

FA NATIONAL SERIOUS CASE PANEL
CONSOLIDATED DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN SITTING ALONE

Consolidated case on behalf of Oxfordshire FA

NON-PERSONAL HEARING

Of

Romario Qatja

Oxford Athletic FC

[Case ID: 11105284M]

Consolidated with

Arber Spata

Oxford Athletic FC

[Case ID: 11107984M]

&

Oxford Athletic FC

[Case IDs: 11105271M & 11105263M]

THE DECISION AND REASONS OF THE COMMISSION

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Introduction

1. On 28 January 2023, Oxford Athletic FC ("Oxford", the "Home Club"), played a CJL Cup fixture against AFC Hollow Way First ("Hollow Way", the "Away Club") – collectively the "match".
2. Following the fixture, the appointed Match Official submitted an Extraordinary Incident Report following an incident leading to the abandonment of the fixture.
3. Oxfordshire Football Association ("Oxfordshire FA") then investigated the reported incidents.

The Charges

4. On 14 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA charged Romario Qatja:
 - 4.1. with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official - (including threatening and/or abusive language / behaviour)
 - 4.2. It is alleged that Romario Qatja used threatening and/or abusive and/or indecent and/or insulting language/behaviour contrary to FA Rule E3.1 and it is further alleged that this constitutes Threatening Behaviour Against a Match Official as defined in FA Regulations. This refers to the allegation that the player was trying to attack the match official and was shouting "*I'm going to fucking destroy you*" or similar.
 - 4.3. Oxfordshire FA advised in the charge letter the offence carried a sanction range of a suspension between 56 – 182 days. The recommended entry point, prior to considering any mitigating or aggravating factors is 112 days, a fine of up to £100 (£50 mandatory minimum) and mandatory education programme.
 - 4.4. The relevant section of FA Rule E3 states¹:

¹ p. 141 of FA Handbook

“E3.1 A Participant shall at all times act in the best interest of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.

5. In consolidation on 14 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA charged Arber Spata:
 - 5.1. with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E3 – Improper Conduct including violent conduct and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour;
 - 5.2. Arber Spata ‘the player’ has been charged with a breach of FA Rule E3. It is alleged that their conduct was improper in that they used violent conduct and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour. In or around the 75th minute the referee abandoned the game, during this time ‘the player’ is alleged to have run up behind an AFC Hollow Way player and punched him in back of the head.
 - 5.3. Oxfordshire FA advise in the charge letter the sanction range however, that shown is for an aggravated E3.2 charge. The correct sanction range for the offence charged is a suspension of 1-10 Matches and a fine between £20-125.
 - 5.4. The relevant section of FA Rule E3 states²:

“E3.1 A Participant shall at all times act in the best interest of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.
6. In consolidation on 14 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA charged Oxford Athletic FC:

² p. 141 of FA Handbook

- 6.1. with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E20 - Failed to ensure directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion whilst attending any Match;
- 6.2. It is alleged that Oxford Athletic Football Club failed to ensure that players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion and refrained from improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words and/or behaviour contrary to FA Rule E20.1. This refers to the allegation that the Match Official was forced to abandon the game due to a mass confrontation surrounding the referee or similar.
- 6.3. Oxfordshire FA advised in the charge letter the offence carried a sanction range of £0-300 fine.
- 6.4. The relevant section of FA Rule E20 states³:

"E20 Each affiliated Association Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring:

E20.1 "that its directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: improper, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words or behaviour, (including, without limitation, where any such conduct, words or behaviour includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability)"[...]".
7. In consolidation on 14 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA also charged Oxford Athletic FC:
 - 7.1. with misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E21 - Failed to ensure spectators and/or its supporters (and anyone purporting to be its supporters or followers) conduct themselves in an orderly fashion whilst attending any Match;

