

**ADOPTED BY THE BOARD  
ON MAY 20, 2022**

Policy 521-2 Discriminatory Conduct at International Matches.

Section 1. Discriminatory chants are strictly prohibited. For purposes of this policy, a “discriminatory chant” shall include any derogatory chant relative to race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and/or gender, or other chant deemed to otherwise violate the human rights of any participant or spectator at the match. Discriminatory chants are large scale in-stadium chants. Any issues between a small number of fans should be addressed pursuant to an appropriate fan code of conduct and stadium security protocols.

Section 2. As part of the sanctioning process to hold an International Match in the United States, the promoter and/or FIFA Match Agent promoting an International Match shall agree to be responsible for implementing actions to prohibit, prevent and eliminate discriminatory chants at the matches they promote in the United States. Specifically, the promoter/FIFA Match Agent shall cause the then current protocols promulgated by FIFA/Concacaf/U.S. Soccer to end such chants to be widely disseminated in connection with such matches and implemented at such matches as needed to prevent and eliminate discriminatory chants. Failure to implement the protocols shall subject the promoter/FIFA Match Agent to disciplinary action including liquidated damages, financial penalties and hosting bans as more fully set forth below.

Section 3. (a) As part of the sanctioning process to hold an International Match, the promoter/FIFA Match Agent shall post a bond equal to the lesser of 10% of the anticipated paid gate for such match or \$1,000,000 to be held as a performance bond to ensure that the protocols are applied. U.S. Soccer will determine the bond amount.

(b) If discriminatory chants occur at the International Match and the promoter has not fully applied the protocols to stop the discriminatory chant, then the promoter/FIFA Match Agent shall forfeit the performance bond as liquidated damages. U.S. Soccer shall use the liquidated damages to promote approved DEIB initiatives and victim rights.

(c) In addition to the liquidated damages provisions above, U.S. Soccer will not grant sanction to the promoter/FIFA Match Agent to host an International Match in the United States for a period of 2 years after the first violation of this provision. After a second violation, U.S. Soccer will not grant sanction to the promoter/FIFA Match Agent to host an International Match in the United States for a period of 5 years thereafter. If the promoter/FIFA Match Agent is found to have committed a third violation, the promoter/FIFA Match Agent shall be permanently banned from hosting an International Match in the United States.

Section 4. As part of the sanctioning process, each team seeking to participate in an International Match in the United States shall agree in writing that it will assist the promoter/FIFA Match Agent in ensuring that discriminatory chants do not occur at a match involving that team and that it will cooperate in instituting the protocols should a discriminatory chant occur. The teams shall further agree that if the supporters for their team engage in a discriminatory chant at an International Match in the United States, then that team will not be permitted to play an International Match in the United States for a period of 2 years. A second violation shall result in a 5-year ban from playing an International Match in the United States. A

third violation shall result in a permanent ban from playing an International Match in the United States.

Section 5. Any ticket holder or person in attendance at the International Match may enforce this provision by initiating a grievance with U.S. Soccer pursuant to the expedited grievance procedures promulgated by U.S. Soccer. Video evidence may be submitted to demonstrate the occurrences of discriminatory chants at an International Match.

## Exhibit A

FIFA

### **The three-step procedure for discriminatory incidents**

FIFA applied the three-step procedure for discriminatory incidents for the first time at the FIFA Confederations Cup 2017. With this procedure, the referee can:

1. Stop the match and instruct the stadium authorities to read out an announcement, calling upon the spectators to stop the discriminatory behaviour;
2. If this announcement does not have the desired effect, make another announcement, suspend the match and send the players to their dressing rooms for a specific period;
3. After consultation, abandon the match if the discriminatory behaviour still does not cease or breaks out again.

## Exhibit B

### **Concacaf Nations League: Discriminatory Language Policy June 2, 2021**

**IMPORTANT:** Racist or Homophobic language from either individual fans or in group chants will not be tolerated at this event; Offenders will be subject to ejection

Under Concacaf's Three-Step Procedure, failure to observe this policy may result in fan ejections and other actions outlined below:

1. Stop the match (followed by a stadium announcement with the necessary explanation and request for the discriminatory incident to stop);
2. Suspend the match by sending the players back to the changing room for an appropriate period of time (followed by a stadium announcement with the necessary explanation and request for the discriminatory incident to stop);
3. Abandon the match (followed by a stadium announcement with the necessary explanation and request to leave the stadium, in accordance with the instructions of the security personnel).