's jurisdiction;

(iv) continues to apply to a Constituent even after that Constituent's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Constituent breached this Code while they were a Constituent;

(v) applies to a Constituent at the time of that Constituent's subsequent association, registration, employment or engagement in relation to conduct that occurs between two periods of association, registration, employment or engagement;

(vi) applies to a person who is not registered but who at the time of the conduct was required to be registered to participate in the relevant activity in which the conduct occurred;

(vii) does not limit or restrict the application of:

(A) other by-laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures within the FA Statutes including the National Disciplinary Regulations, Member Protection Framework or National Anti-Doping Policy;

(B) AFC Statutes, including the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Code; or

(C) FIFA Statutes, including the FIFA Code of Ethics and FIFA Disciplinary Code; and

(viii) may be amended by FA from time to time, including during a season. The latest version of the Code can be found on FA's website at www.footballaustralia.com.au.

(f) This Code may be supplemented by additional codes of behaviour or ethics implemented by Constituents (such as Football Administrators) for their members, provided that such codes are not inconsistent with the terms of this Code.

2. MISCONDUCT

2.1 Misconduct

Any Constituent who engages in Misconduct may be sanctioned in accordance with this Code. For the purposes of this Code, Misconduct means a breach of clauses 2.2 to 2.14 set out below.

2.2 General Behaviour

A Constituent must not engage in any of the following conduct:

(a) offensive behaviour, including offensive, obscene, abusive, provocative, indecent or insulting gestures, language or chanting;

(b) physically assaulting another person;

(c) provocation or incitement of hatred or violence;

(d) intimidating another person or creating a hostile or unsafe environment within the sport;

(e) damaging property in connection with a Match or Competition;

(f) any conduct in breach of the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour or the Terms of Admission at a Match, including any involvement in spectator, supporter or crowd violence;

(g) any other conduct that brings, or may bring, FA, any of its sponsors, a Football Administrator or Football generally into disrepute or which is otherwise prejudicial to the interests of FA or Football generally.

2.3 Safeguarding

(a) A Constituent must not engage in any conduct that endangers or may endanger the safety or wellbeing of a Child or Adult at Risk in accordance with FA's Safeguarding Policy.

(b) A Constituent must not abuse their relative position of power or inappropriately take advantage of a relationship where a power imbalance exists (such as coach/player).

2.4 Discrimination

A Constituent must not engage in any unlawful discriminatory behaviour towards a person on account of an Attribute. Discrimination includes:

(a) publicly disparaging or vilifying;

(b) inciting hatred towards, or contempt for or ridicule of; or

(c) discriminating against (as provided by state, territory and Commonwealth laws),

a person on account of an Attribute.

2.5 Bullying, Harassment and Victimisation

(a) A Constituent must not engage in any conduct which amounts to bullying (including cyber-bullying), harassment (including sexual harassment) or any unwelcome physical, verbal or sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated where that reaction is reasonable in the circumstances.

(b) A Constituent must not victimise another person for reporting or indicating an intent to report a complaint.

2.6 Prohibited Publications and Disclosures

(a) A Constituent must not make any comment, statement or representation to the public, including via any contribution to any form of Media that:

(i) is disparaging or derogatory of an Official (including a Match Official), opposition team or any Player;

(ii) is disparaging or critical of a Football Administrator, including any decision or regulation made by a Football Administrator Judicial Body, tribunal or committee of FA or a Football Administrator, without reasonable basis or justification; or

(iii) comments on any matter the subject of an ongoing hearing or proceeding before a Judicial Body, tribunal or committee of FA or a Football Administrator.

(b) A Constituent must not disclose to any unauthorised person or organisation any information of a Football Administrator that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature.

2.7 Forgery and falsification

A Constituent must not engage in forgery and falsification, including creation of a false document, forgery of a document or signature, the making of a false claim or providing inaccurate or false information where that Constituent knew or ought to have known that such document, information or claim was false.

