



IN THE MATTER OF A BREACH OF THE EFL REGULATIONS

IN PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE RULES OF THE ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE

BEFORE:

HIS HONOUR PHILLIP SYCAMORE CBE (CHAIRPERSON)

DAVID BEDENHAM

MARVIN ROBINSON

BETWEEN:

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The EFL

- and -

WIGAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club

-and-

MR ABDULRAHMAN ALJASMI

The UBO

AWARD OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Introduction and Factual Background

1. This is an Award of the Disciplinary Commission dated 17 May 2023.
2. This Award is made further to the Agreed Decision dated 17 January 2023 (“**the January Agreed Decision**”) and the amended Notification of Charges against the Club and the UBO dated 11 May 2023 (“**the Charges**”).



3. The EFL received allegations that the Club failed to pay its Players on two occasions as follows:
 - a. March 2023 – paid on Friday 24 March, as opposed to Friday 10 March; and
 - b. May 2023 – paid on 16 May, as opposed to Friday 5 May.
4. As a result, the Club was charged with Misconduct for failing to comply with Regulation 64.7.
5. The Club also failed to comply with the terms of the January Agreed Decision in that it failed to procure that the UBO deposited 125% of the forecasted monthly wage bill (as required by paragraph 3(b) of the Appendix to the January Agreed Decision).
6. In addition, the UBO is charged with misconduct by failing to comply with an order, requirement, direction or instruction of the EFL in that he failed to comply with the terms of the Appendix to the January Agreed Decision pursuant to Regulation 86.9.
7. As a result, both the Club and the UBO were charged with Misconduct for failing to comply with Regulation 86.9.
8. Regulation 64.7 provides:

“The terms of a Standard Contract between a Club and a Player shall be strictly adhered to.”
9. Regulation 86.9 provides:

“If a Club, Official, Player or other individual (in each case current or former) fails to comply with the terms of an Agreed Decision, they shall be guilty of misconduct.”
10. The Club and the UBO admitted the Charges and in accordance with Regulation 89.3.1, made submissions as to mitigation.
11. A Disciplinary Commission has been appointed, pursuant to Regulation 91, to determine the Charges.

Sanctions Sought by the EFL

12. Having reviewed the Club’s and UBO’s submissions, the EFL sought the following proposed sanction in respect of the Charges:
 - a. An immediate, active three-point deduction applied to the season of 2022/2023 in respect of the Club’s failure to pay the wages in March 2023;
 - b. An active four-points deduction applied for the 2023/2024 season in respect of the Club’s failure to pay the Players’ wages in May 2023, so that the Club will start the 2023/2024 season on -4 points;
 - c. In respect of the Club Deposit Account:



- i. the UBO must deposit an amount equal to 125% of the forecast monthly wage bill in a designated Club account, by 24 May 2023, for calling upon by the Club in the event of any future delays in processing of overseas payments, with obligations around reporting on the operation of the account, an obligation to maintain it at appropriate levels until 30 June 2024, the full terms of which have been set out in an agreement between the EFL and the Club;
- d. A suspended four-points deduction for the 2023/2024 season, to expire on 30 June 2024 if not activated, to become active if:
 - i. Payment is not made by the UBO to the Club Deposit Account pursuant to paragraph 12 (c) above; or
 - ii. There is any failure to pay Players on time from the date of the Order until 30 June 2024.
- e. The UBO is to be fined £10,000 for his breach of Regulation 86.9;
- f. The Club and the UBO is to pay the EFL's costs of £15,000 (plus any applicable VAT);
- g. The Club and the UBO is to pay any applicable costs of the Disciplinary Commission;
- h. the Decision to be published in this format on EFL.com,

the **"Proposed Sanctions"**.

13. It is noted that the Club and the UBO accepted the Proposed Sanctions.
14. Having considered the Charges and the written submissions provided by the parties, the Disciplinary Commission also agree that the EFL's Proposed Sanctions are suitable in the circumstances and as such Award the Proposed Sanctions in favour of the EFL (including but not limited to the costs sought by the EFL of £15,000 plus applicable VAT).
15. This Award shall stand as a decision of the Disciplinary Commission pursuant to Regulation 93.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Sycamore', is written above the name of the signatory.

His Honour Phillip Sycamore CBE
On behalf of the Disciplinary Commission
17 May 2023