

**DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE* ON THE APPEAL BY
EBUSUA DWARFS FC AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.**

DATE: 27TH MAY, 2021.

This is our decision in respect of an appeal filed by Ebusua Dwarfs FC against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee dated 19th May, 2021.

The facts are that during the Premier League match played between Ebusua Dwarfs FC and Legon Cities at the Cape Coast Stadium on May 9th 2021, the Match Officials failed to turn up on the field of play to officiate the second half of the match.

Legon Cities lodged a protest with the Disciplinary Committee (DC) and prayed to be declared winners of the abandoned game because Ebusua Dwarfs had caused the abrupt end of the game. The Disciplinary Committee agreed with Legon Cities and declared them winners of the game and made consequential orders relating to the award of points and goals and other related sanctions.

Ebusua Dwarfs FC feeling aggrieved by the decision of the DC has filed the instant appeal for our consideration.

In determining the appeal which is by way of rehearing, we have reviewed all documents made available to the Disciplinary Committee and also watched videos of some incidents from the match.

Ebusua Dwarfs FC appealed on the following grounds;

"1. That the decision of the Disciplinary Committee is against the weight of Evidence.



2. That the Disciplinary Committee erred when it held that the Appellant initiated the acts responsible for causing the abrupt end of the match.

3. That the Disciplinary Committee erred when it presumed the Match Reports to be factual despite clear evidence to the contrary.

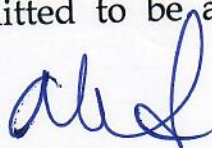
4. That the Disciplinary Committee erred when it failed to consider the Police Report on the Security deployed during the match between the parties"

We shall consider the appeal in its entirety without considering each ground of appeal on its own. In our view, the sole ground we should consider and which indeed covers all the other grounds is the Omnibus ground that the decision is "against the weight of evidence".

In its written submissions, this is what was stated in the concluding part by Ebusua Dwarfs FC;

"From the above it is clear that had the Police Report been considered, the Disciplinary Committee would have reached a different conclusion. The approach of the match by only 15 persons suspected to be supporters of the Appellant in the presence of the beefed up security cannot be responsible for the abrupt end of a match. In fact the Match Officials made no attempt to continue the match. The failure of the Match Officials to continue the match cannot be attributed to the Appellant or its supporters".

Ebusua Dwarfs does not dispute the fact that its supporters entered areas of the Stadium they were not permitted to be and confronted the Match Officials.



To the club, being confronted by 15 persons at half time when Ebusua Dwarfs FC was down by a goal should not amount to the officials refusing to appear for the second half of the game.

The report of the officials further indicated that aside the fans who confronted them in the tunnel two named officials of Ebusua Dwarfs entered the dressing room at half time to issue further threats and also accused them of having been bribed by Legon Cities.

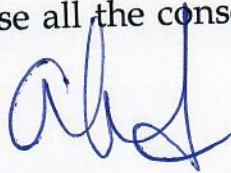
Ebusua Dwarfs admits that two of its officials indeed went to the dressing room of the Match Officials but deny that any threats or bribery allegations were made by them.

This is what is stated in the Police Report dated 18th May, 2021 and submitted to us as part of the appeal record,

"...As the escort moved, the crowd started issuing threats of all kinds to wit "If you don't officiate well and we do not win, you will not be spared". They were also pointing their hands at the Match Officials and some of them were pushing the Police Officers protecting the Officials".

Clearly, there is no dispute relating to the fact that the officials were threatened by fans of Ebusua Dwarfs at half time. The officials being afraid for their lives, refused to appear for the second half of the game.

The Disciplinary Committee concluded that the abrupt end of the game was caused by fans of Ebusua Dwarfs and we agree with their conclusion. We further agree with the decision that Legon Cities succeeds with its protest against Ebusua Dwarfs and endorse all the consequential orders made by the Disciplinary Committee.



The appeal is hereby dismissed and Ebusua Dwarfs shall comply with the decision of the Disciplinary Committee within 7 days of being notified with our decision.



AGBESI K. DZAKPASU
CHAIRMAN

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