

**IN THE MATTER OF
SURREY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

-v-

**CHARLIE GREEN
(CASE REFERENCE 11515742M)**

AND

**TEDDY WILLIAMS
(CASE REFERENCE 11515769M)**

**REASONS FOR DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION DECISIONS
WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 2024**

Warning – This document contains offensive and/or discriminatory language.

INTRODUCTION

1. These are written reasons for the findings of a consolidated Disciplinary Commission ('the Commission'), held on behalf of Surrey FA (SFA) on Wednesday 17th January 2024. The Commission met by video conference (Microsoft Teams) to consider improper conduct charges against Charlie Green (CG) a registered player with Abbey Rangers FC, and Teddy Williams (TW) a registered player with Surrey Spartans. The offences are alleged to have occurred on Sunday 5th November 2023, during a fixture ('the game/match') in the Leatherhead & District Sunday League, between Abbey Rangers FC Sunday Reserves and Surrey Spartans 1st.

Comment: in accordance with FA Regulations (The FA Handbook Season 2023-2024, Chapter 11, Part A, Paragraph 13), because the alleged offences were sufficiently linked and there is common evidence, all charges were considered by the same disciplinary panel.

PARTIES

2. The Commission members were Anthony Rock (Chair), Andrew King and Richard Stubbs, all members of the FA's National Serious Case Panel.
3. Vicky Collins, a member of the FA's National Secretaries Panel, acted as Secretary to the Commission.

MISCONDUCT CHARGE NOTIFICATIONS

4. By SFA Misconduct Charge Notifications (two in total), both dated 11th December 2023, the following charges were raised:

- a. **Charge 1 (CG)** - FA Rule E3 - Improper Conduct (including foul and abusive language).
- b. **Charge 2 (CG)** - FA Rule E3.2 - Improper Conduct - aggravated by a persons Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Gender Reassignment, Sexual Orientation or Disability.
- c. **Charge 1 (TW)** - FA Rule E3 - Improper Conduct (not including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).

FA RULE E3

5. The relevant sections of FA Rule E3 (The FA Handbook Season 2023-2024, Chapter 10, Part E) state:

E3.1: A Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.

E3.2: A breach of Rule E3.1 is an “Aggravated Breach” where it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of the following:- ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

BASIS OF THE CHARGES

6. **CG:** it is alleged that CG used abusive and/or indecent and/or insulting words or behaviour contrary to FA Rule E3.1, and it is further alleged that this is an aggravated breach as defined by FA Rule E3.2 because it includes a reference to Sexual Orientation. This refers to the comment(s), ‘*you fucking gay boy*’, or similar.
7. **TW:** it is alleged that, during the fixture, TW pinched two players bums, which is improper pursuant to FA Rule E3.1.

PLEAS

8. On 24th December 2023, CG pleaded guilty to both charges and requested that his case be dealt with by correspondence.
9. On 12th December 2023, TW pleaded not guilty to the charge and requested a personal hearing.

Note: the Commission noted that written reasons are required where there is an aggravated element to the charge, or for any serious case involving an assault or physical contact or threatening behaviour

towards the Match Officials or for any personal hearing involving assault by participant on participant. In the above cases this would apply to the charges against CG only. On that basis and for the sake of clarification, no further reference is made in these written reasons to the charge and findings against TW. Findings in his case can be obtained from SFA.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE

10. The written evidence available to the Commission consisted of:

- a. FA Extraordinary Incident Report Forms (two in total), both dated 5th November 2023, submitted by the Referee, David Sheldrake. Reports of the match incidents involving CG and TW.
- b. SFA Witness Statement Form, dated 9th November 2023, submitted by the Abbey Rangers FC player, Payam Dinarvand.
- c. SFA Witness Statement Form, dated 10th November 2023, submitted by CG.
- d. Undated statement submitted by Abbey Rangers FC General Secretary, Andy Robertson. The submission included a second witness statement, dated 22nd December 2023 from CG.
- e. SFA Witness Statement Form, undated, submitted by the Surrey Spartans player, Ross Fraser.
- f. Undated statement submitted by TW.
- g. SFA Misconduct Charge Notifications (two in total) both dated 11th December 2023.

COMMISSION FINDINGS IN THE CASE AGAINST CG

11. The burden of proof is on the County FA, meaning it is for SFA to prove each case to the appropriate standard. The applicable standard of proof in these cases is the civil standard of the balance of probability. The balance of probability standard means that the Commission must be satisfied that the occurrence of an alleged event or events was more likely than not to have taken place.

12. Given that CG pleaded guilty to the charges, the issue for the Commission was not to deliberate on points of fact/probability, but to determine the sanction to be imposed. The Commission accepted his guilty plea.

FA GUIDELINES/CATEGORISATION OF THE OFFENCE

13. The Commission noted the following: FA Guidelines/Regulations for the 2023/2024 Season in regard to the standard minimum sanction for an aggravated misconduct offence (FA Handbook, Chapter 11, Part A General Provisions, Appendix 1); an immediate suspension of between 6 and 12 matches ('Sanction Range'), and be subject to an education programme. The Commission also

noted that they may impose any one or more of the other penalties as provided by paragraph 41 of Part A to Chapter 11.

14. Before considering any mitigating/aggravating factors, the Commission determined that the offence lay within the Low Category of the FA Sanction Guidelines, attracting a sanction of 6-7 matches.

DISCIPLINARY RECORD

15. The Commission noted that CG has no previous proven charges of misconduct.

SANCTION

16. Considering the FA Guidelines and Regulations, nature of the aggravated offence and provocation by an opposition player, his apology and stated remorse, his misconduct record and guilty plea, the Commission concluded that the following sanction is to be imposed:

CG: to be suspended for 6 matches (the minimum sanction which the Commission is able to impose). He is also ordered to complete an on-line education programme before the suspension is served, the details of which are to be provided by SFA. Failure to comply with this order will result in a Sine-Die suspension being issued against him until he has fulfilled the order in its entirety. His Club, Abbey Rangers FC, are to incur 6 disciplinary penalty points.

Note 1: the Commission noted that CG also received a 2-match suspension and was fined £45 for the related sending off offence. In regard to his overall suspension, any number of those 2 matches already served is to be taken into account i.e. if CG has already served the 2 match suspension, then the '*suspension balance*' still to be served is 4 matches (6 matches for the aggravated offence minus the 2 matches already served). Having already been fined £45, the Commission decided not to impose any further fine.

Note 2: The entry point for disciplinary penalty points is 5. Penalty points are not a deduction of points from any league standings, but are added to the cumulative total within a club's disciplinary record/total.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

17. In accordance with FA Regulations there is a right of appeal against the decision.

Anthony Rock (Chair)

Andrew King

Richard Stubbs

Thursday 18th January 2024