



**SAUDI ARABIAN  
FOOTBALL FEDERATION**

# **Disciplinary Activity Report**

Season 2020-2021

SAFF Legal and Governance Affairs

BIDDING NATION  
**SAUDI ARABIA**



## Disciplinary and Ethics Committee (DEC)

- The DEC is an independent judicial committee primarily responsible for the application of the SAFF Disciplinary and Ethics Regulations (the “Regulations”). It is a first-instance decision-making body, whose decisions may be appealed before the Appeals Committee.
- The DEC is authorized to sanction any breach of the SAFF Statutes and regulations as well as circulars, decisions and directives issued by SAFF or the relevant organising body which does not come under the jurisdiction of the other authorities or committees. The Regulations cover a broad range of misconduct and the DEC is empowered to impose sanctions against the club(s) and/or person(s) responsible for such breaches. The DEC is also empowered to enforce the decisions of other SAFF bodies, such as the Dispute Resolution Chamber.
- The Secretariat to the DEC is made up of lawyers from the SAFF Legal and Governance Affairs Department. The Secretariat can be contacted at: [disciplinary@saff.com.sa](mailto:disciplinary@saff.com.sa)
- To report allegations of breaches of integrity (e.g. suspected match manipulation/ match-fixing, doping, corruption), please use the SAFF Integrity App or contact the SAFF Integrity Unit at [integrity@saff.com.sa](mailto:integrity@saff.com.sa)
- Following the conclusion of the 2020/2021 season, the former DEC Chairman, his deputy as well as the three ordinary members resigned from their positions. SAFF takes this opportunity to sincerely thank each of them for their valued service to Saudi football.
- In July 2021, prior to the start of the 2021/2022 season, the Board of Directors appointed a new Chairman, Deputy Chairman and three ordinary members, as follows:

- 1. Mr. Bandar Alhmidani (Chairman)**
- 2. Dr. Abdulaziz Alfadhli (Deputy Chairman)**
- 3. Dr. Abdulaziz Alrshood (member)**
- 4. Mr. Thamer Alhmood (member)**
- 5. Dr. Abdulrahman Almsnad (member)**

In accordance with the SAFF Statutes, the General Assembly voted to endorse the new composition of the DEC in October 2021.

## Appeals Committee (AC)

- The AC is an independent judicial committee. It is the second-instance and the highest internal judicial body of SAFF. On receipt of a valid petition, the AC reviews decisions issued by the DEC. All DEC decisions may be appealed, except in certain limited cases outlined in the Regulations.
- The AC is responsible for deciding on all appeals against any decision of the DEC that the Regulations, or other SAFF regulations, do not declare as final or referable to another committee. The AC is comprised of 5 members: a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman and three ordinary members, as follows:

1. **Dr. Mohammed Basam (Chairman)**
2. **Dr. Yazeed Alrsheed (Deputy Chairman)**
3. **Mr. Ahmad Alqunaiyan (member)**
4. **Mr. Mohammed Althubait (member)**
5. **Mr. Ahmad Banamh (member)**

- In accordance with the SAFF Statutes, the General Assembly voted to endorse the new composition of the DEC in October 2021.
- The Secretariat to the AC is made up of lawyers from the SAFF Legal and Governance Affairs Department. The Secretariat can be contacted at: [appeal@saff.com.sa](mailto:appeal@saff.com.sa)
- The Regulations can be accessed on the SAFF website: <https://www.saff.com.sa/files.php>

