

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

(on behalf of the Amateur FA ('AFA'))

Participant: Jordan Parker of Junction Elite FC ('JEFC')  
Hearing: Non-Personal Hearing  
Date: 16 December 2022  
Incident: JEFC v AFC Mortlake ('AFCM'). 30 October 2022 (the 'Fixture')

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THE DECISION AND REASONS OF THE COMMISSION

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### Disciplinary Commission

1. The following member was appointed to the Disciplinary Commission:
  - a. Mr Alan Darfi (Independent Chairman appointed by The Football Association);  
(the 'Commission')

### Charges

2. In correspondence dated 21 November 2022, AFA issued a charge letter alleging that Mr Parker had engaged in Improper Conduct against a Match Official including physical contact or attempted physical contact and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour in breach of FA Rule E3. ('Parker Charge').
3. It was alleged that Mr Parker had tried to slap or hit a card out of the referee's hand or similar, during the Fixture.
4. Mr Parker admitted the Parker Charge, requesting the matter be considered at a non-personal hearing.

### Evidence

5. The Commission had received and reviewed the following documents, in advance of the Hearing:
  - a. AFA charge letter, dated 21 November 2022;
  - b. Evidence in support of the Charges, various dates; and
  - c. Response to the Charges, various dates.

### Decision

6. The following is a summary of the principal submissions considered by the Commission. It does not purport to contain reference to all points considered, however the absence in these reasons of any particular point, or submission, should not imply that the Commission did not take such point, or submission, into consideration when the members determined the matter. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished with regard to these cases.
7. As the Parker Charge had been admitted, the Commission dealt only with the level of sanction to be imposed.
8. The Commission noted the referee reported that, after showing Mr Parker a red card, Mr Parker walked towards him whilst 'furious' and tried to 'slap' the card when it was held up. It was noted the referee reported the JFC captain then ran towards Mr Parker and tried to calm him down.
9. The Commission noted Mr Parker apologised for his lack of control and stated he would try and do better in the future.
10. The Commission noted Mr Parker had a clean discipline record in terms of misconduct offences.
11. The Commission noted the physical contact related to the fact that Mr Parker had tried to slap the card out of the referee's hand, but it had not been confirmed that contact had actually been made. The Commission noted Mr Parker also approached the referee confrontationally and seemingly had to be calmed down, but it had not been confirmed that any other attempt to make contact with the referee had been made. The Commission noted

the Charge had been admitted at the first available opportunity, with Mr Parker apologising for his actions.

12. The Commission referred to Regulation 40 of the FA Disciplinary Regulations General Provisions which states 'save where expressly stated otherwise, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to impose any one or more of the following penalties or orders on the Participant Charged...a fine...[and/or] a suspension from all or any specific football activity'.
13. The Commission referred to Regulation 101 of the FA Disciplinary Regulations General Provisions which states 'Where a Charge ... has been found proven against the Participant, a Disciplinary Commission shall impose ... an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.
14. The Commission considered the Football Association Sanction Guidelines which indicated that, for an offence of improper against a Match Official including physical contact, the recommended punishment was a suspension from all football activity for a period of between 112 days and 2 years, with a recommended entry point of 182 days. The Commission noted the recommended fine was up to £150 with a mandatory minimum of £75.
15. The Commission noted that an FA Education course must be imposed for proven offences of Physical Contact or attempted Physical Contact on a Match Official.
16. Taking all of the above points into account, the Commission agreed that a total suspension of 126 days was appropriate, together with a fine of £75. The Commission ordered that Mr Parker complete a face-to-face education course before the term-based suspension is served or be suspended until such time as this course is completed. The Commission ordered that JEFC be issued with 6 discipline penalty points, due to the fact the incident involved physical contact on the referee.
17. The Commission noted Mr Parker had been issued with an interim suspension commencing 21 November 2022 and ordered that the suspension be backdated to commence from this date.

### Outcome

18. The Commission ordered that Mr Parker be:
  - a. Ordered to serve a 126-day suspension from football and all football activities (backdated to commence from 21 November 2022).
  - b. Fined the sum of £75.
  - c. Ordered to attend a face-to-face education programme before the time-based suspension is served or be suspended until such time as this course is completed.
  - d. The Commission ordered that JEFC be issued with 6 penalty points, due to the seriousness of the incident.
19. There is the right to appeal these decisions, in accordance with FA Regulations.

Alan Darfi  
16 December 2022