

**Disciplinary Commission (“The Commission”)
On behalf of the Gloucester Football Association
In the matter of Remie Ferguson – Case ID: 10232538M**

Hearing Summary including Written Reasons

Disciplinary Commission Decision

Factual Background and Chronology

1. These are the Reasons for the decision of the Chairman.
2. The Commission member was Mr Stephen Daniels (Chairman)
3. The following is a summary of the principle submissions considered by the Chairman. It does not purport to contain reference to all the points considered, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point or submissions, should not imply that the Chairman did not take such point, or submission into consideration when the Chairman determined the matter. For all avoidance of doubt, the Chairman carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regards to this case.
4. The charge in question arose in a game between Lebeq Saturday First v Mendip Broadwalk Reserves on 26th September 2020. Following the fixture a variety of reports were provided to the Gloucestershire FA and details of this allegation were contained within these reports.
5. By letter dated 29th September 2020 Remie Ferguson was charged with FA Rule E3-Assult on a match official.

6. Alternate charge of, improper conduct E3- Improper conduct against a match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour
7. Remie Ferguson denied the charge.

The Evidence

8. The Chairman had before him the following items of evidence:

(i) It was alleged that Remie Ferguson was charged with FA Rule E3- Assault on a match Referee.

(ii) An alternative of Improper conduct E3- Improper conduct against a match Official (Including physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour

Kevin Rawlings the match referee stated that the player Remie Ferguson made head to head contact with him, before throwing him to the ground. The referee then abandoned the game. All this took place after Remie Ferguson was given a red card by the referee. The referee then stated that the player who was very aggressive at this stage has he turned away from the player to put some distance between himself and the player he grabbed the referee by his right shoulder and pulled him back. The referee then stated that he ripped his shirt and then he suddenly went on the floor where he finished up on his back. The referee received no injury but was very shook up. It was at this point that I abandoned the match. The Mendip manager came over to me to make sure I was ok, also the Lebeq goalkeeper came up to him to apologise for what had happened.

9. Remie Ferguson stated the keeper had saved a penalty and all my team celebrated as I was running back to the half way line one of the opposing players laughed at me when the penalty was awarded so as I ran past him I said "Ha Ha to him" The referee heard this and said to me "you can't say Ha Ha, I'll give you Ha Ha when the ball goes out of play. When the ball went out of play the referee booked me for unsporting behaviour because all I did was celebrate the other team missing a penalty like all my team did. The referee told me he did not care about that. I felt it made it personal, he then kept going on he's going to get me off the pitch. I asked him for what reason, I also said you cannot do that and what was the booking for. I kept saying why ref explain why this lasted a few seconds, our captain then came over to speak to the ref and the ref told him to go away, with that he gave me a red card and told me to get off the pitch. Has he gave me the red card he turned to walk away I put my hand on his shoulder and I assume with the shock of me touching him he fell to one knee so I could not

touch or hold him, he then stood back up and said that's it the game is abandoned. I then walked past the referee and apologised for putting my hand on him. I did not put my head towards him or use foul and abusive language.

10. In a mitigating letter from the secretary Dwayne Smith of Lebeq Saturday following on from discussions with the player, Captain and manager regarding the incident we would like to express our concern that the referee had been out of his depth refereeing a game in the BPC League. He was a last minute choice as the original referee had to pull out through injury. Some of the decisions he made were both questionable and inconsistent, he disallowed a goal by Remie Ferguson the player in question, and he also gave the other side a penalty which was questionable. It was also brought to his attention the referee has had previous issues with Lebeq Football Club and therefore in his opinion he should not have been given this game. The Manager also felt that the referee had a personal issue with their player Remie Ferguson and could have handled things better. The Secretary also emphasised that Lebeq Football Club does not condone any physical contact on a match official.
11. Having considering all the evidence that was provided to the Chairman from, the referee Kevin Rawlings who was clear and concise in the events that happened. Also with the player in question who admitted to putting his hand on the referee, and the referee failing to his knee.
12. As part of its deliberations the Chairman reminded himself of the standard of proof which is required. The decision of the Chairman was to find the charge of FA Rule E3-Assult on a match referee was proven on the balance of probability.
13. The chairman looked at the previous record of Remie Ferguson, which was very poor; He had received 7 cases of E3's against him in 4 years. The Chairman gave the minimum sanction on the charge Of E3-Assult on a match official.

14. **SANCTION**

- a. 5 Years Suspension.
- b. Club receive 10 penalty points

15. This decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions in The FA Handbook.

22nd October 2020

Mr. Stephen Daniels. Chairman