

**DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE\* IN RESPECT OF THE  
APPEAL BY REFEREE FORSTER BARSTIOURS AGAINST THE  
DECISION OF THE MATCH REVIEW PANEL.**

**DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2021.**

The Appeals Committee is mandated by the Regulations on Match Review dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 to hear appeals against decisions of the Match Review Panel.

In determining this appeal by way of re-hearing, we have examined the video footages from the Match Day 12 fixture between Tamale City FC and Steadfast FC. We have also read the decision of the Match Review Panel.

Pursuant to a review of a game the Match Review Panel has the power "to suspend, for a number of matches or for a period, match officials for poor or bad officiating".

We note from the wording of the regulations that save for obvious poor officiating, the application of the rule is very subjective.

The "observations, findings and grounds of the decision" which were the basis of the decision of the Match Review Panel could not be established by this committee when we watched the videos.

In our view, human error is allowed in match officiating and therefore unless there is some other independent evidence to show that a particular decision by a referee was not made in error but was deliberate, it will not be in the interest of justice to punish such a Match Official.

In our view, the Match Review Panel erred in concluding that the official handled the match incompetently.



We shall accordingly set aside the decision of the Match Review Panel. The ban imposed on the referee, Foster Barstours, is hereby set aside.

We are of the view that even though the Assistant referee has not filed any appeal before us, the decision to ban him made Match Review Panel should also be set aside and is hereby set aside.

We wish to address an issue of concern to us in the processes leading to the decision making by the Match Review Panel. We have observed that the affected match officials were not granted any opportunity to respond to the observations of the Match Review Panel. This is another reason for setting aside the decision of the Match Review Panel.

We are of the view that the rules of natural justice requires all adjudicating committees to grant affected parties a hearing before arriving at their decisions, particularly if such a decision is in the nature of a punishment.

We hope the General Secretary will issue a circular to all judicial bodies of the Ghana Football Association to that effect.



AGBESI K. DZAKPASU  
CHAIRMAN

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