

Penalty and request for force majeure

FACTS

An official complaint was filed by Riviera 1 against a decision of Herman de wael, TD in the matches of Honour on Saturday 13 October 2018. The complaint was sent by email on Sunday 14 October 2018.

Philippe Coenraets (BCOB 1) allegedly arrived 20 minutes late for the first match of the day; the TD (Herman de wael) told the players he would not penalize BCOB 1 for this lateness "as he had not noticed when Philippe arrived."

On Saturday 2018 players of both Riviera 1 and Squeeze 1 had already made clear to me as Competition Director they could not agree with this decision, as in previous years penalties had been given in similar or identical cases.

Philippe Coenraets admitted he arrived 15 minutes late due to a heavy traffic jam on the Ring Road in Brussels.

Herman de wael on his part confirmed that he did not want to give a penalty for the reason mentioned above. He pointed out that the first result at Philippe's table was transferred by the bridge mate at 11:19:31, so Philippe could not have been 20 minutes late.

On Sunday 14 October 2018 Philippe Coenraets sent an email requesting to accept force majeure for his late arrival arguing that

- he had left home (Halle) at 9.40
- he got stuck in a traffic jam just past exit 17
- he phoned his captain at 10.05 to explain the situation
- his captain told the TD their team mate would probably be late
- he eventually arrived 15 minutes late.

INVESTIGATION

Via the site "Historische verkeersinformatie" of www.verkeerscentrum.be we learned that

- at 9.45 the Ring Road was still open
- at 10.00 one lane was blocked in Anderlecht Pede due to an accident
- at 10.15 two lanes were blocked and there was a traffic jam from Anderlecht Industrie till Anderlecht Pede.
- at 11.00 the Ring Road was open again.

As

- the trip from Halle to Riviera is known as being susceptible of traffic jams (Ring Roads Brussels and Antwerp) an extra margin for possible calamities should be calculated
- according to the information on the internet the accident happened just before 10, at which time only one lane was blocked
- the beginning of the traffic jam as Philippe indicated was only about 10 km from Halle

we must conclude that apparently there was a serious traffic jam on Saturday morning, but its time does not justify the late arrival.

THEREFORE

- BCOB 1 is given a penalty of 2 VPs in accordance with Section 53.03(f) of the National Teams Regulations. This penalty does not affect the result of the match
- the request for force majeure is denied.

Paul Meerbergen
Competition Director
13 October 2018