

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
**IN RESPECT OF CONSOLIDATED CHARGES FOR A BREACH OF RULE E20**  
**YEOVIL TOWN FC & CARLISLE UNITED FC**

1. These are the written reasons in regard to a Commission decision, made on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.
2. The Commission members were, Major (Retd) W T E Thomson (Chairman), Mr. G Mabbutt and Mr. G Aplin.
3. Mr. P McCormack, of The Football Association Judicial Services department, acted as Secretary to the Commission.
4. Arising from an FA Cup fixture between Yeovil Town FC and Carlisle United FC on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the details of the respective Charges of alleged breaches of FA Rule E20(a) were as follows:

*Misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E20 (a), it is alleged that in or around the 78<sup>th</sup> minute of the fixture, Carlisle United FC failed to ensure that its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.*

*Misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E20 (a), it is alleged that in or around the 78<sup>th</sup> minute of the fixture, Yeovil Town FC failed to ensure that its players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.*
5. The Charges were deemed 'Non-Standard' due to the level of violent behavior and based upon the Referee, Mr. Tim Robinson, and Assessor, Mr. Bob Desmond, reports and video evidence. Mr. Robinson reported that in or around the 78<sup>th</sup> minute following a goal being scored an incident occurred in the penalty area involving several players from both teams acting in an aggressive manner.
6. The Assessor, Mr. Bob Desmond, stated that, in the 78<sup>th</sup> minute an altercation occurred inside the host's penalty area after the visitors had scored an equalising goal involving several member of each club.
7. The Members of the Commission viewed the video clip a number of times and also considered the documentation submitted.
8. Yeovil Town FC pleaded guilty to the charge, submitted mitigation but did not request the opportunity to attend a personal hearing.

9. Carlisle United FC denied the charge and did not request an opportunity to attend a personal hearing. They did however submit correspondence to be put before the Commission.

10. **Carlisle United FC** made the following points in rebuttal of their charge. That Carlisle United FC players provided some assistance to team mates that were being confronted by Yeovil Town players, but this was to defuse any situation that could have arose and to ensure the game was restarted as soon as possible.

- a. The incident stated following an equalising goal and the Yeovil players impeding the Carlisle players from swiftly restarting the game.
- b. A Carlisle player (No 14) had run towards the goal mouth in an over exuberant manner but did not except that this was in a violent or aggressive manner.
- c. We do not accept the charge that we failed to ensure our player conducted themselves in an orderly fashion.
- d. Our Club has a good track record in respect of ensuring all players and staff are respectful and behaviour is maintained by everyone connected with the club at all times.

### **Determination**

- a. The Commission when considering whether a charge is found proven or not, uses the 'balance of probability'.
- b. The Commission considered all the written submissions and in particular the video evidence.
- c. The video evidence clearly showed the incident, as reported in both the Referee and Assessor reports.
- d. The Commission noted the definition of a mass confrontation as set out in the 2015-16 Guidance to Participants document, which reads as "where two or more players and/or club officials from a team are involved in a confrontation with opposing players and/or club officials.
- e. The Commission therefore on considering all the evidence, on the balance of probability found the charge against Carlisle United FC proven.

### **SANCTION – Carlisle United FC**

11. The Commission members were conscious this charge had been designated as non-standard.

The standard penalty for a denied but subsequently found proved E20 breach in League 2 is £1,500. This was not designated a standard case, therefore, we had discretion as to the appropriate penalty to impose.

This was the Club's third breach in the preceding five seasons, the details of which are outlined below. This was clearly an aggravating factor.

- February 2011: Fined the sum of £3,500

- November 2013: Fined the sum of £2,500

Having given all the evidence, submissions, relevant FA Rules & guidelines due consideration, and their previous record, the Commission ordered that Carlisle United FC be fined the sum of £3,000 and severely warned as to their future conduct.

### **SANCTION – Yeovil Town FC**

12. The charge against Yeovil Town FC had been designated as non-standard.

The Commission also noted the Club's previous record for breaches of FA Rule E20 which was as follows:

- November 2013: Fined the sum of £1,000
- December 2014: Fined the sum of £2,500

The standard penalty for an admitted E20 breach in League 2 is £1,000. This was not designated a standard case, therefore, we had discretion as to the appropriate penalty to impose.

This was the Clubs' third breach in the preceding five seasons. This was clearly an aggravating factor.

Having given all the evidence, submissions, relevant FA Rules & guidelines due consideration, Yeovil Town FC mitigation and their previous record, the Commission ordered that the Club be severely warned as to their future conduct and fined the sum of £2,000.

13. There is a right of appeal against the above decisions in accordance with FA Regulations.

W T E Thomson

Chairman

5<sup>th</sup> February 2016