

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

On behalf of Amateur Football Alliance

NON - PERSONAL HEARING

Of

KAJIUM JANUZI

Case ID: 10279470M

THE DECISION AND REASONS OF THE COMMISSION

Introduction

On 17 October 2020 in a match between Alexandra Park 4th XI v Old Lyonians 3rd XI, in the Southern Amateur League, SAL Junior Section Division 1 North, in the 89th minute, Mr Januzi reacted to a decision by the Referee to award a free kick against him. Mr Januzi argued with a number of opposition players and there the ball at one of them for close distance. The Referee issued a red card to Mr Januzi for violent conduct.

Mr Januzi then turned and approached the Referee and put his hand on the Referee's chest. The Referee warned him not to touch the Referee's person, but Mr Januzi removed his hand and placed it on the referee's arm/shoulder. The Referee again warned Mr Januzi to remove his hand from the Referee's person, and asked him to step back.

The Charges

The FA charged Mr Januzi with the following:

E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).

The relevant section of FA Rules E3(1) states:

“(1) A Participant shall at all times act in the best interest 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.

Charge

Mr Januzi entered a guilty plea on 28 October 2020.

The Commission

The following members were appointed by The FA to this Disciplinary Commission (“the Chair”) to consider the E3(1) charge:

John Murphy (Chair).

Previous Disciplinary Record

The Chair sought Mr Januzi's previous disciplinary record. There have been a number of cautions registered against Mr Januzi, but none for physical contact with a match official.

The Sanction

The Commission considered the relevant Rules under FA Rule E3(1), the relevant Regulations under The FA Disciplinary Regulations and the Sanction Guidelines issued by The FA.

The Commission is aware that there is a recommended sanction for Physical Contact against a Match Official, of 182 days ban and up to £150 fine. There is a minimum sanction of 84 days ban and £100

fine.

The Commission noted that Mr Januzi submitted a statement on 22 October 2020, stating that he was 'very sorry' and sought to explain his physical contact with the Referee, by reference to wanting to 'speak to him'. He finished the statement by writing, 'really, really sorry'.

The Commission welcomed his guilty plea and his apology, albeit not knowing if this written apology had been communicated to the Referee.

The Commission further noted the aggravation inherent in Mr Januzi's conduct in that he ignored the Referee's first request to remove his hands, because the evidence shows that Mr Januzi placed them on the Referee for a second time, before departing the pitch.

Taking all of the circumstances into account, the Commission orders that Mr Januzi:

- a. be suspended for 182 days from the date of the incident, 17 October 2020, up to the start the national lockdown on 5 November 2020, being 18 days, and the remaining duration, being 164 days, to recommence from whenever the Government lifts the lockdown of 5 November 2020, and the FA permits resumption of amateur football; and
- b. pay a fine of £100.

The Commission also imposes 6 Club Disciplinary points on Old Lionians.

The decision of the Commission is subject to the right of appeal under the relevant FA Rules and Regulations.

Commission

John Murphy - Chair

4 November 2020