Punch-up at Pasir Gudang: On Jabbar may be banned at least two years

by T Vignesh

PETALING JAYA: Johor Darul Takzim 2 (JDT 2) manager On Jabbar may be in hot water as he could face a minimum two-year ban if he is found guilty by the disciplinary committee for punching referee Sukri Abdul Rahman.

The incident took place after JDT 2 drew with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) on April 19 at the Pasir Gudang stadium. It was reported that Sukri was left with a bloodied nose after being assaulted by On.

A source said the FA of Malaysia (FAM) is still waiting for the Johor FA to reply to a charge sheet sent by the national body.

The FAM had sent two separate charge sheets, one to On and the other to the Johor FA.

It is believed that the FAM has all the evidence needed to punish On. Sources said the FAM disciplinary committee will be meeting in the next two weeks on the matter.

At the same time, the source believed that the FAM will not let this case slip through their fingers as the national body has already been criticised for the way it handled an earlier case involving Super League outfit JDT 1.

However, the source said that if On was punished for the incident at Pasir Gudang, the FAM would be forced to re-open the “tunnel bust-up” case in which high-ranking Johor FA officials could be called to face the disciplinary committee for their involvement in the fracas.

The FAM was criticised for having been too lenient to JDT 1 for its involvement in the infamous incident, which saw T-Team walking out of the match at halftime in their FA Cup second-round match at the Larkin stadium.

For the “tunnel bust-up”, the Johor FA was fined RM30,000 for having poor security.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin has urged the FAM to improve the standards of refereeing to avoid untoward incidents involving players, coaches and supporters.

He said supporters sometimes feel aggrieved by silly decisions made by the referees, leading to brawls.

The minister said the quality of refereeing must be improved as a first step for the FAM to curb trouble, such as lighting up of fireworks and flares by the crowd during and after a match.

“FAM should do it fast. FAM and the police have to work together to curb this,” Khairy said during the launch of the Malaysia Purple League at the Datuk Lee Chong Wei Sports Arena on Wednesday.

The minister pleaded to the FAM to sort out the JDT 2 punching issue as soon as possible.

“Such incidents should not occur in the future and the FAM should stamp their authority when punishing the culprits.

“This kind of incident boils up the situation and it also plays a big part in crowd trouble,” he said.

Khairy also pointed out that players and officials of the respective teams should be professional and prevent such untoward incidents from happening.