2.8 Corrupt and Dishonest Practices

(a) Constituents must act with honesty and integrity at all times. A Constituent must not:

(i) engage in corruption, including offering a Benefit or an advantage to a Player or an Official in an attempt to incite them to violate FIFA Statutes, AFC Statutes, FA Statutes or any other rules or regulations of a Football Administrator;

(ii) commit any act of bribery, including through the offer, promise, request, solicitation or acceptance of any Benefit in return for violating their duties;

(iii) abuse their position in football (whether at a Football Administrator or any other body such as a standing committee, stakeholder group or representative body or association) in any way including to obtain personal benefit, whether directly or indirectly;

(iv) misappropriate funds of a Football Administrator or other football related body, whether directly or indirectly, or in conjunction with any third party;

(v) engage in any other dishonest practice in relation to the finances of a Constituent.

(b) Constituents must not make a complaint that they know to be untrue or that is vexatious, malicious or improper.

2.9 Betting

(a) A Constituent must not, directly or indirectly, participate in any Bet on, or in any way connected to, a Match, Competition or any related football activities.

(b) For the purpose of clause 2.9(a), a Constituent participates in a Bet:

(i) if they solicit, induce, request, encourage, facilitate or authorise another person to participate in a Bet; and

(ii) irrespective of whether the Constituent receives or stands to receive a benefit directly from such Bet.

(c) A Constituent must not have the power, actual or apparent, to influence the running of a Betting Organisation and/or to be involved in any capacity (including as a director or shadow director) in the running of any Betting Organisation and/or to hold, deal in, or control any voting rights associated with the securities or shares of any Betting Organisation.

(d) A Constituent, when acting in a personal capacity, must not advertise or promote any Bet that they are otherwise prohibited from engaging in under this clause 2.9.

(e) For the purpose of this clause 2.9, the terms ‘Match’ and ‘Competition include any Match or Competition (as appropriate) sanctioned by FA and/or a State Member Body, and also includes any other match or competition sanctioned by FIFA, AFC or by any other association, federation or governing body.

2.10 Manipulation of Matches or Competitions

(a) A Constituent must not directly or indirectly, by an act or an omission, influence or manipulate the course, result or any other aspect of a Match and/or Competition for an improper purpose or conspire or attempt to do so by any means.

(b) For the purpose of clause 2.10(a), a Constituent engages in the conduct described in clause 2.10(a):

(i) if they solicit, induce, request, encourage, facilitate or authorise another person to engage in such conduct; and

(ii) irrespective of whether the Constituent receives or stands to receive a benefit directly from such conduct.

2.11 Misuse of Inside Information

A Constituent must not:

(a) use any Inside Information for Betting purposes;

(b) disclose any Inside Information to a person where:

(i) that person, or any other person, subsequently uses the Inside Information disclosed by the Constituent for Betting purposes; or

(ii) the Constituent had, or ought to have had, a reasonable belief that the Inside Information may be used by that person, or any other person, for Betting purposes; or

(c) disclose any Inside Information for a Benefit.

Nothing in this clause 2.11 will prevent a Constituent from disclosing Inside Information to a journalist or commentator for immediate publication or broadcast or from disclosing such information after the conclusion of the relevant Match or Competition to which such Inside Information relates.

2.12 Non-compliance with Disciplinary Process

(a) A Constituent must follow the directions of the Football Administrator in connection with a disciplinary process (including any directions in relation to the conduct of proceedings) which they are subject to.

(b) A Constituent must respect and comply with any decision or determination of a Football Administrator or Judicial Body arising from a disciplinary process or proceeding which they are subject to.

2.13 Cooperation with Investigation

A Constituent must comply with the obligations of cooperation provided for under clause 4.2.

2.14 Criminal Offence

A Constituent will be taken to have engaged in Misconduct for the purposes of clause 2.1 if they commit, or are charged with, a criminal offence.

