



IN THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE GHANA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Protest Case: No. D22- 2022

CORAM

- | | | |
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| 1. Osei Kwadwo Adow, Esq. | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Emmanuel Nikoi | - | Member |
| 3. Nathaniel Laryea | - | Member |
| 4. Lorraine Ababio Crabbe, Esq. | - | Member |
| 5. Elsie Nana Acheampong | - | Member |
| William Bossman | - | Secretary |

KOTOKU ROYALS FC VS KPANDO HEART OF LIONS FC

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PROTEST IN RESPECT OF THEIR DIVISION ONE LEAGUE MATCHDAY 18 GAME PLAYED AT THE AKIM ODA STADIUM

PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with Article 56(3) of the Statutes of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) and Articles 35 of the Division One League Regulations, the Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) considered the depositions from Kotoku Royals Football Club (hereinafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) and Kpando Heart of Lions Football Club (hereinafter referred to as “the Respondent”) together with the supporting attachments and the reports of the match officials.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

CASE OF KOTOKU ROYALS FC

Kotoku Royals FC (the Petitioner) filed a protest against Kpando Heart of Lions FC (the Respondent) for fielding an unqualified player in the person of Abdul Mohammed Musah (jersey no. 2) in the Division One league match between the two sides at Akim Oda Sports Stadium on the Sunday 20th March, 2022.

It is the case of Kotoku Royals FC that player Abdul Mohammed Musah (jersey no.2) of Heart of Lions FC had received three cautions prior to Matchday 18 and was suspended for the said match.

Kotoku Royals provided the records of the player as follows:

KPANDO HEART OF LION FC VRS VISION FC (MATCH DAY 2)- CAUTIONED

KPANDO HEART OF LIONS FC VRS KOTOKU ROYALS FC (MATCH DAY 3)
CAUTIONED

KWAEBIBIREM UNITED FC VRS KPANDO HEART OF LIONS FC (MATCH DAY 6) CAUTIONED

KPANDO HEART OF LIONS VRS AKOSOMBO KRYSTAL PALACE (MATCH DAY 7)–THE PLAYER ABDUL MOHAMMED MUSAH SERVED THE SUSPENSION ON THIS PARTICULAR MATCH.

KPANDO HEART OF LIONS FC VRS SUSUBIRIBI (MATCH DAY 13)
CAUTIONED

KPANDO HEART OF LIONS VRS AKATSI ALL STARS (MATCH DAY 15)
CAUTIONED

VISION FC VRS KPANDO HEART OF LIONS FC (MATCH DAY 17)
CAUTIONED

According to Kotoku Royals FC, by failing to serve the one-match suspension and playing in the said match, Heart of Lions FC has violated Article 28.1(e) and 28.2(a) of the GFA Division One League Regulations.

Kotoku Royals FC added that Heart of Lions FC ought to have known that the player is unqualified to play in the said match since the Competitions Management System alerts clubs about unqualified players ahead of matches.

The Petitioner therefore the GFA Disciplinary Committee should punish Heart of Lions FC for violating Article 28.1(e), 28.2(a), 33.1(e) 33.2, and 33.5(a)(b) of the GFA regulations and award us three(3) points three(3) goals in the said match in favour of Kotoku Royals FC.

The Petitioner attached a copy of the Team Sheet of Heart of Lions FC, a picture of the player at the match, proof that the Heart of Lions FC was alerted prior to the match and proof of payment of the Protest fees.

DEFENCE OF HEART OF LIONS FC

In their defence, Heart of Lions FC admitted that the player was suspended for the said match and the Club was duly noted that he was unavailable for the match.

According to the Respondent, unintentionally without malice, the player's name was inadvertently selected the player's name in the team sheet and could not correct it due to internet challenges before the match kickoff.

Heart of Lions FC stated that attempts to effect changes to the team sheet before kickoff also proved futile and thus pleaded for leniency.

FINDINGS AND GROUNDS OF THE DECISION

This Committee finds that Abdul Mohammed Musah (jersey no. 2) of Hearts of Lions FC received three yellow cards prior to Matchday 18 of the Division One League.

This Committee finds that indeed the said player was unqualified to play in the Division One League match between the two sides at Akim Oda Sports Stadium on the said Sunday 20th March, 2022.

By the Club's own admission, Hearts of Lions FC admitted to have named the said player who was unqualified to play in the match in the squad list unintentionally.

Article 28 (2) (a) of the Division One League Regulations is clear that:

"An unqualified player SHALL NOT TAKE PART in any match for which he is unqualified to play."

Heart of Lions FC by its own admission agrees that it included Abdul Mohammed Musah (jersey no. 2) in the squad list for the said match when he was clearly unqualified to take part in the match.

The picture evidence and the video of the match also showed that the player was at the match and also sat at the Team Bench – clearly these are activities of taking part in the match.

The club could have informed the match officials to delete the mistake or the GFA to do same and more importantly ensure that the player did not come near the match at all.

DECISION

The Committee therefore makes the following decisions:

1. That the protest filed by Kotoku Royals FC shall succeed.
2. That having been found to have forfeited the match, Heart of Lions FC shall be considered as having lost the match in accordance with Articles 33(2) and 34(12) and accordingly, three points and three (3) goals are hereby awarded in favour of Kotoku Royals FC.
3. That in addition, being the defaulting club, Heart of Lions 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, Heart of Lions FC is hereby fined Two Thousand and Five Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢2,500.00) payable to the GFA, 50% of which shall be paid to Kotoku Royals FC pursuant to Article 33(5)(b) of the Division One League Regulations.
5. That the fines mentioned above, shall be paid to the GFA within fourteen (14) days upon receipt of this Ruling, failing which Heart of Lions FC shall forfeit their subsequent matches after the said deadline.
6. 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
Monday, May 23, 2022