

Beyond the Kitara-Vipers Fufa verdict

Kitara have now jumped to 35 points into second place.



Godfrey Drabe
Fufa



In a landmark ruling that concludes months of speculation and sporting tension, the Fufa Disciplinary Panel has officially declared Vipers guilty of failing to honour their scheduled StarTimes Uganda Premier League fixture against Kitara.

The decision, delivered on February 12, 2026, brings a decisive & controversial end to a saga that began on October 4, 2025, when The Venoms staged a high-profile boycott at the Mandela National Stadium.

The panel found Vipers SC in breach of Article 16 of the Fufa Ethics and Disciplinary Code. Consequently, the match has been awarded to Kitara by forfeiture.

While the standard penalty for a no-show often includes a "docking of three points and three goals" from a team's existing tally, the Panel exercised its discretion under Article 5.

In a move that may offer some relief to the Kitende-based side, no additional points were deducted beyond the loss of the game itself.

"The Panel... will not impose additional sanction of docking three points and three goals from those already accumulated or to be accumulated," the ruling stated, designating this as the final ruling on the matter.

The dispute originated from Vipers' refusal to play in protest of a newly introduced (and subsequently suspended) three-round league format.

While Vipers argued that the format lacked integrity and proper consultation, Kitara had arrived at Namboole ready to play, only to find an empty stadium.

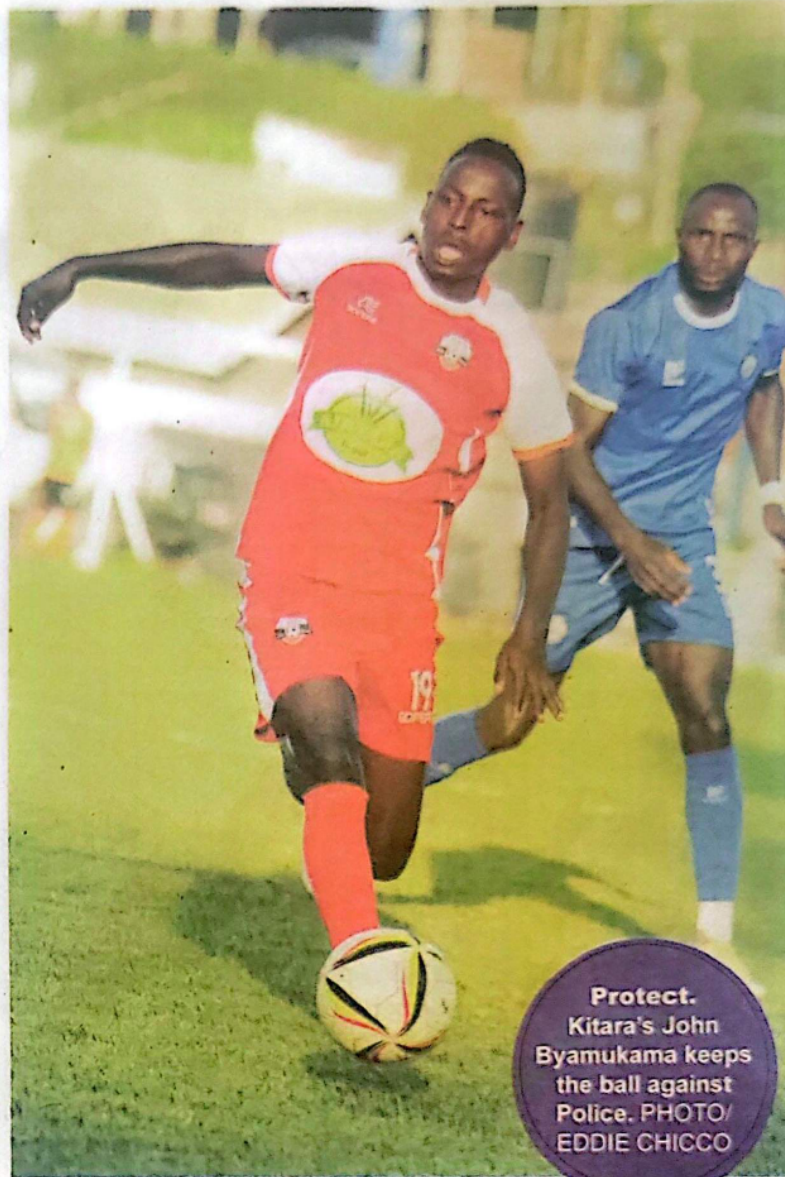
The delay in this ruling had cast a long shadow over the 2025/26 season. Heading into February, Vipers sat at the top of the table with 36 points, while Kitara followed in fifth with 29 points.

This administrative "win" significantly narrows the gap in the title race, officially handing Kitara three vital points and three goals (3-0 scoreline).

With Kitara now jumping to 35 points, they move into second place, leapfrogging Entebbe UPPC, KCCA, and SC Villa. The title race is now tighter than ever as the league enters its final stretch.

The same sitting also cleared Kitara of allegations regarding the fielding of an ineligible player in their September 2025 match against KCCA.

The panel ruled that any technical error was "beyond the club's control," upholding that result and cementing a very successful day for the Ho-



Protect.
Kitara's John
Byamukama keeps
the ball against
Police. PHOTO/
EDDIE CHICCO

ima-based club in the boardroom.

The ruling has placed the Fufa in a precarious position where every move risks further destabilizing the league's

credibility.

By enforcing a forfeiture for a match tied to a defunct format, Fufa is attempting to maintain administrative

authority while simultaneously admitting to structural failure.

If Fufa holds firm on the forfeiture, they risk a protracted legal battle with one of the country's most well-funded clubs.

This could lead to a freeze on league proceedings or an embarrassing escalation to the National Council of Sports (NCS) or Court of Arbitration of Sports (CAS), potentially exposing deeper procedural flaws in how the three-round format was initially ratified.

Reaching a "back-room" settlement, such as a replay or a reduction in penalties, might appease Vipers but would invite a storm of protest from Kitara and other stakeholders.

It would set a dangerous precedent that the rulebook is negotiable for the league's "heavyweights," undermining the principle of sporting merit.

Fufa could use this crisis as a catalyst for a total overhaul of its judicial and fixture-management systems.

Admitting that the four-month delay caused "sporting prejudice" would require a level of transparency the federation has historically avoided.

Ultimately, Fufa's dilemma is no longer just about three points or a single fixture; it is about whether the federation can govern a modern, professional league without collapsing under the weight of its own administrative contradictions.

As Vipers prepares its next move, the ball remains firmly in Fufa's court and the clock is ticking on the integrity of the 2025/26 season.

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