

**Case 11653951M**  
**Consolidated with**  
**Case 11653949M & 11653950M & 11653947M**  
**&**  
**Case 11653952M & case 11653948M**

**The Football Association Disciplinary Commission sitting on behalf  
of Amateur Football Alliance**

**In the matter of**  
**Micah Cox (58924877)**  
**Danny Diss (62221932)**  
**Samuel Sayer (65146791)**  
**Winchmore Hill Sixth**  
**Nick Page (118453)**  
**East Barnet Old Grammarians**  
**Hearing date 29-30/04/2024**  
**Written Reasons for Decision**

These are the written reasons for the FA Disciplinary Commission decision made on 29-30/04/2024.

1. The panel members were Mr Robert Purkiss MBE (Chairman) Dave Padwick, Vince Williams, all members of the FA Serious Case Panel, appointed by the FA.
2. Lukas Orlor of the FA acted as Secretary to this panel.
3. Danny Diss and Samuel Sayer were charged on 14/03/2024 with Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including abusive language/behaviour) they responded on 22/03/2024 denying the charge and requesting a personal hearing.
4. Micah Cox was charged on 14/03/2024 with Improper Conduct against a Match Official (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour). Nick Page Improper conduct (including violent conduct and abusive language/behaviour). Micah Cox Deny, asked for a personal hearing and Nick Page, Deny, correspondence.

5. Winchmore Hill Sixth and East Barnet Old Grammarians Reserves (EBOGs) were charged on 14/03/2024 with a breach of FA Rule E21 Failed to ensure spectators etc conducted themselves in an orderly fashion. EBOG accepted the charge. Winchmore denied and requested a personal hearing.

6. **Relevant FA Rules**

Rule E3 provides that:

*A participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into dispute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.*

*FA definitions of offenses against a Match Official include Threatening behaviour: Words or actions that cause the Match Official to believe they are being threatened. Examples include but are not limited to, the use of words that imply (directly or indirectly) that the Match Official may be subject to any form of Physical Abuse either immediately or later whether realistic or not.*

*Rule E21 provides that: Failure to ensure that spectators and/or its supporters (and anyone purporting to be its supporters or followers) conduct themselves in an orderly fashion, and refrain from improper, offensive, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words and/or/behaviour contrary to FA Rule E21.*

7. The full bundle of evidence provided to the Commission consisted of: The charge notices. The Referees reports. Statements from charged players. Statements from Winchmore Hill. Statements from EBOGs.
8. The relevant parts of the referee's report stated that **1. "After she had blown the final whistle Samuel Sayer approached her shouting and swearing, after being told to leave he continued screaming and shouting and was shown a red card" 2. "Following a mass confrontation on the pitch, Nick Page was one of the supporters/spectators from EBOGs who had entered the field of play and was involved in violent behaviour". 3. "Winchmore Hill spectators/supporters continuously levelled abuse at her". 4. "EBOGs supporters/spectators had entered the field of play and were involved in violent conduct". 5. "Danny Diss approached her in the club house, in a very aggressive manner, she asked him to move away. When she did not get a verbal response from her, he walked away from her shouting abuse". 6. Micah Cox followed on from Danny Diss and became abusive shouting that she did not have a fucking clue what she was doing. He had to restrained by one of his teammates.**

