

**Case 10220445M**

**The Football Association Disciplinary Commission sitting on behalf  
of Gloucestershire FA**

**In the matter of**

**Terrell Morris (65415138)**

**BAWA Sports (10220464M)**

**Consolidated cases**

**Hearing date Thursday 22/10/2020**

**Written Reasons for Decision**

These are the written reasons for the FA Disciplinary Commission decision made on  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

1. The panel member was Mr R Purkiss MBE (Chairman) sitting alone, appointed by the FA
2. Fraser Williamson of the FA acted as Secretary to this panel.
3. Terrell Morris was charged, 1. on the 25/09/2020 with a breach of FA Rule E3– Improper Conduct against a match official (including Physical contact and threatening and /or Abusive /Behaviour) .
4. He was also advised as to an Alternative charge E3(e) Improper conduct against a match official-(including threatening and /or abusive behaviour).
5. Charge 2. FA Rule E10- Participant Failed to comply with a decision of the Association.
6. This was consolidated with an E12 (Club) charge, on the 25/09/2020 (Failed to comply with a decision of the Association)
7. This related to Terrell Morris Allegedly being not permitted to play due to a 3-match suspension which started on the 09/02/2020. Due to the Covid cessation of the season, it was alleged that the 3 matches, recorded against the suspension, were postponed and therefore been carried over into the start of the next season 2020/21

8. This alleged misconduct occurred following a match between BAWA Sports FC V Spring QTAC 1<sup>st</sup>. Played on 20/09/20, In the Bristol Premier Sunday League, Division 1.

## 9. Relevant FA Rules

Rule E3 (1) provides that:

*A participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into dispute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.*

10. Terrell Morris responded to the charge, on the 04/10/2020. BAWA Sports replied on the 26/09/2020 Both pleading not guilty and for it to be dealt with by correspondence.
11. The full bundle of evidence provided to the Commission consisted of statements from the Referee (Keith Hitchcock) The Charge Notice, Email from Terrell Morris, Two Emails from Matt Thomas (BAWA Sports Secretary), and an Email from Chris Luckier ( Football services manager Gloucestershire CFA).
12. The referee reported that **“ After a number of fouling incidents from the same player, I was going to caution him and I asked for his name. He said to me “Go figure it out ,you fucking idiots”. After which he started walking away and made a further statement “I’m going to knock his head off” and gestured towards me. I had no choice but to give him a red card. He then turned to face me and kicked me on my left knee. I then fell to the ground. At this point I abandoned the game after 47 minutes.**
13. Terrell Morris responded to Matt Thomas of BAWA Sports by email stating **“At the end of the day I’m not paying that fine for him not knowing how to ref a game correctly as the opposition even said it was not an unfair challenge as for the misconduct I never made contact with him, I wanted to but didn’t and he lied and said I kicked him in the Knee? Can you have the team sign a petition confirming I never made contact with him it one man against another man lads? And I’m sure I’m not the only complain the is going to receive”**

14. Terrell Morris made no submission regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> charge which related to his eligibility to play due to a previous suspension.
15. Matt Thomas (BAWA Sec) only responded to the E12 charge which was incorporated into both the response to both charges.
16. He referred to an Email sent to the Gloucestershire CFA (Chris Lucker) on the 14/09/2020 **“I have a player banned but unsure what needs to be done, if anything, to clear him to play? He hasn’t played yet, so missed one game, does he need to miss 2 more games then he can play? Players name is Terrell Morris.**
17. Chris Lucker replied on the 14/09/2020 saying **“ According to the records on the Whole game, Terrell Morris is not suspended, His previous suspension was completed just before lockdown”**
18. Following the notification of the charge (10220464M) he sent both above emails to the Gloucestershire CFA asking for the case to be dropped because it had been confirmed that the suspension had been served.
19. The Chairman reviewed the submitted statements and the evidence provided by the witnesses. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission has carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished regarding this case.
20. The commission must make its determination on the balance of probability. This means that it must ask itself **“ Is the alleged action more likely to have occurred than not”**
21. After considering the information provided to it, the Commission found that.

**Charge 1.FA Rule E. Improper conduct against a match official (Including Physical contact, Threatening/and abusive language and behaviour)**

Is **PROVEN.**

The referee had further supplied information to the CFA ( and the commission) that he had been wearing a bandage on his left knee, which the player had kicked and that the force of the kick resulted in both player and referee falling to the ground. Mr Terrell admitted that he **“wanted to kick him”** but supplied no evidence from those he asked, to substantiate that he had not.

22. Regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> charge FA Rule 10 and the club charge FA Rule 12. Irrespective of the clearance given by Gloucestershire CFA, the club, and the player, were aware that the 3-match suspension, starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, had Not been completed. They stated that he had only missed 1 game. It is the responsibility of the club to ensure that the sanction is applied.
- Both the E10 and E12 (club) Charges are Proven**
- However, the Commission has taken into consideration, the fact that the question was asked, and the wrong information was given, by the CFA.
23. The commission reviewed the participants record and noted that there were no mitigating factors advanced by the player. The Commission therefore determined that **Terrell Morris (65415138)** will be suspended from all football activities, for **126 days and fined £125**. He will also serve an additional two match suspension and a **£10 fine for the E 10 charge**
- 24. 10 penalty points will apply to BAWA sports**
25. **BAWA Sports ((10220464M)** are fined £10 for a breach of the E12 charge

These decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions in The FA Handbook.

Robert Purkiss MBE (Chairman) 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020