

## Case 40 – Misconduct: Submission of False Scores

### Key words

*Match-fixing; Discipline; Misconduct; Coach; Coaches; Conspiracy; Integrity; Fair Sport – Justice and Fairness*

### Summary

Two universities were charged with misconduct by British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) following the submission of a false score in a rugby match that did not take place. A Disciplinary Panel was appointed by Sport Resolutions in accordance with the BUCS Regulations. Both universities admitted the charge, and the Disciplinary Panel fined each university £1000, removed their teams' points scores from the overall BUCS table, and ruled that the two coaches involved were to be removed as coaches for BUCS games for 9 months (penalty to be suspended for two years).

### Background Facts

A match between two universities was called off because of a frozen pitch and rearranged for a later date. However, in the days leading up to the rearranged date the match was called off because the pitch was underwater. After several postponements, the team's coaches could not find an appropriate date upon which to play the match. The matter was referred to BUCS and the universities were advised that if University A was unable to do the two dates offered by University B then University A were entitled to a "walkover", i.e. 5 points to University A and 5 points taken from University B.

In e-mail correspondence the coaches of the two university teams agreed to play the match on 15 February 2013. The match however, did not take place and

instead both coaches agreed to submit a false score draw 10:10, this agreement between the coaches was not corroborated in written evidence. It was made orally and the evidence is not clear as to who suggested the submission of the false scores.

### **Reasoning and Decision of the Tribunal**

A Disciplinary Panel was convened to hear a charge of misconduct and/or bringing BUCS into disrepute. The charge related to the submission of a false score in a rugby match, which did not in fact take place, between Swansea University and Cardiff University. Both Universities admitted the charge.

The Disciplinary Panel found that, seemingly to preserve the close relationship between the two universities, the coaches of the respective teams had colluded to submit a false score draw when in fact no match had been played.

The Disciplinary Panel considered this to be a clear breach of the regulations and the serious nature of the misconduct was relevant to consideration of the sanction as a result. The Disciplinary Panel found both coaches to be equally culpable. By way of sanction, the Disciplinary Panel fined each university £1000; removed both universities' rugby teams' points from the overall BUCS table; and ruled that the two coaches involved were to be removed as coaches for BUCS games for 9 months (penalty to be suspended for two years).

### **Learning points**

- GBs and other sporting institutions, should take suitable steps to minimise the chances of 'agreed scores' being submitted (for instance, requiring the signing of team sheets).