

Football Association Disciplinary Commission

The Football Association on behalf of Gloucestershire FA

V

Cameron Ryan Rees – Case ID: 11011279 M

WRITTEN REASONS

1. This is a hearing summary and includes written reasons for the decision of the disciplinary commission (the commission) which sat alone on Tuesday 29th November 2022.
2. The commission was a non-personal hearing chaired by Bill Stoneham (National Serious Case Panel).
3. The following is a written record of the main points considered by the commission. It is a summary of the main evidence presented and is not intended to refer to all the points made in the evidence presented. The absence in these reasons of any particular point, or piece of evidence, should not imply that the commission did not consider any such point or evidence. For the avoidance of doubt, the commission carefully considered all the evidence that was submitted.
4. The charge in question arose following a fixture between Stonehouse Town First FC (the club) v FC Stratford First (the opposition) in the Hellenic Football League (Division 1) played on Saturday 12th November 2022.
5. Gloucestershire FA issued a charge letter dated 18th November 2022. In this letter it is alleged that Cameron Ryan Rees (the player) used violent conduct and/or threatening and/or abusive and/or indecent and/or insulting language/behaviour contrary to FA Rule E3.1 and it is further alleged that this constitutes Physical Contact or Attempted Physical Contact against a Match Official as defined in FA Regulations. This refers to the allegation that Mr Rees knocked a card out of the referee's hand, or similar. ***Different spellings of the player's name are used by various parties in the submitted evidence, but they are all believed to relate to the same person.***

6. Gloucestershire FA provided the following evidence in relation to the charge:

- I. An extraordinary incident report form submitted by James Lewis (the referee) dated 13th November 2022. No player is identified in this report;
- II. a misconduct report form submitted by the referee and dated 13th November 2022. A player named Cameron Ryan Rees is identified as having been dismissed from the field of play;
- III. a further report dated 14th November 2022 submitted by the referee. In this report the referee confirms that he did not abandon the game but that he dismissed a home team player named as Cameron Reese;
- IV. an extraordinary incident report form submitted by Mark Burns (assistant referee) dated 15th November 2022. In this report, the assistant referee refers to the referee dismissing a player called Cameron Reese;
- V. an emailed statement submitted by Nigel Sander (club chairperson) dated 17th November 2022. This email includes a statement from the player admitting the offence. In this statement the player gives his name as Cameron Rees;
- VI. the opposition provided a short video supporting the reports offered by both the match referee and his assistant.

7. On 27th November 2022, Gloucestershire FA received a written communication from the club indicating that the player was pleading guilty to the charge levied against him. The charge was accepted but the player wanted it dealt with by correspondence.

8. As the player had accepted the charges raised against him, the commission was solely concerned with determining the sanctions to be imposed. For clarity, it should be noted that having examined all the evidence, the commission was content to accept the plea offered.

9. The player's disciplinary record over the last five years was then considered. Prior to the game in question, he had only ever received three cautions, but he had been dismissed in a game earlier this season.

10. Mitigating factors taken into consideration include:

- I. In his submission attached to his chairman's email dated 17th November 2022, the player accepted the charge without equivocation and offered his apologies;
- II. The player cited some personal circumstances that he wished the commission to consider. Though his actions cannot be defended in anyway, these personal circumstances were given consideration;
- III. Prior to this season, the player had a pleasing disciplinary record;

11. Aggravating factors identified included:

- I. The player was initially dismissed for foul and abusive language. This was his second such offence already this season. The commission is concerned with the deterioration in the player's disciplinary record this season
- II. though the player submitted a letter of apology, he does not say how he will endeavour to control himself to better effect in the future;
- III. the actions of the player served to damage the integrity of the game;
- IV. the player has offered to send a letter of apology directly to the referee but there is no evidence that he has done so.

12. For a proven charge of this nature, FA Regulations state that the sanctioning range is a suspension from all football activities for a period of between 112 days and two years. The recommended entry point, prior to considering any mitigating or aggravating factors is 182 days. A fine of up to £150, with a mandatory fine of £75, with the participant ordered to take an education programme before the time-based suspension is served, or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.

13. Having considered all the facts in this case, the decision of the commission is that **Cameron Ryan Rees** is:

- I. Suspended from all football activity for 140 days;**
- II. fined a sum of £100-00;**
- III. ordered to complete a face-to-face education programme before the time-based suspension is served, or within 28 days of this decision whichever is the later. Failure to comply with this order will result in a sine-die suspension being issued against Cameron Ryan Rees until he has fulfilled this order in its entirety;**
- IV. eight disciplinary penalty points shall be recorded against the club.**
- V. the start of the time-based suspension is backdated to 18th November 2022, which is the date that Gloucestershire FA placed the player under suspension;**
- VI. these sanctions are in addition to any other sanctions already imposed by Gloucestershire FA;**
- VII. the player is warned about his future conduct;**
- VIII. the suspension was calculated as follows: entry point at 182 days, reduced by 28 days for the acceptance of the charge and the apology offered, a reduction of 21 days for the player's disciplinary record prior to this season and reduced by a further 14 days because of personal circumstances. Seven days were added**

because of a similar dismissal earlier this season, plus a further 14 days because the player's actions, including damage to the integrity of the game.

14. There is a right of appeal against this decision in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the Rules and Regulation of the Football Association.

Bill Stoneham

Chairperson

29 November 2022.