## 1. DEC activity

### 1.1 Overview

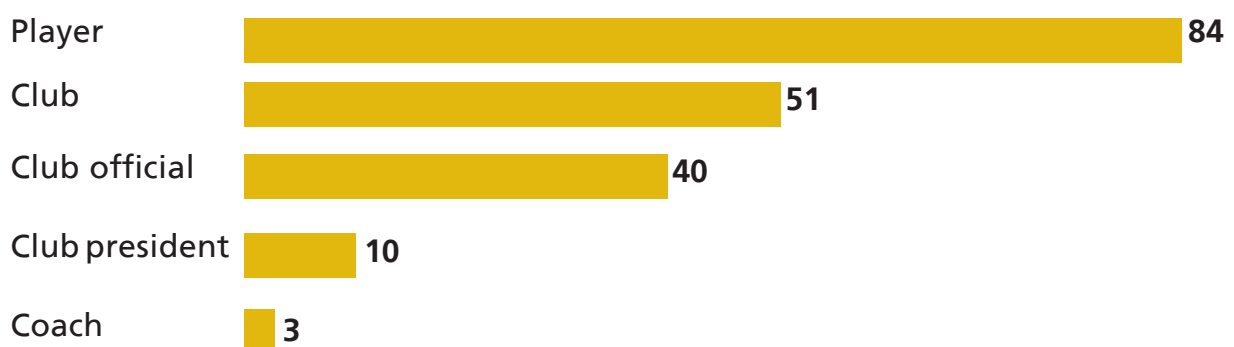
The DEC rendered 384 decisions during the 2020/21 season, with an average of 48 decisions per month.

Compared to the 2019/2020 season (average of 22 decisions per month), this means a staggering increase of more than 100%. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of the DEC's work concerned disciplinary violations (49%), although it did also rule on a substantial number of enforcement cases (17%). A novelty was the breach of the Covid-19 protocol, which led to 90 decisions of the DEC:

**Figure 1: Breakdown of DEC decisions by case type**

## 1.2 Match-related disciplinary offences – by accused party

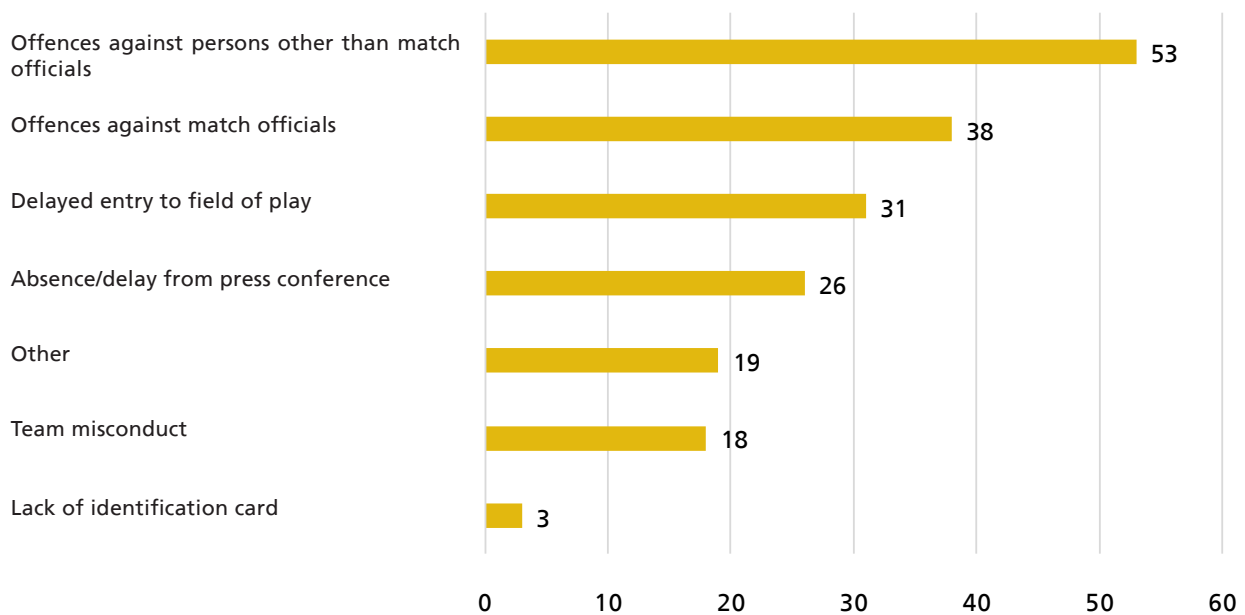
- As provided for by the Regulations, the DEC decides on disciplinary infringements that occur before, during or after any of the matches that are under the regulatory authority of the SAFF (e.g. tournaments, competitions, friendly matches, etc.), both inside or outside the field of play.
- During the 2020/2021 season, the DEC issued 188 decisions regarding match-related breaches of the Regulations. This was a sizeable reduction from the 2019/20 season, when the DEC issued 234 decisions: indicating a substantial improvement in disciplinary compliance by stakeholders across the two seasons. Just under half of the 188 decisions (45%) concerned alleged breaches by players.

