



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Protest Case: No. P 28 – 2021

CORAM

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| 1. Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq. | - | Chairman |
| 2. Lorraine Crabbe Ababio Esq | - | Member |
| 2. Emmanuel Nikoi | - | Member |
| 3. Nathaniel Laryea | - | Member |
| 4. Elsie Nana Acheampong | - | Member |
| William Bossman | - | Secretary |
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BEREKUM ARSENALS FC vrs CROCODILES STARS FC

PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THEIR DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCHDAY 26 MATCH PLAYED AT PAGA TOWN 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 Berekum Arsenal FC (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) and the Statement of Defence from Paga Crocodiles 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 BEREKUM ARSENALS FC

Berekum Arsenal FC (the Petitioner) protested against Crocodiles Stars FC (the Respondent) for instigating acts that led to the abrupt end of their Division One League Matchday 26 match played at the Paga Town Park.

It is the case of Berekum Arsenal FC that the Respondent breached Article 33(1)(a)(b) and Article 34(4) of the Division One League Regulations.

Berekum Arsenal FC alleged that Crocodiles Stars FC supporters and officials invaded the park which resulted in the abrupt end of the Division One League match between the two sides. The Petitioner states that the supporters of the home team entered the inner perimeter and assaulted the match officials bringing the match to an abrupt end.

The Petitioner prays the Disciplinary Committee to declare Berekum Arsenal FC as winners of the said match and award Berekum Arsenal FC with three points and three goals in accordance with Article 33(2) & 33(10) of the GFA Division One League

Regulations. The Petitioner also prayed the Committee to apply 33(5)(a)(b) on the Respondent.

DEFENCE OF CROCODILE STARS FC

The Respondent in the Statement of Defence, stated that while it frowns on their supporters invading the inner perimeter during the match, the referee for the said match was abysmal. The Respondent added that the supporters could not withstand the poor manner in which the referee was handling the game.

The Respondent alleged that officials of Berekum Arsenal FC came to them pleading that Paga Crocodiles FC allows them win. According to the Respondent, after declining the request of the Petitioner, Berekum Arsenal went to see the Referees during the half time to win the game.

The Respondent then referred to the penalty which the Referee awarded to the Petitioner and described it as “very soft penalty” in the 97th minute. The Respondent also referred to the video of the match as their evidence and added that Berekum Arsenal FC did not deserve the three points in the said match.

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

The Match Commissioner stated as follows:

In the 90th minute plus 2minutes, (90+2) referee awarded a penalty against the Home Team (Paga Crocodile FC). Quickly some fans believed to be Paga Crocodiles FC supporters stormed the field of play and attacked the referee both verbally and physically. Some of the supporters used a blow to hit the head and back of the referee. Timely intervention of the Police helped in saving the referees. The fans spontaneously threw stones unto the field of play severally, hence, the match ending abruptly. The Police called for the reinforcement team who aided in sending the match officials to the Paga District Police Station where an official report was made by the referees.

According to the Referee’s report, after awarding a penalty to Crocodiles Stars FC, fans of the home team stormed the field of play and attacked the Referee verbally and physically. The Referee stated that some of the supporters hit his head and his back till the Police came to his rescue. According to the Referee, the spontaneous throwing of stones by supporters of the home team led to the abrupt end of the match. The Referee concluded that the Police Reinforcement team took the Match Officials to the Paga District Police Station where they filed an official report.

Thus, the reports of the Match officials confirm that the match ended abruptly after the fans of the Crocodile Stars FC entered the inner perimeter.

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 penalty was awarded, the supporters of the home team initiated acts that caused the abrupt end of the match.

Crocodile Stars 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 Crocodile Stars FC who should not be in the inner perimeter 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 Berekum Arsenal FC shall succeed.
2. That for Crocodile Stars FC initiating the acts responsible for causing the abrupt end of the match, Crocodile Stars 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, Crocodile Stars 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 Berekum Arsenal FC.
4. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Crocodile Stars 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, Crocodile Stars 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 Berekum Arsenal 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, Crocodile Stars 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 Berekum Arsenal 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 Crocodile Stars 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.



Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq.
Chairman, Disciplinary Committee
Thursday, July 15, 2021