

The National CFA Panel

(on behalf of Sussex FA)

In the Matter of

Brandon Crane

Non-personal hearing

Case ID: 10014986-M

=====

Reasons for National CFA Panel decision Friday, 13 December 2019.

The Discipline Panel was Mr. Karamjit Singh appointed by The Football Association.

The following is a record of the salient points which were considered and is not intended to be and should not be taken as a verbatim record of the hearing.

The case was considered on paper by the Panel.

CHARGES:

It should be noted that arising out of a match between Hove Park Rangers First v Whitehawk Rangers First on 3 November 2019:

Charge 1: FA Rule E3 – Improper conduct (including physical contact/ and/ or abusive language/ behaviour).

It was alleged that Mr Crane breached Rule E3(1) due to making improper physical contact with the Match Referee.

HEARING:

1. Mr Crane admitted the charge in a form dated 14 November 2019.
2. The Panel had before it a bundle of documents which were read before convening.
3. The bundle consisted of the following:
 - a. Incident Report Form of Mr D Head (Match Referee), dated 4 November 2019.
 - b. Various emails of Mr D Head, Mr O Powell (Sussex FA Football Services Manager) and L Sethahul (Whitehawk Rangers FC).
 - c. Response to charge form dated 14 November 2019.

4. The Football Association and County Football Associations take matters of this nature very seriously. For someone to be abused as alleged is a serious matter and equally so for someone to be accused of such behaviour.
5. In relation to Charge 1, The Panel had before it the Match Referee's incident report form. By way of background, Mr Crane received two yellow cards during the course of the match. As a result, he was dismissed from the field of play.
6. Following the match, Mr Head described Mr Crane approaching him to discuss his dismissal. Mr Crane is alleged to have said to Mr Head that he would not be putting the second yellow card through. Mr Head advised him that he would, at which point he was pushed in the chest by Mr Crane. Mr Head began walking away and then felt an object had been thrown at him. For the avoidance of doubt, it is not known who through the object and it is not attributed to Mr Crane.
7. Mr Crane pleaded guilty to Charge 1 on 14 November 2019. Mr Crane asked for the matter to be dealt with in his absence.

CONCLUSION:

8. The following conclusions and sanction (where appropriate) were made by The Panel.
9. We reminded ourselves that the standard of proof is the civil standard of 'on the balance of probability'. That means the Disciplinary Panel has to be satisfied, on the available evidence the incidents were more likely than not to have occurred. In particular, that Mr Head was pushed by Mr Crane which was contrary to Rule E3.
10. In the light of the Mr Crane's admission, Charge 1 was found proven.

MITIGATION:

11. We were pleased to hear that Mr Crane did not have any record of previous similar misconduct. The Panel took into account Mr Crane's early admission of guilt. Further, The Panel noted the comments of Luke Setahul on behalf of Whitehawk Rangers FC. Mr Setahul had spoken to Mr Crane and that, notwithstanding being very frustrated by the second yellow card, he agreed that it was inappropriate to have acted in the way that he had.

SANCTION:

12. Brandon Crane:
 - a) Will be fined the sum of £100 (one hundred pounds).
 - b) Will be suspended for 182 days from all football and footballing activities.
 - c) Severe warning as to future conduct.

APPEAL:

13. This decision may be appealed in accordance with the relevant regulations within the prevailing FA Handbook.

Karamjit Singh.

13 December 2019.