



CAF DISCIPLINARY BOARD
DECISION 001 – CAI – 12.10.2022

General Secretary
Sudan Football Association

To the attention of Hilal FC

Cairo, 12th October 2022

Re: Decision of the Disciplinary Committee relating to the incidents of Match 28 Al Hilal FC (Sudan) vs. St George (Ethiopia) played on 18th September 2022 in the frame of the CL 2022/2023

Dear Sir,

Arising out of the Disciplinary Board's meeting held on 12th October 2022, the Board was comprised of:

Mr. Raymond Hack (South Africa)	Chairman
Mr. Issa Sama (Burkina Faso)	Member
Mr. Mustapha Samugabo (Burundi)	Member

At its meeting held on 12th October 2022, the Board examined all the documents relevant to the above-mentioned case.

I. FACTS:

1. The officials of the above-mentioned match indicated in their reports that :

“ At the 65th minute, Al Hilal spectators threw fireworks behind Sant George goalkeeper. AT the 83rd minute, when the goal was scored, Al Hilal spectators threw fireworks into the stadium. Right after the end of the match directly, Al Hilal spectators went down to the pitch before the two teams and referees leave. The organization by security was bad and the security officials did not control the match.”

2. The match commissioner furnished CAF with photos and videos of all the incidents which occurred during the match in question.

3. Additionally, St. George Club had sent a complaint indicating that their players and coaching staff were subjected to excessive threats of harm and danger from the host team supporters who were throwing flares and smoke bombs throughout the game before finally invading the pitch after the match which might have had serious injuries had their team won that day.

4. The documents and footage of the incidents were sent to Al Hilal FC who have been advised that the case shall be submitted to CAF Disciplinary Board and has provided CAF with their reply on the matter in question which was examined by the board.

II. CAF'S COMPETENCE TO THE CASE

5. Pursuant to articles 40, 42 and 57 of the CAF Statutes, as well as article 3 and 87 of the CAF Disciplinary Code, the CAF Statutes, Disciplinary Code and Regulations are applicable to this procedure.
6. The competence of the CAF Disciplinary Board results from the following articles:
 - Pursuant to article 10 of CAF disciplinary code *“the disciplinary Board is authorized to sanction any breach of CAF Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body of the Confederation”*.
 - Article 3 of the CAF Disciplinary Code provides that *“By participation in the various CAF competitions, all the persons referred to in article 2 para 2 above acknowledge and accept that they are bound by this code inclusive of any regulations relating to any specific CAF competitions as well as any directives issued by the CAF Secretariat on behalf of the CAF Executive Committee, inclusive of the Laws of the Game as issued by the International Football Association Board.*
7. In the present case, and in accordance with the aforementioned articles of CAF Disciplinary Code, the CAF Disciplinary Board is competent to deal with the case.

III. LEGAL SCOPE:

8. The following relevant provisions apply to the case at hand:
9. **Article 82 of CAF Disciplinary Code “PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT” stipulates:** *National associations, clubs, officials and members, as well as their players, shall respect the principles of loyalty, integrity, sportsmanship and ethics.*
10. **Article 83 “RESPONSIBILITY” stipulates:** *1. National associations, clubs and officials are responsible for ensuring that the game is not brought into disrepute in anyway whatsoever by the conduct of their players, officials, members, supporters, spectators (especially using dangerous objects and/or lasers) and any other persons exercising a function at a match at the request of the association or club.*
2. The host association or club is responsible for order and security both inside and around the stadium before, during and after the match. It is liable for incidents of any kind, and can be rendered subject to disciplinary measures.
11. **Article 100 “PLAYING A MATCH WITHOUT SPECTATORS” Reads as follows:** *The obligation to play a match behind closed doors requires national associations and clubs to have a certain match played without spectators.*

12. Article 116 "REPEATED INFRINGEMENTS" 1. Unless otherwise specified, the legal body shall increase the sanction to be pronounced by half (in the arithmetic calculations, computation shall be rounded up).

