

IN THE MATTER OF A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSION

BETWEEN:

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

and

MR SIMON GLOVER

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WRITTEN REASONS AND DECISION OF  
THE INDEPENDENT REGULATORY COMMISSION FOLLOWING THE  
HEARING  
ON 25 NOVEMBER 2016

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## **Background**

1. These are the written reasons for a decision made by an Independent Regulatory Commission which sat by WebEx on 25 November 2016.
2. The Regulatory Commission members were Mr G Farrelly, Chairman, Mr M Robinson and Mr M Kearns.
3. Mr P McCormack of the FA Judicial Services Department acted as Secretary to the Regulatory Commission.
4. By letter dated 9 November 2016, The Football Association (“The FA”) charged Mr Simon Glover with Misconduct for a breach of FA Rule E3 in respect of the fixture between Heybridge Swifts FC v Bury Town FC.
5. It was alleged that in the game in question on 27 September 2016, Mr Glover used abusive and/or insulting and/or threatening language towards the Match Referee following his dismissal.
6. The FA designated this as a Non Standard Case due to the fact that the incident occurred outside the jurisdiction of the Match Officials and due to the threatening nature of the reported behaviour.
7. In the Extraordinary Incident Report Form the Referee stated - *“Off showing Simon Glover the red card he started to march off the pitch shouting foul and a suite language at me and threating me. He was shouting I was a fucking cunt and a fucking wanker and that he was going to smash my face in!”*
8. This was further supported by the Assistant Referee who heard Mr Glover shouting at the Referee – *“you’re a fucking wanker, you’re lucky I don’t come back there and smash your face in”*.
9. For completeness, the other Assistant Referee was not in a position to hear what was said.
10. The Charge was admitted on 19 November 2016.
11. Mr Glover did not request a personal hearing and the case was dealt with on the papers only.
12. Mr Glover had no previous record of similar misconduct.
13. The Regulatory Commission considered all of the evidence presented and ruled there to be a number of critical points. It is accepted that Match Officials at all levels have a difficult role. There is simply no place for the foul and abusive language as used in this case nor the aggressive threatening behaviour.

## **Conclusion**

14. The Regulatory Commission came to a unanimous decision, having carefully considered the evidence, and have imposed the following sanction on Mr Glover:

- (i) He is suspended for four (4) matches;
- (ii) Fined the sum of £100; and
- (iii) He is warned as to his future conduct.

15. This decision is subject to the relevant Appeal Regulations.

Mr Gareth Farrelly, Chairman

Mr Marvin Robinson

Mr Mick Kearns

29 November 2016