Level 2
Ato Boldon Stadium
Couva

Founded 1964
Patron: Minister of Education
President: Mr. Merere L. Gonzales
General Secretary: Mr. Azaad M. Khan

Cell: 678-8637 Work: 235-5057

Email: azaadmk@gmail.com
Web: www.ttssfl.com

To: Principals/Media

From: General Secretary

Date: 30th December 2024

Re: <u>Decision re: Derrel Garcia Matter</u>

Please find attached decision of the Disciplinary Committee re: Matter involving Master Derrell Garcia. Such report was received on 30th December 2024.

Based on the Disciplinary Committee's Report St. Benedict's College will forfeit all points for the undermentioned games and three (3) points and three (3) goals be awarded to the respective schools/teams:

Wednesday 5 th October	VS	San Juan North Secondary	St. Benedict's College won 1-0
Saturday 5 th October	VS	Fatima College	St. Benedict's College won 3-1
Monday 7 th October	VS	St. Anthony's College	St. Benedict's College won 2-1
Wednesday 9 th October	VS	Queen's Royal College	St. Benedict's College won 2-1

The following documents are attached for your attention/information: -

- 1. Letter dated 25th October to Chief Education Officer.
- 2. Response from Chief Eduction Officer dated 7th November 2024
- 3. Letter to Principal, St. Benedict's College dated 8th November 2024 re: Disciplinary Committee Meeting for 14th November 2024.
- 4. Legal Opinion from J. Tyrone Marcus dated 9th December 2024
- 5. Additional response from Chief Education Officer dated 9th December 2024.
- 6. Letter to Chief Education Officer dated 11th December 2024 asking for information.
- 7. Legal Opinion from J. Tyrone Marcus dated 18th December 2024.
- 8. Decision of Disciplinary Committee dated 24th December 2024 (received on 30th December 2024.)
- 9. (i) Standings **BEFORE** decision of Disciplinary Committee.

	STANDINGS — BEFORE DE	ECIS	ION (of D	ISCII	PLINA	ARY C	ОММ	ITTEE
		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	St. Benedict's College	15	13	02	00	36	07	29	41
2	Fatima College	15	11	02	02	48	14	34	35
3	Presentation College	15	11	02	02	33	10	23	35
4	St. Anthony's College	15	10	00	05	36	20	16	30
5	Arima North Secondary	15	06	06	03	26	13	13	24
6	Naparima College	15	06	04	05	26	19	07	22
7	Queen's Royal College	15	06	03	06	22	21	01	21
8	Signal Hill Secondary	15	06	03	06	26	28	- 02	21
9	Malick Secondary	15	06	02	07	30	32	- 02	20
10	San Juan North Secondary	15	06	01	08	25	28	- 03	19
11	St. Mary's College	15	05	01	09	16	29	-13	16
12	St. Augustine Secondary	15	04	03	08	11	33	- 22	15
13	Trinity College East	15	04	01	00	19	30	-11	13
14	Speyside Secondary	15	03	03	09	21	34	-13	12
15	East Mucurapo Secondary	15	04	00	11	13	27	-14	12
16	Miracle Ministries Pent. High	15	02	01	12	08	51	- 43	07

9.(ii) Adjusted Standings **AFTER** decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

(/)	STANDINGS — AFTER DE	CIS	ON C	of D	ISCIF	PLINA	ARY C	ОММ	ITTEE
		P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Fatima College	15	12	02	01	50	11	39	38
2	Presentation College	15	11	02	02	33	10	23	35
3	St. Anthony's College	15	11	00	04	38	18	20	33
4	St. Benedict's College	15	09	02	04	28	16	12	29
5	Arima North Secondary	15	06	06	03	26	13	13	24
6	Queen's Royal College	15	07	03	05	24	19	05	24
7	Naparima College	15	06	04	05	26	19	07	22
8	San Juan North Secondary	15	07	01	07	28	27	01	22
9	Signal Hill Secondary	15	06	03	06	26	28	- 02	21
10	Malick Secondary	15	06	02	07	30	32	- 02	20
11	St. Mary's College	15	05	01	09	16	29	-13	16
12	St. Augustine Secondary	15	04	03	08	11	33	- 22	15
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15	East Mucurapo Secondary	15	04	00	11	13	27	-14	12
16	Miracle Ministries Pent. High	15	02	01	12	08	51	- 43	07

St. Benedict's College has until Friday $3^{\rm rd}$ January 2025 to Appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee if they so desire.

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

General Secretary

Att.

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30th December 2024

Mr. Gregory Quan Kep Principal St. Benedict's College 75 Pond Street San Fernando

Dear Mr. Quan Kep

Please find attached decision of the Disciplinary Committee re: Matter involving Master Derrell Garcia. Such report was received on 30th December 2024.

Based on the Disciplinary Committee's Report St. Benedict's College will forfeit all points for the undermentioned games and three (3) points and three (3) goals be awarded to the respective schools/teams:

Wednesday 5 th October	VS	San Juan North Secondary	St. Benedict's College won 1-0
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The following documents are attached for your attention/information: -

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8	Signal Hill Secondary	15	06	03	06	26	28	- 02	21
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<i>15</i>	East Mucurapo Secondary	15	04	00	11	13	27	-14	12
16	Miracle Ministries Pent. High	15	02	01	12	08	51	- 43	07

Please note that if you are dissatisfied with the decision(s) of the Disciplinary Committee you have the right to appeal. Any Appeal must be made in writing within Seventy-Two (72) hours of receipt of this email to the Appeals Committee via the General Secretary (<u>azaadmk@gmail.com</u>). The deadline date for such submission is Friday 3rd January 2025.

- 1. Any School who refers a matter to the Appeals Committee much lodge a fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Such fee shall be refunded if the Appeal is successful.
- 2. Pending the hearing of such an Appeal, the decision stands.

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

Azaad Mohammed-Khan General Secretary

Att.

Founded 1964 **Patron: Minister of Education President: Mr. Merere L. Gonzales** General Secretary: Mr. Azaad M. Khan Cell: 678-8637 Work: 235-5057

Email: azaadmk@gmail.com Web: www.ttssfl.com

8th November 2024

Mr. Gregory Quan Kep Principal St. Benedict's College

Dear Sir

You are requested to attend a Disciplinary Committee of the Secondary Schools Football League on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Venue: SSFL Office, Ato Boldon Stadium.

