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"*Irrationality is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results*"

(Misattributed to Albert Einstein or Benjamin Franklin or Mark Twain…)

The Never-Ending story of the Mexican Disciplinary Cases

(The limits of the Judicial Disciplinary Power or… the frustration of an Arbitrator…)

Milan Sports Law, International Conference 2026
13.11.2026

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2.6.2026
The last CAS Media Release on 2 Mexican Cases



TAS / CAS
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DU SPORT
COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DEL DEPORTE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOOTBALL

THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) RULES ON CHANT APPEALS BY THE MEXICAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Lausanne, 2 June 2026 – The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has ruled on two appeals by the Mexican Football Federation (FMF, in Spanish) against FIFA concerning sanctions for the use of a homophobic chant by Mexican fans. The CAS Panel ruled that FMF must still pay separate fines of CHF 60'000 and CHF 80'000. However, one of the appeals was partially upheld and a 15% partial stadium closure for the next A-level FIFA match has been annulled.

During three friendly games that took place in the summer of 2024 (Mexico v. Bolivia, Mexico v Uruguay and Mexico v Brasil), FIFA's anti-discrimination monitoring system reported the use of a homophobic chant by Mexican fans. Two of these matches were temporarily suspended. In September 2024, the FIFA Disciplinary Commission declared FMF responsible for the fan behaviour and imposed a 60'000 CHF fine on the federation and a 15% partial closure of the stadium for their next FIFA match. This decision was further upheld by the FIFA Appeal Committee.

Similar incidents were reported on another friendly match in October 2024 (Mexico v. USA), which generated a separate disciplinary procedure. In November 2024, the FIFA Disciplinary Commission declared FMF responsible for the fan behaviour and imposed an 80'000 CHF fine on the federation. This decision was further upheld by the FIFA Appeal Committee.

The FMF filed two separate appeals to CAS against FIFA in March and June 2025, contesting the decisions by the FIFA Appeal Committee. FMF argued that the federation has put measures in place since 2015 to educate, prevent and eradicate the chant. They also argued that the sanctions imposed by FIFA are not effective in influencing fan behaviour and deterring a reoccurrence of the offending conduct. Stating that the incidents were "short and isolated", the FMF requested to set aside the decision or in the alternative, to replace it with a joint action plan with FIFA instead of "automatic and disproportionate" sanctions.

A CAS Panel was nominated for both procedures and an in-person hearing took place in Miami on 3 March 2026. The Panel considered the arguments and evidence of both Parties and examined footage from the matches. They observed that the conduct of the fans was collective and widespread, and not merely a one-off occurrence.

The Panel recognises the unique nature of the FMF's situation, who demonstrated that significant financial resources and efforts have been deployed to eradicate the offending conduct. However, they found that the prohibited conduct persists, and the preventative measures do not carry sufficient legal weight to exempt the FMF from liability.

For further information related to CAS activity and procedures, please contact the press office at media@tas-cas.org, or ...
Palais de Beaulieu, av. Bergière 10, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland

TAS / CAS
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DU SPORT
COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT
TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DEL DEPORTE

COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

FÚTBOL

EL TRIBUNAL ARBITRAL DEL DEPORTE (TAS) SE PRONUNCIA SOBRE LAS APELACIONES DE LA FEDERACIÓN MEXICANA DE FÚTBOL RELATIVAS A LOS CÁNTICOS

...a, 2 de junio de 2026 – El Tribunal Arbitral del Deporte (TAS en sus siglas en francés) se ha ...ado sobre dos apelaciones de la Federación Mexicana de Fútbol (FMF) contra la FIFA en ... con las sanciones impuestas por un cántico homofóbico por parte de aficionados ...s. La Formación Arbitral del TAS resolvió que la FMF aún debe pagar multas de CHF ...HF 80.000. No obstante, una de las apelaciones fue parcialmente estimada y se anuló ... parcial del 15% de las gradas para el próximo partido de nivel A de la FIFA.

