

**Football Association Disciplinary Commission on behalf of Berks & Bucks
FA**

**In the matter of Improper Conduct Charges against Lawrie Toombs of
Chalvey (WMC) Sports FC**

Reasons for Disciplinary Commission Decision 19 December 2019

1. The Regulatory Commission was formed by Roger Burden sitting alone as the FA-Appointed Chair.
2. Paras Akhter of the FA acted as Secretary, supplying the appropriate documentation.
3. The Commission was conducted via email using correspondence.
4. Lawrie Toombs was charged under FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct (including foul and abusive language).
He was also charged under FA Rule E3(2) – Improper Conduct aggravated by a person’s ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
5. The charges arose from a match played on 5 November 2019 in the Hellenic Football League, One East, Chalvey (WMC) Sports First v Risborough Rangers First. It was alleged that Lawrie Toombs said “Fuck off Paki” several times to an opposing player.
6. Mr Toombs accepted the charges and asked for the case to be dealt with in his absence using any correspondence submitted.
7. These reasons do not purport to contain reference to all the points or submissions made, however, the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that I did not take them into consideration when I determined the matter. For the avoidance of doubt, I carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished regarding this case.

8. The evidence in the documentation included
 - A report from the Match Referee, David Pilling, in which reported that he had been advised by a Risborough player that Mr Toombs had used racist abuse. The Referee also said :

“In the final few minutes of the game just after the 4th goal there had been some banter between the two players. This turned into “Fuck off Paki” on three separate occasions.”
 - A statement from Lawrie Toombs in which he said that he made a comment about his opponent being a Pakistani. Mr Toombs apologised for the remark but added that he had been provoked by being racially antagonized by his opponent.
 - A statement from Alex Sethi in which he said that Lawrie Toombs had repeatedly used the term “fuck off Paki” during some heated exchanges.
 - A statement from Richard Jeffrey, a player, in which he said that he had been made aware of discriminatory comments and told the Referee “if this is the case then we will deal with it as it is not acceptable”
9. As the charges were accepted, my role was only to decide on sanction.
10. Mr Toombs’s Disciplinary Record showed several cautions but no previous incidents of aggravated language.
11. FA Disciplinary Regulation 47.1 states that where a participant commits an aggravated breach for the first time, a Commission shall impose an immediate suspension of at least six matches.
12. FA sanction guidelines state that a fine of £75 should be imposed for an aggravated breach.
13. My decision on sanction is that Lawrie Toombs -
 - be suspended for 6 matches
 - be fined the sum of £75.
 - must undertake an on-line FA Education course by 1 May 2020
14. 6 Disciplinary points to be applied to Chalvey (WMC) Sports
15. This decision may be appealed in line with FA Regulations.

Roger Burden

Chairman

18 December 2019