

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
KENYA RUGBY UNION
APPEALS COMMITTEE**

DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

**IN THE APPEAL BY
KCB RFC
VERSUS
KABRAS RFC**

Arising from the decision of the Leagues & Fixtures Committee made on 9 March 2026

Coram:	Edward Rombo, Appeal Officer Andrew Musangi, Appeal Officer Waiyaki Hinga, Appeal Officer
Appearances:	Mr James Mugo and Brian Mwita for KCB Dr. Aroni, Kevin Wambura and Leslie Mwangale for KRU Carlos Katiwa & Nick Barasa for Kabras RFC
Hearing:	Virtual hearing conducted on 18 March 2026

INTRODUCTION

1. This decision concerns an appeal lodged by KCB RFC (“the Appellant”) against the decision of the Kenya Rugby Union Leagues & Fixtures Committee (“the LFC”) made on 9 March 2026 declaring the results standing as at the time following the abandonment at half time of the Kenya Cup fixture between the Appellant and Kabras RFC (“the Respondent”) that was played on 8th March 2026 at the KCB Grounds popularly known as “the Den”.

2. The appeal calls for determination of two questions: first, whether the game was abandoned within the 1st half in which case it ought to be replayed or at the 2nd half by which the results stand at the time of the abandonment; and second, whether, as urged by the Appellant, the abandoned fixture ought instead to be replayed.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

3. It is common ground that on 7 March 2026 the match ended after the completion of the first half when referee and match officials called off the fixture before kick-off for the 2nd half because of adverse weather conditions, namely heavy rainfall and a muddy waterlogged pitch, which rendered the playing surface unsafe for the players and officials.

5. At a meeting held on 9 March 2026, the LFC directed that the score at the time the game was abandoned of 10-10 was to stand as the final result.

6. The Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal dated 10 March 2026 challenging that decision. The principal grounds advanced were that the LFC had failed properly to consider that the game was abandoned before the 2nd half had been played and thus a replay was the requisite prescription under the KRU Regulations 13.6.4.6 (a) (i). The LFC on the other hand determined that the 1st half had been completed and that the game was at the 2nd half stage only that it did not proceed further and

applying the provisions of Reg. 13.6.4.6 (a) (ii) which provided for the pertaining score to stand as the result if a game is abandoned during the 2nd half.

JURISDICTION AND STANDARD OF REVIEW

11. This Appeals Council exercises appellate jurisdiction under Article 11 of the Kenya Rugby Union Constitution and the applicable Competition Regulations. In an appeal of this nature, the Council is concerned with whether the impugned decision was reached in accordance with the governing regulations and whether, in the circumstances presented, it was reasonable, procedurally fair, and consistent with the proper administration of the competition.

12. In addressing the merits, the Council does not proceed on the basis of abstract fairness alone. The governing regulations, the integrity of the competition, player welfare considerations, and the practical administration of fixtures must all be read together and applied coherently.

ISSUES FOR DETERMINATION

13. Having considered the record, the Notice of Appeal, and the oral submissions of the parties, the Committee identifies the following issues for determination:

- (a) Whether the game should be replayed.
- (b) Whether the scores at the time the match was abandoned should stand.

ANALYSIS

14. We begin with the nature of what occurred on 7 March 2026. On the undisputed facts the game was played to the conclusion of the 1st half and was abandoned before the 2nd half kicked-off because the weather conditions and state of the pitch which made play unsafe. The abandonment was therefore not attributable to any default, refusal, or misconduct on the part of either club. It was noted that Kabras RFC representative Carlos Katiwa submitted that they had taken issue with KCB about the state of the pitch which he stated was in bad condition before the game kicked off due to at least two previous games played on it before their game. He however was forced to admit that Kabras had not lodged any cross appeal regarding the venue/pitch as per the regulations so the Council was not in a position to look into that issue since the match was played.

15. The regulatory consequence of that factual finding is important. The reference made before us to Regulations 13.6.4.6 (a) (i) where a game abandoned during the 1st half is to be replayed and 13.6.4.6 (a) (ii) where a game abandoned during the 2nd half the scores at the time of abandonment stand as a final result.

16. There is a lacuna as to what happens if a game is abandoned at half time as the regulations only provide for either 1st half or the 2nd half. It means therefore that the Council has to come up with the most reasonable interpretation to fill this void. The reasoning of the LFC as submitted by Dr Aroni was that they considered that the 1st half had ended and in fact the game was abandoned after the teams had come out and ready begin the 2nd half only for the referee to decide to abandon it. He also alluded that the LFC also considered other factors like the potential costs that would be incurred to have the game replayed (it is noted that Kabras had travelled all the way from western Kenya) and it

was therefore decided to let the scores stand as the final result. It was also noted at the hearing that that Mr Carlos Katiwa of Kabras was not against the results standing as declared by the LFC.

17. The Council is convinced that the 1st half had been played and concluded so that reliance cannot be made on Regulations 13.6.4.6 (a) (i) where a game abandoned during the 1st half is to be replayed. This leaves the only other viable option which that after the conclusion of the 1st half, when the teams came out for the kickoff to start the 2nd half it can safer be deemed that the game was at the 2nd half stage when it was called off and thus the provisions of Regulations 13.6.4.6 (a) (ii) where a game abandoned during the 2nd half the prevailing scores are to stand as the final result.

18. We therefore find that the LFC's decision of 9 March 2026 holding the prevailing result at 10-10 was lawful and reasonable in the circumstances.

DISPOSITION

22. For the reasons set out above, the Council makes the following determination:

1. The appeal does not succeed and the result as declared by the LFC shall stand.
2. The Appellant's prayer that the abandoned fixture be replayed is declined.
3. There shall be no order as to costs.

DATED at **NAIROBI** this 20th day of March 2026.



Edward Rombo
Appeal Officer



Andrew Musangi
Appeal Officer



Waiyaki Hinga
Appeal Officer