³ p. 146 of FA Handbook

- 7.2. It is alleged that Oxford Athletic failed to ensure that spectators and/or its supporters (and anyone purporting to be its supporters or followers) conducted themselves in an orderly fashion and refrained from improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words and/or behaviour contrary to FA Rule E21.1. This refers to the allegation supporters purporting to follow Oxford Athletic encroached on the pitch and/or punched a Hollow Way player and/or kicked the Match Official, or similar.
- 7.3. Oxfordshire FA advised in the charge letter the offence carried a sanction range of £0-300 fine.
- 7.4. The relevant section of FA Rule E21 states⁴:
- “E21 A Club must ensure that spectators and/or its supporters (and anyone purporting to be its supporters or followers) conduct themselves in an orderly fashion whilst attending any Match and do not:*
- E21.1 “use words or otherwise behave in a way which is improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative;*
- E21.2 throw missiles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch; E21.3 encroach on to the pitch or commit any form of pitch incursion;*
- E21.4 conduct themselves in a manner prohibited by paragraph E21.1 in circumstances where that conduct is discriminatory in that it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability” [...]*”
8. Oxfordshire FA cited the evidence that they intended to rely on in this case which was included with the charge letters.
9. All participants charged were required to respond by 21 February 2023.

⁴ p. 146 of FA Handbook

The Reply

10. As of the date of issue of the case bundle, 24 February 2023, no response had been received to any of the charges raised; in line with FA Policy, the charges will all be considered as *“deny – correspondence”*.
11. During the investigation, the evidence was submitted from:
 - 11.1. Match Referee Extraordinary Incident Report and additional information via e-mail;
 - 11.2. Statements provided by Oxford City FA League;
 - 11.3. Statements provided by Oxford Athletic FC;
 - 11.4. Statements provided by AFC Hollow Way;
 - 11.5. Responses to the charge from Oxford Athletic FC.

The Commission

12. The Football Association (“The FA”) appointed me, Steve Francis, as a Chair member of the National Serious Case Panel, to this Discipline Commission as the Chairman Sitting Alone to adjudicate in these cases.

The Hearing and Evidence

13. The case bundle was sent via e-mail to the appointed Chair 24 February 2023 to be completed within 3 working days.
14. I adjudicated this case on 24-27 February 2023 as a correspondence hearing.
15. The following is a summary of the principal submissions provided. It does not purport to contain reference to all the points made, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that we did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when we determined the matter. For the avoidance of doubt, we have carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regard to this case. Where appropriate names have been redacted.

16. Below is a summary of the main points:
17. The appointed Match Official for the fixture submitted an Extraordinary Incident Report which contains the following details;
 - 17.1. The report notes a goal kick awarded in the 75th minute to Hollow Way, an Oxford Athletic player *"took exception to this as he thought it was a corner. He kicked the ball away and said fuck off so I issued a caution and asked him to leave the pitch for a sin bin offence"*. As this was being carried out the same player *"said fuck you, you're a dick head followed by fuck you fuck your. I then issued a straight red card under S6"*.
 - 17.2. The Referee then showed the player a red card who *"lost his head and wouldn't leave the pitch"*. The report continues *"Next thing I know Oxford athletic supporters had run on the pitch and one of them punched a hollow way player in the face and the other supporter assaulted myself kicking me in the stomach"*. The punch thrown triggered a mass brawl *"AFC hollow way we're trying to calm things down but the player that I had sent off for oxford athletic was trying to attack me and was shouting I'm going to fucking destroy you"*.
 - 17.3. The referee concludes his report adding *"I have never felt so threatened in all of my life. Needless to say I abandoned the game. After around 30 minutes of not being able to leave to go home the player I sent off did come to apologise but the damage had been done"*.
18. Following telephone contact between a representative of Oxfordshire FA and the Match Official a confirmatory e-mail is sent leading to further correspondence between the parties, these communications contain the following information;
 - 18.1. On 30 January 2023 following the telephone conversation, the Referee adds *"Firstly I'd like to confirm that the person who assaulted me was a spectator linked to Oxford athletic and not a player although the player I sent off during the game did try to attack me. Also I was spat at during the incident but I can't be 100% sure who it was although it was definitely someone attached to Oxford athletic"*. The e-mail concludes hoping everything else is captured within his report.

