

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

TO: All League Participants  
RE: Results of Disciplinary Hearing  
DATE: October 18, 2003

A disciplinary meeting was held October 10, 2003 to decide sanctions for Mario Grimaldo (Lansing). Mario received a red card for Serious Foul Play in a league game held on Sunday, September 28, 2003.

Ten MMMSL member teams sent at least one team representative to the meeting (Owosso and Mason were absent). None of the referees from the game in question could attend but all provided written statements. Mario decided not to attend.

The decision of the disciplinary hearing is a four game suspension from all league play. One game was served on October 5, 2003, so Mario must miss the first three games of the 2004 season. This decision received 6 votes.

One other option was voted upon: a standard 2 game suspension for a straight red card. This option received 4 votes.

There was extensive debate on a number of factors, but the overall decision was based on a comparison to the incident and suspension (one calendar year) involving Tamba Mbayo (Flying Eagles). It was felt that Mario deserved a less severe suspension than the one given Tamba because [1] Mario's foul was committed while the ball was still in play, so there was a chance he was going for the ball (Tamba's foul was committed several seconds after play had stopped for a whistle, and he fouled a prone opponent); [2] Mario left the field without incident after receiving the red card (Tamba initially refused to leave and directed a string abusive language and gestures towards the referees).

It was felt that Mario deserved more than the standard 2 game suspension for a straight red card because the foul resulted in injury to the opponent and also the referee's report stated that Mario made no attempt to play the ball.