



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Protest Case: No. A 7- 2020

QUORUM:

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|------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. Carla Olympio, Esq. | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Shaibu Ali | - | Member |
| 3. Nurudeen Alhassan | - | Member |
| 4. David Okyere | - | Member |
| 5. Justice Yeboah | - | Member |
| William Bossman | - | Secretary |
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ACCRA GREAT OLYMPICS FC VS LEGON CITIES FC

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PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THEIR GHANA PREMIER LEAGUE MATCHDAY 10 MATCH PLAYED AT THE ACCRA SPORTS STADIUM

PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Statutes of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) and Articles 35 of the GFA Premier League Regulations, the Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) considered the depositions from Accra Great Olympics Football Club (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) and Legon Cities Football Club (hereinafter referred to as “the Respondent”) together with the supporting attachments and the reports of the match officials.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

CASE OF GREAT OLYMPICS FC

Accra Great Olympics FC (the Petitioner) on Monday, February 17, 2020 protested against Legon Cities FC (the Respondent) for the following:

1. Playing in a strip that is not registered with the Association in an official match contrary to Article 16(1)(a) and 16(1)(d) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).
2. Fielding an unqualified player in the person of Yussif Fadili (in jersey number 7) contrary to Article 28(1)(e) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).

It is the case of the Petitioner that Legon Cities FC registered as its official strip the following:

- a Green shirt, Green shorts and Green Hose/stockings for the outfield players and
- Red & Royal Blue for the Goalkeepers.

According to the Petitioner, Legon Cities FC wore instead Green shirts, Green shorts and Green hose for the Goalkeeper and Red & Royal Blue for the players on the matchday.

The Petitioners stated further that even were the Respondents to argue that their outfield players strips were registered, player number 2 of Legon Cities FC, Abdul Karim Jabila was in a strip that is not registered with the GFA contrary to Article 16(1)(a) and 16(1)(d) of the Premier League Regulations (2019). Their position is that this player wore blue hose/stocking for the most part of the first half of the match, and only changed it later.

They contend request that the above-alleged breaches be penalized with forfeiture of the match in accordance with Article 33(1)(i) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).

The second arm of the protest by the Petitioners was regarding the Legon Cities FC player Yussif Fadili, whom they argue was fielded contrary to Article 28(1)(e) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).

According to the Petitioners, the said player had received cautions in three consecutive league matches (Match days 2, 6 and 9), should therefore have been automatically suspended, and should not have featured in the Match day 10 encounter.

The Petitioners added that by fielding an allegedly unqualified player in the person of Yussif Fadili, Legon Cities FC must forfeit the match in question to Accra Great Olympics in accordance with Article 33(1)(e) and 33(2) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).

As evidence for their position they attached caution statements supplied by the GFA for Match days 2, 6 and 9 as evidence as well as the team sheet of Legon Cities FC for the match.

DEFENCE OF LEGON CITIES FC

The Respondents in their Statement of Defence have urged the Committee to dismiss the protest.

They stated that at no point in time did any of the players of Legon Cities FC use an unregistered strip during the match with Accra Great Olympics FC, and attached pictures of the relevant player, Abdul Karim Jabila in the outfit he wore for the match.

On the second count, the Respondents categorically rejected the Petitioners' claim that they fielded the player in question, Yussif Fadili was cautioned on Match days 1, 2 and 6 and as a result, was not fielded on Match day 7.

It is the case of the Respondent that by serving his punishment on Match day 7, the caution the player received on Matchday 9 did not make him unqualified to play in the Matchday 10 encounter between the two sides.

The Respondents attached caution letters for Match day 1, 2 and 6 as evidence. They called on the Committee to dismiss the protest and award cost against Accra Great Olympics FC.

N.B: The Committee notes that the Statement of Defence of Legon Cities FC, which was sent to the GFA via email, was not signed. In accordance with Article 35(9)(c) of the Premier League Regulations, the Committee considered the response and its merits.

Article 35(9)(c) of the Premier League Regulations states as follows:

“The Disciplinary Committee shall consider the merits of a case and deliver its decision in any given case, even if a party fails, neglects or refuses to file a Statement of Defence within the stipulated time”.

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

The Petitioner stated that the Respondent should suffer forfeiture for playing in an unregistered strip contrary to Article 16(1)(a), Article 33(1)(i) & 33 (4)(b) of the Premier League Regulations.

They alleged that Player No. 2 of Legon Cities for wore unregistered hose for most part of the first half of the match in question in contravention of Article 16(1)(a).

Secondly, the Petitioners protested that Legon Cities fielded an unqualified player in the person of Yussif Fadili in the said match, contrary to Article 28(1)(e) of the Premier League Regulations (2019).

This Committee has read the Petition, the Response and the evidence before it, and finds as follows:

1. The GFA's Competition's Department assigned the following colours to Legon Cities FC as has been submitted by the Club in their signed Strip Declaration form :
 - Red & Royal Blue Shirts, Red & Royal Blue Shorts and Red & Royal Blue hose/stockings for outfield players; and
 - Green shirts, Green shorts and Green hose/stockings for the Goalkeepers.
2. The Committee finds that Legon Cities FC presented the assigned strips at the Pre-Match Technical meeting. They find therefore that Legon Cities presented their registered strips for both outfield players and the Goalkeeper.
3. On the claim that player Abdul Karim Jabila wore a Blue unregistered hose/stocking as seen in the pictorial evidence presented by the petitioners, the Committee finds that instead it appears he had pulled his hose over the red on the hose. Therefore, the red was not visible which perhaps gave Accra Great Olympics FC the impression that it was a blue hose and not Red & Royal Blue.
4. The Committee read the Caution letters sent to all Clubs by the Competitions Department. They find that Yussif Fadili received yellow cards on Match days 1, 2, 6 and 9 before they played Accra Great Olympics FC on Matchday 10.
5. The Committee finds that after receiving three cautions (Match days 1, 2 and 6), the player was not featured on Matchday 7, thereby serving his automatic suspension.
6. By serving the suspension on Matchday 7, the player Yussif Fadili was therefore eligible to play on Match day 10 despite receiving a caution on Match day 9.

It is the position of this Committee that Legon Cities did not breach Article 16(1)(a) and Article 16(1)(d) of the Premier League Regulations with regards to player Abdul Karim Jabila.

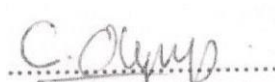
It is also clear to this Committee that Yussif Fadili was qualified to play in the match against Accra Great Olympics FC and that Legon Cities FC did not breach Article 28(1)(e) of the Premier League Regulations.

The Protest shall therefore fail on both grounds.

DECISIONS:

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

- 1. The protest of Accra Great Olympics FC must fail, as the strips used by Legon Cities FC and player Abdul Karim Jabila were all duly registered with the GFA pursuant to Article 16(1)(a) of the Premier League Regulations.***
- 2. That player Yussif Fadili was qualified to play in the match against Accra Great Olympics FC.***
- 3. That Accra Great Olympics FC is hereby fined an amount of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00) for bringing a frivolous protest to the Disciplinary Committee pursuant to Article 35(14) of the Premier League Regulations.***
- 4. That should any party be dissatisfied with or aggrieved by this Decision, the party has within one (1) days of being notified of this Ruling to appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Ghana Football Association {See Article 35(10) of the Premier League Regulations of the GFA}.***



**Carla Olympio, Esq.
Vice Chairperson, Disciplinary Committee
Monday, March 9, 2020**