

Decision of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

passed on 9 February 2023

DECISION BY:

Jorge Ivan Palacio (Colombia), Chairperson

ON THE CASE OF:

Mohammad Sebil Seed Obaid
(Decision FDD-13870)

Regarding the decision passed by the Doping Hearing Panel of United Arab Emirates NADA on 14 December 2022

Art. 66 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code (ed. 2019)

I. FACTS OF THE CASE

1. The following summary of the facts does not purport to include every single contention put forth by the actors at these proceedings. However, the Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee (**the Committee**) has thoroughly considered any and all evidence submitted, even if no specific or detailed reference is made to particular elements of the former.
2. On 14 December 2022, the Doping Hearing Panel of United Arab Emirates NADA (**UAE NADA**) rendered a decision by means of which it imposed, *inter alia*, a period of ineligibility of four (4) years on the player Mohammad Sebil Seed Obaid (**the Player**) on grounds of doping (**the Decision**).
3. Said decision was subsequently provided to FIFA, along with other documents, including a copy of the email sent by the UAE Football Association to the Player on 14 December 2022, notifying him about the Decision.

II. CONSIDERATIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

4. First of all, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with art. 53 (2) of the FIFA Statutes, it may pronounce the sanctions described in these Statutes and the FIFA Disciplinary Code (**FDC**) on members associations, clubs, officials, players, intermediaries and licensed match agents.
5. In regard to serious infringements, in particular but not limited to discrimination, the manipulation of football matches and competitions, misconduct against match officials or forgery and falsification, the member associations, confederations and other organising sports bodies shall request FIFA to extend the sanction they have imposed so as to have worldwide effect (art. 66 (1) FDC).
6. In continuation and consistently with art. 66 (2) FDC, any doping-related legally binding sanction imposed by another national or international sports association, national anti-doping organisation or any other state body that complies with fundamental legal principles shall automatically be adopted by FIFA and, provided that the requirements described under art. 66 FDC and in article 73 of the FIFA Anti-Doping Regulations (**FIFA ADR**) are met, shall be automatically recognised by all confederations and associations.
7. In conformity with art. 54 (1) (e) FDC, the Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee is authorised, in his capacity as a single judge, to rule on the extension of a sanction pronounced by an association to have worldwide effect.
8. According to art. 66 (6) of the FDC, the Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee takes his decision regarding the extension of a sanction to have worldwide effect, in principle, without deliberations or hearing any of the parties, and using only the file.

9. In this context, the Committee emphasised that, pursuant to art. 66 (5) FDC, the worldwide extension of a sanction will be approved if:
 - i. the person sanctioned has been cited properly (lit. a);
 - ii. the person has had the opportunity to state his case – with the exception of provisional measures – (lit. b);
 - iii. the decision has been communicated properly (lit. c);
 - iv. the decision complies with the regulations of FIFA (lit. d);
 - v. extending the sanction does not conflict with public order or with accepted standards of behaviour (lit. e).

10. With the above in mind, upon analysing the Decision, the Committee highlighted that it relates to an Anti-Doping rule violation and that it could therefore be extended to have worldwide effect.

11. After examining the entirety of the evidence at its disposal in relation to the present matter, the Committee noted that the conditions for worldwide extension as stipulated under art. 66 (5) FDC, have been met. In particular, the Committee emphasised that it appears to be clear from the documentation provided by the UAE NADA that:
 - i. the Player has been cited properly as proven by the fact that the latter was asked multiple times by the Agency to provide an explanation justifying the presence of the substance and that he had the opportunity to meet at the agency's premises.¹
 - ii. the Player had the opportunity to state his case, in so far that he and his attorney had the opportunity to submit medical reports and to provide a statement during the hearing.²
 - iii. the Decision was communicated properly to the Player, as demonstrated by the aforementioned email.
 - iv. the Decision complies with the relevant FIFA regulations (specifically the FIFA ADR) and does not conflict with public order or with accepted standards of behaviour.

12. Consequently, the Committee decided to extend the sanction imposed on the Player by the UAE NADA on 14 December 2022. More specifically, the Player is sanctioned with a four (4) years suspension from all football-related activities in accordance with the Decision.

¹ Cf. § 7 and 11 of the Decision, according to which *"The Agency has asked the Athlete to provide an explanation justifying the presence of these substances in the sample."* and *"... the Athlete has appeared in the Agency's premises ..."*

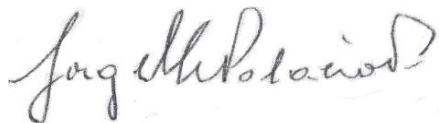
² Cf. § 19-2 of the Decision, according to which *"On 16/11/2022, the hearing has been scheduled. The Athlete and the attorney thereof have appeared in the specified date"*.

13. Finally, and pursuant to art. 66 (11) FDC, should the Decision not yet be final in a legal sense, the present decision shall follow the (final) outcome of the Decision.

III. DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- 1. The request to extend the decision passed by the Doping Hearing Panel of United Arab Emirates NADA on 14 December 2022 to have worldwide effect is granted.**
- 2. The player Mr. Mohammad Sebil Seed Obaid is sanctioned worldwide with a four (4) years suspension from all football-related activities as from 14 December 2022.**

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jorge Ivan Palacio

Chairperson of the FIFA Disciplinary Committee

NOTE RELATING TO THE LEGAL ACTION:

This decision can be contested before the FIFA Appeal Committee (art. 61 FDC, edition 2023). Any party intending to appeal must announce its intention to do so in writing within three (3) days of notification of the grounds of the decision. The appeal brief must then be given in writing within a further time limit of five (5) days, commencing upon expiry of the first-time limit of three (3) days (art. 60 (4) FDC). The appeal fee of CHF 1,000 is payable on the submission of the appeal brief at the latest (art. 60 (6) FDC).

The appeal fee of CHF 1,000 is payable on the submission of the appeal brief at the latest (art. 56 (6) FDC) either in Swiss francs (CHF) (to account no. 0230-325519.70J, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH85 0023 0230 3255 1970 J) or in US dollars (USD) (to account no. 0230-325519.71U, UBS AG, Bahnhofstrasse 45, 8098 Zurich, SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A, IBAN: CH95 0023 0230 3255 1971 U), with reference to case number above mentioned.

NOTE RELATING TO THE EXTENSION WORLDWIDE OF THE DECISION:

A sanction imposed by an association or a confederation has the same effect in each association of FIFA, in each confederation and in FIFA itself as if the sanction had been imposed by any one of them (art. 66 (10) FDC). If a decision that is not yet final in a legal sense is extended to have worldwide effect, any decision regarding extension shall follow the outcome of the association's or confederation's current decision (art. 66 (11) FDC).

NOTE RELATING TO ANY OUTCOME OF THE EXTENDED DECISION:

A worldwide-extended decision shall follow the outcome of any possible appeal lodged against the decision passed by the association or confederation (Art. 66 (11) FDC).