This is to ascertain the bona fide status of Derrell Garcia.

Please find attached letter from the Chief Education Office (Ag.)

The Members of the Disciplinary Committee are:

Mr. Adesh Dwarika – Chairman

Mr. Laurence Seepersad

Mr. Kurt Harry – Recording Secretary)

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

General Secretary

Att.

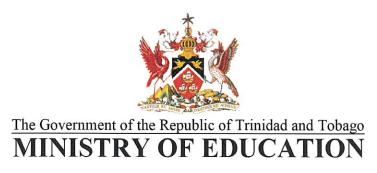












Office of the Chief Education Officer

E: 19/1/12

November 7, 2024

Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan General Secretary Secondary Schools Football League Level 2 Ato Boldon Stadium, Couva

Dear Mr. Mohammed-Khan,

Re: Request for confirmation of the bona fide status of Derrell Garcia at St Benedict's College

Reference is made to your letter dated October 25, 2024, on the subject at caption.

The following information is provided in response to your request:

- Derrell Garcia was assigned to St. Benedict's College through the SEA 2021 placement and registered at the school on September 14, 2021;
- On July 7, 2023, the parents of Derrell Garcia requested study leave from August 2023 to May 2024 for him to proceed on a football scholarship;
- For the academic year September 2023 to July 2024, he was absent for the entire period;
- On September 25, 2024, the parent of Derrell Garcia wrote requesting his reinstatement;
- Derrell Garcia resumed attendance at St. Benedict's College on October 8, 2024, as verified from the Attendance Register at the school.

Regards,

Chief Education Officer (Ag.)

A. Rannaltan

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11th December 2024

Mr. Aaron Ramrattan Chief Education Office – Ag. Ministry of Education Port-of-Spain

Dear Sir

Re: Matter Involving Derrel Garcia

The Secondary Schools Football League is URGENTLY requesting a written soft copy of: -

- I. The Ministry of Education rules Regulations and protocols regarding the registration of students.
- II. Requests for a leave of absence.
- III. Requests for reinstatement and related matters.

Thanking you for your time and assistance in this matter. Looking forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

assad M. Khan.

General Secretary











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25th October 2024

Dr. Peter Smith
Chief Education Officer
Ministry of Education
Port – of – Spain

Dear Dr. Smith

Re: Request for confirmation of the bona fide status of Derrell Garcia at St. Benedict's College

The Secondary Schools Football League is requesting the verification of the enrolment status of Mr. Derrell Garcia who is reportedly a student at St. Benedict's College.

Recently there has been speculation regarding his bona fide enrolment at the institution, and the League is seeking clarification on this matter to dispel any misconceptions.

As such, the League is kindly requesting that the Ministry provide confirmation of Mr. Garcia's enrolment, if available, to establish the legitimacy of his association with St. Benedict's College.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter. looking forward to your prompt response to help clarify this situation.

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

Grand M. Khan.

General Secretary









Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Education

E: 19/1/12

December 09, 2024

Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan General Secretary Secondary Schools Football League Level 2 Ato Boldon Stadium, Couva

Dear Mr. Mohammed-Khan,

Re: Request for confirmation of the bona fide status of Derrell Garcia at St Benedict's College

In response to your letter dated October 25, 2024, please note the following additional information:

- 1. Derrell Garcia was never deregistered as a student at St. Benedict's College as his name was not struck off the attendance register.
- 2. The principal of St. Benedict's College was informed of Mr. Garcia's leave of absence.
- 3. The parents followed expected protocols by requesting a leave of absence from the Principal of St. Benedict's College for their son.
- 4. The student's parents applied for his reinstatement on September 25th, 2024, before he participated in any games.
- 5. The expected protocol at the Ministry of Education is that any request by a student for a leave of absence or reinstatement will be forwarded to the School Supervisor for approval. This information was not forwarded to the School Supervisor.

Regards,

Aaron Ramrattan

Chief Education Officer (Ag.)

To: The Disciplinary Committee of the Secondary Schools Football League

From: J. Tyrone Marcus, Attorney-at-Law

Date: December 9, 2024

Subject: Legal Opinion on the Status of Derrel Garcia

A. The Relevant Parties

- 1. The Secondary Schools Football League (hereinafter referred to as "the SSFL" or "the League") is the governing authority for the sport of football at the secondary school level in Trinidad and Tobago. It is affiliated to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA), which is the National Governing Body for football locally and a member association of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's World Governing Body.
- 2. St. Benedict's College (hereinafter called "St. Benedict's") is a duly registered school in the county of Victoria, Trinidad under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education (hereinafter called "the Ministry"). St. Benedict's is registered to play football in the Premier Division of the SSFL pursuant to Article 3A and Article 14 of the SSFL Constitution.
- 3. Derrel Garcia (also known as Derrel "Zoom Zoom" Garcia and hereinafter referred to as "Garcia") is a 17-year-old footballer who entered into St. Benedict's College in September 2021 having successfully completed his Secondary Entrance Assessment (S.E.A.) earlier that year.

B. Factual Background

- 4. The backdrop to the case centres on Garcia's return to school after spending time overseas for sports-related purposes. His tenure as a St. Benedict's student was temporarily broken for the period August 2023 to May 2024 when, as a Form 2 student, he was granted permission to pursue a football scholarship with CF Intercity International Academy based in Alacante, Spain. A written request for study leave dated July 6, 2023 was made on Garcia's behalf by his mother, Krystle Garcia. The practical consequence of the pursuit of the scholarship in Spain was that Garcia was absent from school for the September 2023 to July 2024 academic year.
- 5. On September 25, 2024, Garcia's mother wrote to the Principal of St. Benedict's, Mr. Gregory Quan Kep, seeking Garcia's reinstatement into the school. The documents seen

by the author of this opinion disclosed no evidence of a written response from Principal Quan Kep to Ms. Garcia's letter. Nevertheless, attendance records from St. Benedict's confirmed that his first day present at school for the September to December 2024 term, was **Tuesday October 8, 2024**.