3. LIABILITY

3.1 Attempt or complicity

(a) A Constituent is deemed to have engaged in Misconduct:

(i) if they attempt to engage in Misconduct; or

(ii) if they are complicit in, encourage, sanction, cover up or authorise another person's Misconduct; or

(iii) if they agree with any other person (whether or not also a Constituent) to engage in, or intentionally give the impression to any other person that the Constituent is attempting or agreeing to engage in Misconduct; and

(iv) irrespective of whether they engaged in the conduct deliberately or negligently (other than where intent is a necessary element of the type of Misconduct).

(b) Any attempt or agreement (or intentional appearance of the same) must be treated for purposes of this Code as if a breach of the relevant provision(s) had been committed, whether or not such attempt or agreement (or intentional appearance of the same) in fact resulted in such breach.

(c) Any attempt by a Constituent or any agreement with any other person (whether or not a Constituent) to act in breach of any provision contained in this Code must be treated for the purposes of this Code as if a breach of the relevant provisions had been committed by the Constituent themselves.

3.2 Other factors

(a) The following are not relevant to the determination of any breach under clause 2.9 (Betting) (although they may be relevant to the issue of the sanction to be imposed, in the event that it is determined that a breach has occurred):

(i) the nature or outcome of any Bet in issue;

(ii) the outcome of the Match or Competition on which the Bet in issue was made;

(iii) whether or not the Constituent's efforts or performance (if any) in any Match and/or Competition in issue were (or could be expected to have been) affected by the acts or omissions in question; and

(iv) whether or not any of the results in any Match or Competition in issue were (or could be expected to have been) affected by the act or omissions in question.

(b) It is not of itself a breach of any of clause 2.9 (Betting) for FA, a State Body Member, Competition Administrator or Club to enter into any sponsorship or endorsement agreement with a Betting Organisation.

3.3 Spectator Code of Behaviour

This Code is supplemented by FA's Spectator Code of Behaviour. It is the Match host body's responsibility to ensure the Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced in relation to all attendees.

3.4 Club Liability for Supporter Conduct

(a) A Club is responsible and liable for the conduct of its Supporters. A Club is deemed to have breached this Code where its Supporters engage in Misconduct at or in connection with a Match, Competition or event or activity staged or sanctioned by FA or any other Football Administrator.

(b) Supporters occupying the home sector of a stadium are deemed to be the home Club's Supporters, unless proven to the contrary (as determined by the relevant Competition Administrator in its sole and absolute discretion).

(c) Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium are deemed to be the away Club's Supporters, unless proven to the contrary (as determined by FA or the relevant Competition Administrator in its sole and absolute discretion).

3.5 Club Liability for Player and Official Conduct

Where a statement made by an Official or a Player which, in the absolute opinion of the Football Administrator, constitutes a breach of clause 2.6, the Club to which that Official or Player is registered may be sanctioned under this Code, independent of any sanction a Football Administrator has chosen to impose against the Official or Player who made the statement.

4. REPORTING AND INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 Reporting breaches

(a) Reports in relation to potential breaches of this Code or integrity matters in Football are to be made in accordance with the process set out on the FA website (www.footballaustralia.com.au).

Approaches

(b) In the event that a Constituent is approached or solicited in any way (whether directly or indirectly) to influence the outcome or conduct of, or in connection with, any Match or Competition whether or not in return for a Benefit (an ***Approach***), that Constituent (the ***Reporting Constituent***) must immediately report such an Approach to the FA Integrity Department. The Reporting Constituent must provide FA with all information in their knowledge relating to the Approach and must co-operate in any subsequent investigation and/or other action(s) arising out of such a report.

(c) Any Constituent who becomes aware of an Approach made to another Constituent must report such Approach to FA immediately after becoming aware of such Approach.

