



North East Premier League

Minutes of the Discipline Sub-Committee held on 21 December 2017



Present: Iain Bestford, Peter Brown and Paul Nesbit.

In attendance: Gordon Halliday (League Secretary)

1. It was explained that there is a difference of opinion on the Sub-Committee with two members broadly supporting the sanctions recommended by the Investigation Panel, but one member considering that the proposed sanctions are not sufficiently strong.
2. Gordon Halliday explained that the Investigation Panel had been similarly split in terms of the sanctions to be imposed but through discussion a consensus had been reached. The Panel had been mindful that elsewhere in the country many Premier Leagues have decided not to impose sanctions on Clubs although in at least one case the Club that won the League, having played an ineligible player, has been deducted points so that they are no longer champions. As stated in the Panel Report, the Panel also considered that the NEPL Management Committee could have responded better to the new guidance that had been issued by the ECB and to the concerns that had been brought to their attention in relation to one player, during the season. The Investigation Panel had considered that the sanctions were not lenient but were appropriate and justifiable given the circumstances of each case.
3. Gordon Halliday explained that looking forward examples of good practice have been obtained from the Birmingham & District Premier League and the North Yorkshire South Durham Premier League, that are being studied with a view to adopting their good practice, in order that more stringent vetting of applications to register overseas players for the 2018 season takes place in the NEPL. Neither League had Clubs that had breached the immigration rules in 2017.
4. Notwithstanding these points, the Sub-Committee remained split on whether to endorse the sanctions recommended by the Panel. Upon a vote, the sanctions were agreed by a majority vote of 2-1. It was felt that it would be helpful to provide additional national context to help explain why the Panel had reached its conclusions and recommendations and also to provide Clubs with further information on the procedures that will be followed for the vetting of overseas players for the 2018 season.
5. Gordon Halliday then apprised the Sub-Committee of another investigation that is being carried out at the request of the Registration Sub-Committee. The Discipline Chairman will be forming a Sub-Committee to deal with this matter in the New Year.