

Sussex County Football Association (SCFA)

Disciplinary Commission

Correspondence Cases Hearing – Friday 22nd March 2019

**Commission members – David Nessling (Chairperson – County Member), Victoria Searle
(Independent Panel Member) and Nick Gardner (County Member)**

Commission Secretary – Sienna Howell (Football Services Administrator SCFA)

Case ID: 9766574-M

Charge 1 – FA E3 – Assault on a Match Official.

Charge 2 – FA E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including abusive language/behaviour).

Participant: Michael Kelly.

Club/Role: Wisdom Sports FC First - Player.

Match: Wisdom Sports First v FC Sporting First.

Date: 16th December 2018.

League: Mid Sussex Football League – Division 3 South.

Written reasons for decision

The Participant Michael Kelly pleaded guilty to both charges.

The Commissions members were unanimous in their decision having taken into account the following:

- The referee made it clear in his report that the Participant had deliberately spat at him and had used abusive language directed at him.
- In an email from the referee to the SCFA dated 17th December 2018 the referee stated that when he was spat at by the Participant the Participant was no more than five yards from him and definitely, he advised, the spit was aimed at him by the Participant albeit he further advised the spit fell short of him. The Commission members took into account that the spit had not made contact with the referee.
- Witness Statement dated 18th December 2018 provided by Tom Nelligan a club official of Wisdom Sports FC advised that the Participant had used foul and abusive language.
- Witness Statement dated 16th December 2018 provided by Thomas Nelligan, Fixtures Secretary for Wisdom Sports FC advised the Witness Statement was being written on behalf of the Participant and stated the Participant did not deny verbal had been used to an Assistant Linesman.
- The Participant had pleaded guilty to both charges and had not made any submissions under his own volition.

Decision: The Commission members came to the following decision:

Charge 1 - FA E3 – Assault on a Match Official.

- The Participant be suspended for 5 years, fined £75 and 6 penalty points be accrued to Wisdom Sports FC.

Charge 2 – FA E3 – Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including abusive language/behaviour).

- The Participant be suspended for 3 matches, fined £50 and 6 penalty points be accrued to Wisdom Sports FC.

David Nessling,
Chairperson,
SCFA Disciplinary Commission
22nd March 2019