

### DECISION OF THE PFF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Passed on 17th of February, 2025

### PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### **COMPOSED OF**

### ACTING CHAIRPERSON MR. AZEEM AKRAM **MEMBERS**:

### Zarak Zaman Khan Muhammad Ali MALIK MAQSOOD KHOKHAR

### In the case of:

17th of February, 2025

i. District Football Association Gujranwala through its General Secretary namely Mr. Amjid Hussain.

VS

- i. Young Blood Football Club through its President
- ii. City Football Club through its President

(Complaint No.001/A/2025)

Date of Deliberation by the PFF Disciplinary And Ethics Committee:

Page 1 of 7

## PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION

**PFF** Secretariat, Football House, Opposite Punjab Stadium, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, Pakistan. Postal Code. 54660 ♥+92 42 99230821-22 H +92 42 99230823, M mail@pff.com.pk, & www.pff.com.pk



# Regarding:THE HOLDING OF UNLAWFUL EVENT "MEMORIAL FOOTBALL<br/>TOURNAMENT GUJRANWALA"

#### Facts of the case:

- The District Football Association (DFA) Gujranwala through its secretary initiated a complaint against the President of the Young Blood and City Football Club Gujranwala for holding the "Memorial Football Tournament" that was organized by the Respondents.
- 2. The complainant primary contention is that the tournament was held without obtaining the necessary prior approval from the DFA. This is a violation of the PFF Constitution (2014), which mandates such approval for affiliated clubs.
- The DFA asserts that they officially informed the respondents to seek a No Objection Certificate (NOC). However, the respondents refused to comply, citing the ongoing suspension of the PFF as the reason for their non-adherence to the required procedures.
- 4. The DFA attempted to address the issue through the Provincial Football Association (PFA). Unfortunately, the PFA was unable to assist due to the absence of established judicial bodies within the PFA, which hindered the resolution of the DFA's grievance.
- 5. As a result of the above, the DFA is seeking a favorable resolution to their complaint. They request that the complaint be accepted and that the respondents be prohibited

Page 2 of 7

## PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



from continuing to organize or hold this unauthorized event.

#### Jurisdiction and Maintainability:

6. Before proceeding with the instant case it is necessary to determine whether the disciplinary committee has jurisdiction to adjudicate upon such a matter. We would like to place emphasis on Article 03 of the PFF Disciplinary Code:

"The Question is that whether the Disciplinary Committee is competent to adjudicate upon the matter?" In order to resolve this controversy it is necessary to reproduce the Art. 02 and Art. 03 of PFF's Disciplinary Code.

#### Article 2-Scope of Application:

"Material Law this code applies to every match and competitions organized by PFF. Beyond this scope, it also applies if a match official is harmed and, more generally, if the statutory objectives of PFF are breached, especially with regard to forgery, corruption and doping."

#### Article 3: Scope of Application:

- "Natural and Legal persons The following are subject to this code:
- a. PFF member associations;
- b. Members of these associations, in particular the clubs
- c. Officials;
- d. Players;
- e. Match officials;

*f.* Anyone with an authorization from PFF, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other events organized by PFF; Spectators.

Page **3** of **7** 

## PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



Moreover, <u>Second Title. Organisation and Procedure Chapter-II-Procedure Section 2 Disciplinary</u> <u>Committee; Article 113-Commencement of Proceedings;</u>

"(2) Any person or authority may report conduct that he or it considers incompatible with the regulations of PFF to the judicial bodies via the secretariat. Complaints may not be made orally."

7. Furthermore, the Article 04, 21(1) of PFF Constitution is reproduced as follows:

#### Article 4: JURISDICTION:

"The jurisdiction of Pakistan Football Federation shall extend throughout Pakistan including AJ & K, GBFA, FATA and Islamabad Capital Territory."

#### Article 21: BODIES OF THE FEDERATION:

"(1). The Federation shall consist of Provincial Football Association, services organization, Pakistan Football Referees Association AJK, ICT Islamabad, FATA and GBFA and any other Football body approved by the Congress from time to time."

8. There is no complexity to hold that the Complaint is maintainable and falls within the jurisdiction of this committee.

