

DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE* IN RESPECT OF THE APPEAL FILED BY AMIDAUS PROFESSIONALS AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.

DATE: 7th MAY, 2021.

The Ghana Football Association preferred charges against Amidaus Professionals under Articles 13(1) and 13 (3) of the Division One League (DOL) Regulators.

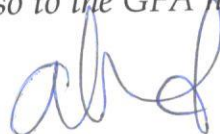
The Disciplinary Committee of the F.A considered the charges and after a hearing imposed sanctions under Article 33 on Amidaus Professionals.

Dissatisfied with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee, Amidaus Professionals has filed the instant appeal on the grounds that the Disciplinary Committee erred when it held that the club had violated Articles 13(1) and 13 (3) of the Division One League (DOL) Regulators. The club also raised, among other grounds that the Disciplinary Committee erred in imposing sanctions on the Club under Article 33(1) (f) of the Division One League (DOL) Regulations.

Since this appeal is by way of rehearing we have reviewed all documents and submissions presented to the Disciplinary Committee. We have also reviewed the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and the Written Submissions of Amidaus Professionals in support of the instant appeal.

Article 13(2) of the Division One League (DOL) Regulators provides as follows;

"Any club intending to withdraw from any competition must give notice of its intention to do so to the GFA not later than fourteen (14)



days before the commencement of the competition, should the Club fail to comply with this regulation the Association shall have the power to compel such offending club to refund any expenses incurred and take such further action as it may deem fit"

Article 13(3) grants jurisdiction to the Disciplinary Committee to deal with any club which breaches Article 13(2) of the Division One League (DOL) Regulations and impose sanctions including bans and demotions.

The facts are that Amidaus Professionals failed to register its players to enable the club participate in the current DOL League. The effect of the non-registration is that the Club could not honor any fixture. Every club has a responsibility to register its players and if it fails to do so it cannot use its internal issues as an excuse.

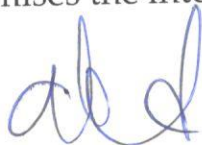
Our perusal of all the documents relating to the failure of the club to register its players and participate in the League does not show any just cause.

We disagree with the club when it submits in its Written Statement that its failure to register players and honour its fixtures does not amount to a withdrawal from the DOL League.

In our view, failure to register players without just cause prior to the commencement of the league amounts to withdrawal from the league. The charges against Amidaus Professionals are therefore proper.

The subsequent registration of its players and playing of some games later does not amount to a waiver of the breaches under Article 13 of the Division One League (DOL) Regulators.

In our view, all the matches played after the club registered its players are null and void as it compromises the integrity of the competition. The Ghana



Football Association should have preferred the charges against Amidaus immediately the club failed to register and honour its first game.

This committee hereby declares any match played by Amidaus Professionals after they failed to register its players at the commencement of the competition and thus failed to honour its fixtures, null and void. No club shall be awarded any points or goals from the said matches as Amidaus Professionals was not qualified to play these matches on account of its withdrawal from the competition.

In our view, this is not a simple case of a club failing to honour a fixture. The club could not have honored the fixture because it had not registered its players. No team is therefore entitled to be awarded three points and three goals.

We are of the view that beyond the imposition of a ban and/or demotion after a finding that the club is in breach of Article 13(2), the Disciplinary Committee should not have imposed any other sanctions.

We shall substitute our own sanctions and demote Amidaus Professionals to Division 2. The appeal is accordingly dismissed.

AGBESI K. DZAKPASU

CHAIRMAN

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