Ethical Misconduct

(d) A Constituent who is aware of, or reasonably believes that there may be, any breach of clauses 2.8 to 2.11 of this Code (***Ethical Misconduct***) must report such breach to FA immediately after becoming aware of such breach.

Confidentiality

(e) Any report made to FA (including the identity of a person making a report) will be kept confidential and only disclosed to those FA employees, officers, directors or professional advisers who have a need to know the information unless:

(i) otherwise required by law;

(ii) otherwise permitted by this Code;

(iii) the disclosure is required to fulfil the objectives of this Code; or

(iv) the information is already in the public domain.

Matters disclosed in accordance with FA's Whistleblower Policy will also be dealt with in accordance with that policy, including any requirements as to confidentiality.

4.2 Cooperation with FA and third parties

(a) The conduct prohibited under this Code may also be a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws or regulations. This Code is intended to supplement such laws and regulations with further rules of conduct for Constituents. This Code is not intended, and should not be interpreted, construed or applied, to prejudice or undermine in any way the application of such laws and regulations.

(b) FA may investigate conduct relating to this Code or any other provision of the FA Statutes in conjunction with the relevant authorities, such as the police. For the purpose of such investigation, FA may share information relating to the conduct in question with such authorities, whether pursuant to formal information-sharing agreements or otherwise. FA investigations must be carried out by the FA Head of Integrity or their delegate or appointee, provided that person is suitably qualified to carry out the investigation (such as a legal practitioner or former law enforcement officer).

(c) Each Constituent must co-operate with FA in any investigation being conducted by FA (or on FA's behalf) in relation to any suspected breach of the FA Statutes (including the FA Code of Conduct that applied prior to this Code) including by:

(i) attending any interview with FA, or any person appointed by FA, which they are directed to attend and to fully and truthfully answer all questions asked of them in the interview other than a question where the answer would render the Constituent liable to prosecution for an indictable offence in Australia;

(ii) subject to the limitations set out in clause 4.2(d):

(A) producing documents and records related to any matter that is the subject of an investigation being conducted pursuant to this Code (including telephone records and internet service records);

(B) providing their mobile phone(s), other personal electronic device(s) and computer(s), as well as access to any cloud based storage used in association with those devices, so that it may be imaged and examined by forensic experts to assist with an investigation being conducted pursuant to this Code;

(C) providing any login credentials (such as username and password) necessary to access any device or system on which data (including documents and records of communications) are stored, including on any social media platforms; and

(iii) not disclosing other than to their authorised legal representative:

(A) any information provided by them to FA or by FA to them during any investigation being conducted pursuant to this Code; and

(B) the fact that FA is conducting the investigation.

(d) The Constituent will only be required to provide the information and/or materials under clause 4.2(c)(ii) where in the opinion of FA's Head of Integrity:

(i) there is a reasonable basis to suspect that a breach of the FA Statues may have occurred and that the information and/or materials may be relevant to that suspected breach; and

(ii) measures have been adopted that are reasonably likely to protect the confidentiality of the information and/or materials produced.

(e) Subject to any other provision in this Code, FA will keep information obtained from a Constituent pursuant to an investigation under clause 4.2(c) confidential and will only use or disclose such information for purposes related to investigating or prosecuting beaches of the FA Statutes, sharing information as set out in this Code and making disclosures to the public where FA considers it reasonable to do so to fulfil the objectives of this Code.

(f) As part of any investigation into possible breaches of this Code, FA may:

(i) seek information from other relevant authorities and/or third parties, including Football Administrators, bookmakers and other Betting Organisations; and/or

(ii) share information with other relevant authorities and/or third parties, including Football Administrators, bookmakers and other Betting Organisations, where FA considers it reasonably necessary to disclose such information for such third parties to carry out their respective functions,

whether pursuant to formal information sharing agreements or otherwise.