... partidos amistosos disputados en el verano de 2024 (México vs. Bolivia, México vs. ...éxico vs. Brasil), el Sistema de Vigilancia Antidiscriminación de FIFA reportó el uso de ...omofóbico por parte de aficionados mexicanos en dichos partidos. Dos de estos ...n suspendidos temporalmente. En septiembre de 2024, la Comisión Disciplinaria ...laró a la FMF responsable del comportamiento de los aficionados e impuso a la ... multa de CHF 60.000 y un cierre parcial del 15% del estadio para su próximo ...A. Esta decisión fue posteriormente confirmada por la Comisión de Apelación de ...

...es fueron reportados en otro partido amistoso en octubre de 2024 (México vs. ...neró un nuevo procedimiento disciplinario. En noviembre de 2024, la Comisión ... FIFA declaró a la FMF responsable del comportamiento de los aficionados e ...ión una multa de CHF 80.000. Esta decisión fue posteriormente confirmada ...pelación de la FIFA.

... apelaciones distintas ante el TAS contra la FIFA en marzo y junio de 2025, ...iones de la Comisión de Apelación de la FIFA. La FMF argumentó que ha ... esfuerzos posibles para educar, prevenir y erradicar el cántico. También ... sanciones impuestas por la FIFA no son eficaces para influir en el ... aficionados ni para disuadir la reincidencia de la conducta infractora. ...entes fueron "carácter aislado y de corta duración"; la FMF solicitó que ...ecisión o, subsidiariamente, que se sustituyera por un plan de acción ...gar de sanciones "automáticas y desproporcionadas".

...mación Arbitral del TAS para ambos procedimientos y se celebró una ...iami el 3 de marzo de 2026. La Formación Arbitral consideró los

...s y los procedimientos del TAS, relacionada con las actividades del TAS y los procedimientos, pued...
...tas-cas.org o consultar www.tas-cas.org. Palais de Beaulieu, av. Bergière 10, 1004 Lausanne, ...

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What are these cases about?







Ehhhhhhh…….PUTO

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The Chronological Perspective – Dates of the Matches, CAS Cases

#	Date	Match	Competition	CAS case	Decision
1	11/2015	Mexico – El Salvador	Q WC 2018	CAS 4780	16.11.2017
2	3/2016	Mexico – Canada	Q WC 2018	CAS 4788	16.11.2017
3	2019	Mexico – ? (settled)		CAS 6216	
4	11/2022	Mexico – Poland	WC 2022	CAS 9972	10.10.2024
5	11/2022	Mexico – Saudi Arabia	WC 2022	CAS 9972	10.10.2024
6	6/2024	Mexico – Venezuela	Copa America	CAS 10932	20.3.2026
7	6/2024	Mexico – Ecuador	Copa America	CAS 10933	20.3.2026
8	5/2024	Mexico – Bolivia	Friendly	CAS 11268	02.6.2026
9	6/2024	Mexico – Uruguay	Friendly	CAS 11268	02.6.2026
10	6/2024	Mexico – Brazil	Friendly	CAS 11268	02.6.2026
11	10/2024	Mexico – USA	Friendly	CAS 11512	02.6.2026
12	2 days ago…				

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Reminding the basics of Strict – or objective - liability of clubs and associations for the conduct of their supporters :

- Football governing bodies lack direct disciplinary authority over spectators and shall therefore rely on clubs and associations as indirect enforcement channels for supporter misconduct.
- The concept assumes deterrence and the prevention of unacceptable conduct.
- assumes that the sanctions imposed are capable of influencing supporters' behavior in a meaningful way.
- The jurisprudence of CAS generally accepts that in the absence of direct disciplinary authority over spectators, holding clubs and associations responsible for the conduct of their supporters seems to be the only efective mean of addressing such misconduct (CAS 2009/A/1944 FFBH v. FIFA , CAS 2013/A/3094 Hungarian Football Federation v. FIFA).
- By imposing consequences on the entity supported by the perpetrators, the disciplinary system seeks to (i) influence supporters' behavior indirectly and (ii) to encourage clubs and associations to do their best and take an active role in preventing and addressing such conduct.
- CAS jurisprudence has consistently stated that the objective of strict liability is not to punish a blameless club or association, but to ensure that violations of the rules are effectively discouraged and excluded in the future.

