

## APPENDIX F – Sanction procedures

### PREAMBLE

The area of Media, Press and Broadcast has grown over the years. The FIG is doing its best to operate in a businesslike manner and so has created guidelines, rules and operating procedures. The Media Rules are updated regularly.

The ever-increasing experience of the FIG in the media accreditation process requires a more sustained vigilance in order to respect these rules.

This document aims to:

- Identify infractions and review their sources and consequences ;
- Draw up the procedure to implement appropriate sanctions against the offenders
- Introduce the principle of an appeal

At the FIG we are very happy with the positive relationships we have with the press and media professionals. We should keep in mind that fraudsters constitute a very small part of the media population and that FIG measures are intended to protect the rights and working conditions of those who do abide by the rules.

This process should prevent arbitrary action.

### 1. Types of Offences and Infractions

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We should differentiate more serious cases from minor offences. Even if reported cases are rare, a whistle-blowing procedure as well as a sanctions procedure have been developed.

Based on past experiences, the most common infringements are as follows:

- Photographers trading photographs online for their personal business;
- Litigious editorial content;
- Unacceptable behaviour on working sites;
- Filming by ENR crews or bloggers in the competition hall;
- Abusive wording on press cards;
- Infringements of FIG Statutes;
- Infringements of guidelines issued by professional bodies of sports journalism.

Offences witnessed will be handled according to the procedures outlined here below.

A proven wrongdoing reported by a *bona fide* third party shall also be investigated.

## **2. Investigation Procedure**

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- a. Once a complaint has been reported it will be investigated by the FIG media staff. Facts and pertinent documents and any other helpful material are gathered for review.
- b. After a review of the information by the FIG Media Officer, a decision on further steps will be taken. These may include speaking with the offender, as well as discussions with others as needed to confirm facts. A report will be written establishing the facts and circumstances of the incident or violation. It shall mention the prior warnings, if any. This report shall also advise a proposed sanction.

## **3. Sanctions**

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The degree of sanction shall depend on the seriousness of the violation and whether it is a repeated offence. There are 3 steps in the sanction process:

- The verbal warning;
- The written warning;
- The filed report.

The FIG Media Officer may penalise as follows by:

- Withdrawing the accreditation card;
- Withdrawing the accreditation card and ordering eviction from the site for the remainder of the competition;
- Suspending accreditation for a period of up to one year;
- Suspending accreditation extended to other disciplines;
- Suspending accreditation for the entire cycle.

The violator will be notified in writing of all “written warnings” and sanctions. A copy of the sanctions shall be sent to the AIPS Secretary General and the IOC Media Commission will be notified of any suspensions for the cycle.

If accreditations are withdrawn during a competitive event, the Organising Committee must be informed and security alerted.

## **4. Appeal**

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An appeal can be made against a sanction taken by the FIG Media Officer. This must be in writing to the FIG Secretary General within 24 hours of the sanction. The decision of the FIG Secretary General is final.