

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
KENYA RUGBY UNION
APPEALS COUNCIL**

**DECISION OF THE APPEALS COUNCIL
IN THE APPEAL BY
MEAN MACHINE RFC
VERSUS
MOMBASA RFC**

Coram:	Edward Rombo, Appeal Officer Andrew Musangi, Appeal Officer Waiyaki Hinga, Appeal Officer
Appearances:	Mr Simon Omondi for the Appellant Mr Rogers Lai for the Respondent Dr. Aroni, Kevin Wambura and Leslie Mwangale for KRU
Hearing:	Virtual hearing conducted on 18 March 2026

BACKGROUND

Following the scheduled fixture between Mean Machine RFC and Mombasa RFC, the match was not played as planned due to circumstances arising from flooding at the designated venue.

It was widely known that Nairobi experienced heavy rainfall on the evening of Friday, 6 March 2026, from approximately 7:00 pm, causing significant disruptions across the city. A section of the wall along the expressway collapsed, allowing large volumes of water to flow into the University grounds.

By the morning of the fixture on Saturday, 7 March 2026, the drainage system around the field had been clogged, leaving parts of the field submerged up to the 50-meter mark. Despite these challenges, and considering that Mombasa RFC had already traveled to Nairobi to honor the fixture, it was deemed responsible to make every effort to facilitate the match rather than cause unnecessary inconvenience through wasted travel or rescheduling.

Instead of opting to cancel fixtures due to the current circumstances, work was done diligently to secure the necessary approvals from the University of Nairobi by the morning of the match in order to obtain another field and improve it to meet required safety standards. Both

management and players made genuine and concerted efforts to ensure the field was safe and playable.

Subsequently, a decision was rendered awarding Mombasa RFC full points for the match, docking Mean Machine RFC two (2) points, and recording the result as 28–0 in favour of Mombasa RFC.

This decision was based on the provisions of the KRU Regulations, specifically:

- **Regulation 13.6.4.6(b)(ii) on Match Abandonment; and**
- **Clause 8 of the 2025/26 League Manual on Match Venues.**

It is this decision that was subjected to review.

HEARING

In considering the matter, it was noted that the match could not proceed due to the obstacles on the pitch i.e. the anthills and a concrete slab obstruction that was a danger to players therefore rendering the pitch unfit for play.

It was further acknowledged that Mean Machine RFC had demonstrated willingness and made efforts to facilitate the playing of the match despite the prevailing conditions.

The Council considered whether the strict application of the regulations, including the docking of points, was appropriate in light of the circumstances surrounding the failure to play the fixture.

ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATION

The Council finds that while the relevant provisions of the KRU Regulations were properly invoked, the unique circumstances of flooding materially affected the ability of the match to proceed.

The Council further notes that Mean Machine RFC exhibited a willingness to support the fulfilment of the fixture, which constitutes a relevant mitigating factor.

In the circumstances, the Council is satisfied that the docking of two (2) points against Mean Machine RFC was not warranted.

DETERMINATION

Upon consideration of all the facts and circumstances, the Council determines as follows:

1. The decision awarding Mombasa RFC the match is upheld.

2. The docking of two (2) points against Mean Machine RFC is hereby set aside.
3. The match shall remain awarded to Mombasa RFC unless Mean Machine RFC agrees to travel to Mombasa within 2 weeks from the issue of this decision for the replay.
4. In the event that Mean Machine RFC agrees to such travel, arrangements shall be made for the match to be replayed in Mombasa.

DATED at Nairobi this 20th day of March 2026.



Edward Rombo
Appeal Officer



Andrew Musangi
Appeal Officer



Waiyaki Hinga
Appeal Officer