#### **Decision of the Committee:**

9. Review of the available documentation indicates that the Complainant, through a letter dated February 13, 2025, contacted the PFF Secretariat to address their concerns. The core of their grievance was that the Respondents were conducting the football event without obtaining the required approval from the DFA Gujranwala. In addition to this, the Complainant issued a Notice via letters dated February 8, 2025 and February 13, 2025 to the Respondent clubs, instructing them to cease organizing the event. The relevant section of this notice stated:

"Please be advised that this matter is being escalated to the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) for further review and necessary action, as your clubs proceeded with the activity without adhering to the mandated protocols of the District Football Association...."

10. Contrary to providing a response or complying with the directives issued by the concerned DFA, the Respondents proceeded to announce the tournament and Page 4 of 7

## PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



conducted some matches during the course of time. This action constituted a violation of the instructions issued by the Complainant's district.

 Furthermore, it has been observed that the PFF Secretariat, through an email dated February 13, 2025, provided the necessary instructions to the relevant Provincial Football Association. A relevant portion of this email is provided.

#### "The President Punjab FA,

This communication addresses the concerns raised by Mr. Zakaullah, President of the District Football Association (DFA) Gujranwala, regarding clubs registered with the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) via Pakistan Football Connect holding events without the requisite prior approval from the concerned DFA.

We draw your attention to Article 81(4)(a) of the PFF Constitution, which states:

"Article 81: ASSOCIATIONS/UNITS/LEAGUES 4. Club:

(a) The basic unit of a District shall be a club, duly constituted, registered and affiliated with the District Football Association......"

This provision establishes a clear hierarchical structure wherein clubs are subordinate to the PFF, the Provincial Football Association (PFA), and the DFA. This subordination entails an obligation on the part of clubs to adhere to all applicable rules and regulations promulgated by these governing bodies.

Specifically, we clarify that clubs are under a legal obligation to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their respective DFA prior to engaging in any activity or event and at a last resort they may approach directly the PFF in case of any exceptional

Page **5** of **7** 

### PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



circumstances if their grievances are not properly redressed by the concerned DFA and PFA in such like situation. Failure to secure such prior approval constitutes a violation of established protocol and renders the offending club liable to disciplinary action.

Therefore, we hereby advise you to adjudicate the grievances presented by the DFA Gujranwala and identify the clubs involved in the incident. This adjudication should be conducted in accordance with the PFF Constitution, as well as any prevailing rules and regulations adopted by the concerned province or the DFA itself. In the absence of specific extant rules addressing the matter, guidance should be sought from the PFF Constitution and Disciplinary Code to ensure a fair and just resolution."

12. Despite the fact that necessary actions were not taken, and no response from the concerned parties and no response or report was made by the PFA. Therefore, the stance of the complainant, regarding the non-resolved grievances seems just. Thus, through this order the committee members is of the view that the Respondents are not adhering to the PFF Constitution and are in violation of the established procedure. Hence, the Committee refers this matter back to the concerned Provincial Football Association and with the following directives

#### Terms and the Decision:

13. In the light of the abovementioned facts the committee decide as follow:

- The Event namely "Memorial Football Tournament" shall immediately be stooped and the Respondents are restrained to conduct any of its future matches till the formation of the proper grievance mechanism by PFA following the PFF Constitution.
- ii. Once the grievance mechanism is formed the concerned PFA shall after providing opportunity to all concerned shall decide the grievances purely on its own merits as per the prevailing rules and regulation of the PFF and that as of the concerned PFA and DFA if issued during the passage of time.

Page 6 of 7

## PAKISTAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



- iii. All the concerned parties are under an obligation to ensure the compliance of this decision
- 14. The Complaint stood disposed of along with the directions mention in Para No.13.

Let the copy of this order (each page signed by Chairman of Disciplinary committee) be communicated to the PFF secretariat.

Let the copy of this order be communicated to all the affiliated units of PFF and each Department. Moreover, the PFF is also directed to ensure the compliance of this order.

Let the copy of this decision be communicated to the PFA and DFA immediately after the signing of this decision.

The PFF Secretariat, if it deems appropriate, can announce and publish this decision (wholly or the relevant portion of the judgment) to the public, on its official website or social media pages.



Azeem Akram (Chairman) Disciplinary Committee Pakistan Football Federation

Mohammad Ali (Deputy Chairman) Disciplinary Committee Pakistan Football Federation

Zarak Zaman Khan (Member) Disciplinary Committee Pakistan Football Federation

Malik Maqsood Ahmed (Member) Disciplinary Committee Pakistan Football Federation

Page 7 of 7

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