

**DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE\* RELATING TO THE APPEAL BY BEREKUM CHELSEA FC AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE DATED 26<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2021.**

**DATE: 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2021.**

The Appeals Committee of the Ghana Football Association has considered all the processes filed by the parties as well as the decision of Disciplinary Committee in arriving at this decision.

It is not in dispute that the two teams wore their registered strips in the match played at the Golden City Park, Berekum, on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The sole issue for our consideration is whether or not the failure of the outfield player who replaced the injured goalkeeper of West African Football Academy (WAFA) to play with a goalkeeper's strip without a number at the back should result in a forfeiture of the game by WAFA.

We note from the processes filed that WAFA had, prior to the filing of the protest by Berekum Chelsea FC, been fined GH¢1,000.00 by the Ghana Football Association for the breach in issue. The said fine had been imposed on the basis of Article 16(2) of the Premier League Regulations.

In a previous decision of this Committee, we held that generally Article 16(1) refers to what clubs are required to do before the commencement of a football season or a football match.

The protest by Berekum Chelsea can only succeed under Article 33(1)(i) of the Premier League Regulations which provides that;

*"A team commits an offence punishable by forfeiture of a match where it plays in a strip that is not registered with the Association in an official match"*

That match between Berekum Chelsea and WAFA was an official match is not in doubt. Both Clubs agree that the strips used by both Clubs complied with the provisions of the Premier League. However, Berekum Chelsea is





contending that to the extent that the number on the goalkeeper's shirt used by the outfield player of Wafa when he took over in goal was not supposed to be there, Wafa is in breach of the Regulations of the Premier League and should forfeit the match.

We do not find any provision in the Regulations supporting this position. Under Article 33 of the Premier League Regulations relating to forfeiture, there is no such provision supporting the position of Berekum Chelsea and therefore we dismiss the appeal on this point.

In respect of the assertion that Wafa used more than three substitutes in the said match because of the numbering at the back of the strip used by the outfield player who took over in goal, we find as a fact that he was not a new player who was introduced after the goalkeeper of Wafa got injured and dismiss the appeal on this point as well.

In the circumstances we endorse the decision of the Disciplinary Committee. We shall award costs of GH¢2,000.00 against Berekum Chelsea.

AGBESI K. DZAKPASU  
CHAIRMAN



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