

Football Association Disciplinary Commission
In the matter of Jason Blackman (Case number 10956389M)
‘Chair Alone’ Disciplinary Commission Decision
24 November 2022

1. The members of the Commission were Mrs Stacy Newnham-Payne (Chairperson), Mr. Brian Coddington and Mr. Rupert Bonny.
2. Mr. John Lilburne (Staffordshire F.A.) acted as Secretary to the Commission.
3. Mr. Jason Blackman was charged with a breach of FA Rule E3: Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).
4. The relevant section is FA Rule E3 (FA Handbook Season 2022-2023) states:
96.1 Threatening behaviour: words or action that cause the Match Official to believe that they are being threatened. Examples include but are not limited to: the use of words that imply (directly or indirectly) that the Match Official may be subjected to any form of physical abuse either immediately or later, whether realistic or not; the raising of hands to intimidate the Match Official; pretending to throw or kick an object at the Match Official.
5. This case was brought by Oxfordshire F.A. following a complaint made of words and conduct at a match against Summertown Stars AFC U11 Ninjas on 18 September 2022. It was alleged Mr. Jason Blackman disputed a club appointed Referee Assistant call for offside before telling to be quiet and saying, ***“ill smash your face in”***, or similar.
6. Mr. Mr. Jason Blackman formally responded to the charge and initially pleaded not guilty and requested that the matter be dealt with at a correspondence hearing. However, upon attending the hearing and having been afforded the opportunity by the Commission to further consider his plea, Mr. Jason Blackman stated he wished to accept the charge but to enter a verbal plea of leniency. It was clear from reviewing the papers that the comment was accepted.
7. The Commission had been provided with a small bundle of documents including charge sheet, Extraordinary Incident Report Form of Mr. Tyler Walker (Referee), written submission from Summertown Stars, written submissions from Hanborough and post charge responses.

8. Jason attended with his representative Ms. Ann Auton and his version of events were presented to the Commission. It was explained a discussion had been had prior to the match of a lenient approach to be taken when dealing with the offside rule. It was impressed upon the Commission that the players being youths were still grappling with the concept. It was impressed upon the Commission that whilst it was accepted the comment had been made it was not made as suggested. The Commission was invited to note the referee did not hear the same and Mr. Jonathan Schofield failed to intervene; concluding the situation could not have been as significant as complained of. The Commission were invited to review the footage and it was highlighted that Philip Tilley (complainant) often spoke over Jason and that he had walked towards Jason.
9. Jason addressed the Commission and he sought to emphasise his apologies. He insisted the comment simply came out of his mouth without violent action and upon it happening he was immediately regretful. He confirmed he apologised at half time and offered his hand. He explained that his memory of his team's first ever goal had now been tainted by his behaviour; for which he expressed sincere remorse.
10. Given the charge had been found proven, the Commission proceeded to determine sanction and consulted the FA Rules and 2022-2023 Sanction Guidelines. Mr. Jason Blackman's record was considered, and it was noted there were no prior relevant charges. This amounted to a mitigating feature.

101 Where a Charge issued in accordance with paragraph 98.1 above has been found proven against the Participant, a Disciplinary Commission shall impose sanctions in accordance with this paragraph 101:

Sanction range (Suspension)

A Disciplinary Commission shall impose an immediate suspension within a range based on the category of offence committed (as set out below). A Disciplinary Commission shall take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph 102, when determining the level of sanction within the range.

Unless otherwise stated, the lowest end of the applicable range shall operate as a standard minimum suspension. A Disciplinary Commission may impose an immediate suspension in excess of the upper limit in circumstances where aggravating factors of significant number or weight are present.

Threatening behaviour:

101.1 suspension from all football activity for a period of between 56 days and 182 days. The recommended entry point, prior to considering any mitigating or aggravating factors, is 112 days.

101.2 a fine of up to £100, with a mandatory minimum fine of £50.

101.3 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served.

11. With regards to the above, and on this occasion, the Commission concluded it was appropriate to deviate from the recommended sanction and instead sanctioned Jason to a 56 day suspension; together with a £50 fine. Mr. Jason Blackman is also to attend an online education programme before the time-based suspension is served. The Commission noted the change of plea, the lack of prior offences and accepted genuine remorse.
12. This decision is subject to the right of appeal in accordance with the relevant regulations within The FA Handbook.

Stacy Newnham-Payne,

Chairman

24 November 2022