

CASE 9687536M

The Middlesex Football Association

V

Matthew Penfold of North Greenford United FC

Hearing Date Friday 15th February 2019 (Non-Personal)

HEARD BY A PANEL ORGANISED BY THE

Amateur Football Alliance at the

Request of the Middlesex Football Association.

Written Reasons for Decision.

Commission Members.

Michael J Woodhams CHAIR (Independent member)

Mark Freedman (AFA Council Member)

Martin Samuel (AFA Council Member-Life Vice President.)

Secretary Matt Leary (AFA Staff)

Date of alleged offence.

Spartan South Midlands Football League Premier.

Wembley First v North Greenford United First

Saturday 29th December 2018

Participant was charged on 2nd January 2019

Charge 1.FA Rule E3-Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including threatening and/or abusive behaviour)

“Fuck-Off” and “I will see you in the car park after the game” was threatening and/or abusive.

Evidence.

The Evidence pack included:

Copy of the Extraordinary Incident report relating to Misconduct from the match referee Steven Conway

Copy of the Extraordinary Incident report relating to misconduct from the Assistant Referee (name not shown on report)

Copy of original charge return form sent to Club Secretary.(dated 02/01/2019)

Copy of WGS screenshot showing response-“Accept Correspondence” shown as response date 12/01/ 2019

Hearing.

As the Participant had accepted the charge the Hearing began with the Secretary reading the participant’s record. (Clean record).

The Panel considered all the written evidence.

The referee’s report was very specific and very clear and none of his report had been challenged or answered in the player’s response.

Much of the referee’s report had been corroborated by the statement from the “un-named” assistant referee.

CONSIDERATION.

The Panel then turned to the Football Association “Sanction guidelines” document.

The starting point for such offences is shown as 112 days or 12 matches plus up to £100 fine.

Aggravating factors-this was not a one-off incident between the participant and the referee but a series of inter-actions which only ended when one of the club officials intervened.

Mitigating factors- The participant had an excellent record and had accepted the charge and for this he is entitled to receive some credit.

As the participant was not a player and in view of the level of football concerned that a “Touch-line ban” was the most appropriate.

After very careful consideration of all these factors the following sanction was agreed.

(Unanimous decisions)

Sanction decision. (In total)

- (1) 9 matches “Touch-line ban” from all football.**
- (2) £75 fine be imposed.**
- (3) 7 penalty points.**

RIGHT OF APPEAL.

There is a right of Appeal against this decision/sanction in accordance with the relevant provisions set out in the current Rules and Regulations of the Football Association.

M J Woodhams Chair. Mark Freedman & Martin Samuel. (17th February 2019)