C. Issues to be Determined

- 6. The main issues to be determined are as follows:
 - 6.1 Whether Garcia was a duly registered player for St. Benedict's at the beginning of the 2024 SSFL season.
 - 6.2 If the answer to 6.1 above is in the negative, whether Garcia became a duly registered player at any point during the 2024 SSFL season.
 - 6.3 Whether there have been any breaches by St. Benedict's of the SSFL Constitution and, if so, what consequences must ensue.

D. Applicable Regulations

7. The Regulations that are applicable for the determination of this matter are the SSFL Constitution and, subsidiarily, the Ministry of Education's existing rules and regulations. Article 16 of the SSFL Constitution states, in part, as follows:

16. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

The League reserves the absolute right to decide, through its General Council or anybody delegated by the General Council, which persons shall be eligible to function as players in the games of the competitions organized by the League. Secondary Schools are not permitted to jointly register one (1) team to compete in any competition.

PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

Before students can be accepted by the League to be registered as players to represent any team playing in the League the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- 1. Students must be duly registered, according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education and on the official roll of the school presenting the team. These students must attend classes at the school during normal school hours [...]
- 2. They are officially registered by their school with the League. The registration of a player with the League must be made in writing at least

Seventy-two (72) hours before the start of the match in which that player is to take part. This registration must be made with the General Secretary or Zone Secretary [...]

- 8. Article 16 goes on to list other eligibility criteria related to:
 - 8.1 The player's age (Article 16.3 and part of Article 16.2).
 - 8.2 Non-participation in another TTFA-affiliated League (Article 16.3 in part and Article 16.4 (a) and (b)).
 - 8.3 The status of Repeat Sixth Form students (Article 16.4 (c)).
 - 8.4 Transfers of players from other schools (Article 16.5).

Articles 16.6 and 16.7, respectively, address the registration of coaches with the League and the consequences for a school that submits incorrect information.

9. The disposition of the current case rests on an interpretation of Articles 16.1 and 16.2, in particular.

E. Analysis

Issues#1 and #2-Whether Garcia was duly registered at the start of or during the 2024 season

- 10. Article 16.1 stipulates registration criteria with three limbs. The first limb is that students must be registered "according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education." The second limb is that students must also be "on the official roll of the school presenting the team." The third limb is that students "must attend classes at the school during normal school hours." Registration is only complete when the student starts attending classes at the school during normal school hours, having satisfied the other two limbs.
- 11. The evidence provided identifies that Garcia was officially re-registered with the school on **Wednesday October 2, 2024** but that his first day of attendance was six days later on **Tuesday October 8, 2024**. In terms of registration in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education, as at December 6, 2024 which was the final day of the school term, no documentation had been submitted purporting to represent those rules and regulations.
- 12. However, the Ministry, by letter dated November 7, 2024 addressed to SSFL General Secretary, Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan, confirmed that Garcia "resumed attendance at St. Benedict's College on October 8, 2024, as verified from the Attendance Register at the school." One

- question that arises, then, is the weight to be given to the Ministry's letter of November 7, 2024.
- 13. Guidance can be taken from the case law of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which is generally accepted as the world's highest sports court. In *CAS 2023/A/9501 Dansk Boldspil-Union and others v. FIFA*, the CAS addressed the issue of the weight that could be given to FIFA Circulars. It stated as follows:

FIFA Circular Letters are not regulations in a strict legal sense. However, they reflect the understanding of FIFA and the general practice of the federations and associations belonging thereto. Thus, these Circular Letters are relevant for the interpretation of the FIFA Regulations [...]

In the above case, the CAS noted that while FIFA Circulars did not have the force of law and could not supersede FIFA Regulations, they still had an interpretive value. Circulars could be used to help someone to understand the meaning of broader rules or regulations.

- 14. In like manner, the Office of the Chief Education Officer of the Ministry issued a letter seeking to offer guidance on Garcia's "bona fide" status. The letter, which it is asserted falls within the same category of correspondence as a memorandum or circular, noted Garcia's initial assignment to St. Benedict's in September 2021, his absence for the academic year September 2023 to July 2024 and his resumption of attendance on October 8, 2024.
- 15. In the absence of other relevant documentation, the Ministry's verification of Garcia's resumption of attendance at St. Benedict's can reasonably lead to the inference that he was registered in accordance with their rules and regulations. In its letter of November 7, 2024, no concern was raised by the Ministry that Garcia was not duly registered with them. If such a concern existed it is again reasonable to infer that the Ministry would have indicated so. On the face of it, therefore, it appears that Garcia was on his school's official roll and was registered both with the Ministry and with the League by **October 8, 2024**.

F. Issue#3: Have there been any breaches by St. Benedict's of the SSFL Constitution?

16. As alluded to above, a close examination of Article 16.1 suggests that proper registration of a student is triggered not by the date of entry of his name into the registration portal but by the first date of attendance. Although Garcia's name was formally entered on the school's list on October 2, 2024, he first attended school that term on Tuesday October

8, 2024. By that date, St. Benedict's (SBC in the table below) had already played eight matches. The dates, opponents and results of those matches are as follows:

Date (2024)	Opponent	Result
Wed Sept 11	Arima North Secondary	Match drawn 0-0
Sat Sept 14	Speyside Secondary	SBC won 3-1
Wed Sep 18	Trinity College	SBC won 2-1
Sat Sept 21	Naparima College	SBC won 1-0
Sat Sept 28	Malick Secondary	SBC won 2-1
Wed Oct 2	San Juan North Secondary	SBC won 1-0
Sat Oct 5	Fatima College	SBC won 3-1
Mon Oct 7	St. Anthony's College	SBC won 2-1

- 17. Based on his first date of attendance on October 8, 2024, Garcia became eligible to play for St. Benedict's from Wednesday October 9, 2024 when they defeated Queen's Royal College (QRC) 2-1. However, Garcia played in three of the eight matches highlighted in the above table, namely, the games on October 2nd, 5th, and 7th against San Juan North Secondary, Fatima College and St. Anthony's College, respectively.
- 18. The final determination as to whether St. Benedict's breached any provisions of the SSFL Constitution is beyond the mandate given to the author of this opinion. That authority rests with the Disciplinary Committee. What the author can provide, however, are his *prima facie* findings.
- 19. The drafting of Article 16 attaches certain penalties to specific breaches. It is submitted that there should be greater clarity in these provisions when the SSFL Constitution is next amended. It is further proposed that the drafting of an SSFL Disciplinary Code would be valuable for matters such as these.
- 20. Based on a literal interpretation of the Constitution, the layout of infringements would resemble the following:

Constitution	Criterion/Requirement	Penalty for Infringement
Article 16.1	Registration of players with	Suspension of the offending
	the Ministry and naming	school for remainder of the
	them on the school roll.	season.

