



October 18, 2010

Subject: CLA Discipline Hearing
Zach Huff
Teleconference

In Attendance: Shawn Williams (Chair), SLA President
Don Roper, LNB President
Brent McCauley, CLA Officiating Sector Chair

Keith Talbot, ALA President
*note – Zach Huff not in attendance

Hearing Process:

A hearing was held on Thursday September 28, 2010 at 8pm EDT. The above were in attendance by telephone. The following agenda was followed:

- 1 Shawn Williams introduced everyone.
- 2 Agenda was reviewed.
- 3 The Committee asked questions of Keith Talbot
- 4 The Chair asked all to leave the meeting so the committee could deliberate.

The Allegation:

As submitted by the ALA with the original discipline complaint to the CLA: At the Edmonton International Airport, Zak Huff showed up drunk to board the plane. Then he and two other players proceeded to go have tequila shots. When Zak tried to board the plane, he refused to provide ID. The West Jet employee stated he had liquor on his breathe and refused to let him board the plane. Zak was then swearing and acting obnoxious towards the employee. Security was called. Zak was handcuffed and taken away. At some point, it became known he had a warrant for an unpaid speeding ticket. Zak went to Leduc, paid the ticket, and later that same day boarded West Jet to go to Founders Cup.

Summary of the Evidence and Arguments:

Documents submitted by the ALA regarding the incident and its subsequent team disciplinary actions were presented to the Committee. There was no further evidence given as to the actions of Zach Huff as he did not participate in the hearing for reasons unknown.

The Committee questioned Keith Talbot if any sanctions had been imposed other than the immediate dismissal from Founders Cup participation. He indicated that none had been levied as they were waiting for the CLA ruling on this matter.

Zach Huff's disciplinary record as an ALA member was also submitted. There was nothing in this file to indicate prior behavior of the reported nature.

The Committee closed the hearing for deliberation.



Decision:

In the matter of the incident pertaining to Zach Huff, we the discipline committee find that he has violated section 10.2.1.4 as per the CLA operations manual. As a result of this violation Zach Huff shall be subject to the following:

1. Five (5) regular season game suspension at any CLA sanctioned level commencing the beginning of the 2011 season;
2. 1 year probation from the end of suspension;
3. Letters of apology written to Westjet, Alberta Lacrosse Association, and the Edmonton Warriors Lacrosse Club within two weeks of being notified of the results of the decision. Copies of these letters are to be forwarded to the CLA office in the same time frame.

Reasons:

There are no prior decisions on file in regards to this behaviour (public intoxication) as a representative at a CLA sanctioned event. The committee tried to put the emphasis on the fact Zach Huff was representing not only his team, but also the lacrosse community as a whole.

The ALA had sent Zach Huff home from the event as a result of his behaviour with possible further penalties to follow. We, the committee do not wish to stop Mr. Huff's participation but feel that these sanctions will move him towards not repeating these negative actions.

Mr. Huff did not attend the hearing and did not indicate at any time before or since as to his non attendance. He has not contacted the ALA, WestJet, or his team and explained his actions in this matter. There was no prior indication that this would be an issue with Zach Huff's participation in the Founders Cup.

Recommendations:

The code of conduct should be given to all participants at CLA sanctioned events prior to the event. The code should be signed by all members acknowledging their understanding of their responsibilities as a representative of the CLA and MA. The disciplinary actions for not adhering to this code should also be made known to participants.

Shawn Williams, Chair, CLA Discipline Committee
Don Roper, Committee Member
Brent McCauley, Committee Member