- 18.2. On the same date Oxfordshire FA respond, having enquired if any injuries were sustained by the referee during the incident this includes a request for any images for evidence. There is also a request for confirmation of the individual who allegedly spat at him was a player or a spectator.
- 18.3. In response the referee notes injuries as *"have a small bruise and was left with a faint footprint on my stomach. I have attached photos. I'm afraid I can't confirm whether it was a player or supporter. It all happened so quickly. I just remember trying to move out the way out it"*. The first picture shows a mark which does look like a footprint on the side of the Official just above the waist.
- 18.4. The second is of the Official in their kit, there is a muddy foot print visible which correlates to the placement, size and shape of the injury within the first photo. The pattern of the mud indicates this was not caused by a players match footwear and would more likely have been caused by a "casual" style of footwear.
- 18.5. The final excerpt from the Referee is a short e-mail confirming contact with Oxfordshire FA to offer support and also *"to make you guys aware I have reported to the police also regarding the supporter assaulting me"*.
19. The case bundle then includes evidence in the form of an e-mail from Oxford City FA to Oxfordshire FA, it is accepted by the Commission the author was not present at the fixture and the information presented has been passed to them. The e-mail notes the following concerns;
- 19.1. They open asking *"wanted to touch base, and see what options we have as a league with the way teams are behaving towards Referees"*. They note *"Due behaviours of one team, I now no longer have any Referee's available that wish to Ref them, due to the ongoing abuse they have received from the players, management and supporters. This has been on going all season from this team, with multiple incidents, player suspension and club fines. However this has not deterred them one bit"*.

- 19.2. There was a further incident with the team where a Match Official no longer wishes to officiate in their league and lists alleged incidents from the fixture. They no longer *"wish to allocate referees to their games because I don't wish to put any human being through that kind of experience as it is absolutely vile behaviour"*. There are also further allegations of teams reacting poorly to dissent and *"do not seem to understand the respect they should have for referees and how sin bins and dissent works"*. The author requests *"If you could advise in anyway at all that would be great"*.
20. There is a further communication from Oxford City FA to the Oxfordshire FA Discipline team dated 30 January 2023 from the same author, as previously they were not in attendance at the fixture and the information has been provided to them. This notes the following;
- 20.1. This begins noting concerns of *"teams reacting extremely negatively to being punished for dissent, and the Sin Bins rules. The lack of respect being shown to referees is vile"*. The communication then directly references several instances of misconduct by Oxford Athletic FC; they cite a further concern regarding safety of referees and players should they attend a fixture where this team is playing adding *"I can no longer allow Referees to turn up to a game and feel vulnerable"*.
- 20.2. They state a belief this can no longer continue and ask *"Could you please advise how us as a league can deal with this situation, and what we can enforce?"*.
21. There was a League photographer attending the fixture, they have provided the following submission;
- 21.1. The statement notes a pitch invasion during the second half where spectators came rushing onto the pitch and both teams followed suit. They saw *"a Hollow Way player hit the floor after being hit (didn't see who hit him) and a mass confrontation follow, shouting, shoving, people trying to calm the situation, while this happened he referee was on the outskirt blowing his whistle"*.

- 21.2. Of the alleged assault he witnessed *"the referee jump back after somebody had kicked him (i didn't see the person but i saw the muddy mark left) the Referee then proceeded to walk off, a few of the Athletic players went over to speak to him and i believe the Athletic Captain followed suit shouting at him, he was intervened by some of his players, but as temperatures rose, he was lead away by a couple of his team mates"*.
- 21.3. The result of this was *"some of the Hollow Way players to suggest that the referee go and stand with them and walked him over to the area that they were situated"*.
- 21.4. There are 5 photographs included which show the confrontation, in the first two spectators are clearly on the playing area and one is moving towards an individual and then shown being ushered away by player green 10. The third shows the referee being confronted by a player wearing green no 14 who is being restrained by the same player, green 10.
- 21.5. In the fourth and fifth pictures a player in black/yellow can be seen going to ground with a player in the same kit appearing to attempt to calm the situation. The final photograph shows the player on the floor and a number of other individuals from all parties stood around.
22. The next inclusion is an e-mail dated 30 January 2023 from Oxford Athletic FC to the League which contains the following;
- 22.1. The author notes a telephone call from the team manager informing him of the incidents that took place; they are *"shocked and appalled to hear about this weekend's conduct from our players/spectators"*. They continue *"It is with deep regret that we are going to have to remove our men's team from the league. Sadly, they are an absolute embarrassment and none of your teams, officials or the league should have to deal with the way we have behaved"*.
- 22.2. The correspondence notes the club official is *"so, so sorry about this and if you have any details you can share for the referee, I would like to make contact and apologise in person for the disgusting behaviour of this 'spectator'. I do not*

