



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Protest Case: No. FAC 1 – 2021

CORAM

1. Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq. - Chairman
2. Mr. Emmanuel Nikoi - Member
3. Mr. Nathaniel Laryea - Member

TECHIMAN CITY FC VRS UNITY FC

PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THEIR MTN FA CUP MATCH
AT OHENE AMEYAW PARK, TECHIMAN

PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Article 56 of the GFA Statutes (2019) and Articles 30(c) of the FA Cup Regulations, this Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) considered the depositions from the two clubs, the reports of the match officials and the video of the match.

Following the report by the Match Officials that the match ended abruptly in the 92min (note that four minutes was showed as injury time to be played), this matter was referred to this Disciplinary Committee for a Decision.

This Committee gave the two clubs opportunity for statements from both clubs.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

STATEMENT TECHIMAN CITY FC

In the club statement sent by Mark Mainoo (Secretary), the club wrote as follows:

“Techiman City Football Club sends its compliments and wishes to inform you said match ended at the Nana Ameyaw Park 2-1 in favour of Techiman City Football Club.

This is the most ridiculous statement we have ever heard in Association football from the Ghana Football Association. Referee Mahama Ewuntoma whistled after 5 minutes added time.

Techiman City Football Club scored the winning goal before added time. The Away team Unity FC protested about the goal and started attacking the match officials.

The referee later came to the centre circle, whistled and ended proceedings.

As far as we are concerned as Techiman City Football Club, the match ended with Techiman City Football Club winning by 2-1”.

STATEMENT BY UNITY FC

In the club statement sent by Asante Bismark (Administrative Manager), the club wrote a number of complaints against the referee and on the incident, which is the subject of this case, the club stated as follows:

“The 4th referee showed 4mins added time and in the 94th minutes the away team had a corner kick which a player from the home team headed the ball toward our goal and our number 5 headed the ball out of the post. In about 15 seconds Referee Mahama Ewuntomah whistled for a goal and when our players confronted him Referee Mahama Ewuntomah pounced on our player, Prince Nana Amofa on his cheek for blood to ooze from his mouth.

Center Referee Mahama Ewuntomah later fell slowly on the field like a robot and said he will not officiate the game again and was protected by the security men on the field to the dressing room without ending the game.

We wish to state that the match should be played again with competent match officials on a different match venue to determine the real winner for the next game and provided cameraman to capture the game because there was no cameraman for the match”.

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

The Committee considered all the evidence of the match (the match officials reports and the video of the match) and finds that the game was halted on 92nd minute after officials and players of Unity FC attacked the referee.

The Referee Report states as follows:

On the 92nd minute of the match (note that 4 minutes of additional time was being played), the Home Team (Techiman City FC) scored a goal. The Head Coach of the Away Team (Unity FC) and player number 13 (Kwame Boakye) rushed on to the field of play for reasons best known to them only. The Head Coach held my shirt and player number 13 slapped me from the back. Before I could turn, player number 91 punched my face.

.... It must be noted that, the assault on me by the away team (Unity FC) Head coach and some of his players brought an end to the match. Hence we could not exhaust the entire 4 minutes of the additional time added”.

It is the finding of the Committee that the match did not continue after the incident. The relevant regulation on this matter is very clear. Article 33 of the FA Cup Regulations allows for the application of Article 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Premier League Regulations in this matter.

Article 33 of the FA Cup Regulations states as follows:

“The Articles of the GFA Statutes, GFA Regulations, the GFA Disciplinary Code and any other Regulations of the Ghana Football Association for the Premier League which are of general application including but not limited to Status of Players and Registration of players, Match Day Count Down, Pre-Match Technical Meeting, shall apply to the FA Cup mutatis mutandis”.

Article 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Premier League Regulations read as follows:

A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where that team positions itself in such a way as to render the progress of the game impossible or the player(s) or supporter(s) of the team initiate(s) an act responsible for the abrupt end of the match.

It is the finding of this Committee that the acts of the players of the away team at the 92nd minute of the game, as shown in the video, led to the abrupt end of the match. Unity FC were, thus, caught in the web of Article 33(1)(b) of the Premier League Regulations.

The second part of the regulation is very instructive on the subject matter. It simply punishes the club to which, the official(s) or the player(s) who *initiates the act responsible* for the end of the match belongs to.

DECISIONS

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

1. That for Unity FC initiating the acts responsible for causing the abrupt end of the match, Unity FC shall forfeit the match in accordance with Article 33 of the FA Cup Regulations and Article 33(1)(b) of the Premier League Regulations.
2. That having been found to have forfeited the match, Unity FC shall be considered as having lost the match by 3-0 in accordance with Articles 33(2) and 34(12) thereof and accordingly, three (3) goals are hereby awarded in favour of Techiman City FC. Techiman City FC therefore advances to the next stage of the competition.
3. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Unity FC is hereby fined Two Thousand and Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,000.00) payable to the GFA pursuant to Article 34 of the FA Cup Regulations.
4. That the fine mentioned in Decision 3 above, shall be paid to the GFA within fourteen (14) days upon receipt of this Ruling, failing which Unity FC shall forfeit their subsequent matches after the said deadline.
5. That should any party be dissatisfied with or aggrieved by this Decision, the party has within one (1) day of being notified of this Ruling to appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Ghana Football Association {See Article 31 of the FA Cup Regulations}.



Osei Kwadwo Addo, Esq.
Chairman, Disciplinary Committee
Thursday, May 27, 2021