Article 16.2	Registration of players with	Loss of game by the
	the League; Players having	offending team.
	proper age.	
Article 16.3	Players having proper age	Loss of points for matches
		where offending player
		appears; Points awarded to
		opposing team.
Article 16.4 (a)-(c)	Non-participation in other	Loss of points in games
	TTFA-affiliated League;	where offending footballer
	Repeat Sixth Form	plays; loss of player's
	students' compliance with	registration; possible
	criteria of Credentials	suspension of team for
	Committee.	remainder of season.
Article 16.5	Meeting the player transfer	Loss of points or possible
	criteria of the Credentials	suspension for remainder of
	Committee.	season.
Article 16.6	Registration of coaches	No penalty stipulated.
	with League.	
Article 16.7	Submission of correct	All penalties and sanctions
	information.	shall be imposed regarding
		applicable games.

21. The Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction to determine the appropriate penalties pursuant to Article 16 of the Constitution. This authority is explicit in Articles 16.3 and 16.4 but is implicit throughout the rest of the Article. The general trend is that breaches of Article 16 would lead to a loss of the game and a loss of points. The two go together. The loss of game or loss of points penalty is stipulated in Articles 16.2, 16.3, 16.4 and 16.5. No penalty is stated in Article 16.6 while Article 16.7 imposes all penalties where applicable, which would include a loss of points. In other words, the intent of the drafters of the Constitution appears to be that if a team breaches registration or eligibility criteria, that team will forfeit the game and any points awarded. The opposing team is only awarded points if an offending team fields an over-aged player. That is specified in Article 16.3 and nowhere else.

- 22. Notably, Article 16.1 imposes one of the most stringent penalties in the Constitution which is the suspension of a school from further competition if it is found that a player who is not properly registered was actually playing. The language of the provision is ambiguous as to whether this is a mandatory or discretionary penalty. It says neither "may" nor "shall". The relevant sentence begins with a noun "suspension" rather than the verb form which would have said whether the League "may suspend" or "shall suspend."
- 23. When this penalty is repeated in Article 16.4, however, it uses this language: "Loss of points or even suspension from further participation in the League for the remainder of the season."

 [Emphasis added]. Here, suspension appears to be discretionary rather than mandatory. Put another way, the loss of points will surely occur with the possibility of suspension as an additional punishment. Article 16.5 repeats the penalty found in Article 16.4.
- 24. At face value, a suspension for the balance of the season not only contradicts the consistency of the penalties identified in the other parts of Article 16 but also seems disproportionate. The proportionality principle is a well-established legal principle and again guidance can be gleaned from cases decided at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In CAS 2016/O/4684 Russian Olympic Committee et al v International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the panel of arbitrators made the following salient comments about proportionality at paragraph 130 of the ruling:

The principle of proportionality implies that there must be a reasonable balance between the nature of the misconduct and the sanction. In order to be respected, the principle of proportionality requires that (i) the measure taken by the governing body is capable of achieving the envisaged goal, (ii) the measure taken by the governing body is necessary to reach the envisaged goal, and (iii) the constraints which the affected person will suffer as a consequence of the measure are justified by the overall interest to achieve the envisaged goal. In other words, to be proportionate a measure must not exceed what is reasonably required in the search of the justifiable aim.

25. At the heart of the proportionality principle is the question of balance. The punishment must fit the crime. The sanction must not exceed what is reasonably required for a sports governing body to achieve a justifiable aim. The Disciplinary Committee must ask itself, then, if the constitutional drafters intended that a school would not be able to play for most or all of a full season for the use of an ineligible player. If that is found to be the drafters' intent, the next question that the Disciplinary Committee must ask is whether

such a penalty is proportionate, using the guidelines in the Russian Olympic Committee v LAAF case cited above. An alternative interpretation would be that the drafters' intention was only to deduct points unlawfully earned in the games where the ineligible footballer participated.

- 26. From the above factual backdrop, it appears that Garcia was ineligible to play in three matches in which he participated. Using a purposive rather than a literal interpretation of the Constitution, the penalty available to the Disciplinary Committee is a loss of points for each of the games in which Garcia played while ineligible. A purposive interpretation looks at Article 16 and the Constitution as a whole, while a literal interpretation takes a stricter approach that examines the specific words themselves. The purposive approach helps to clarify any apparent inconsistencies in the available sanctions.
- 27. Should the Disciplinary Committee adopt a purposive approach to interpreting the Constitution then the applicable penalty for St. Benedict's, if found to be in breach, would be a deduction of nine points from the total accumulated by them at the end of the league phase of the 2024 competition. Since Garcia's asserted ineligibility arose from registration criteria and not age criteria, based on the current wording of Article 16, no points can be awarded to the three opposing teams mentioned above in paragraph 17 that were affected by Garcia's improper presence on the field of play.

G. Conclusion

28. The Disciplinary Committee is invited to consider the foregoing legal principles and factual context in arriving at its final decision.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Tyrone Marcus

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To: The Disciplinary Committee of the Secondary Schools Football League

From: J. Tyrone Marcus, Attorney-at-Law

Date: December 18, 2024

Subject: Legal Opinion on the Status of Derrel Garcia

A. The Relevant Parties

- 1. The Secondary Schools Football League (hereinafter referred to as "the SSFL" or "the League") is the governing authority for the sport of football at the secondary school level in Trinidad and Tobago. It is affiliated to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association (TTFA), which is the National Governing Body for football locally and a member association of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), the sport's World Governing Body.
- 2. St. Benedict's College (hereinafter called "St. Benedict's") is a duly registered school in the county of Victoria, Trinidad under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education (hereinafter called "the Ministry"). St. Benedict's is registered to play football in the Premier Division of the SSFL pursuant to Article 3A and Article 14 of the SSFL Constitution.
- 3. Derrel Garcia (also known as Derrel "Zoom Zoom" Garcia and hereinafter referred to as "Garcia") is a 17-year-old footballer who entered into St. Benedict's College in September 2021 having successfully completed his Secondary Entrance Assessment (S.E.A.) earlier that year.