(g) Where a Constituent is being investigated for or is charged with a breach of this Code, and other relevant authorities are also conducting investigations or proceedings into the same or related matters, FA or the relevant Football Administrator may, where it considers it appropriate, stay its investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings pending the outcome of the investigations or proceedings being conducted by the other relevant authorities. Following the outcome of the other relevant authority's investigation or proceedings, FA or the relevant Football Administrator must determine whether to resume its own process which has been stayed in accordance with this clause.

5. PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS, REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

(a) All Professional Players, Representative Players and Officials must:

(i) at all times behave in a manner that promotes and upholds high standards of integrity, dignity and professionalism;

(ii) comply with any team protocol and procedures, including in relation to alcohol, training schedules, curfews and inappropriate relationships; and

(iii) not act in a manner contrary to the best interests of the team, which includes the disclosure of confidential team information.

(b) A Club or Football Administrator may discipline its Professional Players, Representative Players or Officials pursuant to clause 6.1 of this Code in relation to behaviour that relates only to that Player's or Official's employment or engagement by that Club or Representative Team (as the case may be), including:

(i) unexplained absence from a Match or official training session or team meeting;

(ii) failure to wear designated clothing to a team promotion or activity;

(iii) wear or display conflicting sponsor brand during a team promotion or activity; and

(iv) behaviour that brings the Club or Football Administrator (as applicable) into disrepute, including inappropriate behaviour in public.

(c) Where a Club issues a Professional Player or an Official with a notice pursuant to clause 6.1 of this Code, the Club must immediately notify the relevant Football Administrator.

6. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE AND SANCTIONS

6.1 Procedure

(a) Subject to clause 7, a Football Administrator may enforce the terms of this Code and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this Code:

(i) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;

(ii) notice of possible sanctions; and

(iii) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

(b) All Constituents and Football Administrators must comply with and apply any sanctions imposed under this Code.

6.2 Sanctions

(a) The scope and implementation of disciplinary sanctions is as specified in article 25.1 of the FA constitution.

Club issued sanctions to Professionals

(b) A Club may impose disciplinary sanctions on a Professional Player in accordance with article 25.5 of the FA constitution subject to the following maximum sanctions:

(i) imposition of a fine not exceeding 50% of one (1) week's remuneration (being the Annual Salary paid for the most recent week and Match Payments for the Player's most recent Match);

(ii) suspension up to a maximum of two (2) Matches; or

(iii) termination of a Standard Player Contract (provided that the Club has already enforced sanctions against the Player on at least three (3) separate occasions).

Factors to consider

(c) In determining any sanction under this Code, the Football Administrator may consider:

(i) the nature and seriousness of the breach;

(ii) if the person(s) knew or should have known that their conduct was a breach;

(iii) the level of contrition;

(iv) the effect of the proposed sanction on the person(s) including any personal, professional or financial consequences;

(v) if there have been relevant prior warnings, education or disciplinary action;

(vi) whether the conduct was against a Match Official;

(vii) whether the conduct was against a Child or Adult at Risk;

(viii) the need to deter such conduct;

(ix) the damage done to the reputation of Football or FA by the relevant conduct;

(x) the damage that might be done to the reputation of Football if a suitable sanction is not imposed;

(xi) the need to publicly denounce the conduct for the benefit of Football;

(xii) the need for punishment;

(xiii) the sanction which is required to give effect to the objects of the Code as set out in clause 1(a); and

(xiv) any other mitigating or aggravating circumstances or any other matter that the Football Administrator reasonably considers relevant to the sanction.

Sanction immediate

(d) The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by the party imposing the sanction.

6.3 Appeals

(a) If a Constituent who or which is subject to:

(i) a decision made by a Football Administrator (other than FA); or

(ii) a sanction imposed by a Football Administrator (other than FA), as a result of a finding by the Football Administrator that the Constituent has breached this Code,

disputes that decision or sanction, that party may appeal in accordance with the Grievance Procedure of the relevant Football Administrator to its tribunal or committee provided that it does so in writing within 7 business days of notice of the sanction.

