

**Disciplinary Commission (“The Commission”)  
On behalf of the Worcestershire Football Association  
In the matter of James Todd – Case ID: 10331269M**

**Hearing Summary including Written Reasons**

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**Disciplinary Commission Decision**

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**Factual Background and Chronology**

1. These are the Reasons for the decision of the Chairman.
2. The Commission member was Mr Stephen Daniels (Chairman).
3. The following is a summary of the principle submissions considered by the Chairman. It does not purport to contain reference to all the points considered, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point or submissions, should not imply that the Chairman did not take such point, or submission into consideration when the Chairman determined the matter. For all avoidance of doubt, the Chairman carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regards to this case.
4. The charge in question arose in a game between Hornets First v Lower Teme & Martley Firsts on 20th December 2020. Following the fixture, a variety of reports were provided to the Worcestershire FA and details of this allegation were contained within these reports.
5. By letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 James Todd was charged with FA Rule E3 - Assault on a match official causing the abandonment of the match.
6. Alternate charge of, FA Rule E3 - Improper conduct against a match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).
7. James Todd admitted the charge.

## **The Evidence**

8. The Chairman had before him the following items of evidence:
  - (i) It was alleged that James Todd was charged with FA Rule E3 - Assault on a match Referee causing the abandonment of the match.
  - (ii) An alternative of Improper conduct E3 - Improper conduct against a match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour.

David Etheridge the match referee stated he gave a free kick against the player James Todd he took exception to my decision and called me a "fat mong" he went on to say "I don't care if you send me off you fat cunt, I will knock you out" As result of his actions I showed him the red card and sent him off. At that point James Todd the player pushed me aggressively in the chest causing me to lose my balance and fall backwards hitting my head on the ground as I fell. Following this assault on me I abandoned the match.

9. James Todd did not put in any mitigating circumstances.
10. The chairman stated that although a guilty plea was given this was a very serious and upsetting offence against a match referee.

## **Sanction**

11.
  - a. 5 Years Suspension.
  - b. Club receive 10 penalty points.
12. This decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions in The FA Handbook.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Mr. Stephen Daniels. Chairman