B. Factual Background

4. The backdrop to the case centres on Garcia's return to school after spending time overseas for sports-related purposes. His school attendance as a St. Benedict's student was temporarily disrupted for the period August 2023 to May 2024 when, as a Form 2 student, he was granted permission to pursue a football scholarship with CF Intercity International Academy based in Alacante, Spain. A written request for study leave dated July 6, 2023 was

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made on Garcia's behalf by his mother, Krystle Garcia. The practical consequence of the pursuit of the scholarship in Spain was that Garcia was absent from school for the September 2023 to July 2024 academic year.

5. On September 25, 2024, Garcia's mother wrote to the Principal of St. Benedict's, Mr. Gregory Quan Kep, seeking Garcia's reinstatement into the school. The documents seen by the author of this opinion disclosed no evidence of a written response from Principal Quan Kep to Ms. Garcia's letter. Nevertheless, attendance records from St. Benedict's confirmed that his first day present at school for the September to December 2024 term, was Tuesday October 8, 2024.

C. Issues to be Determined

- 6. The main issues to be determined are as follows:
 - 6.1 Whether, in accordance with the SSFL Constitution, Garcia was a duly registered player for St. Benedict's at the beginning of the 2024 SSFL season.
 - 6.2 If the answer to 6.1 above is in the negative, whether Garcia became a duly registered player at any point during the 2024 SSFL season.
 - 6.3 Whether there have been any breaches by St. Benedict's of the SSFL Constitution and, if so, what consequences must ensue.

D. Governing Law

7. The Governing Law for the determination of this matter is the SSFL Constitution. Article 16 of the Constitution states, in part, as follows:

16. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

The League reserves the absolute right to decide, through its General Council or anybody delegated by the General Council, which persons shall be eligible to function as players in the games of the competitions organized by the League. Secondary Schools are not permitted to jointly register one (1) team to compete in any competition.

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PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

Before students can be accepted by the League to be registered as players to represent any team playing in the League the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- 1. Students must be duly registered, according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education and on the official roll of the school presenting the team. These students must attend classes at the school during normal school hours [...]
- 2. They are officially registered by their school with the League. The registration of a player with the League must be made in writing at least Seventy-two (72) hours before the start of the match in which that player is to take part. This registration must be made with the General Secretary or Zone Secretary [...]
- 8. Article 16 goes on to list other eligibility criteria related to:
 - 8.1 The player's age (Article 16.3 and part of Article 16.2).
 - 8.2 Non-participation in another TTFA-affiliated League (Article 16.3 in part and Article 16.4 (a) and (b)).
 - 8.3 The status of Repeat Sixth Form students (Article 16.4 (c)).
 - 8.4 Transfers of players from other schools (Article 16.5).

Articles 16.6 and 16.7, respectively, address the registration of coaches with the League and the consequences for a school that submits incorrect information.

9. The disposition of the current case rests on an interpretation of Articles 16.1 and 16.2, in particular.

E. Analysis

Issues#1 and #2-Whether Garcia was duly registered at the start of or during the 2024 SSFL season

10. Article 16.1 stipulates registration criteria with three limbs. The first limb is that students must be registered "according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education." The

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second limb is that students must also be "on the official roll of the school presenting the team." The third limb is that students "must attend classes at the school during normal school hours." Put another way, the three-part registration criteria according to Article 16.1 can be listed as follows:

- 10.1 The Ministry registration requirement
- 10.2 The school enrolment requirement and
- 10.3 The school attendance requirement.

Registration is only complete when the student starts attending classes at the school during normal school hours, having satisfied the other two requirements.

- 11. The evidence provided identifies that Garcia's name was entered on the school's roll on Wednesday October 2, 2024 but that his first day of attendance was six days later on Tuesday October 8, 2024. This satisfies the second and third requirements, namely, school enrolment and school attendance. By way of confirmation, the Ministry by letter dated November 7, 2024 addressed to SSFL General Secretary, Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan, noted that Garcia "resumed attendance at St. Benedict's College on October 8, 2024, as verified from the Attendance Register at the school."
- 12. This leaves the question as to whether the first requirement, that is, the Ministry registration requirement was met. By letter to Mr. Mohammed-Khan dated December 9, 2024 the Ministry gave further context in noting that:
 - 12.1 Garcia was never deregistered as a student at St. Benedict's. [Emphasis added]
 - 12.2 The school's Principal was aware of the request for leave of absence.
 - 12.3 Garcia's parents followed the expected protocol in requesting the leave.
 - 12.4 The usual procedure for a request for leave of absence or a request for reinstatement involves forwarding the request to the School Supervisor.
 - 12.5 The School Supervisor was not in receipt of such a request.
- 13. Two questions arise from the letters sent by the Ministry to the SSFL. The first is what weight is to be given to these letters. The second question is whether the letters helped to clarify Garcia's status as a student.

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14. Guidance can be taken from the case law of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which is generally accepted as the world's highest sports court. In *CAS 2023/A/9501 Dansk Boldspil-Union and others v. FIFA*, the CAS addressed the issue of the weight that could be given to FIFA Circulars. It stated as follows:

FIFA Circular Letters are not regulations in a strict legal sense. However, they reflect the understanding of FIFA and the general practice of the federations and associations belonging thereto. Thus, these Circular Letters are relevant for the interpretation of the FIFA Regulations [...]

In the above case, the CAS noted that while FIFA Circulars did not have the force of law and could not supersede FIFA Regulations, they still had an interpretive value. Circulars could be used to help someone to understand the meaning of broader rules or regulations.

- 15. In like manner, the Office of the Chief Education Officer of the Ministry issued two letters seeking to offer guidance on Garcia's bona fide status. The letters, which it is asserted fall within the same category of correspondence as memoranda or circulars, noted Garcia's initial assignment to St. Benedict's in September 2021, his absence for the academic year September 2023 to July 2024 and his resumption of attendance on October 8, 2024.
- 16. Crucially, the second letter acknowledged that, as far as the Ministry was concerned, Garcia's status as a student remained intact even though he was absent for an academic year. While there were apparent omissions with regard to St. Benedict's communication with the School Supervisor concerning Garcia's return to school, this second letter identified that Garcia was never deregistered as a student. His absence did not nullify his registration status in the Ministry's eyes.
- 17. Against this backdrop, then, it means that the first requirement outlined at Paragraph 10.1 above, namely, the Ministry registration requirement was also met.