9. **In further written and verbal evidence to the Commission, she said “That following a penalty kick awarded to EBOGs, which they missed, there was an altercation between the Winchmore goalkeeper and number 19 of EBOGs, following which 5-6 spectators ran onto the pitch and started kicking the goalkeeper. Some Winchmore spectators tried to break it up. She also heard spectators shouting abuse at her. She was unable to name the Player who abused her on the pitch. Later in the clubhouse she was talking with an EBOG player that she had sent off, when Danny Diss said that she was a “fucking Cheat” “cunt” and “Liar” . She explained that he is about 6ft+ tall and she felt threatened and uneasy. Then the only Black player from Winchmore gave her abuse and was about 2ft away from her before being restrained by a teammate. The incident on the file lasted about 2-3 minutes and the confrontation in the club house bar, about 1 minute.**
10. Samuel Sayer had asked for a personal hearing but did not appear in either of the two days of the hearing. The Commission therefore dealt with his case by correspondence.
11. The commission heard verbal evidence from Winchmore Hill FC who also submitted 7 well defined photographs of the incident on the pitch, concerning the goalkeeper and the involvement of Players/Spectators/supporters, on the field of play. It clearly indicated that the only Identifiable people surrounding the goalkeeper were from EBOGs (6 players and another) but it was not possible to individually say who was who. There was no clear indication of any Winchmore Hill involvement other than 3 players towards the end calming things down.
12. Samuel Sayer sent in a written statement in which he said that: He wanted to ask the referee, at the end of the match, why he had been sin binned and why the match had not been abandoned after the goalkeeper had been assaulted. He denied that he told the referee to “Go fuck herself” he had only been speaking to one of his teammates.
13. Danny Diss told the Commission that he had been injured, when he had been attacked on the pitch, and that at the time the referee had told him that she was going to abandon the game due to his injury. She then proceeded to play on for another 10 minutes. He had approached her in the bar area to ask why she had changed her mind, He is 6ft 4 and she is 5ft 6. He also has a hearing problem so had bent down towards her to ensure he could hear her in a noisy bar. He was not aggressive and did not use any abusive or inappropriate language. He admitted that he was angry and frustrated but turned and walked away towards the door saying that it was a joke.

14. Mich Cox stated that he was walking through to the dressing room when he saw Danny talking to the referee and then walk away. He asked if he had received an explanation regarding why the match was not abandoned, when Danny said he had not, he had said "fuck me" to which the referee said to him "you're not my type" she then had a conversation with him as to why she had not abandoned the game. He denies that there was any swearing or aggressive activity. He was frustrated at losing the game but that was all.
15. The Commission heard and reviewed the submitted statements and the evidence provided by the witnesses. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission has carefully considered all the evidence and materials furnished regarding this case.
16. The Commission reminded itself that the burden of proving a charge falls upon the Amateur Football Alliance to prove the alleged misconduct upon the balance of probability. The test to be applied is, that the Commission is satisfied an event occurred if the Commission considers that, on the evidence, read, seen and heard, the occurrence of the event was more likely than not.
17. The Commission noted that the misconducts alleged are serious assertions and cogent evidence is required upon the balance of probability to establish that allegation.
18. The Commission examined in depth the clarity, consistency and credibility of the evidence both read, seen and heard. There were significant different accounts as to who said what to whom. The Commission, having viewed the photographic evidence could not find the evidence related to the E21 charge against Winchmore Hill. EBOGs had accepted the E21 charge against them, which was clearly evidenced.
19. Samuel Sayer did not appear to offer any comparable evidence and the Commission accepted the referee's version of events.
20. Danny Diss gave an explanation of his conversation with the Match Official, and explained clearly that his height and hearing disability, could have been the reason that the referee had felt that her space was being invaded and therefore, threatened, as he had to lean into her to have the discussion. He had turned away in frustration but had not sworn or abused her as alleged.
21. Micah Cox gave a credible explanation of the events involving his interaction with the referee in the bar, and there did not seem to be any adverse reaction by the

Official at the time or any follow up by her to the manager or chairman of the club, who were present in the clubhouse.

22. After considering the information provided to it, and reviewing the disciplinary record of those found Proven, the Commission found that.

**Charge 1. Danny Dis - E3 Improper conduct against a match official (including abusive language and behaviour)**

**PROVEN. Sanction. - £10 fine and 5 penalty points for his club.**

**Charge 2. Samuel Sayer- Improper conduct (including abusive language/behaviour)**

**PROVEN. Sanction. – 2 match suspension from all football related activities.**

**Fined £25 and 6 penalty points awarded to his club.**

**Charge 3. Micah Cox – Improper conduct against a match Official- (including Threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour.**

**NOT PROVEN.**

**Charge 4. Winchmore Hill Sixth. E21 Failure to control spectators.**

**NOT PROVEN.**

**Charge 5. Nick Page –Improper conduct (including violent conduct and Threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour).**

**NOT PROVEN.**

**Charge 6. East Barnet Old Grammarians Reserves E21 Failure to control Spectators.**

**PROVEN BY ACCEPTANCE. Sanction £150.**

23. These decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions in The FA Handbook.

Robert Purkiss MBE (Chairman) 03/05/2024

Dave Padwick

Vince Williams

