

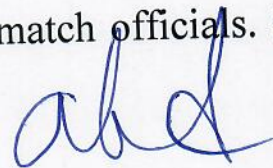
DECISION BY THE APPEALS COMMITTEE* ON THE APPEAL BY WAMANFO MIGHTY ROYALS FC AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

DATE: 27TH MAY, 2021.

By an appeal dated 22nd April 2021 Wamanfo Mighty Royals FC is challenging the decision of the Disciplinary Committee dated 21st April, 2021 on the following grounds;

1. *The matter was not effectively tried.*
2. *The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee acted in a manner that suggested some prejudice against our club.*
3. *The decision of the Disciplinary Committee was without proof of guilt.*
4. *The Disciplinary Committee erred in arriving at their conclusion in the sense that there was no proof of guilt provided.*
5. *The Prosecutor was absent from the sitting, neither were any material witnesses called to lead any purported evidence against our club”.*

The brief facts were that on 28th March, 2021, during a match between Wamanfo Mighty Royals FC and Bofaokwa Tano at the Wananfo Community Park, supporters of Wamanfo Mighty Royals FC invaded the field of play and physically assaulted the match officials. Subsequently



the GFA charged Wamanfo with six (6) separate counts under the GFA Disciplinary committee.

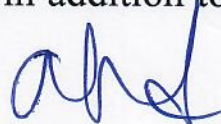
The records made available to us shows that upon being served with the charges, Wamanfo caused a Defence to be filed on their behalf through the Club's Secretary, Victor Rex Oppong Yirenchie indicating that the club was not guilty in respect of three of the charges and guilty of the remaining three.

However, at the hearing by the Disciplinary Committee to consider the charges, the club pleaded not guilty to all the six charges.

We have reviewed the processes filed before the Disciplinary Committee, the videos and pictures relating to the incidents and the decision of the committee.

We wish to state that the Disciplinary Committee or the Judicial Bodies within the Ghana Football Association are no courts of law. These bodies are solely required to comply with the Rules of Natrual Justice by affording clubs, players and officials the opportunity to defend charges brought against them.

The technical rules relating to the conduct of criminal cases in Court are not applicable here. Therefore, in our view, the ground of appeal relating to the absence of the GFA's prosecutor at the hearing of the matter by the Disciplinary Committee is not material. Wamanfo had adequate notice of the charges preferred against the club and in addition to filing a defence

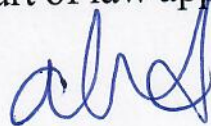


prior to the hearing, the club was also given the opportunity to respond to the charges at the hearing. We shall also dismiss the ground of appeal that “the matter was not effectively tried” as in our view the Disciplinary Committee considered the matter on its merits and afforded the club the opportunity to defend itself.

This appeal is by way of re-hearing and therefore we have considered all the documents presented to the Disciplinary Committee including videos of the incidents.

The videos watched by us shows the criminal assault by supporters of the home club, Wamanfo Mighty Royals FC on the Match Officials in their match with Bofaokwa Tano FC at The Wamanfo Community Park on 28th March, 2021. Indeed, the videos are too graphic and this committee urges the Ghana Police Service to use the videos to identify all the criminals involved and prosecute them in a Court of law.

We are of the view that the evidence supports the decision of the Disciplinary Committee and hereby dismiss the appeal in its entirety. Members of the Ghana Football Association are to take note that the judicial bodies of the GFA are required to act fairly and ensure that the rules of natural justice are respected. They are not Courts of law and therefore it is erroneous for members to assume that technical rules applicable to the conduct of cases in a Court of law apply to these judicial bodies.



We shall now consider the sanctions imposed on the club by the Disciplinary Committee. In our view, the sanctions must be deterrent enough to ensure that other miscreants in our football community will not repeat such bestial conduct at any football venue. We shall endorse all the sanctions imposed on the club except number 3 in the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. We shall substitute that punishment by ordering the venue of Wamanfo Mighty Royals FC, the Wamanfo Community park to be closed permanently by applying Article 37 (1) (d) of the GFA Division One League Regulations dated December 18th, 2019.



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