

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

**DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**IN THE APPEAL BY  
IMPALA RFC  
VERSUS  
BLAK BLAD RFC**

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

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Coram:       | Edward Rombo, Appeal Officer<br>Andrew Musangi, Appeal Officer<br>Waiyaki Hinga, Appeal Officer                               |
| Appearances: | Mr Oscar Osir for the Appellant<br>Mr Allan Ominde for the Respondent<br>Dr. Aroni, Kevin Wambura and Leslie Mwangale for KRU |
| Hearing:     | Virtual hearing conducted on 18 March 2026  |

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This decision concerns an appeal lodged by Impala RFC (“the Appellant”) against the decision of the Kenya Rugby Union Leagues & Fixtures Committee (“the LFC”) made on 9 March 2026 following the abandonment, before kick-off, of the Kenya Cup fixture between the Appellant and Blak Blad RFC (“the Respondent”) that had been scheduled for 7 March 2026 at the Kenyatta University Grounds.

2. The appeal calls for determination of two questions: first, whether the LFC acted reasonably in directing that the fixture be played by noon on 11 March 2026; and second, whether, as urged by the Appellant, the abandoned fixture ought instead to be recorded as a draw with two league points awarded to each side.

**BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

3. It is common ground that on 7 March 2026 the match did not commence. The referee and match officials called off the fixture before kick-off because of adverse weather conditions, namely heavy rainfall, lightning, and a waterlogged pitch, which rendered the playing surface unsafe for the players and officials.

4. There is no material before the Committee suggesting that either club caused or contributed to the abandonment. On the contrary, the record before us indicates that both teams were

present, ready to play, and prevented from doing so solely by circumstances beyond their control.

5. At a meeting held on 9 March 2026, the LFC directed that the fixture be rescheduled as a midweek match and played before the final round of Kenya Cup fixtures. The operative part of the LFC communication required the match to be played by Wednesday, 11 March 2026 at noon, with the Respondent retaining home venue status.

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 the referee's report; had not given due weight to the referee's authority under the Laws of the Game; had acted unfairly and inconsistently in the administration of the competition; and had not afforded the affected clubs a reasonable consultative opportunity before issuing the directive.

7. Upon the filing of the appeal, a stay of the directive requiring the match to be played on or before 11 March 2026 was granted pending hearing and determination of the appeal.

8. It was subsequently brought to the attention of the Committee that the LFC had revisited its earlier position and had indicated that the fixture would instead be played on 28 March 2026, together with another previously postponed Kenya Cup fixture. Although that development overtook the urgency of the original directive, the Appellant maintained the appeal on the basis that the fixture should not be replayed at all but should be recorded as a draw.

#### **THE PARTIES' POSITIONS**

9. For the Appellant, Mr Osir submitted in substance that the original direction to replay the match within approximately thirty-six hours was unreasonable, impracticable, and unfair to the affected players and teams. He further contended that, in light of the manner in which other unresolved league fixtures had been handled, fairness required this Committee to revise the decision and award each team two points by recording the abandoned fixture as a draw.

10. For the Respondent, Mr Ominde accepted that the match had been called off because of a natural occurrence beyond the control of either team. He opposed the proposal that a fixture which never commenced should be treated as a draw, and urged the Committee to uphold the LFC's later decision rescheduling the match for 28 March 2026.

#### **JURISDICTION AND STANDARD OF REVIEW**

11. This Committee exercises appellate jurisdiction under the Kenya Rugby Union Constitution and the applicable Competition Regulations. In an appeal of this nature, the Committee 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 Committee 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 LFC directive requiring the match to be played by noon on 11 March 2026 was reasonable and sustainable in the circumstances.

(b) Whether a fixture abandoned before kick-off due to unsafe weather and pitch conditions should be recorded as a draw rather than replayed.

### **ANALYSIS**

14. We begin with the nature of what occurred on 7 March 2026. On the undisputed facts, there was no commenced match that was later terminated. The fixture was abandoned before kick-off because the weather conditions and state of the pitch made play unsafe. The abandonment was therefore not attributable to any default, refusal, or misconduct on the part of either club.

15. The regulatory consequence of that factual finding is important. Where a fixture does not begin because circumstances beyond the control of the teams render the venue unsafe, the matter falls within the regime governing postponed or unplayed fixtures rather than the regime governing completed results, forfeitures, or sanctions. The reference made before us to Regulations 13.6.4.5 and 13.6.4.6 is consistent with that outcome. In principle, therefore, the proper course was for the fixture to be rescheduled and played on another date, subject to reasonable administrative arrangements by the competition organiser.

16. The Committee is accordingly unable to accept the proposition that the fixture should be declared a draw. A draw is a competitive result arising from a match that has been played and concluded level on the field of play. No regulatory basis has been shown to us for allocating league points to both sides where no kick-off occurred and no rugby was played. To do so would not only depart from the scheme of the Regulations; it would also compromise sporting integrity by awarding competition points in the absence of a contest.

17. That conclusion, however, does not end the matter because the Appellant also challenges the reasonableness of the LFC's original direction requiring the fixture to be played by noon on 11 March 2026. On the material before us, that direction was unsatisfactory. A replay within roughly thirty-six hours of the original decision, in the midst of an ongoing competition calendar and with player welfare and recovery protocols in view, afforded the affected clubs too little time for proper preparation and imposed an avoidable administrative burden.

18. We therefore find that, to the extent the LFC's decision of 9 March 2026 required the fixture to be played by noon on 11 March 2026, that aspect of the decision was unreasonable and cannot stand. In this respect, the appeal succeeds in part.

19. The subsequent direction rescheduling the fixture to 28 March 2026 stands on a materially different footing. It recognises that the match must in principle be played; it affords the clubs a substantially more reasonable period within which to prepare; and it better accords with orderly competition administration. On the record before us, there is no persuasive basis for interfering with that later date.

20. The Appellant also raised concerns regarding the treatment of another postponed fixture involving Nondies and MMUST. We acknowledge the importance of consistency in the administration of league competitions. However, that separate fixture is not the subject of the present appeal, and no sufficient evidentiary record concerning its facts, regulatory posture, or administrative handling was placed before us to permit a proper comparative determination. We therefore decline to make any dispositive finding on that issue within this appeal.

21. For completeness, we also record that the later rescheduling of the fixture to 28 March 2026 did not render the appeal wholly academic. The appeal remained live because the Appellant continued to seek a final ruling that the fixture be recorded as a draw rather than replayed. That question has now been determined on the merits.

## **DISPOSITION**

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

1. The appeal succeeds only to the limited extent that the directive requiring the fixture to be played by noon on 11 March 2026 is set aside as unreasonable.
2. The Appellant's prayer that the abandoned fixture be recorded as a draw and that each team be awarded two league points is declined.
3. The Kenya Cup fixture between Impala RFC and Blak Blad RFC abandoned before kick-off on 7 March 2026 shall be replayed on 28 March 2026 at the Kenyatta University Grounds, unless the clubs and the Kenya Rugby Union lawfully agree to an alternative arrangement in accordance with the applicable Regulations.
4. 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