F. Issue#3: Have there been any breaches by St. Benedict's of the SSFL Constitution?

18. As alluded to above, a close examination of Article 16.1 suggests that proper registration of a student for SSFL purposes is triggered not by the date of entry of his name on to a registration list but by the first date of attendance. Although Garcia's name was formally entered on the school's roll on October 2, 2024, he first attended school that term on

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Tuesday October 8, 2024. By that date, St. Benedict's (SBC in the table below) had already played eight matches. The dates, opponents and results of those matches are as follows:

Date (2024)	Opponent	Result
Wed Sept 11	Arima North Secondary	Match drawn 0-0
Sat Sept 14	Speyside Secondary	SBC won 3-1
Wed Sep 18	Trinity College	SBC won 2-1
Sat Sept 21	Naparima College	SBC won 1-0
Sat Sept 28	Malick Secondary	SBC won 2-1
Wed Oct 2	San Juan North Secondary	SBC won 1-0
Sat Oct 5	Fatima College	SBC won 3-1
Mon Oct 7	St. Anthony's College	SBC won 2-1

- 19. Based on his first date of attendance on October 8, 2024, Garcia became eligible to play for St. Benedict's from Wednesday October 9, 2024 when they defeated Queen's Royal College (QRC) 2-1. However, Garcia played in three of the eight matches highlighted in the above table, namely, the games on October 2nd, 5th, and 7th against San Juan North Secondary, Fatima College and St. Anthony's College, respectively.
- 20. The final determination as to whether St. Benedict's breached any provisions of the SSFL Constitution is beyond the mandate given to the author of this opinion. That authority rests with the Disciplinary Committee. What the author can provide, however, are his *prima facie* findings.
- 21. The drafting of Article 16 attaches certain penalties to specific breaches. It is submitted that there should be greater clarity in these provisions when the SSFL Constitution is next amended. It is further proposed that the drafting of an SSFL Disciplinary Code would be valuable for matters such as these.
- 22. Based on a literal interpretation of the Constitution, the layout of infringements resembles the following:

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Constitution	Criterion/Requirement	Penalty for Infringement
Article 16.1	Registration of players with	Suspension of the offending
	the Ministry and naming	school for remainder of the
	them on the school roll.	season.
Article 16.2	Registration of players with	Loss of game by the
	the League; Players having	offending team.
	proper age.	
Article 16.3	Players having proper age	Loss of points for matches
		where offending player
		appears; Points awarded to
		opposing team.
Article 16.4 (a)-(c)	Non-participation in other	Loss of points in games
	TTFA-affiliated League;	where offending footballer
	Repeat Sixth Form	plays; loss of player's
	students' compliance with	registration; possible
	criteria of Credentials	suspension of team for
	Committee.	remainder of season.
Article 16.5	Meeting the player transfer	Loss of points or possible
	criteria of the Credentials	suspension for remainder of
	Committee.	season.
Article 16.6	Registration of coaches	No penalty stipulated.
	with League.	
Article 16.7	Submission of correct	All penalties and sanctions
	information.	shall be imposed regarding
		applicable games.

23. The Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction to determine the appropriate penalties pursuant to Article 16 of the Constitution. This authority is explicit in Articles 16.3 and 16.4 but is implicit throughout the rest of the Article. The general trend is that breaches of Article 16

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would lead to a loss of the game and a loss of points. The two go together. The loss of game or loss of points penalty is stipulated in Articles 16.2, 16.3, 16.4 and 16.5. No penalty is stated in Article 16.6 while Article 16.7 imposes all penalties where applicable, which would include a loss of points. In other words, the intent of the drafters of the Constitution appears to be that if a team breaches registration or eligibility criteria, that team will forfeit the game and any points awarded. The opposing team is only awarded points if the offending team fields an over-aged player. That is specified in Article 16.3 and nowhere else.

- 24. Notably, Article 16.1 imposes one of the most stringent penalties in the Constitution which is the suspension of a school from further competition if it is found that a player who is not properly registered was actually playing. The language of the provision is ambiguous as to whether this is a mandatory or discretionary penalty. It says neither "may" nor "shall". The relevant sentence begins with the noun "suspension" rather than the verb form which would have said whether the League "may suspend" or "shall suspend."
- 25. When this penalty is repeated in Article 16.4, however, it uses this language: "Loss of points <u>or</u> <u>even</u> suspension from further participation in the League for the remainder of the season." [Emphasis added]. Here, suspension appears to be discretionary rather than mandatory. Put another way, the loss of points will surely occur with the possibility of suspension as an additional punishment. Article 16.5 repeats the penalty found in Article 16.4.
- 26. At face value, a suspension for the remainder of the season not only contradicts the consistency of the penalties identified in the other parts of Article 16 but also seems disproportionate. The proportionality principle is a well-established legal principle and again guidance can be gleaned from cases decided at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In CAS 2016/O/4684 Russian Olympic Committee et al v International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the panel of arbitrators made the following salient comments about proportionality at paragraph 130 of the ruling:

The principle of proportionality implies that there must be a reasonable balance between the nature of the misconduct and the sanction. In order to be respected, the principle of proportionality requires that (i) the measure taken by the governing body is capable of achieving the envisaged goal, (ii) the measure taken by the governing body is necessary to reach the envisaged goal, and (iii) the

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constraints which the affected person will suffer as a consequence of the measure are justified by the overall interest to achieve the envisaged goal. In other words, to be proportionate a measure must not exceed what is reasonably required in the search of the justifiable aim.

