

Case 8612120M

The Football Association / Lancashire County FA vs Chris Cancellis

Hearing date Tuesday 13th September 2016

Written Reasons for Decision

1. These are the written reasons for the County FA Disciplinary Commission decision made on Tuesday 16th September 2016.
2. The panel members were Mr. F. Duku, (Chairman), Mr L. Pharo, (Council) and Mr. J. Murphy (LFADP)
3. Ms. L. Halsey acted as Secretary to this panel.
4. Mr. Cancellis was charged by the Lancashire Football Association with a breach of rule E3 and E3(2) following a West Lancashire Football League match between Stoneclough First and Hawcoat Park First on 13/08/16. Mr. Cancellis was charged with Improper Conduct (including foul and abusive language) and Improper Conduct - aggravated by a person's Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Sexual Orientation or Disability by way of use of the phrase "a stupid Irish cunt."
5. Mr. Cancellis responded and admitted the charge.
6. The panel therefore only had to consider the appropriate sanction to be imposed taking into account the actual events in question, any mitigating circumstances that were presented, and the previous disciplinary record of Mr. Cancellis.
7. The bundle of evidence included a submission from the referee, Mr. C. Rees, detailing the events that had taken place, and a reply from Mr. Cancellis offering an explanation for his actions.

8. It was found that Mr. Cancallis had a relatively good disciplinary record and per his written submission in mitigation, it appears Mr. Cancallis believed he was replying to taunts he had received with acceptable "banter", and did not fully understand the implication of the words he used. Although this is not being accepted as a defence, it highlights a need for education and suggests the intention was not to cause any significant offence.
9. The panel noted that as the offensive reference was to nationality alone, there was no requirement for the imposition of the mandatory minimum 5 game suspension for proven E3(2) charges. The panel also considered the fact that Mr. Cancallis had already served a 2 game suspension in relation to the red card that was issued for this offence.
10. It was therefore agreed that the sanction to be applied was for Mr. Cancallis to be issued with a further 3 game suspension (resulting in a total of a 5 match suspension for the offence), to be fined £75, and to undergo an education course within the next 4 months. Stoneclough First were also issued with 5 penalty points
11. There is a right of appeal in accordance with FA regulations.

Francis Duku. (Chairman)

16th September 2016