

**BEFORE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FA NATIONAL DISCIPLINE PANEL**  
**IN THE MATTER OF A MISCONDUCT CHARGE NOTIFICATION AGAINST**  
**PARTICIPANT ROBERT SPERRING [57732206]**

---

**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 Robert Sperring (“**Mr. Sperring**”), it was alleged that (the “**Charge**”):
  - 2.1. Mr. Sperring engaged in Improper Conduct (not including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour) pursuant to FA Rule E3
3. The Charge arises from a match between Hanham Athletic Saturday First and AEK Boco First in the Fry Club Cup on 22 July 2021 (the “**Match**”).

**Response**

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

**Liability**

6. 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?
7. The Charge is admitted and made out from the details supplied by the Match Referee.

### **Sanction**

8. I have had regard to the County FA Disciplinary Sanctions Guidelines, in force for the 2021/2022 season (“**the Guidelines**”).
9. The relevant sanction is a suspension from specified football activities for a period of up to 3 matches which may include a ground/venue ban and a fine of up to £40 fine.
10. 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.
11. In terms of aggravating factors:
  - a. Mr. Sperring targeted the Match Referee
12. In terms of mitigating factors:
  - a. Mr. Sperring admitted the Charge; and
  - b. Mr. Sperring has no previous proven changes against him.
13. Overall, I consider a fine of £20 to be appropriate along with a Ground/Venue ban for 1 match.

### **Outcome**

14. For the reasons set out above:
  - a. The Charge against Mr. Sperring is found proven.
  - b. Mr. Sperring is to receive the following sanctions:

- (i) A 1 match ground/venue suspension;
    - (ii) A £20 fine; and
    - (iii) A warning as to his future conduct.
  - c. Hanham Athletic Saturday is warned as to its future conduct and shall receive 5 club disciplinary points.
15. 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**