

### 13.6.5.1 CASE Statement

```
CASE case_value
  WHEN when_value THEN statement_list
  [WHEN when_value THEN statement_list] ...
  [ELSE statement_list]
END CASE
```

Or:

```
CASE
  WHEN search_condition THEN statement_list
  [WHEN search_condition THEN statement_list] ...
  [ELSE statement_list]
END CASE
```

The CASE statement for stored programs implements a complex conditional construct.

#### Note

There is also a CASE operator, which differs from the CASE statement described here. See Section 12.5, “Flow Control Functions”. The CASE statement cannot have an `ELSE NULL` clause, and it is terminated with `END CASE` instead of `END`.

For the first syntax, *case\_value* is an expression. This value is compared to the *when\_value* expression in each `WHEN` clause until one of them is equal. When an equal *when\_value* is found, the corresponding `THEN` clause *statement\_list* executes. If no *when\_value* is equal, the `ELSE` clause *statement\_list* executes, if there is one.

This syntax cannot be used to test for equality with `NULL` because `NULL = NULL` is false. See Section 3.3.4.6, “Working with NULL Values”.

For the second syntax, each `WHEN` clause *search\_condition* expression is evaluated until one is true, at which point its corresponding `THEN` clause *statement\_list* executes. If no *search\_condition* is equal, the `ELSE` clause *statement\_list* executes, if there is one.

If no **when\_value** or **search\_condition** matches the value tested and the CASE statement contains no **ELSE** clause, a Case not found for CASE statement error results.

Each **statement\_list** consists of one or more SQL statements; an empty **statement\_list** is not permitted.

To handle situations where no value is matched by any **WHEN** clause, use an **ELSE** containing an empty BEGIN ... END block, as shown in this example. (The indentation used here in the **ELSE** clause is for purposes of clarity only, and is not otherwise significant.)

```
DELIMITER |

CREATE PROCEDURE p()
  BEGIN
    DECLARE v INT DEFAULT 1;

    CASE v
      WHEN 2 THEN SELECT v;
      WHEN 3 THEN SELECT 0;
      ELSE
        BEGIN
          END;
        END CASE;
    END;
  |
```