

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

At: Holiday Inn, Brighouse, West Yorkshire

On: Monday, 20th September 2010

Judgment

Player: **JORDAN PEARSON** **Club:** Preston Grasshoppers

Match: Preston Grasshoppers 2^{nds} v Lymm 2^{nds}

Venue: Preston

Date of Match: 11th September 2010

Panel: Antony Davies (Chairman), David MacInnes and Peter Rhodes (“the Panel”)

Secretary: Liam McTiernan (RFU Disciplinary Department)

**Attending as
Observer:** Tony Simpson (RFU Communications Manager North)

Decision

1. The Panel found the Player guilty on his own admission of an act contrary to good sportsmanship, contrary to Law 10(4)(m), namely that on 11th September 2010 he received two yellow cards (both for striking) during the match Preston Grasshoppers 2^{nds} v Lymm 2^{nds}. The Panel determined that the sending off was sufficient.

Preliminaries

2. There was no objection to the composition of the Panel. The Player had indicated that he did not contest the charge and that he wished the Panel to deal with the matter in his absence and on the basis of the Referee’s report which was not contested.

The Facts

3. The caution reports from the Match Referee, Andy Dawson, were comprehensive and assisted the Panel considerably in its deliberations. It described a game with some bad feeling between players, which lasted throughout. The Preston pack was the weaker, though the Player was the lead player in defence and his hands and arms were described as being “energetic”.

4. The Player received a yellow card in the 9th minute of the second half. The Referee described him being obstructed by an opponent and taking the law into his own hands. Both the Player and the opponent were described as “half heartedly fighting”. The Referee made the decision to issue yellow cards to both with a view to cooling down the heated engagement.

5. In the 29th minute of the second half, the Player was once again actively involved with excessive arm movements in a maul. In doing so, he made contact with the face of an opponent, who then commenced trying to punch the Player, with little success. The Player then retaliated and he and the opponent were seen throwing light punches at each other. The Referee concluded the game needed to be calmed down again or a major fight could have followed. He therefore took the decision to issue further yellow cards to both players involved in throwing punches. As it was the second yellow card the Player received, it was followed by a red card.

Entry Point

6. The Panel found very little to distinguish the two incidents. In the first the Player was reacting to being obstructed, and in the second to being punched. To that extent, there was provocation. The Referee elected to issue yellow cards to cool the situation down. There was no evidence as to whether punches connected and, if so, where. The aggression was described as half hearted, with light punches thrown. There was no evidence of any injury and both incidents were calmed down without any fracas developing. No opponents could be said to be vulnerable. In the circumstances, the Panel found the offending at the lower end of the scale of seriousness.

Sanction

7. RFU Disciplinary Regulation 19 Appendix 2 stipulates the lower end entry point as sending off sufficient and the Panel so determines.

Costs

8. Costs of £80.00 are ordered to be paid by the Player/his Club.

Right of Appeal

9. The Player was advised of his right of appeal as set out in Disciplinary Regulation 19.10.

Antony Davies

Antony Davies,

Chairman

23rd September 2010