

Football Association Disciplinary Commission

(‘The ‘Commission’)

In the matter of Nathaniel Welsh (Case number 8721551M)

Disciplinary Commission Decision

1. The following members were appointed to the Commission: Ms. Stacy Payne (Independent Chairperson), Mr. Anthony Rock (Commission Member) and Mr. Maurice Armstrong (Independent Member).
2. Mr. Greg Hart of the Essex FA acted as Secretary to the Commission.
3. Mr. Nathaniel Welsh was charged with a breach of F.A. Rule E3 Improper Conduct. It was further alleged that this breach of Rule E3(1) was an “aggravated breach” as defined in Rule E3(2) as it includes a reference to sexual orientation.
4. The relevant sections of FA Rule E3 (p. 112 of the FA Handbook Season 2016-2017) states:
“(1) A participant shall at all times act in the best interest of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.
(2) A breach of Rule E3(1) is an “Aggravated Breach” where it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of the following :- ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.”
5. This case was brought by West Riding F.A. following a complaint made of words and conduct at a match played on 17th October 2016. It was alleged Mr. Nathaniel Welsh took a dislike to a decision made by the referee before shouting at him “it’s outside you think cunt”, “this is why you were banned from refereeing”, and “go to fucking

rugby league you faggott". Upon dismissing the player from the field of play, Mr. Nathaniel Welsh proceeded to call the referee "a stupid cunt" and a "fat prick" several times.

6. Mr. Nathaniel Welsh responded to the charge and pleaded guilty; requesting that the case be dealt with in his absence. The Commission noted Mr. Nathaniel Welsh had failed to submit any written submission. In the absence of the same, the Commission solely considered the referee report and Mr. Nathaniel Welsh's record.
7. Given the Charges had been admitted the Commission proceeded to determine sanction and consulted the 2016-2017 Sanction Guidelines. It was noted there were no relevant proven prior charges.
8. The Commission was mindful of the sanctions guidelines which required the Commission to start at an entry point of 5 games together with a £75.00 fine. The Commission felt there were no aggravating features to consider a punishment more than the mandatory penalty. 5 penalty points were also given.
9. Further, Mr. Nathaniel Welsh is to attend an FA education programme within four months of original notification of this decision; details of which will be provided by The FA. Failure to complete the mandatory FA Education programme within the relevant timeframe shall initiate the automatic suspension of Mr. Nathaniel Welsh from all football and football related activity until such time as the mandatory FA Education programme has been successfully completed.
10. This decision is subject to the right of appeal in accordance with the relevant regulations within The FA Handbook.

Stacy Payne

Chairperson

31st October 2016