condone this behaviour and told the boys if it happened again this would be the consequence". They conclude with a question "I hope you will have us back if we can raise a brand new team for the 3rd time. Without ANY of the existing players (Maybe 2 or 3 who are not a part of the main group that causes trouble)".

23. The team sheets for the fixture are included, for reference Oxford Athletic no 14 is listed as "*Romario Qatja*" and the no 9 as "*Arber Spata*". There is also a screen grab from Whole Game System (WGS) which shows the misconduct from the fixture including a caution and dismissal for Romario Qatja.
24. On 06 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA contact AFC Hollow Way via e-mail to request observations on the alleged incidents; there is a response dated 08 February 2023 which notes;
 - 24.1. The statement in full reads "*It is with regret that our game against Oxford Athletic on the 28th of January 2023 had to be abandoned. Our player Zafran Hussain was assaulted & punched to the back of the head by Oxford Athletics player - we believe the player who attacked Zafran was wearing the number 9 shirt, according to the team sheet this players name is 'Arber Spata'. We witnessed the unfortunate events that happened concerning the referee but in the ruckus could not see which exact player did what. We hope we are able to get the result as we are proud of how we handled this situation as a club*".
25. On 03 February 2023, Oxfordshire FA contact Oxford Athletic FC via e-mail to request their observations on the alleged incidents; there is a response dated 03 February 2023 which adds the following details;
 - 25.1. They confirm the abandonment, they were not informed by the referee of the reason however, "*I am pretty sure it was due to him being assaulted*". In addition, although they did not witness this personally "*people were saying someone spat at the ref. What I did see was the referee get kicked. I do not know who it was because I couldn't see their face but I believe it was one of the spectators*".
 - 25.2. There are confirmation spectators entered the field of play as noted "*In the build up to the incident, some spectators came onto the pitch and then both teams*

crowded around the 18 yard box. One player from the opposition team got punched but again, I couldn't see who it was. All I saw was the player drop on the floor. That player did run over and start saying some things beforehand and tensions must have been high and that led to him getting punched. I am not saying that was acceptable of course".

- 25.3. The author entered onto the field of play after the punch alongside both teams' substitutes with *"a lot of just trying to calm each other down because there was a lot of arguing going on but there was no further physical altercation from what I saw"*. This all calmed down after approximately 15 minutes and both teams went their separate ways, most of the Oxford Athletic players went to the changing room although a few stayed on the field of play. Their opponents *"were in their area and the ref was with them. I then go to the referee and he gets me to sign the sheet and we shake hands and he showed no ill behaviour towards me"*.
26. A response to the charges issued by Oxfordshire FA is included in the case bundle with a club official responding on 21 February 2023 asking *"I am unsure why we are being charged? We literally can't control the action of other individuals? Is my staff supposed to pin them down to the floor? Tackle them? If we have failed to control them, can you explain what controlling them looks like?"*.
27. That concluded the relevant evidence in the case.

Standard of Proof

28. The applicable standard of proof required for this case is the civil standard of the balance of probability. This standard means, we would be satisfied that an event occurred if we considered that, on the evidence, it was more likely than not to have happened.

