



Agreed Decision for Publication

IN THE MATTER OF A BREACH OF THE EFL REGULATIONS

BETWEEN:

THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The EFL

- and -

WIGAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club

AGREED DECISION

Introduction and Factual Background

1. This is an Agreed Decision pursuant to EFL Regulation 86.
2. The EFL received allegations that the Club failed to pay its Players on three occasions as follows:
 - a. June 2022 – paid on Monday 6 June (as opposed to Friday 3 June) due to delay in receipt of payment by the Club following a misunderstanding of the impact of the Jubilee Bank Holiday on bank transfers;
 - b. July 2022 – paid on Monday 4 July instead of Friday 1 July 2022 due to issues with security authentication procedures for the owner; and
 - c. October 2022 – paid on Monday 24 October (as opposed to Friday 21 October) due to a delay in the receipt by the Club of a payment processed by the owner on 20 October 2022, and as such failed to strictly adhere to the terms of each Player’s contract.
3. As a result the Club was to be charged with Misconduct for failing to comply with Regulation 64.7.
4. Regulation 64.7 provides:

“The terms of a Standard Contract between a Club and a Player shall be strictly adhered to.”
5. The Club admitted the Charge and in accordance with Regulation 89.3.1, made submissions as to mitigation.



Agreed Decision and Sanction

6. Regulation 86 allows the EFL and a Club to enter an Agreed Decision where it is appropriate in the circumstances to conclude a matter effectively and equitably without referring the matter to a Disciplinary Commission.
7. Having reviewed the Club's submissions, the EFL Board invited the Club to consider the following proposed sanction in respect of the Charge:
 - a. a suspended 3-point deduction to be immediately activated in the event that the Club breaches Regulation 64.7 on or before 31 December 2023;
 - b. the Club's owner deposits an amount equal to 125% of the forecast monthly wage bill in a designated Club account 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 and a time limit for its operation (until 31 December 2023, provided there has been no call on the amounts during that period), the full terms of which have been set out in an agreement between the EFL and the Club.
 - c. the Club agrees to bear the costs of ratification of the Agreed Decision; and
 - d. the Agreed Decision is to be published in this format on EFL.com,

the "**Proposed Sanction**".

8. The Club accepted the Proposed Sanction.
9. The parties agree that by entering into this Agreed Decision shall not constitute a waiver by the EFL of its rights or remedies (however so arising) in respect of any future breaches of the EFL Regulations by the Club, including but not limited to any further breaches of Regulation 64.7.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Block', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neil Block KC

Dated: 17 January 2023