

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF GABRIEL ZAKUANI OF PETERBOROUGH UNITED F.C.

REGULATORY COMMISSION DECISION

15TH JANUARY, 2013

1. These are the written reasons for an F.A. Regulatory Commission decision made on Tuesday, 15th January, 2013.
2. The Regulatory Commission Members were Mr. Maurice Armstrong (Chairman), Mr. Brian Jones and Mr. Stuart Ripley. Mr. Robert Marsh, Senior Disciplinary Assistant, acted as Secretary to the Regulatory Commission.
3. The Charge against Mr. Gabriel Zakuani was for a breach of F.A. Rule E3 relating to a Twitter comment as detailed below:-

"Haha I think this sheep sh*gger needs a hug RT@Andrew Harris91:@Gabs50Zakuani @adidasUK You should be buying your own boots, you're shit!"
4. It was alleged that Mr. Zakuani's posting of the comments on his Twittter account was abusive and/or insulting and/or improper and/or brings the game into disrepute.
5. Mr. Zakuani admitted the Charge and did not request the opportunity to attend a Regulatory Commission for a Personal Hearing.
6. The Regulatory Commission considered in detail the submissions of The Football Association and Mr. Zakuani's acceptance of his Charge dated 10th January, 2013.
7. The Commission noted Mr. Zakuani's letter dated 24th December, 2012, which included an apology for his comments. The Members also noted that the Club's Manager and Secretary had met with Mr. Zakuani and reminded him of his responsibilities regarding Twitter comments.
8. When considering an appropriate sanction, we considered Mr. Zakuani's clean disciplinary record and the admittance of the Charge, and noted his weekly income from football.
9. Having had regard for the Standard Penalties the Regulatory Commission considered a warning as to the player's future conduct and a fine to be a reasonable and consistent course of action for this breach of F.A. Rules.

10. The Commission considered a fine in the region of £3000, however, we awarded Mr. Zakuani credit for his admittance of the charge and his clean disciplinary record. We therefore ordered a fine of £2,000 be imposed on Mr. Zakuani.
11. Mr. Zakuani has a right of Appeal against this decision, as per the relevant Appeal Regulations at Schedule D of the Disciplinary Procedures – Standard Direction.

M.M. Armstrong

B. Jones

S. Ripley

16.1.13