

## Mid-Michigan Men's Soccer League (MMMSL) Memorandum

TO: All League Participants  
RE: Results of Disciplinary Hearing  
DATE: September 4, 2003

A disciplinary meeting was held September 3, 2003 to decide sanctions for Tamba Mbayo (Flying Eagles). Tamba received a red card for Violent Conduct in a league game held on Sunday, August 24, 2003.

All twelve MMMSL member teams sent at least one team representative to the meeting. All three referees from the game in question attended as well. Tamba decided not to attend.

The decision of the disciplinary hearing is a one calendar year suspension from all league play. Tamba could return to MMMSL play on September 4, 2004. In addition, if Tamba returns to league play, he will be on probation for the first calendar year of his resumption of play. This decision received 8 votes (out of 12).

Two other options were voted upon: a suspension for the rest of this season followed by one year probation (1 vote), or a suspension for the rest of this season and all of next season followed by one year probation (3 votes).

Several factors contributed to the one-year suspension. The red card was given for a violent kick to the head/neck of an opponent that was deemed hard enough to potentially have caused serious injury. Tamba was fouled (seriously enough so that a yellow card was issued to the opponent), but the violent conduct happened after the whistle had been blown and while the referee was approaching to issue the yellow card to the opponent. The opponent was on the ground and in the process of getting up when he was kicked. When the red card was issued, Tamba initially refused to leave the field of play, then directed a string of abusive language and gestures towards the referees. The testimony of all three referees was consistent.

A longer suspension was not given for a few reasons. This was Tamba's first card of the season and he had only three yellow cards last season. Also, the Flying Eagles captain said that Tamba has been frustrated by persistent fouls against him throughout the season. In this particular game, the center referee was not doing enough to protect Tamba. The captains of both teams from the game in question agreed that several yellow cards could have been issued earlier in the game that might have prevented the violent conduct.