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The repeating chanting of the Mexican Fans was found in all the cases to be discriminatory and thus a violation of the DC.

- In spite of interesting attempts to convince the Panels (including by expert opinions) that FIFA is misinterpreting the word “puto”, in considering that the Chant is used in this context (a football match) to humiliate, discriminate and outrage a person or group of people due to their sexual orientation, and ;

- That FIFA have interpreted the Chant with only one of the several meanings of “puto” (i.e. male homosexual) and without considering the Mexican culture, the different connotations and linguistic use of the expression and the context and atmosphere in which it is shouted…(CAS 4780, CAS 4788)

- Still, CAS panels found that the chanting un question is homophobic, discriminatory and should not be accepted as a legitimate conduct in the football context (CAS 10932, CAS 10933).

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The never-ending story of the Mexican Cases reveals an inconstancy between this objective and the reality faced by clubs and/or associations that continue to be sanctioned despite having adopted extensive preventive and corrective measures:



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Considering the specific circumstances of the Mexican Cases the Panels are confronted with a dilemma ;

- In all or most CAS cases presented here the Panels accept and appreciate the efforts made by the Mexican Federation along the years in an attempt to fight the phenomenon

- Therefore, the Panels in all the cases deal and answer three questions:

  - Are the chanting and conduct a discriminatory act and thus a violation of the DC?

  - Does the panel have the power under the relevant Disciplinary Regulations (Note: there are differences between FIFA DR, UEFA DR and CONMEBOL DR) to intervene and change the sanction (mainly the fines?).(for a detailed analysis se: L. Ferrer, J. Mila ; https://www.football-legal.com/content/strict-liability-beyond-punishment-deterrence-and-preventive-alternatives-under-uefa-and-fifa-regulations-by-lucas-ferrer-joan-mila

  - If so, and considering the overall circumstances and the efforts and measures implemented by the Mexican Federation what will be the adequate sanction?

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The CAS decisions

#	Date	Match	CAS case	CAS Decisions
1	11/2015	Mexico – El Salvador	CAS 4780	Fine (CHF20,000) replaced by a warning
2	3/2016	Mexico – Canada	CAS 4788	Fine (CHF 15,000) replaced by a warning
3	2019	Mexico – ? (settled)	CAS 6216	?????
4	11/2022	Mexico – Poland	CAS 9972	Fine (CHF 100,000 confirmed) suspended sanction - period of reduction of spectators (20%) reduced from 2 years to 1 year
5	11/2022	Mexico – Saudi Arabia	CAS 9972	
6	6/2024	Mexico – Venezuela	CAS 10932	Fine (US$ 70,000) reduced to US$ 20,000
7	6/2024	Mexico – Ecuador	CAS 10933	Fine (US$ 70,000) reduced to US$ 20,000
8	5/2024	Mexico – Bolivia	CAS 11268	Fine (CHF 60,000) confirmed ; sanction of reduction of number of spectators by 15% was annulled.
9	6/2024	Mexico – Uruguay	CAS 11268	
10	6/2024	Mexico – Brazil	CAS 11268	
11	10/2024	Mexico – USA	CAS 11512	Fine (CHF 80,000) confirmed
12	2 days ago…			??????????

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And you? What would you do if you would have been the arbitrator in these cases?

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Thank You
Grazie per l'invito e per l'attenzione

Special thanks to L. Ferrer & J. Mila for allowing me to use some quotes from their article.