



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Misconduct Case: No. M 24–2021

CORAM

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| 1. Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq. | - | Chairman |
| 2. Lorraine A. Crabbe Ababio, Esq | - | Member |
| 3. Ms. Elsie Nana Acheampong | - | Member |
| 4. Mr. Emmanuel Nikoi | - | Member |
| 5. Mr. Nathaniel Laryea | - | Member |

GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION VRS WAMANAFO MIGHTY ROYALS FC

IN THE MATTER OF A MISCONDUCT CHARGE AGAINST WAMANAFO MIGHTY FC

**IN RELATIONS TO THE DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCH BETWEEN
WAMANAFO MIGHTY ROYALS FC AND BOFOAKWA TANO FC PLAYED AT
THE WAMANAFO COMMUNITY PARK**

PROCEEDINGS

The Disciplinary Committee (the Committee) examined the Charge Sheets, the Match Reports, the Video of the Match, and the Defence of Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC.

THE CHARGES

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC was charged with six counts as per the Charge Sheet as follows:

CHARGE ONE

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 16(1)(b) of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the Association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021, before a match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, did fail to comply with the Matchday COVID-19 Protocols put in place by the Ghana Football Association (GFA) and the Government of Ghana by allowing unapproved persons being supporters into the stadium and on the field of play which also defies the directives of the Executive Council of the GFA issued on the 13th of February, 2021 for all football matches to be played behind closed doors and failing to observe COVID-19 Protocols.

CHARGE TWO

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 16(1)(c) of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 and Article 34(4) of the GFA Division One League

Regulations,2019 in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the Association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021, during and after a match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, did fail to ensure the safety of the match officials, as fans were seen beating up the referees, throwing stones at them and injuring them in the process.

CHARGE THREE

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 16(1)(e) of the GFA Disciplinary Code,2019 and Article 34(2) of the GFA Division One League Regulations, 2019 in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the Association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021, during and after a match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, did fail to ensure law and order in and around the stadium as fans were seen physically and verbally assaulting Match officials by beating, mishandling and insulting them.

CHARGE FOUR

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 16(2)(a) of the GFA Disciplinary Code, 2019 in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021 during a match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, did fail to prevent fans from invading the field of play as fans and officials of your club were seen on the field of play attacking match officials, threatening them, beating and injuring them and players, a conduct which poses threat to their lives.

CHARGE FIVE

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 16(2)(b) of the GFA Disciplinary Code,2019 and Article 34(4) of the GFA Division One League Regulations in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021, on or about the 73rd minute of the match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, did fail to ensure safety at the venue as fans were seen throwing stones and other objects at the match officials injuring them in the process.

CHARGE SIX

Statement of Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby charged for a breach of Article 34(1)(c), 42(6) and 42(7) of the GFA Division One League Regulations, 2019 in respect to violations of the rules and regulations of the association.

Particulars of the Offence

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC: You, on 28th March 2021, during a match between your club and Bofaokwa Tano FC at the Wamanafo Community Park, your fans prevented video coverage of some parts of the game.

THE DEFENCE

In a Statement of Defence dated April 2, 2021 and signed by the Club's Secretary, Victor Rex Oppong Yirenchie, Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC pleaded **GUILTY** for Charges No. 1, 4, 5 but pleaded **NOT GUILTY** for Charges No. 2, 3 and 6.

Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC also requested for personal hearing to defend themselves against the charges to which they pleaded NOT GUILTY and to explain their responses to Charges 1, 4 and 5.

However, on Wednesday April 14, when the Club appeared before the Disciplinary Committee, amended their plea to NOT GUILTY for all charges against the club and offered the defence of the club against the charges.

PROCEEDINGS AND FINDINGS

A video recording of the incidents that occurred after the said match and pictures of the injured referees submitted by the Prosecution were showed as evidence. The Club denied that such incidents occurred at the Wamanafo Community park. They objected to the absence of the Prosecutor at the sitting and refused to cooperate with the Committee because the Prosecutor was not present.

In accordance with Article 37(1) of the Division One League Regulations, the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied with the evidence before it that the conduct of Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC amounts to a breach of Regulations and shall accordingly apply the necessary sanctions against Wamanafo Mighty Royals FC.

Article 37(1) of the Division One League Regulations:

“Where the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied that there has been misconduct by a Player, a Club Official, a Referee, an Assistant Referee, Supporters, a Match Commissioner or any participant of a match, the Committee may order such a person/persons:

(a) To be suspended from all or any specific football matches or competitions either indefinitely or for a stated period.

(b) To be fined, either with or without suspension and any such fine shall be paid within fourteen (14) days.

(c) To be reprimanded or cautioned.

(d) To close the venue of the club either permanently or for a stated period.”

This Committee is also mindful of Article 11(2)(d) of the Disciplinary Code and consequently shall make the necessary consequential orders to that effect.

It must be noted that this situation caused by Wamanafo Mighty Royals affects the image of the Division One League and Ghana football.

The effects of the misconduct on all stakeholders cannot be quantified and should not be lost on all who are interested in the growth of the game. It is in regard that the severest of

punishment allowed under the regulations must be applied to serve as deterrent to all other clubs.

There is no doubt that the sanctity of the competition must be maintained to attract the sponsorship and also to guarantee the needed mileage for all stakeholders and clubs alike.

This Committee is of the view that the right signals must be sent to all clubs in this respect and would therefore apply more than the minimum punishment in this respect.

DECISIONS

The Disciplinary Committee having satisfied itself that the evidence adduced before it supports the charges of misconduct against the club and hereby finds the club guilty of all six charges in accordance with Article 16(1) of the GFA Disciplinary Code (2019) and consequently decides as follows:

- 1. That Wamafo Mighty Royals FC is hereby ordered to pay a fine of Eighteen Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc18,000.00) in accordance with Article 37(1)(b) of the GFA Division One League Regulations (2019).**
- 2. That the Club is further fined an amount of Two Thousand Ghana Cedis (GHc2,000.00) to be used for payments of the medical expenses of the affected Match Officials.**
- 3. That Wamafo Mighty Royals FC is banned from playing its home matches at the Wamafo Community Park for the rest of the 2020/21 league season in accordance with Article 37(1)(d) of the GFA Division One League Regulations (2019).**
- 4. That in accordance with Article 37(1)(b) of the Division One League Regulations all the fines mentioned above shall be paid within fourteen (14) days, failing which the club shall automatically forfeit its matches until full payments of the fines are made.**
- 5. That should Wamafo Mighty Royals FC be dissatisfied with this Ruling, the club has within three (3) days of being notified of this Ruling to appeal to the Appeals Committee.**



**CHAIRMAN
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
April 21, 2021**