

Football Association Disciplinary Commission
In the matter of Ronald Large (Case number 10308132M)
'Chair-Alone' Disciplinary Decision

18 March 2021

1. I, Ms. Stacy Newnham-Payne, am appointed to the Commission as Chair to conduct a non-personal hearing.
2. Mr. Ronald Large was charged with a breach of FA Rule E3 Improper Conduct. It was further alleged that this breach of Rule E3.1 was an "aggravated breach" as defined in Rule E3.2 as it includes a reference to Gender.
3. The relevant section is FA Rule E3 (p. 119 of the FA Handbook Season 2020-2021) 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.*
 2. *A breach of Rule E3.1 is an "Aggravated Breach" where it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of the following :- ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability."*
4. This case was brought by Amateur Football Alliance following a complaint made of words and conduct at a match played on 18 October 2020. It was alleged Mr. Ronald Large made inappropriate comments to players/spectators at the above game; such referencing gender.
5. Mr. Ronald Large formally responded to the charges, pleaded not guilty and requested the matter be heard in his absence. The burden of proof was on Amateur Football

Alliance to prove on the balance of probability; meaning I would be satisfied an event occurred if I considered that, on the evidence, the occurrence of the event was more likely than not.

6. I had been provided with the following bundle of documents:
 - a. Extraordinary Incident Report and email from Rishi;
 - b. Statement from Emma-Louise Howell;
 - c. Statement from Madeleine Man;
 - d. Statement from Rebecca Fieldus;
 - e. Statement from Annie Dalton;
 - f. Statement from Suresh Shan;
 - g. Statement from Gabe John;
 - h. Statement from Jose Viana;
 - i. Response Sheet and evidence in Response to the Charge from Mr. Ronald Large; and
 - j. Statement from Deryll David.

7. I was aware for the charges to be made out in full in this instance, there were the following tests to be satisfied:
 - a. Did Mr. Ronald Large make the alleged comment?
 - b. Did that comment amount to a breach of FA Rule E3.1?
 - c. Were the words used also an "Aggravated Breach" pursuant to FA Rule E3.2; namely in respect of Gender?

8. I reviewed the above-mentioned written statements and found, upon the balance of probabilities, the charges proven. I was satisfied that the written submissions offered were sufficiently consistent to support the charge. Moreover, Mr. Ronald Large appears to accept making the alleged comments but stresses his intentions were certainly not to cause offence.

9. Given the charges had been found prove, I proceeded to determine sanction and consulted the FA Rules and 2020-2021 Sanction Guidelines. Mr. Ronald Large's record was considered, and it was noted there were one relevant charge (03.12.2017) to be taken into consideration; the same amounted to an aggravating factor when determining sanction.

10. I am mindful that the sanctions guidelines, for a second offence, a suspension of more than 6 matches with an entry point of 11 match suspension must be imposed. I am satisfied there are no aggravating features to warrant an increase from the established starting point; namely a 77-day suspension from all football activities as a ground ban commencing 28 March 2021. I further impose a £150 fine and 7 penalty points.

11. Mr. Ronald Large is also to complete an online FA education programme within four months of original notification of this decision; details of which will be provided by The FA. Failure to complete the mandatory FA Education programme within the relevant timeframe shall initiate the automatic suspension of Mr. Ronald Large from all football and football related activity until such time as the mandatory FA Education programme has been successfully completed.

12. This decision is subject to the right of appeal in accordance with the relevant regulations within The FA Handbook.

Stacy Newnham-Payne

Chairperson

18 March 2021