

Football Association Independent Regulatory Commission

(the 'Commission')

**in the matter of an FA Rule E3(1) charge for misconduct brought by
The FA against Ryan Mills of Oldham Athletic FC.**

Regulatory Commission Decision

1. These are the written reasons for a decision made by an Independent Regulatory Commission that was convened on 6th April 2016 at Wembley Stadium (the 'Hearing').
2. The Commission members were Mr. S. Ripley (Chairman), Mr. P. Raven and Mr. M. Kearns.
3. Mr. P. McCormack of the FA Judicial Services Department acted as Secretary to the Regulatory Commission.
4. Mr Mills was charged by The FA with misconduct for breaching FA Rule E3(1) for posting abusive and/or insulting and/or improper media comments on his Facebook account.
5. The comments were as follows:
 - a. *"listen I swear this down I don't give a fuck what people think about me my youth kids will always be with me I love them like my own kids I will always be there for them I can expose a lot of youth coaches tonight that think they've got connections with clubs I will tell you this it all comes back to me you snakes!!! I swear this down I don't give a fuck about the FA or Oldham all I care about is my kids that's a fact";*

- b. "Fuck off you Munich bastard";*
- c. "Don't give a fuck about Oldham";*
- d. "My youth kids will still be here tomorrow fuck all the rest";*
- e. "Fuck the FA fuck all you cunts";*
- f. "Plane crashing bastards";*
- g. "Sick my fucking dick";*
- h. "Don't give a fuck about Oldham"; and*
- i. "Fucking Munich bastards embarrassing getting beat off a team like that.*

6. Prior to the Hearing the Commission members were provided with the following:

- a. A screenshot of Facebook account homepage of Ryan Mills;
- b. Screen shots of Facebook comments referred to above
- c. Letter from David Matthews of The FA to Ryan Mills dated 23rd March 2016; and
- d. An email from Ryan Mills to David Matthews of The FA, dated 28th March 2016.

7. Mr Mills admitted the charge in the FA Disciplinary Proceedings: Reply Form which was signed and dated 4th April 2016 and requested that the charge be dealt with at a paper hearing.

8. In his letter by Email to The FA dated 28th March 2016, Mr Mills stated that his media comments were made at a stressful time for him and that they were out of character. He also stated that he suffers from periods of depression.

9. Mr Mills also produced fourteen letters of personal reference. Twelve of these letters were unsigned and undated.
10. At face value, from the numerous personal references put forward by Mr Mills it would appear that Mr Mills is capable of having a positive impact on youth football and young people, however, the Commission felt that the comments made by Mr Mills were totally unacceptable and merited a sanction commensurate with their vitriolic, abusive, insulting and improper nature.
11. The Commission decided that a three month suspension from all football activity was appropriate under the circumstances. It is hoped that in this time Mr Mills will reflect upon his responsibilities as a person who interacts with young people and will seek help in relation to the periods of depression that he says that he is suffering from.
12. The Commission also decided to fine Mr Mills the sum of £300.
13. Mr Mills is also severely warned as to his future conduct.

Stuart Ripley

Regulatory Commission Chairman

11th April 2016