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Idrissa Gueye in action for PSG against Troyes on May 8. PSG via Getty Images

Paris

Saint-Germain midfielder Idrissa Gueye has been asked by the French soccer federation why he sat out a game in which players wore jerseys with rainbow-colored numbers to denounce anti-gay discrimination.

A person with direct knowledge of the incident told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Gueye did not play because he did not want to wear a rainbow-colored number on his shirt. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Gueye has not commented publicly on the incident.

The federation's ethics council sent Gueye a letter, obtained by the AP on Wednesday, urging him to clarify why he missed Saturday's game.

The council said if the reports are untrue, the Senegal international could take a photo of himself wearing the jersey.

"Your absence has led to many speculations that have been very widely interpreted as a refusal to take part in this operation to raise awareness of the fight against discrimination," council president Patrick Anton wrote.

Gueye traveled with his teammates to Montpellier for the game, but PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino cited "personal reasons" to justify Gueye's absence from the field.

"Either these suppositions are baseless, in which case we ask you to express yourself without delay in order to stop these rumors," Anton wrote. "We invite you, for example, to accompany your message with a photo of you wearing the jersey in question."

"Or these rumors [reports] are true," he continued. "In which case, we ask you to take stock of the impact of your actions and the very serious mistake committed. The fight against discrimination affecting different minorities is a vital and constant fight. Whether it's skin color, or religion, or sexual orientation, or any