13. Article 151 "SECURITY FOR ORGANISATION OF MATCHES" 1. National associations that organise matches shall:

- a) assess the degree of risk posed by matches and notify the CAF bodies of those that are especially high-risk;
- b) comply with and implement existing safety rules (FIFA and CAF Regulations, national laws, international agreements) and take every safety precaution demanded by circumstances before, during and after the match;
- c) ensure the safety of players and officials of the visiting team during their stay;
- d) keep local authorities informed and collaborate with them actively and effectively;
- e) ensure that law and order are maintained in the stadia and immediate surroundings and that matches are organized properly.
- f) Ensure that all dangerous objects and/or lasers are not allowed in the stadium or in the areas surrounding it by conducting searches of spectators.

2. National associations are held responsible for the behaviour of their supporters (especially with regard to throwing missiles and invading the pitch) and auxiliary staff."

IV. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The Disciplinary Board recalls that the lighting and throwing of fireworks is a serious offence as it can not only disrupt the orderly running of the match, but it could also endanger the physical integrity of the spectators, officials, stewards and even the players on the pitch. For this reason, the use of pyrotechnic devices is strictly forbidden.
2. In the present case, it was reported by CAF officer that during the Match the Al Hilal Club's supporters, ignited and throw several fireworks in the stadium. Furthermore, right after the end of the match directly, Al Hilal spectators went down to the pitch before the two teams and referees leave.
3. The Disciplinary Board would like to recall that, according to the constant practice of the disciplinary bodies of CAF, the facts related in the reports of match officials are presumed to be accurate until proven otherwise (art 32 of the disciplinary code of CAF). Considering the above, the disciplinary Board note that the Club has not provided any evidence to the contrary of the facts described in the Official Reports.
4. The Disciplinary Board has noted the seriousness of the infractions committed by Al Hilal spectators as well as the negligence of the Security Control in preventing the entrance of dangerous objects (i.e., pyrotechnics and fireworks).
5. The Disciplinary Board had also observed and had adjudicated on several cases in which Al Hilal club was found guilty of similar infractions. As such, the Board considers that Al Hilal club to have repeated similar infractions as per article 116 of the Disciplinary Code.

DECISION:

- CAF Disciplinary Board decided to impose upon your club Al Hilal a sanction of playing one (1) match behind closed doors (without spectators).

Nevertheless, the Board decided to suspend the sanction on condition that your team is not found guilty with a similar offence for a period of 12 months.

In case Any of the above-mentioned incidents occur during the next period of twelve (12) months, the one match behind closed doors will be automatically imposed without prejudice to any other sanctions which may be imposed by CAF Disciplinary Board.

- Furthermore, CAF Disciplinary Board decided to impose upon your club a financial sanction of 20.000 US Dollars for the use of flares, the lack of the security and the pitch invasion by your spectators during the above-mentioned match.
- The board also decided to ask Al Hilal Club to pay for the damages which occurred in the stadium and be in charge of their repairs.

Payment of **20.000 US Dollars** must be made within 60 days of the date hereof, in American Dollars to:
Bank CIB - Swift Code: CIBEEGXXX - Account No: 100044333389 -
IBAN: EG970010008000000100044333389 OR by Cheque in the name of CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE DE FOOTBALL.

LEGAL ACTION:

This decision can be contested before CAF Appeal Board. The party intending to appeal shall announce his intention in writing within three (3) days of notification of the decision. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the country of residence, the time limit will expire the next day which is not a public holiday. Reasons for the appeal shall be given in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days, commencing upon the expiry of the first time limit of three (3) days. The deposit mentioned in article 58 of the CDC must be paid to CAF's account. The appeal is invalid without the relevant deposit within the relevant time limit.

The decision becomes final at the expiration of the appeal deadline.

Best Regards,

**CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE
DE FOOTBALL**



Raymond Hack
Chairman of CAF Disciplinary Board