



CAF DISCIPLINARY BOARD
DECISION 001 – CAI – 28.06.2022

General Secretary
Ghana Football Association

Cairo, July 3rd, 2022

Re: Protest submitted by the FRMF against the eligibility of 2 Ghanian players in the frame of the FIFA African Qualifiers U17W.

Dear Sir,

Arising out of the Disciplinary Board's meeting held on 22nd of June 2022, the Board was comprised of:

Mr. Raymond Hack (South Africa)	Chairman
Mr. Issa Sama (Burkina Faso)	Member
Mr. Youssouf Ali Djae (Comores)	Member
Mr. Mustapha Samugabo (Burundi)	Member

At its meeting held on 22nd of June 2022, the Board examined all the documents relevant to the above-mentioned case.

FACTS:

The Moroccan Football Federation (hereinafter the FRMF) submitted a protest before match no. 52 which was duly signed by both team captains and was later followed by a written confirmation of the protest as per the Regulations.

The FRMF alleged that both Ghanian Players: Nancy Amoh and Rasheeda Shahadu have falsified their birthdate information and are over the age of 17 and are therefore considered to be ineligible to play in the competition in question.

In support of its claims, the FRMF provided the disciplinary board with some evidence from the clubs for which the two players played, and this clearly showed discrepancies between the ages they were supposed to have.

The Ghanian Football Association (hereinafter the GFA) was given the opportunity to defend themselves against the said claims by providing the Board with a written response.

The GFA did not provide a statement within the course of these disciplinary proceedings.

MERITS OF CASE:

I. CAF'S COMPETENCE TO THE CASE

Pursuant to articles 40, 42 and 57 of the CAF Statutes, as well as article 3 and 87 of the CAF Disciplinary Code, the CAF Statutes, Disciplinary Code and Regulations are applicable to this procedure.

The competence of the CAF Disciplinary Board results from the following articles:

Pursuant to article 10 of CAF disciplinary code *"the disciplinary Board is authorized to sanction any breach of CAF Regulations which does not come under the jurisdiction of another body of the Confederation"*.

Article 3 of the CAF Disciplinary Code provides that *"By participation in the various CAF competitions, all the persons referred to in article 2 para 2 above acknowledge and accept that they are bound by this code inclusive of any regulations relating to any specific CAF competitions as well as any directives issued by the CAF Secretariat on behalf of the CAF Executive Committee, inclusive of the Laws of the Game as issued by the International Football Association Board."*

In the present case, and in accordance with the aforementioned articles of CAF Disciplinary Code, the CAF Disciplinary Board is competent to deal with the case;

II. RELEVANT PROVISIONS TO THE CASE

The following relevant provisions apply to the case at hand:

Pursuant to article 43 of WAFON Regulations *"if CAF is informed, no matter the source, that a fraud or a forgery was committed by any means and /or support whatsoever by one or more national team(s), an investigation will be opened"*.

Article 44 of WAFON Regulations provides that *" In case the alleged facts are true, the convicted national association will be suspended from participation in the following two editions of the Women Africa Cup of Nations."*

Article 135 of CAF Disciplinary Code stipulates that: *"1. Anyone who, during any football related activity, creates a false document, forges a document, makes a false claim in a document with potentially legal repercussions or uses a forged document to deceive others will be sanctioned with a suspension for at least six (6) matches. 2. If the perpetrator is an official, the body will pronounce*

a ban on performing any football related activity for a period of at least one (1) year. 3. The legal body may also pronounce a fine of at least ten thousand US dollars (\$10.000)...”.

Pursuant article 30 of CAF Disciplinary Code “ 1. *Any type of proof may be produced.*
2. *The only proof that may be rejected is that which violates human dignity or obviously does not serve to establish relevant facts..”.*

Article 31 of Caf Disciplinary Code provides that “1. The legal bodies will: • have absolute discretion regarding proof; • take account of the parties’ attitudes during proceedings, especially the manner in which they cooperate with the legal bodies and the secretariat; • decide on the basis of their personal circumstances”.

III. CONSIDERED

1. Fraud is a serious offence that undermines the principles of fairness, integrity, sportsmanship and ethics that CAF has set itself. For this reason, the fraud is strictly forbidden by CAF Regulations;

2. In the present case, it was reported to the Disciplinary Committee that two players of the GHANA women's team who took part in the U17 Women's World Cup qualifiers are suspected of age fraud.

3. The Disciplinary Board recalls that the GFA has not provided any statement in the framework of the present disciplinary procedure, nor any evidence to refute the arguments alleged in the reports included in the protest, which indicate discrepancies in the age of the players.

4. Applying the principle described in Article 31 and Article 45 para 5 of (DC), the Disciplinary Board has absolute discretion regarding proof and can render a decision on the basis of the file in their possession. In this respect, the Disciplinary Board considers that the evidence provided by the FRMF establishes discrepancies in the age of the players in question.

5. In the view of the above, the disciplinary Board concludes that the violation of Article 44 of CAF WAFCON Regulations, as well as article 135 of CAF Disciplinary Code has been established and that the GFA should be sanctioned accordingly.

IV. DECISION:

CAF Disciplinary Board decided to:

- **Suspend both players: Nancy Amoh player Number 3 and Rasheeda Shahadu player Number 14 for a period of 1 year from all CAF competitions.**
- **Ban the GFA from participating in the next two editions of the FIFA U17W African Qualifiers.**
- **Impose a financial sanction of 100.000 USD upon your federation.**

Payment of 100.000 USD (Hundred Thousand American Dollars) US Dollars must be made within 60 days of the date hereof, in American Dollars to: Bank CIB - Swift Code: CIBEEGCXXX - Account No: 100044333389 - IBAN: EG970010008000000100044333389 OR by Cheque in the name of CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE DE FOOTBALL.

LEGAL ACTION:

This decision can be contested before CAF Appeal Board. The party intending to appeal shall announce his intention in writing within three (3) days of notification of the decision. If the last day of the time limit coincides with a public holiday in the country of residence, the time limit will expire the next day which is not a public holiday.

Reasons for the appeal shall be given in writing within a further time limit of seven (7) days, commencing upon the expiry of the first time limit of three (3) days. The deposit mentioned in article 58 of the CDC must be paid to CAF's account. The appeal is invalid without the relevant deposit within the relevant time limit.

The decision becomes final at the expiration of the appeal deadline.

Best Regards,

**CONFEDERATION AFRICAINE
DE FOOTBALL**



Raymond Hack
Chairman of CAF Disciplinary Board