The Findings & Decision

29. For case **11105284M** Romario Qatja, the charge for threatening a Match Official, the threshold for the charge is included in the FA Handbook as follows;

- 29.1. *"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."*
30. The Commission considered the evidence presented to them in the case bundle. The referee is clear in his allegation towards the player he dismissed, listed on WGS as Romario Qatja. This individual, he believed, was going to attack him and issued threats towards him one of which being *"I'm going to fucking destroy you"*; further adding he has never felt so threatened in his life
31. The statement from the league photographer, present at the fixture does note a player, believed to be the captain approaching the Referee and being restrained. In the photographs provided, the third in the bundle does show the no 14 (green) being restrained by at least two colleagues at a distance of a few yards from the Match Official.
32. The Oxford Athletic FC statement does not appear to mention the incident but does confirm the Referee stood with the Hollow Way players at the end. There is no individual response from Romario Qatja regarding his charge to put forward their observations of the incident or to deny the charge.
33. The Commission believe, on the balance of probability it was more likely than not to have taken place as described by the referee; furthermore, it is accepted these actions do meet the threshold for the charge and have found the charge against Romario Qatja as **Proven**.
34. For case **11107984M** against Arber Spata, the referee has noted an action of violent conduct within his Extraordinary Incident Report, this is supported by the league photographer. Neither of these were able to identify the alleged perpetrator, the only statement to do so is from AFC Hollow Way who note the Oxford Athletic No 9 committed the act who they believe to be Arber Spata.

35. Neither club nor participant charged have responded to deny it was the player who has been alleged to have committed the offence, therefore based on the evidence presented within the case bundle the Commission believe, on the balance of probability, the offence has taken place and was carried out by Arber Spata and have found the charge as **Proven**.
36. For case **11105271M** the E20 charge against Oxford Athletic FC, all statements note the coming together on the field of play by both teams. Whilst the Referee notes a mass brawl took place which would implicate both sides, he identifies the Hollow Way players as trying to calm the incident and did not take part.
37. The two main protagonists for Oxford Athletic in the confrontation have both been issued individual charges for their actions. No statement notes any specific additional incidents with either set of players. There is pushing mentioned by the photographer although he does not note if it was a single team, the supporters or a combination of all involved.
38. The photographs provided do not show any obvious confrontations, those with both sets of players show no confrontations outside of those charged separately. The third one which shows the no 14 and the Referee, has 7 Oxford Athletic FC players and possibly 2/3 substitutes either stood around observing or actively attempting to calm the no 14; none of the additional personnel appear to be confronting the referee.
39. The fourth photograph shows the referee blowing his whistle and the no 5 for AFC Hollow Way appearing to be moving towards the incident where his colleague was punched as someone attempts to restrain them; all others appear to be just stood round. The fifth shows 2/3 Oxford Athletic FC players restraining spectators as the player struck is going to ground.
40. It is the belief of the Commission, on the evidence provided, whilst both teams had come together, it was to calm the protagonists charged separately, notwithstanding the additional charges raised against these individuals. However, the entry of the substitutes onto the field of play as clearly evidenced

within the provided photographs, uninvited by the Match Official, is a breach of FA Rule E20, have found the E20 charge **Proven**.

41. The Commission considered case **11105263M** the E21 charge against Oxford Athletic FC for the behaviour of the supporters including allegations of Assault on a Match Official, the FA handbook notes the threshold for this as follows;

41.1. *"96.3 Assault or attempted assault: acting in a manner which causes or attempts to cause injury to the Match Official (whether or not it does in fact cause injury), examples include, but are not limited to, causing and/or attempting to cause injury by spitting (whether it connects or not), causing and/or attempting to cause injury by striking, or attempting to strike, kicking or attempting to kick, butting or attempting to butt, barging or attempting to barge, kicking or throwing any item directly at the Match Official."*

42. The Referee is clear in his allegations of two instances of assault, the first is the kick towards him which is evidenced in the photographs they have provided to Oxfordshire FA. The second is of being spat towards by an unknown individual, the only other statement that mentions this is from Oxford Athletic FC although they are unable to provide any further information as to the identity. All statements agree there were spectators from Oxford Athletic on the field of play.
43. The photographs from the Referee of the footwear print on his shirt show it was most likely an act carried out by a spectator as alleged rather than a player or a substitute expecting to take part in the fixture. It is the belief of the Commission the spectators did enter the field of play and have committed an act of assault upon the Match Referee; it is also believed this action was the largest contributory factor for the abandonment of the fixture.
44. Therefore, on the balance of probability the Commission believe it more likely than not to have taken place as alleged by the referee and have found the E21 as **Proven**.