**Figure 2: Decisions regarding match-related offences by the type of accused party**

### 1.3 Match-related disciplinary offences – by offence type

- The DEC is responsible for deciding on reports of disciplinary breaches across a range of SAFF competitions, including the Saudi Pro League (SPL), the Prince Mohammed bin Salman League (MSL), the Second Division and the Third Division, as well as cup competitions such as the King's Cup. The range of potential offences is, therefore, broad – as is demonstrated at Figure 3 below:

**Figure 3: Breakdown of disciplinary decisions regarding match-related offences by offence type**



- Offences in the category "other" include, inter alia, entry by non-authorised persons into the dressing room or the field of play, damage to the dressing room and player ineligibility.

## 1.4 Enforcement decisions

- Pursuant to Article 85 and Article 86 of the Regulations, the DEC is empowered to ensure that all decisions issued by the bodies of the SAFF (e.g. the Dispute Resolution Chamber) - as well as by international bodies such as the Court of Arbitration for Sport, FIFA and the AFC - are respected within SAFF's regulatory remit.
- In other words, when a person under SAFF's jurisdiction is the subject of a decision issued by a decision-making body of, for example, the SAFF or FIFA to pay an amount of money to another person and they fail to do so by the deadline imposed, the DEC can take disciplinary action as a means of enforcing the initial decision. This is known as "enforcement".

### 1.4.1 Enforcement decisions – breakdown by decision-making body

- In the 2020/2021 season, enforcement decisions represented 17% of the total decisions rendered by the DEC.
- The vast majority (85%) concerned the enforcement by the DEC of decisions of the SAFF DRC – meaning that a total of 58 SAFF DRC decisions were not respected at the first instance. The remaining 10 decisions concerned the enforcement of awards rendered by the Saudi Sports Arbitration Center (SSAC).

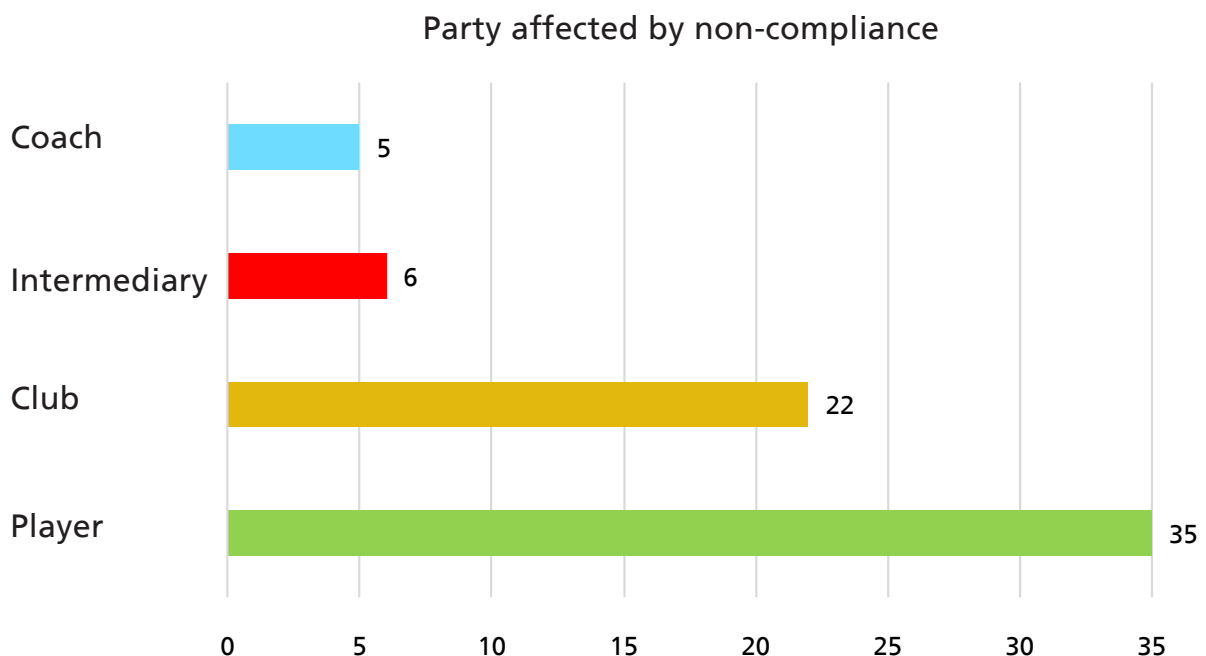
**Figure 4: Breakdown of DEC enforcement decisions by initial decision-making body**



