



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOOTBALL – 2018 COPA LIBERTADORES

#### THE COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) ORDERS CLUB ATLÉTICO RIVER PLATE TO PLAY ITS NEXT TWO COPA LIBERTADORES MATCHES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

*Lausanne, 4 February 2020* – The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has issued its decision in the appeal filed by Club Atlético Boca Juniors (Boca Juniors) against the Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol (CONMEBOL) and Club Atlético River Plate (River Plate) regarding decision A-21-18 taken by the CONMEBOL Appeals Chamber on 6 December 2018, which confirmed the first instance decision O-212-18 rendered by the CONMEBOL Disciplinary Tribunal on 29 November 2018.

Incidents inside and outside the Stadium Antonio Vespucio Liberti (River Plate's stadium) before the return leg of the Final Copa Libertadores on 24 November 2018 were at the origin of two disciplinary procedures directed against River Plate. CONMEBOL initiated a procedure O-213-18 (and then A 23-18) dealing with incidents inside the Stadium and sanctioning River Plate with two matches behind closed doors and a fine of USD 400,000. That decision was not appealed at the CAS. In the other procedure (O-212-18), Boca Juniors' request to have River Plate disqualified from the 2018 Copa Libertadores was rejected in first instance and this decision was confirmed in decision A-21-18 taken by the CONMEBOL Appeals Chamber. The CONMEBOL decision was then appealed at CAS by Boca Juniors and was the object of the present procedure.

The scope of the CAS arbitration procedure was related to security incidents which occurred just outside the security rings when the Boca Juniors' team bus was attacked by River Plate supporters who threw rocks causing the windows of the bus to smash, and injury to some of the Boca Juniors players (the Bus Attack).

In its appeal to CAS, Boca Juniors sought to have decision A-21-18 set aside and replaced with an order from CAS that River Plate be held liable for its supporters conduct during the Bus Attack and that River Plate be sanctioned with disqualification from the 2018 Copa Libertadores or with “*serious disciplinary sanction(s)*.”

The CAS Panel found that while River Plate had violated the CONMEBOL Disciplinary Regulations it could not order the disqualification of River Plate from the 2018 Copa Libertadores since such sanction would have been excessive in the circumstances of the case. The Panel considered that the appropriate sanction to be imposed on River Plate for the Bus Attack was two matches behind closed doors, to be applied to River Plate's next two home matches in the Copa Libertadores.