

IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

IN THE MATTER OF A MISCONDUCT CHARGE AGAINST MUSAH RABI (PLAYER OF FABULOUS LADIES FC)

IN RESPECT OF THE WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE MATCH BETWEEN FABULOUS LADIES FC AND KUMASI SPORTS ACADEMY

THE CHARGES

Musah Rabi, (Player of Fabulous Ladies FC) was charged with four counts as per the Charge Sheet as follows:

COUNT 1

Statement of Offence

Musah Rabi is hereby charged for a breach of Article 11(1) of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to verbal and physical abuse of Referee Faizatu Jakpa.

Particulars of the Offence

Musa Rabi (Player of Fabulous Ladies FC) you, on 27th of February 2021, during a match between Kumasi Sports and Faboulus Ladies at the Ejisu Okese Park and whiles still on the pitch of the stadium did verbally and physically abuse referee Faizatu Japka, an act which is in gross disregard to the laws of the game and regulations of the association.

COUNT 2

Statement of Offence

Musah Rabi is hereby charged for a breach of Article 12(1)(i) of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to unsporting behavior towards a match official.

Particulars of the Offence

Musah Rabi; Player of Fabulous Ladies: You, on 27th of February 2021, during a match between Kumasi Sports and Faboulus Ladies at the Ejisu Okese Park and whiles still on the pitch of the stadium, did insult and abuse the center referee, Faizatu Jakpa.

COUNT 3

Statement of Offence

Musah Rabi is hereby charged for a breach of Article 12(1)j of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to intimidation of a match official.

Particulars of the Offence

Rabi Musah; Player of Fabulous Ladies: You, on 27th of February 2021, during a match between Kumasi Sports and Faboulus Ladies at the Ejisu Okese Park and whiles still on the pitch of the stadium did intimidate the referee by verbally and physically assaulting the center referee and stating that you will not agree for a penalty kick to be taken

COUNT 4

Statement of Offence

Rabi Musah is hereby charged for a breach of Article 12(1)k of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to physical assault of a match official.

Particulars of the Offence

Rabi Musah; Player of Fabulous Ladies: You, on 27th of February 2021, during a match between Kumasi Sports and Faboulus Ladies at the Ejisu Okese Park and whiles still on the pitch of the stadium did physically assault the center referee by hitting her on the forehead resulting in an injury.

DEFENCE

Rabi Musah, pleaded NOT GUILTY to all four charges and waived her right to personal hearing. She submitted a written Statement of Defense for the consideration of the Committee which is reproduced below as follows:

"The whole incident started when a long pass came into our 18 yard box and as a central defender I was on lead and control on the ball and protecting the ball for my goal keeper to come for the ball. In the process I was pushed from behind by a player from Kumasi Sports Academy, our opponents. The referee whistled for an infringement which I taught was for us, but all of a sudden I was shown a red card after the home team (Kumasi Sports Academy) was awarded a penalty kick. I taught the decision was not fair, so as the captain of my team (Fabulous Ladies Sporting Club) and the victim here, I approached the referee, with some of my colleagues around, to complain about her decision. She was in no mood to listen and was shouting on me rather, to which I retorted that she should not be abusive but tell me what I did. I had ran all day, tired and frustrated in the match thus as I was gesturing with my hands to ask why, I hit her on the forehead, very unintentional.

It wasn't my intention, so I even apologized for that as our opponents even consoled me for the harsh decision. I did not insult, assault, intimidate or assault the referee despite the extreme provocation meted out to me coupled with the unfair refereeing decision which resulted in my expulsion and a penalty against Fabulous Ladies. The red card to me is already a severe punishment to me and my club, and with lessons learnt I dare say as a sportswoman I urged my club not to file any complaint against the match officials, which should end the case. I however wish to render an unqualified apology for whatever happened on that faithful day."

PROCEEDINGS AND FINDINGS

The Committee examined the depositions in the Charge Sheet, the reports of the match officials and the defense submitted by the player.

The Committee considered all the evidence and holds that it will side with Article 12 of the Disciplinary Code on the facts stated in the match reports, the video of the match and the evidence given by the prosecution on the charge and the plea of leniency by the player.

The Committee found that the Match Commissioner in her report did indicate that, after the referee whistled for a penalty to be taken. Rabi Musa rushed on the Referee with insults after which the Referee gave her the red card. She further stated that, the coach of Fabulous Ladies Nana Atuahene with some of his players rushed to the Referee and Rabi Musah punched the referee's forehead which resulted in the Referee's inability to continue the match and the fourth official taking charge till the game ended.

The Disciplinary Committee is satisfied with the evidence before it on the charge that the conduct of the player amounts to a breach of regulations and shall accordingly apply the necessary sanctions against the player while taking cognizance of the plea for leniency.

DECISIONS

The Disciplinary Committee makes the following decisions:

- 1. In accordance with Article 12(4) of the GFA Disciplinary Code 2019, the player Rabi Musah is hereby banned from taking part in all football related activity with immediate effect from **April 13, 2021** to **April 12, 2022**.
- 2. The Committee also fines Rabi Musah an amount of Five Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc5,000.00), Three Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc3,000.00) of which is hereby suspended due to the player's plea for leniency leaving a fine of **Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00)** to be paid.
- 3. That should any party be dissatisfied with or aggrieved by this Decision; the party has within three (3) day of being notified of this Ruling to appeal to the Appeals Committee.

OSEI KWADWO ADDO, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN, DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021