

The Football Association Discipline Commission

(on behalf of Oxfordshire FA)

In the Matter of Chinnor Youth U23

Case ID: 10126344M

=====

Reasons for Discipline Commission decision decided on 8 February 2020

The Discipline Commission member sitting alone as chair was Hollie Ball (Chair).

The following is a record of the salient points which the Chair considered and is not intended to be and should not be taken as a verbatim record of the decision.

CHARGE:

By a Misconduct Charge Notification dated 30 January 2020 Chinnor Youth were charged with the following:

Charge 1: FA Rule E20 – Failed to ensure Players and/or Officials and/or Spectators conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.

The charge arose out of the game of Chinnor Youth U23 v Jet First played on 3 November 2019 as part of the High Wycombe Sunday Football Combination in the Sam Waters Sunday Cup. It is alleged that during the game the referee received abuse from Chinnor players following his decision to sin bin two players which continued to the end of the game when players stated 'We're looking forward to the report we're gonna write about you.' It is also alleged that at the end of the game a Chinnor supporter approached the referee and said 'that was the worst performance I have ever seen' and 'even at my age can do a better job you fucking faggot'.

It is alleged that the use of 'faggot' aggravates the breach by reference to sexual orientation.

The Relevant Football Association Rules state:

Rule E20 reads that each Club shall be responsible for ensuring:

That its directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, spectators and all other persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: improper, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words or behaviour, (including without limitation, where any such conduct, words or behaviour includes reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability) whilst attending or taking part in a Match in which it is involved, whether on its own ground or elsewhere...

Plea

Chinnor Youth entered a guilty plea to the charge on 3 February 2020. The Chair went on to consider the relevant evidence.

Evidence

The Chair considered the following evidence:

1. Extraordinary Incident report from the Referee, Nathan Fuller
2. Emails from Referee, Nathan Fuller on 4, 6, 7 November 2019 and 4 December 2019
3. Email from Dave Cookson, Jet FC on 8 November 2019

4. Email from Warren Jeffries, Chinnor Youth on 3 December 2019

Mitigation

The Chair then went on to consider any mitigation and/or aggravating factors in order to consider the appropriate sanction.

The Chair considered the homophobic language to be an aggravating factor, due to the use of the words “faggot” which the referee confirmed he had heard from a supporter. The Chair considered the record of Chinnor Youth to be good (1 misconduct for 10 teams in current season and 2 from previous season) and considered it a mitigating factor.

SANCTION:

The following sanctions are the decision of the Chair.

That Chinnor Youth will be fined £30.

That Chinnor Youth will receive 6 penalty points.

This decision is subject to the relevant Appeal Regulations.

Hollie Ball (Chair)

8 February 2020