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# Decision of the OFC Appeals Committee

passed on 4 May 2026

## DECISION BY:

**Silverio Lepe (Solomon Islands)**, Chairperson

**Aaron Sherriff (New Zealand)**, Member

**Jotishna Nair (Fiji)**, Member

Acting pursuant to Article 88 of the OFC Disciplinary Code

## ON THE CASE OF:

**Auckland FC**

(Decision OFCAC-001)

## REGARDING:

An appeal against the decision of the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee passed on 21 April 2026 (OFCDEC-010)

## I. INTRODUCTION

**Competition:** OFC Professional League 2026

**Match:** Bula FC – Auckland FC

**Date:** 18 April 2026

**Venue:** Four R Stadium, Ba, Fiji

1. This case concerns the appeal brought by the professional Club Auckland FC (**the Appellant**) in relation to the decision rendered by the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee following the issuance of a red card against their player, Tass MOURDOUKOUTAS, during the above mentioned match.
2. On 21 April 2026 the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee issued a decision (**the Appealed Decision**) and found Mr Mourdoukoutas in breach of the OFC Disciplinary Code 2019, specifically Article 49(1) (violent conduct). Accordingly Mr Mourdoukoutas was sanctioned as follows:
  - i. a 2 match suspension, not including the automatic match suspension pursuant to Article 19(4) of the OFC Disciplinary Code (resulting in a total of 3 matches); and
  - ii. a fine of NZD \$500.00 to be paid on or before 8 May 2026.

The OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee noted that Mr Mourdoukoutas and Auckland FC were jointly liable for the fine pursuant to Article 16(4) of the Code.

3. On 22 April 2026, the Appellant submitted its intention to appeal and provided proof of payment of the appeal deposit on 29 April 2026. The Appellant requested for expedited proceedings due to their next match fixture being on 6 May 2026.

4. The Appellant sought the following relief:
  - i. set aside paragraph 16 as an aggravating factor;
  - ii. find that the Decision contains insufficient representation of the facts;
  - iii. find that the Decision involves a wrong application of the law;
  - iv. reconsider the sanction imposed; and
  - v. reduce the suspension and/or fine as the Appeal Committee considers appropriate.
  
5. Subsequently, the Appellant was advised that the OFC Appeals Committee (**the Committee**) had convened a panel in accordance with the OFC Statutes (March 2026) to preside over this matter and invited the Appellant to submit all relevant information, including any further appeal documentation no later than 1 May 2026. The Appellant was also invited to advise whether they required an oral hearing.
  
6. On 1 May 2026 the Appellant confirmed all relevant documentation had been submitted to OFC on 22 April 2026 and requested for the matter to be heard on the papers due to the pressing timeframes.
  
7. On that basis the OFC Appeals Committee has proceeded to determine this matter on the papers. The Committee has reviewed the information before the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee as well as the further information submitted by the Appellant during the course of this appeal.
  
8. Taking into consideration the Appellant's request for expedited proceedings and in accordance with Article 125 of the Disciplinary Code 2019, the Committee has decided to notify the Appellant on the substance of this matter through this operative decision today.
  
9. The Committee will issue grounds of the decision within the next ten working days of notification of this decision.

## DECISION OF THE OFC APPEALS COMMITTEE

1. The appeal lodged by the Appellant, Auckland FC, against the Decision of the OFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee passed on 21 April 2026 is partially upheld. Consequently, the Committee has determined that the sanction imposed on Mr Mourdoukoutas be reduced from three matches in total, to a suspension of **two matches in total**.
2. The Committee acknowledges that Mr Mourdoukoutas has already served this suspension during the scheduled match on 21 April 2026 between Auckland FC and South Island United. Therefore, the remaining match suspension shall be served at the next scheduled match for Auckland FC in the OFC Professional League 2026.
3. The Committee considers the original fine of NZD \$500.00 to be appropriate in the circumstances. Accordingly this sanction is not reduced.

OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION INC.

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**Frederic Guillemont**  
Acting General Secretary - CEO