### 1.4.2 Enforcement decisions – breakdown by party

- In the 2020/21 season, clubs were by far the worst offenders for failing to respect the terms of the initial decision, with DEC enforcement actions taken against clubs in 61 out of 68 cases (i.e. 90%). The remaining 7 cases concerned enforcement actions taken against players and an intermediary.
- The breakdown of enforcement decisions taken by the DEC shows that - in over 50% of cases – the accused party failed to honour a decision in favour of a player. The detailed breakdown of parties affected by the non-compliance with decisions is presented at Figure 5:

**Figure 5: Breakdown of parties affected by non-compliance with decisions**



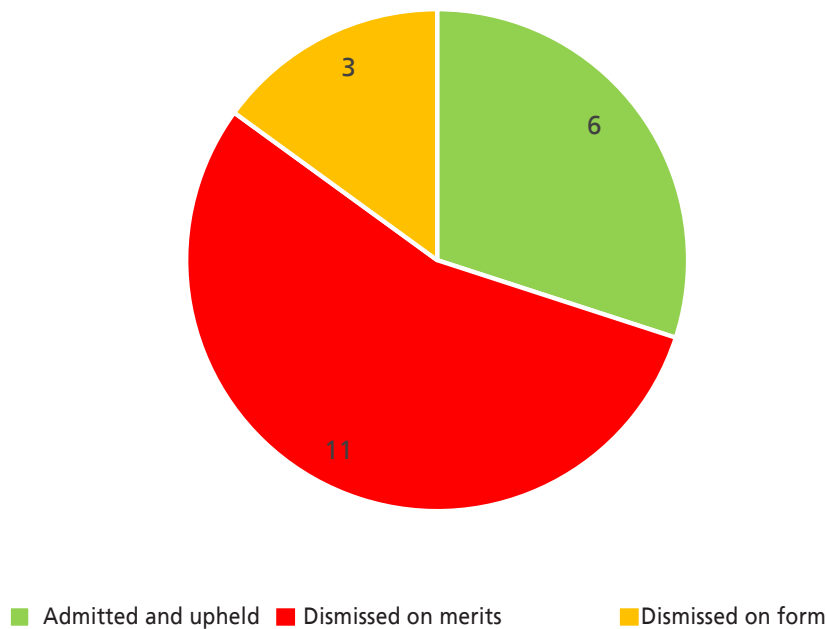
### 1.5 Protests

- A protest is an objection based on facts that occurred which have a direct impact on the match, submitted by a team due to a violation of the Regulations or other SAFF regulations. The DEC is therefore also responsible for issuing decisions based on the protests submitted by one of the two teams participating in a match.
- Protests must be lodged with the DEC within 48 hours following the end of the match in question and, in order to be valid, must comply with certain formal regulatory requirements in terms of the information they must contain. In particular, the relevant

protest form must be submitted along with clear legal evidence of the alleged offence. Protest forms may be declared inadmissible if any of the mandatory regulatory criteria have not been validly met.

