

Media Release

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FC Haka awarded UEFA Champions League win by default

Finnish club declared 3-0 winners as Maccabi Haifa fielded suspended player

UEFA's Control & Disciplinary Body has decided to award Finnish club FC Haka a 3-0 win over Maccabi Haifa as the Israeli side fielded a suspended player during the match played in Haifa on Wednesday 1 August in the second qualifying round for the 2001/02 UEFA Champions League. Maccabi Haifa, having won the first leg 1-0 in Valkeakoski eight days earlier, recorded a 4-0 home win which gave them a 5-0 aggregate victory and a place in the third qualifying round, where they had been drawn to meet the current UEFA Cup champions, Liverpool FC.

However, Badeer Valid was in the Maccabi Haifa line-up for the opening 70 minutes of last Wednesday's game. Valid had been suspended for three UEFA club competition matches following an assault on an opponent during a UEFA Cup match against Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem, played in the Netherlands on 24 September 2000. He did not take part in the return match and, as Maccabi Haifa were eliminated, two matches of his suspension remained pending.

Based on the communication received from the Israeli FA, Maccabi Haifa was of the opinion that the player had served the suspension by missing the first leg match in Valkeakoski on 24 July 2001.

According to the Control and Disciplinary Body, Maccabi Haifa displayed culpable negligence by not clarifying the suspension with UEFA. The Control & Disciplinary Body therefore imposed a 3-0 'default' scoreline in favour of FC Haka, which gives the Finnish side a 3-1 aggregate victory in the tie.

If an appeal is lodged against this decision, the appeals hearing will be held on Monday 6 August.