

DECISION OF GFA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

CASE OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST GEORGE YEBOAH BERKO TEAM OFFICIAL OF BECHEM UNITED IN THEIR GHANA PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH AGAINST MEDEAMA AT THE AKOON PARK

SUPT. SOLOMON KORLI

~ PROSECUTOR

1.0 CHARGES

George Yeboah Berko, a Team Official of Bechem United was charged on four counts of misconduct in respect of their Ghana Premier League match against Medeama SC at the Akoon park on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Count One indicated that George Yeboah Berko interefered with the progress of the said match contrary to Regulations 34(1)(a) of the Premier League Regulations(2019). The particulars of the case indicated the 91st minute of the match the said Team Official of Bechem United failed to adhere to the Referee's instructions when after attending to the club's injured Goalkeeper, he and another team official chose to exit the pitch through the touchline instead of the goal line thereby delaying the restart of the game.

Count Two indicated that George Yeboah Berko allegedly incited the players against the match officials contrary to Regulation 34(1)(b) of the Premier League Regulations and Article 11(1) of the GFA Disciplinary Code(2019). The particulars of the offence indicated that after Medeama scored a goal and while the referee was about to restart play, George Yeboah Berko joined two other officials of Bechem United onto the field of play to question the Referee as to the propriety of the 15 minutes time added on.

Count Three indicated that George Berko allegedly used abusive language against the match officials after the match impugning their integrity and competence contrary to Regulation 34(3)(c) of the GFA Premier League Regulations(2019) and Articles 11(2)(b) and 11(2)(d) of the GFA Disciplinary Code(2020). Count Four indicated that George Yeboah Berko allegedly made remarks which implied improper conduct and bias on the part of the Referee and brought the game into disrepute contrary to Regulation 34(6)(d) of the GFA Premier League Regulations.

2.0 RESPONSE TO CHARGES

In response, Bechem United wrote to officially to accept the charges against George Yeboah Berko. The Club apologized on his behalf and pleaded for mitigation considering that he is a first time offender. Bechem United also assured the GFA that they have counseled George Yeboah Berko on anger management and pledged that the incident would not occur again.

FINDINGS

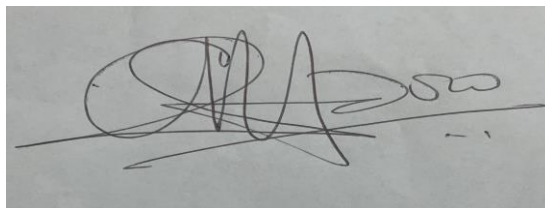
On account of the admission to the charges and the Club's plea for the mitigation, the Committee takes the following decisions

DECISION

That in accordance with Regulation 34(3) (c) and 37(1) (b) of the GFA Premier League Regulations and Articles 6(2)(a) and 12(1)(j) of the GFA Disciplinary Code):

1. George Yeboah Berko is suspended for the Club's next two (2) official matches.
2. The Committee also affirms the punishment proposed by the Prosecutor, however the fine of GHc5000 is reduced to GHc2000 payable to the GFA within fourteen (14) days upon receipt of this Ruling.
3. George Yeboah Berko is warned to be of good behavior in subsequent matches failing which he would receive a severer punishment for any breaches of the GFA's Rules and Regulations.

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Osei Kwadwo Adow', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

**OSEI KWADWO ADOW, ESQ.
CHAIRPERSON,
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
16th MARCH, 2020**