- The chart below shows the breakdown by outcome of DEC decisions in relation to protests during the 2020/2021 season (i.e. 20):

**Figure 6: Decisions issued by the Disciplinary Committee following receipt of a protest, 2020/2021:**



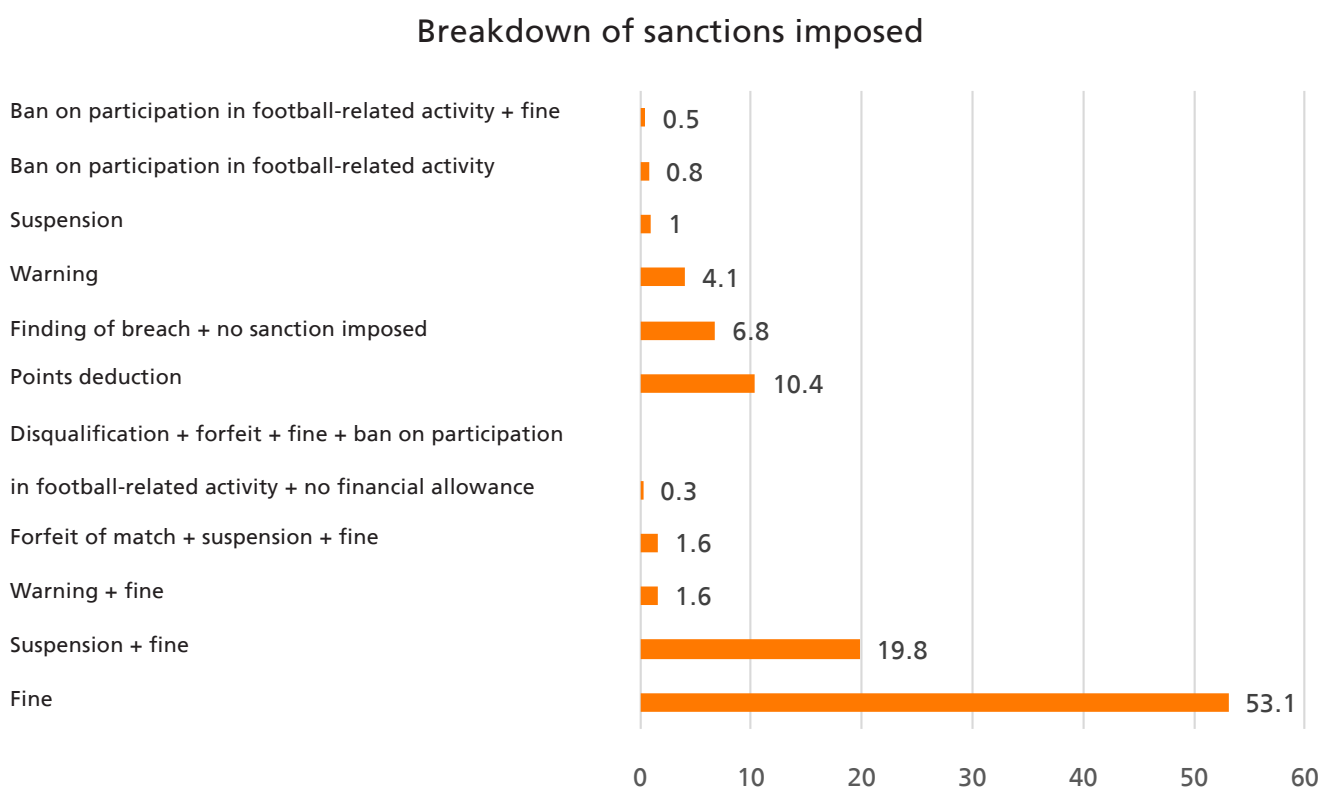
## 1.6 Claims and Complaints

- The DEC is responsible for deciding on a claim or complaint submitted to it concerning any alleged infringement of the Regulations, taking into account the time periods and formalities outlined therein.
- During the 2020/2021 season, the DEC handled a total of 18 claims, accepting 6 and rejecting the other 12.

