

IN THE MATTER OF

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ex parte THE LIVERPOOL FA

-v-

**MR DYLAN COYLE
(CASE REFERENCE 8768142M)**

**REASONS FOR DISCIPLINE COMMISSION DECISION
THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2016**

PARTIES

1. The Discipline Commission members were Mr Anthony Rock, Mr Roger Pullin and Mr Errol Thompson. Mrs Debbie Sowton acted as Secretary to the Commission.

INTRODUCTION

2. These are written reasons for a Discipline Commission, held on behalf of Liverpool FA on Thursday 1st December 2016, following charges raised against Mr Dylan Coyle, resulting from alleged comments that he made to the referee after being dismissed from the Field of Play. These alleged comments were made during a Merseyside Christian League game played between Redemptorist Youth Ministry FC (RYMFC) and Chill Eagles First Team on 29th October 2016.
3. By a Lancashire FA Misconduct Charge Notification, dated 11th November 2016, Mr Coyle was charged as follows:
 - a. Under FA Rule E3 – Improper conduct (including foul and abusive language).
 - b. Under FA Rule E3(2) – Improper conduct – aggravated by a persons Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability.

CHARGES

4. The details of the charges are that immediately following his dismissal from the Field of Play (two cautions), Mr Coyle allegedly used the following comments towards the match

official: *“You’re an effing spastic – well you are an effing spastic. In Ireland that’s an OK comment. Now eff off you spastic. You can’t even remember your boots or whistle. Eff off you effing spastic”.*

PLEA

5. The Commission was informed by Liverpool FA (via Whole Game System) that on 23rd November 2016, Mr Coyle had pleaded NOT GUILTY to some or all of the charges and wished the case to be dealt with in his absence. The Commission noted that when completing the Misconduct Charge Form, Mr Coyle had pleaded GUILTY to both charges, but due to the fact that he was contesting some of the referee’s report, he was obliged to enter a plea of NOT GUILTY.

EVIDENCE

6. The Commission considered the following written evidence:
 - a. Report from Match Referee, Mr Brian Cluskey – dated 31/10/2016.
 - b. Follow-Up Witness Statement from Match Referee – undated.
 - c. Witness Statement from Dylan Coyle – dated 7/11/2016.
 - d. Witness Statement from Callum Murray (RYMFC Player-Coach) – dated 8/11/2016.
 - e. Witness Statement from Patrick Hart (RYMFC Team Manager) – dated 8/11/2016.
 - f. E-mail from Phillip McLoughlin (Chill Eagles) – dated 2/11/2016.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

7. The Commission noted that the statements from RYMFC, including from Mr Coyle himself, confirmed that he had directed the word “spastic” towards the referee. Mr Coyle takes issue with part of the referee’s report, specifically with regard to the number of times he used the word “spastic”. Whilst not being able to verbally test the evidence, The Commission was satisfied that Mr Coyle had directed foul and abusive language towards the match referee on at least two separate occasions. The Commission also took into account the e-mail submission from Mr McLoughlin that confirmed none of the Chill Eagles Staff nor Players were aware of what was said between Mr Coyle and the referee.

FINDINGS

8. By Mr Coyle’s own admission, substantiated by the statements from Mr Murray and Mr Hart, The Commission found both charges PROVED.

PREVIOUS MISCONDUCT

9. The Commission noted that there were no other misconduct charges nor aggravated offences on Mr Coyle's record.

SANCTION

10. The Commission took into account Mr Coyle's previous disciplinary record and the fact that he showed an element of remorse in his Witness Statement dated 7th November 2016. However, the charge is a serious one that took place not only on the field of play but, by Mr Coyle's own admission, continued from the sideline after he left the pitch. The Commission finds that for the offences committed, Mr Coyle will receive a 5-match ban, a £75.00 financial penalty and be required to attend an FA Education Course. His Club, RYMFC, will also incur 5 disciplinary penalty points.

11. In accordance with FA Regulations, there is a right of appeal against the decision.

Mr Anthony Rock (Chairman)

Thursday 1st December 2016