- 27. At the heart of the proportionality principle is the question of balance. The punishment must fit the crime. The sanction must not exceed what is reasonably required for a Sports Governing Body to achieve a justifiable aim. The Disciplinary Committee must ask itself, then, if the constitutional drafters intended that a school would not be able to play for most or all of a full season for the use of an ineligible player. If that is found to be the drafters' intent, the next question that the Disciplinary Committee must ask is whether such a penalty is proportionate, using the guidelines in the *Russian Olympic Committee v IAAF* case cited above. An alternative interpretation would be that the drafters' intention was only to deduct points unlawfully earned in the games where the ineligible footballer participated.
- 28. From the above factual backdrop, it appears that Garcia was ineligible to play in three matches in which he participated. Using a purposive rather than a literal interpretation of the Constitution, the penalty available to the Disciplinary Committee is a loss of points for each of the games in which Garcia played while ineligible. A purposive interpretation looks at Article 16 and the Constitution as a whole, while a literal interpretation takes a stricter approach that examines the specific words themselves. The purposive approach helps to clarify any apparent inconsistencies in the available sanctions.
- 29. Should the Disciplinary Committee adopt a purposive approach to interpreting the Constitution then the applicable penalty for St. Benedict's, if found to be in breach, would be a deduction of nine points from the total accumulated by them at the end of the league phase of the 2024 competition. Since Garcia's asserted ineligibility arose from registration criteria and not age criteria, based on the current wording of Article 16, no points can be awarded to the three opposing teams mentioned above in paragraph 19 that were affected by Garcia's improper presence on the field of play.

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G. Conclusion

30. The Disciplinary Committee is invited to consider the foregoing legal principles and factual backdrop in arriving at its final decision.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Tyrone Marcus

Attorney-at-Law

SSFL Disciplinary Hearing Report on the Status of Derrel Garcia

Report Date: 24th December 2024

Hearing Date: 14th November 2024

Time of Hearing: 10 am.

Location: Ato Boldon Stadium

Participants:

• Hearing Committee Chair: Mr. Adesh Dwarika

• Committee Members: Mr. Laurence Seepersad

Mr. Kurt Harry

• Team/School: St Benedict's College

• Player(s) Involved: Master Derrel Garcia

• Representatives of the School: Mr. Gregory Quan Kep (Principal)

Mr. Christophe Brathwaite (Attorney)

1. Focus of the Committee

The hearing focused on Derrell Garcia's return to school after spending time overseas for an internship program. His school attendance as a St. Benedict's College student was disrupted for the period August 2023 to May 2024 when he went to pursue the internship program with CF Intercity International Academy based in Alacante, Spain.

A written request for study leave dated July 6, 2023 was made on Derrell's behalf by his mother, Krystle Garcia. The practical consequence of the pursuit of the internship in Spain was that Derrell was absent from school for the September 2023 to July 2024 academic year.

On September 25, 2024, Derrell's mother wrote to the Principal of St. Benedict's College, Mr. Gregory Quan Kep, seeking Derrell's reinstatement into the school, however, there was no evidence of a written response from Principal Mr. Quan Kep to Ms. Garcia's letter. Nevertheless, attendance records from St. Benedict's College confirmed that Derrell's first day attending classes for the September to December 2024 term, was **Tuesday October 8, 2024**.

2. Issues for Clarification

The main issues to be determined were as follows:

- Whether, in accordance with the SSFL Constitution, Derrell was a duly registered player for St. Benedict's College at the beginning of the 2024 SSFL season.
- If the answer to above is in the negative, whether Derrell became a duly registered player at any point during the 2024 SSFL season.
- Whether there have been any breaches by St. Benedict's College of the SSFL Constitution and, if so, what consequences must ensue.

3. Allegations

St. Benedict's College infringed the SSFL procedure for registration (Article 16.1) by playing Derrell Garcia although he was not attending classes at the time he played his first game on 2nd October 2024 against San Juan North Secondary School.

ARTICLE 16

PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

Before students can be accepted by the League to be registered as players to represent any team playing in the League the following criteria must be fulfilled:

1. Students must be duly registered, according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education and on the official roll of the school presenting the team. These students must attend classes at that school during normal school hours.

Penalty for Infringement: Suspension of the school from further competition in the division for the remainder of the season.

4. Evidence Examined

- Article 16 and appendix V a. of the SSFL Constitution.
- Legal Opinion from Mr. J. Tyrone Marcus (Attorney)

- Education Act of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago sections 21 b1 and b2 and section 76 to 84.
- Education Policy Document 2023–2027-page 63 article 11 Re Entry/Entry into the School System
- Job Specification and Description of Principal Secondary number 6 of duties and responsibilities.
- National School Code of Conduct 2022 page 7 numbers 15 and 16.
- Copy of the Roll Book St Benedict's College.
- Correspondence from CF Intercity International Academy (Spain)
- Letter dated 6th July 2023, from Ms. Krystle Garcia (Parent of Derrell Garcia) to Mr.
 Quan Kep requesting study leave for her son.
- Letter dated 25th September 2024, from Ms. Krystle Garcia (Parent of Derrell Garcia) to Mr. Quan Kep requesting reinstatement for her son into St Benedict's College.
- Two correspondences from the CEO Ag. MOE Mr. Aaron Ramrattan, regarding confirmation of the bona fide status of Derrell Garcia at St Benedict's College dated 7th November 2024 and 9th December 2024.

5. Findings of the Committee

- St Benedict's College submitted a registration list which included Derrell Garcia knowing that he was not attending classes and that he was not in physical attendance at the school at that time.
- Uploaded information for Derrell Garcia online at the time of registration showed an incorrect birth paper upload.
- St Benedict's College played Derrell Garcia in a game on the 2nd October 2024 against San Juan North Secondary School knowing that he was not attending classes at the time.
- Derrell Garcia's name was entered on the school's roll on Wednesday October 2,
 2024 but his first day of attendance was six days later on Tuesday October 8, 2024.

This was confirmed by the Ministry of Education's letter dated November 7, 2024 addressed to SSFL General Secretary, Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan.