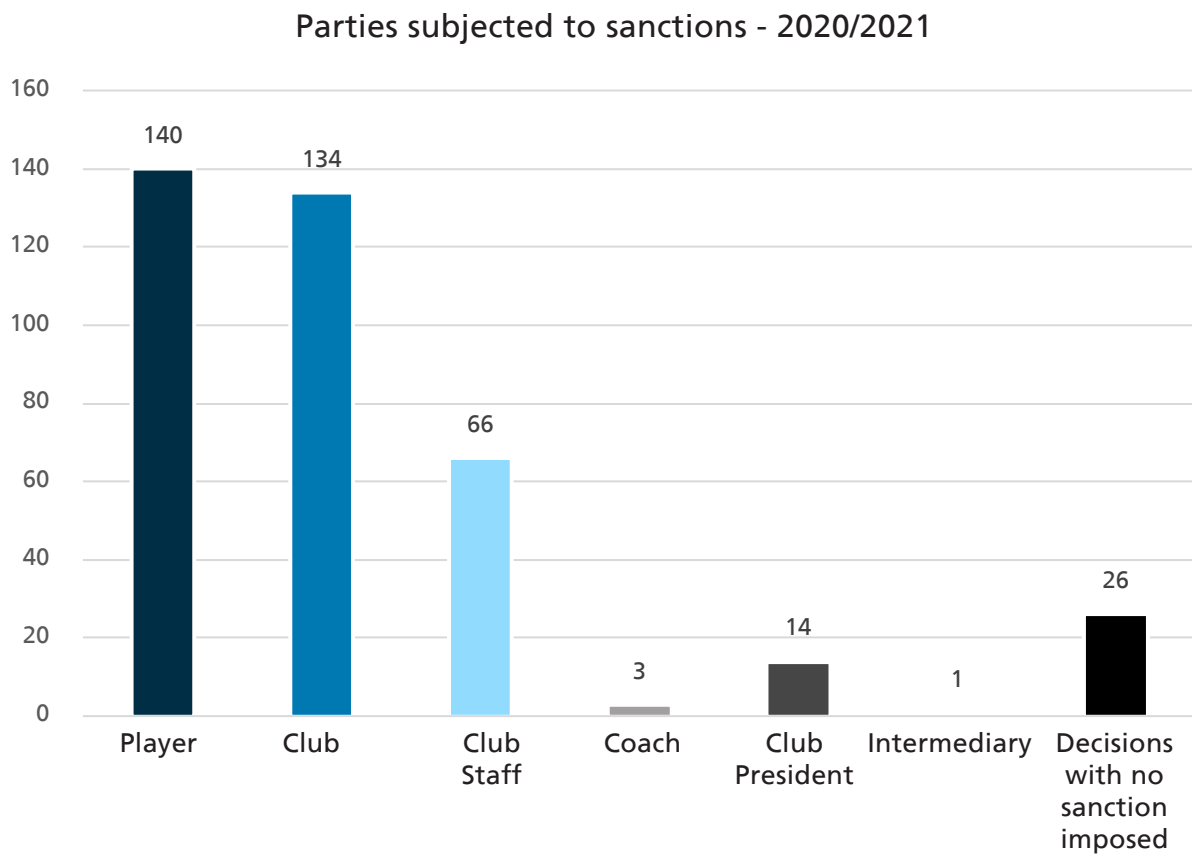
## 2. Sanctions

- As previously mentioned, the DEC has the power to impose sanctions for breaches of the Regulations, taking into account all relevant circumstances of the offence, the respective individual and the consequences that the offence has caused or may cause.
- The following chart provides a percentage overview of the type of sanctions imposed by the DEC during the 2020/2021 season. As you can see, fines were by far the most commonly imposed sanction.

