

## **In the Matter of Geoffrey Cameron (Stoke City FC)**

### **Reasons for Regulatory Commission Decision**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

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1. These are the written reasons for an FA Regulatory Commission decision made on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
2. The Regulatory Commission members were Messrs. B. M. Jones (Chairman), S. Ripley and G. Mabbutt.
3. Mr. M. Ives, the Head of the Judicial Services Department of The Football Association acted as Secretary to the Regulatory Commission.
4. Mr. A. Wiley also attended the hearing as a member of the Referee Advisory Panel. Mr. Wiley informed the Regulatory Commission on the Law relating to Violent Conduct and in particular the factors considered by a match official when determining such matters. Mr. Wiley remained available to, and did answer questions relating to the Law, but took no part in any discussion relating to the actual circumstances of the case.
5. Such matters to be considered in respect of the Law regarding Violent Conduct are, but not limited to, as follows:
  - The use of excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball;
  - The use of excessive force or brutality against a team mate, spectator, match official or any other person;
  - Violent conduct may occur either on the field of play or outside its boundaries, whether the ball is in play or not.

6. Mr. Geoffrey Cameron claimed that his dismissal in the Premier League fixture West Bromwich Albion FC v Stoke City FC on the Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 was wrongful.
7. We considered in detail all of the submissions, including those submitted by the club on behalf of Mr. Cameron. Such included the report of the Match Referee Mr. L. Mason dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2016; video clips showing different angles of the incident in question, a letter from Mr. Eddie Harrison the Secretary of Stoke City FC dated the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and a letter from the player Mr. G. S. Cameron of the same date.
8. The Regulatory Commission also very carefully considered the advice given to Match Officials as outlined by Mr. Wiley as set out above.
9. The members of the Regulatory Commission very carefully viewed the video clips on a number of occasions and also considered the report of the Match Referee.
10. Further they considered whether Mr. Cameron had used “excessive force or brutality” against the relevant opponent.
11. Mr. Cameron admitted to “pushing” his opponent and which the video evidence depicted as being what we, the members of the Regulatory Commission, considered a “light cuff” at the back of the neck area.
12. Having very carefully considered all of the above the members of the Regulatory Commission were unanimously of the opinion that the admitted “push” was made without excessive force or brutality being used and thus Mr. Cameron should have been cautioned and not dismissed from the field of play.

13. The video evidence clearly shows minimal contact by Mr. Cameron but with his opponent, unfortunately, using it to maximum effect.
14. It therefore follows that on the evidence before us, the Match Referee had made an obvious error in dismissing the player, but it has to be remembered that the Match Referee did not have the benefit of the video evidence, with numerous angles available, as we did.
15. That being the case the Application for Wrongful Dismissal was upheld and the 3 match suspension is withdrawn with immediate effect.

Brian M. Jones (Chairman)

Stuart Ripley

Gary Mabbutt

4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.