

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

On behalf of the Essex County Football Association

Non-Personal Hearing

of

**Robert Beckworth-Addison
Broomfield Football Club
Case ID: 9625032M**

THE DECISION AND REASONS OF THE COMMISSION

Warning: This document may contain offensive language. Any reference to participants under the age of 18 has been redacted

Introduction

1. On 10th November 2018 Heddinghams United A played Broomfield Saturday First in a match in the The County Motor Works Vauxhall Mid Essex League, Division Three game ("the match").
2. A report was forwarded to Essex County Football Association ("Essex FA") by Match Referee Mr Paul Waldron reported on the 13th November 2018 that he had been assaulted and verbally abused by Mr Beckworth- Addison and had dismissed him from the Field of Play.
3. Essex FA commenced an investigation into the allegations and raised charges on 16th November 2018.

The Charges

4. Robert Beckworth-Addison was charged under FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language) By a participant, due to allegedly knocking the Referees notebook and cards from his hand, and the use of threatening language after the game had completed.

Should the case be found not Proven then Mr Beckworth-Addison is alternately charged with a Breach of FA Regulations E3- Improper Conduct against a Match Official (Including Threatening and/or Abusive Language/Behaviour)

5. The details of the charge against Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison, contained in the charge letter, were:
"Whilst in the process of sending off Robert Beckworth-Addison from the field of play, Mr Beckworth-Addison knocked my note and cards from my hand"
6. The relevant section of FA Rule E3 states:
"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."

Documentation

7. Essex FA included within the charge letter the following evidence they intended to reply by 23rd November 2018, which was sent to Mr. A Rutter Broomfield Football Club Secretary
 - (i) The Report Form from the Match Official dated 13th November 2018

The Reply

8. On 23rd November 2018, Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison responded to the charge, pleading Guilty and requesting a Non-Personal Hearing.
9. Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison did not respond with any evidence, there was no response from Broomfield Football Club:

The Commission

10. The Discipline Commission members appointed by the Essex County Football Association were:
Mr Alec Berry (Chairman)
Mr Danny Coyle (Essex FA Council Member)
Mr Andrew Schooler (Independent)
11. Mr Greg Hart, of the Essex FA Governance Team, acted as Secretary to the Commission.

12. The Commission took place at the Essex County Football Association Headquarters on 10th November 2018.
13. The Commission had received and read the bundle of documents prior to the hearing.
14. The following is a summary of the principal submissions provided to the Commission. It does not purport to contain reference to all the points made, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that the Commission did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when it determined the matter. For avoidance of doubt, the Commission have carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regard to this case.
15. The Match Referee Mr Paul Waldron was clear in his written evidence.
16. There was no correspondence from Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison, to consider.

Standard of Proof

17. The Commission reminded itself that the burden of proving a charge falls upon the County FA.
18. The applicable standard of proof required for this case is the civil standard of proof namely, the balance of probability. This standard means the Commission would be satisfied that an event occurred if it considered that, on the evidence, it was more likely than not to have happened.

Findings

19. From the documentation that we read and the evidence, that Mr Beckworth-Addison accepted the Charge there was no doubt that the statement submitted by the Match Referee was correct.
20. Having carefully considered the whole of the documentation before us, the Commission members:
 - (i) unanimously concluded that the charge against Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison under FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language) By a participant was Proven;

The alternative charge of a Breach of FA Regulations E3- Improper Conduct against a Match Official (Including Threatening and/or Abusive Language/Behaviour), was therefore not considered.

21. The Commission determined the case Proven and that the level of sanction was Low.

Sanction

22. The Commission considered the relevant rules and The FA's Sanction Guidelines for Season 2018/19. In relation to these cases this was between £150.00 at the highest level with an entry level of £100 at the lowest level. There being a suspension of 184 days at the highest level and an entry level of 84 days at the lowest level.
23. The Commission carefully considered in mitigation and noted the previous discipline record for Mr Beckworth-Addison
24. The Commission unanimously agreed Mr Robert Beckworth-Addison to suspended from all Football for a period of 94 days with a fine of £100.00

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

Signed

Mr. Alec Berry (Chairman)
Mr. Danny Coyle
Mr. Andrew Schooler
Thursday 13th December 2018