**Figure 7: Type of sanctions imposed during the 2020/2021 season by percentage of total number of decisions passed**

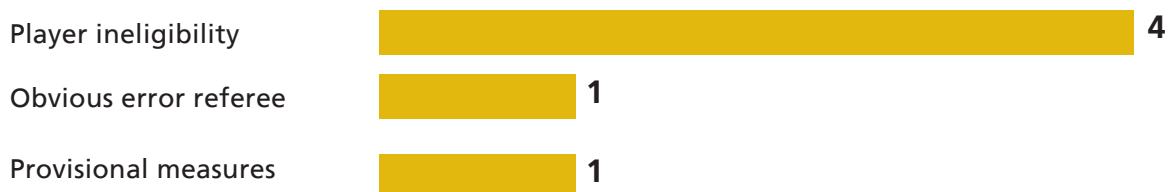


While these sanctions were imposed against a range of different stakeholders, the vast majority of sanctioned parties were players (140 decisions) and clubs (134), while a total number of 26 decisions were passed by the DEC without imposing any sanction, as illustrated below:

**Figure 8: Breakdown of sanctions by party sanctioned**

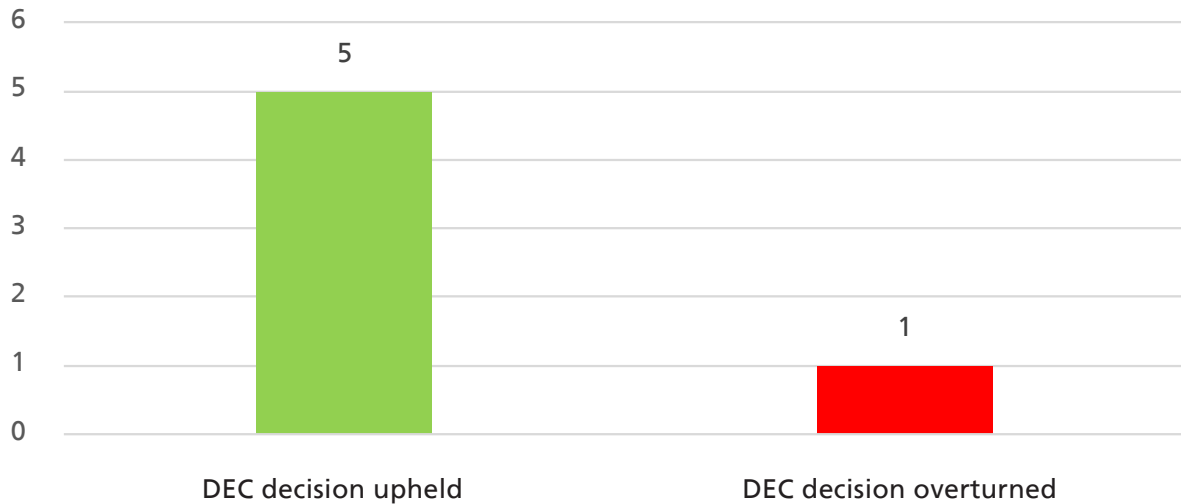
### 3. Appeal Committee

During the 2020/2021 season, the AC dealt with a total number of 6 appeal proceedings, all filed by clubs. These proceedings led to decisions divided across the following categories of breach:

**Figure 9: Breakdown of AC decisions by offence type**

As shown in Figure 10 below, however, the majority of appealed DEC decisions were upheld by the AC on appeal:

**Figure 10: Breakdown of AC decisions by outcome**



## Contact us

**For further information or inquiries, please connect with us through the following channels:**



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