



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Protest Case: No. P 10 – 2021

CORAM

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| 1. Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq. | - | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Emmanuel Nikoi | - | Member |
| 3. Mr. Nathaniel Laryea | - | Member |
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BOFOAKWA TANO FC vrs KINTAMPO FC

PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THE DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCH PLAYED AT KINTAMPO RAWLINGS PARK

PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Article 56 of the GFA Statutes (2019) and Articles 35(9) of the GFA Division One League Regulations, this Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) considered the depositions from Bofoakwa Tano FC (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) and the Statement of Defence from Kintampo FC (hereinafter referred to as “the Respondent”) with their supporting attachments, the reports of the match officials and the video of the match.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

CASE OF BOFOAKWA TANO FC

Bofoakwa Tano FC (the Petitioner) protested against Kintampo FC for causing the abrupt end of the match between the two sides which was played at the Kintampo Rawlings Park contrary to Article 33(1)(b) of the Division One League Regulations.

In their Statement of Case, Bofoakwa Tano FC stated that after scoring in the 75th minute of match, the spectators of the home team and its management members invaded the field of play and heckled the officiating officials.

It is the case of the Petitioner that, the officiating officials were not able to control the supporters and the officials of the Respondent. The Petitioner added that after some minutes, the Match Officials were sent to the Dressing room for protection. The Petitioner stated that the Match Officials were protected from the supporters of the Respondent for about an hour and thirty minutes until Police reinforcement came from the Kintampo Police headquarters (District) to assist to maintain calm at the park.

The Petitioner also added that with the District Police Commander, calm was maintained, and the officials returned to continue the match at about 6:30pm.

The Petitioner however said that after about a minute of play ended, the match was ended for security reasons. The Petitioner referred the Committee to the Referee's Report submitted to the GFA.

The Petitioner prayed the Committee to be declared winner of the match and awarded three points and three goals in accordance with Article 33(2) of Division One League Regulations.

DEFENCE OF KINTAMPO FC

In its Statement of Defence, the Respondent claimed that the Officiating Officials informed both teams that they were going into the dressing room to review the goal incident and delayed for about 1:45 minutes.

According to the Respondent, after darkness set in and the jersey colours could not be identified, the attempt to resume the match couldn't materialize. The Respondent therefore prayed the Committee to resume the match from where it was called off and dismiss the claims of the Petitioner.

The Respondent explained that there was no goal scored by the Petitioner in the 75th minute of the said match but rather a ball hit the bar of the goalpost and bounced back to the field of play without crossing the goal line. The Respondent claimed that the Assistant Referee signaled to the Referee that it was a goal amidst protests from the Respondent. The Respondent indicated that the Referee then approached the Assistant Referee for a discussion which took about 5 minutes.

According to the Respondent, the Referee called the other Match Officials including the GFA Cameraman to the Dressing room for a review of the goal incident and not for protection as claimed by the Petitioner. The Respondent referred the Committee to the video recording of the said match.

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

The Petitioner stated that the Respondent should suffer forfeiture for in accordance with Article 33(1)(b) and Article 32(2) of the Division One League Regulations.

The Petitioner accused Kintampo FC of causing the abrupt end of the match between the two sides which was played at the Kintampo Rawlings Park on May 26, 2021 contrary to Article 33(1)(b) of the Division One League Regulations. On the other, the Respondent claimed that the abrupt end of the match was as a result of poor visibility at the stadium after the match run into the evening. The Respondent therefore called on the Committee to rule that the match continues from where it ended abruptly.

According to the Referee's report, after whistling for a goal scored in the 75th minute of the match, supporters of the home team invaded the inner perimeter and heckled the Assistant Referee One. As a result of the pitch invasion by the fans, the match was held up for about ten minutes and that the fans insisted that the Referee change the goal decision otherwise they would not allow the game to continue.

The Referee stated that when the match officials finally had access to the dressing room the supporters of the home team surrounded the exits of the dressing room amidst threats to beat the referees to death if they fail to continue the match.

The Referees Report further indicated that when the match officials were ready to restart the match, the officials of the home team again insisted that the decision on the goal scored is reversed else the game will not continue. The Referees stated that they were held hostage in the dressing room for about an hour before the police reinforcement team arrived.

The report further stated that the District Police Commander managed to convince the supporters and brought the Match Officials out to continue the match. However the Referee added that one minute after restarting the match they could not continue due to the poor visibility. He then added that the match officials were then taken to Kintampo District police headquarters for safety.

The Report of the Match Commissioner also corroborated the Referee's report.

The relevant regulation on this matter is very clear. Article 33(b) of the GFA Division One 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 by invading the inner perimeter after the goal was scored in the 75th minute, the supporters of the home team initiated acts that caused the abrupt end of the match. The acts of the supporters of the home team, held the match for over an hour which resulted in the match running into the evening when visibility was poor. Had the match continued after the 75th minute goal, the match would have ended before darkness sets in.

Kintampo FC were, thus, caught in the web of Article 33.1(b) of the GFA Division One 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) or the supporter(s) who **initiates the act responsible** for the end of the match belongs to.

It is the finding of the Committee that the supporters of Kintampo FC who should not be in the inner perimeter, or the dressing room area were the initiators of the acts which led to the abrupt end of the match.

DECISIONS

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

- 1. That it is the holding of the Committee that protest of Bfoakwa Tano FC shall succeed.**
- 2. That for Kintampo FC initiating the acts responsible for causing the abrupt end of the match, Kintampo FC shall forfeit the match in accordance with Article 33(1)(b) of the GFA Division One League Regulations.**
- 3. That having been found to have forfeited the match, Kintampo FC shall be considered as having lost the match in accordance with Articles 33(2) & (12) of the GFA Division One League Regulations and accordingly, three points and three (3) goals are hereby awarded in favour of Bfoakwa Tano FC.**

4. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Kintampo FC shall lose three (3) points from the club's accumulated points from their previous matches pursuant to Article 33(5)(a) of the GFA Division One League Regulations.
5. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Kintampo FC is hereby fined Two Thousand Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,500.00) payable to the GFA, 50% of which shall be paid to Bofokwa Tano FC pursuant to Article 33(5)(b) of the GFA Division One League Regulations.
6. That in addition, being the defaulting club and being the Home Team, Kintampo FC is hereby ordered to pay an amount of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢500.00) payable to the GFA, which shall be paid to Bofokwa Tano FC as their Transportation Cost as the Away Team pursuant to Article 33(5)(c) of the GFA Division One League Regulations.
7. That the fines mentioned in Decisions 4 and 5 above, shall be paid to the GFA within fourteen (14) days upon receipt of this Ruling, failing which Kintampo FC shall forfeit their subsequent matches after the said deadline.
8. 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 35(10) of the GFA Division One League Regulations}.



Osei Kwadwo Addo, Esq.
Chairman, Disciplinary Committee
Thursday, June 24, 2021