

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

GLOUCESTERSHIRE FA

v

ETHAN ROYER

Case ID: 10712081M

WRITTEN REASONS

Background and Chronology

1. The Football Association convened a Disciplinary Commission (“the Commission”) on 7 March 2022 behalf of the Gloucestershire FA to adjudicate upon disciplinary charges levied against Ethan Royer.
2. The Commission Members were Yunus Lunat (Independent Chairman of the FA National Serious Cases Panel), Gareth Flemington and Bryan Nyatanga (Independent members of the FA National Serious Cases Panel). Jack Mason of the West Riding FA acted as secretary to the Commission.
3. The charges arose out of a match played on 29 January 2022 between Slimbridge Reserves and Shortwood United Reserves in the Hellenic Football League Two Wset.
4. By letter dated 09 February 2022 Ethan Royer was charged with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E3 for Improper Conduct against a match official (including physical contact or attempted physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour). There was an alternate charge of Improper Conduct against a match official (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).
5. The referee Max Thompson had submitted a report dated 3 February complaining that he was confronted by Mr Royer in the 90th minute to dispute a

routine decision not to award a free kick in his favour. His first words were “*What the fuck are you playing at ref?*” When the referee explained his decision that it was accidental contact Mr Royer continued to protest, and then in frustration made a pushing motion towards the referee’s upper body when Mr Royer’s fingers made contact with the referee’s face.

6. An acknowledgment to the misconduct charge was filed accepting the main charge and requesting a verbal plea hearing for sanction to be determined. Mr Royer had also provided a mitigation statement.
7. The following is a summary of the principal reasons considered by the Commission. It does not purport to contain reference to all of the issues or matters considered and the absence in these reasons of reference to any particular point should not be read or implied that the Commission did not take such point into consideration when the Commission determined the matter. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission carefully considered all of the evidence and material furnished with regard to this case.

The Hearing and Sanction

8. Mr Royer represented himself at the hearing. He was accompanied by his team manager Richard Cullimore who was present as an observer.
9. The Commission received a plea of mitigation from My Royer.
10. Mr Royer’s previous disciplinary record was then disclosed by the secretary, which was clean.
11. The Commission then considered aggravating and mitigating factors. The previous clean record was considered a mitigating factor. The sincere remorse and apology were also noted.
12. All of the relevant FA rules including the Disciplinary Regulations and Sanction Guidelines were referred to in arriving at the sanction. The following sanctions were felt appropriate and proportionate:
 - (i) Ethan Royer will be suspended from all football activity for 156 days. The entry point of 182 days was mitigated by 22 days for the mitigation set out

above. The suspension will be backdated to 9 February 2022 when an interim suspension order was imposed.

- (ii) He will pay a fine of £75.00.
 - (iii) He will be required to complete an educational course in person (face to face) within 28 days of this decision or before the expiration of the suspension, whichever is later, failing which he will be suspended indefinitely until completion of the course.
 - (iv) Shortwood United FC shall be subjected to 9 disciplinary points.
13. There is a right of appeal in accordance with the FA Regulations.

09 March 2022

Yunus Lunat (Independent Chairman)

Gareth Flemington

Bryan Nyatanga