

Ex-football player gets 12 months for match-fixing

15 December 2014

A former football player of an athletic association, charged by the ICAC, was today (Monday) sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment at the Eastern Magistracy after being convicted of conspiracy to fix the result of a football match of the First Division League organised by the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA).

Sasa Mus, 28, a former football player of the Happy Valley Athletic Association (HVAA), was found guilty last Friday (December 12) of one count of conspiracy to defraud the HVAA and the HKFA, contrary to the Common Law.

In sentencing, Magistrate Lee Siu-ho remarked that the offence of match-fixing committed by the defendant was of a serious nature, warranting an immediate jail term to serve as a deterrent.

The magistrate said this case was a matter of public interest. The defendant's illegal act was detrimental to our public life as professional First Division League was part of public life of Hong Kong citizens.

The magistrate added that match-fixing activities should not be allowed or tolerated in Hong Kong, and must be dealt with seriously by the court. Hence, the defendant deserved no reduction in the starting point of 12 months in jail.

The case arose from corruption complaints. Subsequent ICAC enquiries revealed the above offence.

The court heard that at the material time, the defendant was a player of the HVAA, who played in the First Division League match between the HVAA and the Southern District Football Club on November 30, 2013. HVAA led by 1-0 in the first half of the game, but ended up losing 2-4.

During the half-time break of the match, both the team director and the head coach of the HVAA saw their deputy team manager approaching the defendant and talking to him in private in the changing room.

At the second half of the match, the team director and the head coach observed that the performance of the defendant suddenly turned poor.

The court heard that the then technical director of HKFA viewed the video recording of the match, and gave technical comments that in the second half of the match, the standard of the defendant's performance was far below what was expected from a professional football player.

When interviewed under caution by ICAC officers, the defendant admitted that he had, upon instruction of the deputy team manager, not played 100%, and that the match must be lost in the second half. He also admitted that he had been a professional football player for a number of years, and knew that he should always play to his best abilities all the time.

All football players registered with the HKFA must observe the rules of conduct for players, the court was told.

The HKFA and the HVAA had rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation.

The prosecution was today represented by prosecuting counsel Sabrina See, assisted by ICAC officer Raymond Lam.

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前足球員「打假波」判囚十二個月

2014年12月15日

一名體育會前足球員，在一場由香港足球總會(足總)舉辦的甲組足球聯賽中串謀「打假波」，被廉政公署拘控。被告裁定罪名成立，並於今日(星期一)在東區裁判法院被判入獄十二個月。

Sasa Mus，二十八歲，愉園體育會(愉園)前足球員，上星期五(十二月十二日)被裁定一項串謀詐騙愉園及足總罪名成立，違反普通法。

裁判官李紹豪在判刑時指出，被告觸犯的「打假波」罪行性質嚴重，法庭必須判處他即時監禁以示阻嚇。

裁判官又表示，這宗案件涉及公眾利益。由於甲組足球聯賽是香港市民生活的一部分，被告的不法行為損害市民的生活。

裁判官續稱，本港絕不容許及容忍「打假波」勾當，而法庭必定會嚴肅處理，因此被告的判刑起點為十二個月，但不獲減刑。

廉署早前接獲貪污舉報，調查後揭發上述罪行。

案情透露，被告於案發時是愉園足球員。他於二〇一三年十

一月三十日參與愉園對南區足球會的甲組聯賽賽事。在該場

賽事中，愉園於上半場領先一比零，但最後以二比四輸掉比賽。

中場休息期間，愉園球隊總監和總教練同見到當時球隊的副領隊走近被告，並與被告在更衣室私下交談。

在該賽事的下半場，球隊總監和總教練同留意到被告的表現突然下滑。

案情透露，足總時任的技術總監觀看該賽事的錄影，並給該賽事作出技術評述，指被告在賽事下半場的表現遠低於一個職業足球員應有的水平。

被告在警誡下接受廉署人員問話時承認，他因應副領隊的指示而未有百分之一百全力作賽，並且在下半場必須輸掉該賽事。他又承認自己身為職業足球員已數年，並知道自己於任何時候均應全力作賽。

案情指出，所有在足總註冊的足球員均須遵守球員的行為守則。

足總及愉園在廉署調查案件期間提供全面協助。

控方今日由大律師是香媛代表出庭，並由廉署人員林啟浩協助。

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