Barbados Cricket Association

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CWI DISCIPLINARY HEARING – RAYMON REIFER

The Disciplinary Committee of Cricket West Indies (CWI) convened on Friday 4th April 2025 and handed down a ruling that the attempt by CWI through its appointed Match Referee Reon King to lay charges arising out of the non-playing of the CGI Final slated for the 23rd November at the Brian Lara stadium, against Raymon Reifer the Barbados Captain, for allegedly contravening the CWI code of conduct, was an incurable nullity.

It must be stressed that Raymon was never summoned by the Disciplinary Committee to a hearing because the wrong procedure was adopted from the start. Raymon's legal team was informed by the Secretary of CWI that it was a preliminary hearing to determine the issues that his legal team had raised in correspondence with CWI.

The time line of what transpired is as follows:

* The Final of the Super 50 tournament was scheduled for November 23rd at 13:00 hrs
* Persistent rain in addition to a wet outfield delayed the spinning of the coin to commence the start of play.
* At 17:45 hrs the captains were summoned on to the field of play and told play was starting at 18:17 hrs with the toss at 18:00 hrs.
* Disagreement arose between the two Captains and the officials as to whether the ground was fit for play and play did not commence.
* That night a Level I (one) offence of the Code of Conduct was levelled by the Umpires against both Mr. Reifer and Mr. Campbell for not attending for the toss. Raymon pleaded not guilty.
* The next day, November 24th Raymon departed Trinidad with the Barbados team as per the arrangements of CWI, and on his arrival in Barbados he received Notification of a purported Level III (three) charge of the said Code of Conduct from the Match Referee. It indicated that he could receive a penalty of a seven-match ban if he was found guilty of the charges. He did not respond but availed himself of legal advice.

The Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) subsequently wrote two letters to CWI after the events protesting the forfeiture by CWI of the match fees of the players, the prize money to the finalists and the purported charges against Raymon. It received no adequate response from CWI. As a result, it sought legal advice and letters were sent by counsel to CWI first on December 3rd and

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secondly on December 6th 2024 pointing out inter alia that the charges levelled against Raymon were bad in law.

The Disciplinary Committee met on February 14th for a hearing and after one further hearing it announced its decision on April 4th 2025. Its decision was that the attempt to lay charges by the Match Referee was an incurable nullity because he had no jurisdiction in the matter.

In a Press Release of April 5th CWI suggested that the two Captains escaped sanction on a technicality and reiterated the fact that as there was no toss there was a clear breach of the rules and spirit of the game. It is important to note that the Committee made no reference to Mr. Campbell in its ruling on the Reifer matter. While the events of that day are disputed the players have never had the opportunity to put their side of events to any hearing as the preliminary objections made by Raymon's legal team were upheld,

The Committee also made no ruling on the prize money issue and on the payment of the players' fees because those issues were never before it, the sole issue being the legality of the purported charges against Raymon.

The BCA has, since receipt of the decision, through its Attorneys raised the issue of the nonpayment of the Prize Money and the Players' Fees through its Attorneys at Law and is confident of a resolution of same after further discussions between the parties.

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