(b) If a Constituent who or which is subject to:

(i) a decision made by FA; or

(ii) a sanction imposed by FA, as a result of a finding by FA that the Constituent has breached this Code,

disputes that decision or sanction, that party may appeal in accordance with the Judicial Bodies By-Law provided that it does so in writing within 7 business days of notice of the sanction.

6.4 Ethical Misconduct matters

Only FA has the power to issue a notice and/or sanction to a Constituent for breaches in relation to Ethical Misconduct under this Code.

6.5 No waiver

A decision by a Football Administrator to not enforce a provision of this Code in one case does not amount to a waiver or affect the absolute discretion that Football Administrator to enforce the provision of this Code in another case.

7. NO-FAULT INTERIM SUSPENSION

FA may immediately suspend a Constituent for a period on an interim basis and without any finding of fault pending investigation or determination of a matter in the following circumstances:

(a) in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of any Child or Adult at Risk where the matter involves consideration of a potential breach of clause 2.3 of this Code and where the balance of convenience, in FA's reasonable opinion, warrants such interim suspension;

(b) where the Constituent has been charged with a serious criminal offence and the Constituent's continued participation in Football may, in FA's reasonable opinion, cause damage to the reputation of FA or Football generally; and/or

(c) any other circumstance where, in the reasonable opinion of FA, the reputation of FA or Football generally would be damaged if the Constituent was not suspended on an interim basis.

8. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

8.1 Definitions

In this Code:

Approach has the meaning given in clause 4.1(b) of this Code.

AFC Statutes means any by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures promulgated by AFC from time to time.

Attribute means race, colour, religion, language, politics, national or ethnic origin, gender, transgender, gender identity and expression (including non-binary), intersex, sexual orientation, age, relationship status (including same sex couples), pregnancy or intellectual or physical impairment or any other attribute specified under Commonwealth or state legislation.

Benefit means a benefit of any kind including, but not limited to, money, gift, advantage, hospitality, service, consideration or any other direct or indirect benefit or reward, whether in cash or kind.

Bet means a wager, lottery, bet or other similar form of speculation for a Benefit, whether financial or otherwise.

Betting Organisation any company or other undertaking that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts any form of Betting activity in relation to a Match or Competition.

Child or Adult at Risk has the meaning given in FA's Safeguarding Policy.

Club means any club registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by:

(a) a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition;

(b) a State Body Member to field a representative team in a Competition; or

(c) FA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships.

Code means this National Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Competition means any league, competition or tournament administered, controlled or sanctioned by FA in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations or one of the State Body Members, including the pre- season, season proper, finals series and any post season tournament or knockout cup competition of that Competition.

Competition Administrator means the entity responsible for the conduct and staging of a Competition.

Competition Rules mean the rules and regulations governing the administration and conduct of a Competition.

Constituent means a Member, Qualifying Member, Provisional Member, Zone, Competition Administrator, Club, Player or Official and includes any person who is unregistered, but ought to have been registered under the National Registration Regulations (such as a player who participated in a Match).

Ethical Misconduct has the meaning given in clause 4.1(d).

FA means Football Australia Limited, the governing body of Football (soccer) in Australia.

FA Safeguarding Policy means the safeguarding policy prescribed by FA from time to time.

FA Statutes means:

(a) the FA constitution, including any by-laws, as amended from time to time; and

(b) any other statutes, regulations or policies promulgated by FA, as amended on notification by FA from time to time including, without limitation:

  (i) the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations;

  (ii) the National Disciplinary Regulations;

  (iii) the National Anti-Doping Policy;

  (iv) the Member Protection Framework; and

(v) the Grievance Procedure.

FIFA means Federation Internationale de Football Association.

FIFA Statutes means any by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures promulgated by FIFA from time to time.

Football means "association football" as recognised by FIFA from time to time, which includes the games of football, soccer football, indoor or five a side (futsal) football and beach football.

