Grow up, JDT

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JOHOR BARU — Johor Darul Takzim I (JDT) officials must stop thinking the whole world is against them.

Refereeing decisions can go either way, but that does not give them the right to berate referees or match commissioners.

In last night’s FA Cup semifinal first leg against Pahang at the Larkin Stadium which ended 1-1, Johor FA secretary Fahmy Yahya was seen airing his displeasure at match commissioner Lt. Kol (rtd) Kamaruddin Sakhari on several occasions.

JDT manager-coach Bojan Hodak then stormed out of the Press Conference, but not before saying: “I cannot give a statement as then I need to talk about the referee, which would lead to sanctions. I could send the videos to FA of Malaysia (FAM).”

This is not the first time JDT have been unhappy with the quality of refereeing.

Last month, JDT II manager On Jabbar was sacked and fined after appearing to hit referee Sukri Abd Rahman at the end of the match against UiTM.

After last night’s match, the Elephants just need to avoid conceding goals at the Darul Makmur Stadium in the return leg on May 30. Pahang have won all their home matches this season.

Zainal, however, insisted the tie was far from over.

“This is not an advantage for us. It is just the first half. But it’s good having an away goal,” said the former international.

Luciano Figueroa gave JDT the lead after 13 minutes when he converted Safiq Rahim’s pass.

Pahang equalised in the 36th minute when Damion Stewart headed a freekick across the goal for Matdas Conti to level.

Things got heated after that with Norshahrul Idlan Talaha and Saiful Nizam Miswan receiving yellow cards.

After the match, Johor FA president Tunku Ismail Ibrahim walked onto the pitch to shake the referee’s hand.