

DECISION OF GFA APPEALS COMMITTEE RELATING TO THE APPEAL BY WASSAMAN FC AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF THEIR DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCH WITH STAR MADRID FC PLAYED AT OKESE PARK, EJISU

DATE: 22ND JULY, 2021.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. FELIX H. G. ANYINSAH | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. EMMANUEL KWASI OPARE-WIREDU | MEMBER |
| 3. DAVID ASUMDA | MEMBER |
| 4. FRANK ADDO | MEMBER |
| 5. MABEL AKU BANASEH | MEMBER |

PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Article 56 of the GFA Statutes (2019) and Articles 35(9) of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) Division One League Regulations, this Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the committee") considered the depositions from Star Madrid FC (hereinafter referred to as "the petitioner") with their supporting attachments, the reports of the match officials and the video of the match.

SUMMARY OF THE FACTS

CASE OF STAR MADRID FC

Star Madrid FC (the Petitioner) on Monday February 8, 2021 protested against Wassaman FC (the Respondent) for causing the abrupt end of their division One league Match day 6 match played at Okese Park, Ejisu in contravention of Article 33(1)(a) and (b) of the division One league Regulations.

The Petitioner consequently prayed the Committee to apply Article 33(2)(a) to (e) to declare Wassaman FC as losers and award Star Madrid the three points and three goals accordingly.

The Petitioner further prayed the Committee to deduct three points and three goals from Wassaman FC's accumulated points. Additionally, they prayed the Committee to apply Article 33(5)(b) of the Division One League Regulations.

DEFENCE OF WASSAMAN FC

The Respondent failed to submit a Statement of Defence though the notice of Protest was served on them through the Club's official email (wassamanfootballclub@gmail.com).

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

The Petitioner stated that the Respondent should suffer forfeiture for violating Article 33(1) (a)(b) of the division One League Regulations.

The Petitioner had alleged that Wassaman United FC caused the abrupt end of the match played between the two clubs at the Okese Park in Ejisu.

The Committee considered all the evidence of the match (match officials report and the video of the match) and finds that on the 93rd minute of the match, a goal was ruled out because the Assistant Referee 1 had flagged for a goal kick.

The team owner of the Respondent, Adam Kofi Yamoah (Alhaji), some members of the technical team and a number of supporters ran onto pitch. The referee's report and video of the match indicated that one Technical Team member of the Home Team (Nana Stephen Ahinkorah) slapped the Assistant Referee and the team owner stopped the referees from continuing the match.

The Referees report therefore indicated that the match ended abruptly at the 93rd minute with two minutes more to play.

This Match Commissioner's report also confirmed the reports of the referee's that the match ended abruptly as a result of actions of officials of the home team.

The relevant regulation on this matter is very clear. Article 33(1)(a) and (b) of the Division One League Regulations read as follows:

A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where:

- a. That team walks off the field of play or refuses to continue play.***

b. 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 Officials and some supporters of the home team especially the team Owner, Adam Kofi Yamoah (Alhaji) who was seen in the video dressed in an all-white outfit, led to the abrupt end of the match. Wassaman FC were, thus caught in the web Article 33(1)(b) of the 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 Wassaman FC were the initiators of the acts which led to the abrupt end of the match. The supporters of Wassaman FC also initiated the acts against the match officials that led to the abrupt end of the match.

This conduct of the officials of the home team is a subject of a misconduct charge and therefore this committee shall reserve specific comments about it.

It is the holding that the Protest of Star Madrid FC shall succeed.

DECISIONS

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

- 1. That for Wassaman FC initiating the acts responsible for causing the abrupt end of the match, Wassaman FC shall forfeit the match in accordance with Article 33(1)(b) of the Division One League Regulations.**
- 2. That having been found to have forfeited the match, Wassaman FC shall be considered as having lost the match in accordance with Article 33(2) and 34(12) and accordingly, three points and three (3) goals are hereby awarded in favour of Star Madrid FC.**
- 3. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Wassaman FC shall lose three (3) points from the club's accumulated points from their**

previous matches pursuant to Article 33(5)(a) of the Division One League Regulations.

4. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Wassaman FC is hereby fined Two thousand and Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHC 2,500.00) payable to the GFA, 50% of which shall be paid to Star Madrid FC pursuant to Article 33(5)(b) of the Division One League Regulations.
5. That in addition, being the defaulting club and being the Home Team, Wassaman FC hereby is ordered to pay an amount of Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GHC500.00) payable to the GFA, which shall be paid to Star Madrid FC as their Transportation Cost as the Away Team pursuant to Article 33(5)(c) of the Division One League Regulations.
6. 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 Wassaman FC shall forfeit their subsequent matches after the said deadline.
7. 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 Division One League Regulations}.

DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE.

The Appeals Committee affirms the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

Having considered all the facts and Regulations of the GFA Division One League, the Appeals Committee uphold the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee dated Monday April 27, 2021.

Furthermore, the Appeals Committee adds that Wassaman FC submitted their Statement of Defense two (2) clear days after the decision of the Disciplinary Committee had made and published its decision.

FELIX H. G. ANYINSAH


CHAIRMAN

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