

BEFORE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FA NATIONAL DISCIPLINE PANEL
IN THE MATTER OF A MISCONDUCT CHARGE NOTIFICATION AGAINST
PARTICIPANT HANHAM ATHLETIC SATURDAY

WRITTEN REASONS

Introduction

1. These are the written reasons of Lydia Banerjee (the “**Chair**”), sitting alone on this Non-Personal case.

The Charges

2. By a Misconduct Charge Notification dated 27 July 2021 issued by the Gloucestershire FA against Hanham Athletic Saturday (“**Hanham**”), Hanham were charged with:
3.
 - a. Failing to ensure Players and/or Officials and/or Spectators conducted themselves in an orderly fashion pursuant to FA Rule E20 (“**the Charge**”).
4. The Charge arises from a match between Hanham and AEK Boco First in the Fry Club Cup on 22 July 2021 (the “**Match**”).

Response

5. The Misconduct Charge Notification set out a Reply Due Date of 3 August 2021.
6. A response was received on 10 August 2021 admitting the Charge. The Response requested consideration on the papers.

Liability

7. For the issue of liability, the applicable standard of proof is the balance of probabilities; i.e. is it more likely than not that the Charge as alleged is proven to have taken place?

8. The Charge is admitted and made out from the details supplied by the Match Referee.

Sanction

9. I have had regard to the County FA Disciplinary Sanctions Guidelines, in force for the 2021/2022 season (“**the Guidelines**”).

10. The relevant sanction for the Charge is a fine of £0 to £150 and an award of a minimum 5 disciplinary points for the Club.

11. I take into account the circumstances and seriousness of the incident in deciding whether to depart from the Guidelines. In so doing, I consider the following relevant aggravating and mitigating factors.

12. In terms of aggravating factors:

- a. A number of players from the Club were involved including the Chairman;
- b. The Club have had a number of previous sanctions, many of which relate to similar issues; and
- c. The conduct targeted the Match Referee.

13. The only relevant mitigating factor is that the charges are admitted albeit after the deadline.

14. Overall, I consider that the aggravating factors justify a fine at the top end of the range, £150 and an award of 5 disciplinary points for the Club.

Outcome

15. For the reasons set out above:

- a. The Charge against Hanham is found proven.
- b. Hanham are to receive the following sanctions:

- (i) A £150 fine;
- (ii) A warning as to future conduct; and
- (iii) 5 club disciplinary points

16. The decision above may be appealed in accordance with the relevant regulations within the prevailing FA Handbook.

Lydia Banerjee (Independent Chair alone)

3 September 2021