

Decision of PRL Panel regarding the appropriate points allocation following the cancellation of the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Match between Newcastle Falcons and Leicester Tigers

Date: Thursday 24th December 2020

Panel:

- Andy Higginson (PRL Chairman)
- Darren Childs (PRL CEO)
- Phil Winstanley (PRL Rugby Director)

Summary of Panel's Decision

1. As a result of Leicester Tigers' inability to fulfil a fixture as a result of Covid-19 and the cancellation of the Round 4 Gallagher Premiership match between Newcastle Falcons and Leicester Tigers, Newcastle Falcons shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and Leicester Tigers shall be deemed to have lost the match but awarded 2 league points. The match score shall be recorded as 0 – 0.

Background to the match cancellation

2. On Saturday 19 December 2020 Leicester Tigers played Bayonne in its Round 2 fixture of the European Challenge Cup competition.
3. On Monday 21st December 2020, Leicester Tigers were tested as part of the Premiership Rugby testing programme.
4. On Tuesday 22nd December 2020, the results returned from the independent Radox testing laboratory confirmed that 3 members of the senior playing group from Leicester Tigers had tested positive for a COVID-19. Two of the positive players played in the European Challenge Cup game Vs Bayonne at the weekend.
5. On Tuesday 22nd December 2020 following the completion of the contact tracing process, Public Health England advised Leicester Tigers that all of the 45 players and staff (coaches, medics, physios etc.) on the flight from Bayonne must isolate.
6. Due to the large number of players and staff being required to isolate the advice was to close the training ground in order to best protect against the potential for a significant outbreak at the club. With players now in isolation and the closure of the training ground, Leicester Tigers is no longer able to fulfil its fixture obligations under Premiership Regulations for its Round 4 match against Newcastle Falcons on Sunday 26th December 2020.

Decision of the Panel

7. Pursuant to Covid-19 regulations set out in Schedule 5 of the Premiership Regulations a PRL Panel has been convened to determine the result and points allocation as follows: -

*"In the event that the PRL Panel decide that a Referred Match in the League Season is cancelled, or any governmental authority recommends or requires that a Match in the Premiership League Season is cancelled (in either case, a "**Cancelled League Season Match**"), then (without prejudice to any action which may be taken under or relating to any Covid Minimum Operating Standards):*

- *the result of that Cancelled League Season Match shall be deemed to be 0-0; and*
 - *four league points shall be allocated to Club who was able to play the Cancelled League Season Match and two league points shall be allocated to the other Club."*
8. The Panel has concluded that due to Leicester Tigers' inability to fulfil the fixture due to Covid-19, Newcastle Falcons shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and Leicester Tigers shall be deemed to have lost the match but awarded 2 league points. The match score shall be recorded as 0 – 0.

Appeal

9. The decision of the PRL Panel as to whether it is one or both clubs who have been unable to fulfil the match, and the decision as to the allocation of points shall be subject to appeal under RFU Regulation 19.12.6 (and for the purposes of that Regulation, the PRL Panel shall be deemed to be a Constituent Body Disciplinary Panel).

Andy Higginson

Darren Childs

Phil Winstanley

24th December 2020