Football Administrator means FA, a State Body Member, a District Association, a Competition Administrator or a Club as the case requires.

Grievance Procedure means the procedures dealing with grievances (as defined in the Grievance Procedure) published by FA and notified to Members, as amended from time to time.

Inside Information means any information relating to a Match or Competition that a Constituent possesses by virtue of their position within the sport and that is not in the public domain or readily accessible by the public. Inside Information may include certain information regarding the competitors in a Match or Competition, the conditions, tactical considerations or any other aspect of a Match or Competition.

Judicial Body means the Disciplinary and Ethics Tribunal (maintained in accordance with article 25.2 of the FA constitution) and the Appeals Tribunal (maintained in accordance with article 25.3 of the FA constitution).

Match means any match played in Australia under the auspices of FA, a State Body Member or a Competition Administrator or otherwise played under FA's direction or control.

Media means television, radio, print, online and/or social media (including posting, blogging, tweeting, re-tweeting, tagging or 'liking' on any social media platform).

Member means any registered participant, which includes a Player, coach, volunteer, administrator, Official and referee.

Member Protection Framework means the national framework that addresses discrimination, harassment (sexual or otherwise) and child protection in Football as issued and varied by FA from time to time.

Misconduct has the meaning given in clause 2.1 of this Code.

National Anti-Doping Policy means the national anti-doping policy of FA relating to anti-doping rule violations and related matters as issued and varied by FA from time to time.

National Championships means any male and female national championships involving State Body Member teams, which is staged or sanctioned by FA from time to time.

National Disciplinary Regulations means the national disciplinary regulations as issued and varied by FA from time to time.

National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations means the national regulations specifying the rules relating to the registration of Players, Officials, Clubs and Competitions with FA, as issued and varied by FA from time to time.

Official means:

(a) a Club Official, match Official or team Official;

(b) an employee, officer or director of FA or a State Body Member, a Zone or a Competition Administrator; or

(c) a member of a FA standing committee or other council, committee, panel or body constituted by FA, a State Body Member, a Zone or a Competition Administrator.

Player means any person who is registered with FA as a player in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations from time to time or is selected as a member of a Representative Team.

Professional Player has the meaning given in the National, Status and Transfer Registration Regulations.

Provisional Member means a legal or natural person, including a new Australian professional league club, that is progressing towards becoming a Member of FA and has the limited rights set out in Schedule 1 of the FA constitution.

Qualifying Member means a legal or natural person, including a new Australian professional league club, that has been granted that status under article 11.3 of the FA constitution and is progressing towards becoming a Member of FA and has the limited rights set out in Schedule 1 of the FA constitution.

Reporting Constituent has the meaning given in clause 4.1(b) of this Code.

Representative Player means a Player who is a member of a Representative Team from time to time.

Representative Team has the meaning given in the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.

State Body Member means each legal entity recognised by the directors of FA under article 6.1(b) of the FA constitution.

Supporter means the supporter of a Club and includes, without limitation, Club members and a Club's active supporter groups.

Zone means a district or regional association that is a member of a State Body Member from time to time.

8.2 Interpretation

(a) Any terms capitalised but not defined in this Code have the meaning given to them in the FA constitution.

(b) Use of the words "such as", "including", "particularly" and similar expressions are not words of limitation.

(c) Headings are for convenience only and do not affect the interpretation of this Code.

(d) The singular includes the plural and vice versa.

(e) A reference to a clause is a reference to a clause in this Code.

(f) Where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

(g) In the event any provision of this Code is determined invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will not be affected. This Code will not fail because any part of this Code is held invalid.

(h) If there is any inconsistency between a term of this Code and a term of any State Body Member regulation or Competition Rules, the term of this Code will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect.

9. ENFORCEMENT

This Code comes into force on 29 April 2021 and any amendments made to this Code come into effect immediately upon publication of such amendments by FA.