- Garcia was never deregistered as a student at St. Benedict's College.
- The school's Principal was aware of the request for leave of absence.
- Garcia's parents followed the expected protocol in requesting the leave.
- The usual procedure for a request for leave of absence or a request for reinstatement involves forwarding the request to the School Supervisor.
- The School Supervisor was not in receipt of such a request.
- Although Garcia's name was formally entered on the school's roll on October 2, 2024, he first attended school that term on Tuesday October 8, 2024. By that date, St.
 Benedict's (SBC in the table below) had already played eight matches. The dates, opponents and results of those matches are as follows:

Date (2024)	Opponent	Result
Wed Sept 11	Arima North Secondary	Match drawn 0-0
Sat Sept 14	Speyside Secondary	SBC won 3-1
Wed Sep 18	Trinity College	SBC won 2-1
Sat Sept 21	Naparima College	SBC won 1-0
Sat Sept 28	Malick Secondary	SBC won 2-1
Wed Oct 2	San Juan North Secondary	SBC won 1-0
Sat Oct 5	Fatima College	SBC won 3-1
Mon Oct 7	St. Anthony's College	SBC won 2-1

6. Analysis of the Information before the Committee

PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

Before students can be accepted by the League to be registered as players to represent any team playing in the League the following criteria must be fulfilled: 1. Students must be duly registered, according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education and on the official roll of the school presenting the team. These students must attend classes at that school during normal school hours.

The sanction for this offence is clearly outlined in 16.1 of the Constitution of the SSFL,

Penalty for Infringement: Suspension of the school from further competition in the division for the remainder of the season.

According to 16.1 of the Constitution of the SSFL, indicated above, it stipulates registration criteria with three tenets. The first tenet is that students must be registered "according to the existing rules and regulations of the Ministry of Education." The second tenet is that students must also be "on the official roll of the school presenting the team." The third tenet is that students "must attend classes at the school during normal school hours." It is clear that there is a three-part registration criteria according to 16.1 and it can be listed as follows:

- The Ministry registration requirement
- The school enrolment requirement and
- The school attendance requirement.

Registration is only complete when the student starts attending classes at the school during normal school hours, having satisfied the other two requirements. Information provided by the MOE via letter to Mr. Azad Mohammed-Khan dated November 7, 2024 satisfies the first tenet. Derrell Garcia was assigned to the St Benedict's College through the SEA 2021 placement and registered at the school on September 14, 2021.

Information provided by the MOE by way of confirmation letter dated November 7, 2024 addressed to SSFL General Secretary, Mr. Azaad Mohammed-Khan, noted that Derrell Garcia "resumed attendance at St. Benedict's College on October 8, 2024, as verified from the Attendance Register at the school." This satisfies the second and third requirements, namely, school enrolment and school attendance.

A close examination of Article 16.1 suggests that proper registration of a student for SSFL purposes is triggered not by the date of entry of his name on to a registration list but by the first date of attendance to classes during normal school hours. Although Derrell Garcia's name was formally entered on the school's roll on October 2, 2024, he first attended classes for the term on Tuesday October 8, 2024. After careful consideration of the information presented to the Committee, we found St Benedict's College in breach of 16.1 of the Constitution of the SSFL.

7. Decision of the Committee

Article 16 of the SSFL Constitution attaches certain penalties to specific breaches. The infringement of 16.1 of the SSFL Constitution is quite clear, however, the Committee used the proportionality principle to reach its final decision. The proportionality principle is a well-established legal principle and again guidance can be gleaned from cases decided at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. In CAS 2016/O/4684 Russian Olympic Committee et al v International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the panel of arbitrators made the following salient comments about proportionality at paragraph 130 of the ruling:

The principle of proportionality implies that there must be a reasonable balance between the nature of the misconduct and the sanction. In order to be respected, the principle of proportionality requires that (i) the measure taken by the governing body is capable of achieving the envisaged goal, (ii) the measure taken by the governing body is necessary to reach the envisaged goal, and (iii) the constraints which the affected person will suffer as a consequence of the measure are justified by the overall interest to achieve the envisaged goal. In other words, to be proportionate a measure must not exceed what is reasonably required in the search of the justifiable aim.

It is evident that at the heart of the proportionality principle is the question of balance. The punishment must fit the crime. The sanction must not exceed what is reasonably required for the SSFL to achieve a justifiable aim. Based on the facts presented to the Committee, it appears that Derrell Garcia was ineligible to play in four matches in which he participated. Using a purposive rather than a literal interpretation of the Constitution, the penalty decided by the Committee is a loss of points for each of the games in which Derrell Garcia played while ineligible. A purposive interpretation looks at Article 16 and the Constitution as a whole, while a literal interpretation takes a stricter approach that examines the specific words themselves. The purposive approach helps to clarify any apparent inconsistencies in the available sanctions.

Therefore, it is the decision of the Committee that St Benedicts College forfeit all points for each of the games in which Derrell Garcia played while ineligible and three (3) points and three (3) goals be awarded to the respective schools/teams.

8. Right to Appeal

Any appeal concerning a decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be made in writing within Seventy-two (72) hours of such decision to the Appeals Committee. Pending the hearing of such an appeal the decision stands.

9. Signatures

Chairman: Adesh Dwarika

Member: Laurence Seepersad

Ques

Member: Kurt Harry

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Founded 1964 Patron: Minister of Education President: Mr. Merere L. Gonzales General Secretary: Mr. Azaad M. Khan Cell: 678-8637 Work: 235-5057

Email: azaadmk@gmail.com Web: www.ttssfl.com

19th November 2024

Mr. Tyrone Marcus Attorney at Law

Dear Mr. Marcus

Re: Legal Advice

The Secondary Schools Football League is seeking Legal advice re: student Derrell Garcia of St. Benedict's College.

We wish advice as to whether: -

- (1) He is a bona fide student
- (2) Whether he was properly registered as required by the SSFL Constitution

Please find attached:

- 1. Letter from Ministry of Education
- 2. Registration form from St. Benedict's College
- 3. Class Roll
- 4. Letter from Parent requesting reinstatement to St. Benedict's College
- 5. SSFL Constitution

We also need advice on another matter.

Our General Council Meeting on 20th June 2024 mandated that all Players Registration must be done on-line. However, the Constitution does not allude to on-line Registration. Can one be registered via e mail or with physical form which was the custom and practice. This continued in 2024.

Find attached General Council Minutes where on-line Registration was approved.

Thanking you in advance.

Respectfully submitted

Azaad Mohammed-Khan

arad M. Khan.

General Secretary

Att.

1st Vice President: Essiel Seecharan; 2nd Vice President: Syandene Blackman-Walsh; Assistant Secretary – Administration: Gerald Elliot; Assistant Secretary - Operations: Laurence Seepersad