Previous Disciplinary Record

45. Mr Romario Qatja's five-year offence history a previous offences relating to this charge;

45.1. 02 April 2022 – Improper conduct against a Match Official including abusive language/behaviour; sanction 3 match suspension and a fine of £50. The Commission noted as part of the charge for this **Proven** case, the wording included *"On leaving the site the player drove passed the Referee, slowed down, started staring and glaring at the Referee in an aggressive / intimidating manner."*

46. Mr Arber Spata's five-year offence history contains no previous offences.

47. Oxford Athletic FC have 2 teams, the five-year offence history contains the following charges relevant to this offence;

47.1. 02 April 2022 E20 (Open Age) sanction of £75. This relates to a fixture that was abandoned;

47.2. 17 September 2022 E20 (Open Age) sanction of £140. This also related to an abandonment for similar circumstances;

47.3. 01 October 2022 E21 (Open Age) sanction of £180, the charge wording includes a reference to a supporter making physical contact with a referee.

Mitigation

48. Romario Qatja did apologise to the Referee on the day of the fixture.

49. A club Official for Oxford Athletic FC has apologised to the League and withdrawn the team.

50. Nothing further has been received from either participant in mitigation.

The Sanctions

51. For case **11105284M** Romario Qatja E3 Improper Conduct (including violent conduct and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour) the sanction range for this offence is as follows:

- 51.1. Suspension of 56-182 Days (entry point of 112 days)
 - 51.2. A fine of up to £100 (mandatory minimum of £50)
 - 51.3. Mandated FA Education.
52. After taking into consideration Romario Qatja's apology against the previous record, the refusal to leave the field of play once initially dismissed, the verbal threat towards the referee containing offensive language and physical threat towards the Referee requiring restraint from colleagues leaving the Referee to feel threatened, the commission placed the offence at the higher end of the sanction range, the sanction will be:
- 52.1. To serve a suspension of 168 days from all football related activities to include a ground/venue ban;
 - 52.2. fined a sum of £90;
 - 52.3. Romario Qatja is to satisfactorily complete an online mandatory education programme before the suspension is served or he be suspended until such time, he successfully completes the mandatory education programme, the details of which will be provided to him and;
 - 52.4. 9 (nine) Club Disciplinary Points to be recorded.
53. For case **11107984M** Arber Spata E3 Improper Conduct (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour), the sanction range for this offence is as follows:
- 53.1. Suspension between 1-10 Matches;
 - 53.2. A fine between £20-125.
54. After taking into consideration Arber Spata's previous good record, against the act of striking an opponent in the head from behind, the sanction will be:
- 54.1. To serve a suspension of 4 matches to include a ground/venue ban;
 - 54.2. fined a sum of £60;

- 54.3. 8 (eight) Club Disciplinary Points to be recorded.
55. For case **11105271M** E20 Oxford Athletic FC the sanction range for this offence is as follows:
- 55.1. A fine up to £300
56. After taking into consideration Oxford Athletic FC's previous record, against the entry of substitutes onto the field of play; the sanction will be;
- 56.1. fined a sum of £50;
57. For case **11105263M** E21 Oxford Athletic FC the sanction range for this offence is as follows:
- 57.1. A fine up to £300
58. In cases of this nature with two charges for E20 & E21 raised against a club the Commission will consider the totality of any sanction awarded to a club. In this case the Commission did considered this aspect, Oxford Athletic FC's previous record, the actions of supporters entering the field of play & assaulting the Match Referee and being the main factor in causing the abandonment of the fixture. As there had been an incident previously this season for a supporter entering the field of play and making physical contact with the Match Official, the Commission did not believe the stated sanction range was sufficient for an offence of this magnitude; therefore, the sanction will be:
- 58.1. fined a sum of £400;
- 58.2. A warning as to future conduct.
59. The decision is subject to the right of appeal under the relevant FA Rules and Regulations.
60. Signed...

Steve Francis (Commission Chair)

27 February 2023