



**IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE
GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

Protest Case: No. P 20 – 2021

PANEL

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| 1. Carla Olympio, Esq. | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shaibu Ali | - | Member |
| 3. David Okyere | - | Member |
| 4. Justice Yeboah | - | Member |
| William Bossman | - | Secretary |
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TAMALE CITY FC v YOUNG APOSTLES FC

**PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THE DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCH
PLAYED AT SUNYANI CORONATION 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 Tamale City FC (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioners”) and the Statement of Defence from Young Apostles FC (hereinafter referred to as “the Respondents”) with their supporting attachments, the reports of the match officials and the video of the match.

SUMMARY OF FACTS:

CASE OF TAMALE CITY FC:

The Petitioners lodged a Protest against the Respondents for using an unqualified or ineligible coach in the Division One League match between them at the Sunyani Coronation Park on 28th April 2021, contrary to Article 33(1) (e) of the Division One League Regulations.

It is the case of the Petitioners that the Respondents used Mr. Peter Domfeh Oppong who is registered in the FIFA Connect system as a Club Official with FIFA ID No. IOR5199 as Head Coach for the said match. The Petitioners allege that Mr. Domfeh Oppong’s name appeared on the team sheet in the Competition’s Management System as “Head Coach” with reg. no GHQ0355M despite not possessing the requisite License B Certificate to coach a Division One League club. They allege therefore that he, and the respondents, were as a result in breach of the relevant Division One League Regulations and the Club Licensing Regulations.

The Petitioner attached a copy of Mr. Oppong’s registration in the FIFA Connect system as well as a copy of the team sheet for the said match.

Based on the above allegations, the Petitioners requested that the Respondents be held to have forfeited the match pursuant to Article 33(1)(e), Article 33(2) of the Division One League Regulations and Article 16(6)(b) of the GFA Club Licensing Regulations in spite of the Respondents having in fact won the game by 2 goals to 1 on the match day. The Petitioners further prayed that the Committee declare them the winners of the said match, and to credit them with three (3) points and three (3) goals in accordance with the relevant regulations.

DEFENCE OF YOUNG APOSTLES FC:

The Respondents in their Statement of Defence stated that Mr. Peter Domfeh Oppong was not their Head Coach in the said match. They argue that Mr. Peter Domfeh Oppong is a Club Official with FIFA ID IOR5199 and Ghana Football Association member card number card ID GHA05546M, that he was registered as Club Official with a role as “Sports Director”, and that he attended the match in that capacity.

The Respondents emphasized that their Head Coach and Assistant Coaches are registered in the FIFA Connect System as Coaches and not Club Officials. They point out that registration of coaches includes their coaching certificates and appointment letters which are also sent to the Club Licensing Board.

The Respondents pointed out that the matchday list/team sheet of Registered Officials and Players which the Petitioners sought to rely on to prove that Mr. Domfeh Oppong attended the match as a Head Coach was produced, as is standard, by the Competitions Department of the GFA and not by their club. They added that Clubs do not have access to generate Team Lists from the Competitions Management System. The Respondents attached as supporting evidence the following:

- A copy of Mr. Domfeh Oppong’s FIFA Membership ID and
- A copy of the GFA Connect details showing his Status of Registration and his designated role as a “Club Official”, “Sports Director” at the Club.

The Respondent in closing therefore argued that the Protest of the Petitioners lacked merit, and prayed the Disciplinary Committee to dismiss it.

FINDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION:

The Petitioners stated that in their opinion, the Respondents should suffer forfeiture in accordance with Article 33(1)(e) of the Division One League Regulations which provides as follows:

“A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where it fields an unqualified player(s) or team official(s)”.

In backing up their claim that the Respondents wrongly used Mr. Peter Domfeh Oppong as a Head Coach in the Division One League match against them, the Petitioners provided a copy of

the day's Team Sheet that appeared to indicate initials showing that Mr. Domfeh Oppong appeared as the Young Apostles FC Head Coach.

In investigating the matter, the Committee requested from the GFA the records of the team list that had been submitted by the Respondents to the GFA, before it was inputted into the GFA Competition Management System. The records provided to us from the Club Licensing Board that the Respondents had in fact submitted the name of Mohammed Tahiru as the Club's Head Coach, and not that of Mr. Domfeh Oppong. It was also confirmed by independent records provided to us that, as stated by the Respondents, Mr. Domfeh Oppong was indeed duly registered as a Club Official in the FIFA Connect and in the Competition's Management System (CMS).

It is well established that Clubs do not have access to the Competition's Management System. The Competition's Department of the GFA to aid Team Officials in selecting the starting lineup and substitutes generates data on the paper Team Sheet.

It is therefore established that misspelling of names or wrong designation of positions of players and official on the paper Team Sheet may not necessarily be as a result of information provided by the Clubs. In this particular case, it is clear to the Committee that the wrongful designation of Mr. Domfeh Oppong on the paper Team Sheet on the match day appears to have been as a result of a clerical error on the part of the GFA, and not due to a deliberate action on the part of the Respondents.

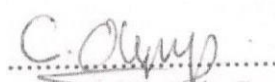
It is the decision of the Committee to uphold the position of the Respondents that Mr. Domfeh Oppong did not attend the match as a Head Coach nor was there any apparent intention on their part for him to do so. Contrary to the assertion of the Petitioners, the evidence from the CMS clearly shows that he is registered and therefore qualified to be on the bench as a registered Club official.

We therefore dismiss the Petitioners application and take the opportunity to urge the GFA going forward to avoid similar clerical errors that, whilst apparently minor, can cause potential confusion on the parts of teams and clubs.

DECISIONS

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

- 1. That the protest of Tamale City FC is dismissed.**
- 2. That there is no order to cost.**
- 3. 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.**



**Carla Olympio, Esq.
Vice Chairman, Disciplinary Committee
Wednesday, June 30, 2021**