

**IN THE MATTER OF  
MANCHESTER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

-v-

**LEE BARKER**

**(CASE REFERENCE 9473826M)**

**WRITTEN REASONS - DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH 2018**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. These are written reasons for the findings of a Disciplinary Commission, held on behalf of Manchester FA on Wednesday September 5th 2018. The charges raised against Lee Barker (LB) relate to actions he is alleged to have committed during a match between Droylsden Pythons and Elite Blacks on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018.
2. The Disciplinary Commission members were Keith Marsden (Chair), Chris Dyson, and Brian Myer
3. Paul Roots (Manchester FA) acted as Secretary to the Commission.
4. By Manchester FA Misconduct Charge Notification, dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, the following charges were raised:
  - a. Charge 1 - FA Rule E3 - Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour)
  - b. Charge 2 - FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including abusive language/behaviour)

**FA RULE E3**

5. The relevant section of FA Rule E3 (p. 113 of the FA Handbook Season 2018-2019) states:

*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 disrepute or use any one, or any combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.*

**DETAIL OF CHARGES**

6. It was alleged that LB used offensive, insulting and/or abusive language towards the match official before he was asked to leave the touchline. According to the referee's report LB then entered the field of play and said to the referee "what are you going to do if I don't go you fucking prick I will knock you out in a minute"

## **PLEA**

7.LB had pleaded GUILTY to both charges on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 but had requested that he attend a personal hearing to enter a verbal plea for leniency.

## **WRITTEN EVIDENCE**

8.

- a. Manchester FA Misconduct Charge Notification dated 16<sup>th</sup> August
- b. Referee's report, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July
- c. Email from LB to EMJFL (East Manchester Junior Football League), undated.
- d. Participant's Disciplinary Record from 01/07/2013 – 31/08/2018

## **SUBMISSION BY PARTICIPANT**

9. LB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had only agreed to stand in as coach due to the absence of the regular coach. He accepted that he had probably made the remarks as detailed in the referee's report and admitted that he had "lost it". He expressed remorse at his actions and had sent an apology to the referee via the League.

## **FINDINGS**

10. The panel were sympathetic [REDACTED] but noted that a similar offence had occurred in November 2017 and a suspension of 6 games had been served in January/February 2018 together with a fine of £50.00
11. Taking all the evidence into account the panel decided to impose a ban of 10 matches (but with 4 matches suspended for a 12 months period), a fine of £50.00, and 7 disciplinary points
12. In accordance with FA Regulations, there is a right of appeal against the decision

**Keith Marsden (Chair)**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018**