

**IN THE MATTER OF A BREACH OF FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION RULE E20(a)**

**BEFORE A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
REGULATORY COMMISSION**

- Venue:** Walkers Stadium, Leicester
- Date:** 22nd October 2009
- Participant:** Derby County Football Club (Derby)
- Match & Competition:** Nottingham Forest v Derby  
Football League Championship
- Date of Match:** 29th August 2009
- Regulatory Commission  
Members:** Peter Powell (Chairman)  
Peter Hough  
Mervyn Leggett  
Colin Murdock
- In attendance:** M Ives (Secretary)
- Representatives:** Claire Morris - Club Secretary Derby County  
Matt McCann - Communications Manager Derby County  
Mathew Johnson representing The Football Association
- Charge:** Derby County are charged with a breach of Football Association Rule E20(a)
- Evidence Considered:**
1. DVD clip of incident
  2. For the Football Association:
    - (i) Written report of the referee
    - (ii) Written report of the match assessor
    - (iii) Written report of Superintendant Holland who also gave oral evidence
  3. For Derby County
    - (i) The written statements of Mr Nigel Clough and Dean Leacock

**PENALTY**

Derby admitted the Charge but asked that their written statements be taken into account.

In accordance with the guidelines sent to Clubs pre-season, the Commission were informed by its secretary that a breach of Rule E20(a) could result in a fine for a Championship Club of up to £50,000.

The Commission took into account Derby County's exemplary record, they having no previous charges under Rule E20(a); and the apologies received from Nigel Clough and Dean Leacock and their acceptance of the Charge, and in those circumstances decided upon a fine of £20,000 of which £10,000 is suspended until the end of the Season 2010/2011 but to be imposed should there be any further proven charge under Rule E20(a) during that period.

In relation to costs, it was considered appropriate that Derby should pay £400 towards the costs of the Hearing

Derby County have a right of appeal to this decision in accordance with FA Regulations.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
P Powell (Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_