

## **Decision of PRL Panel regarding the appropriate points allocation following the cancellation of the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Match between Bath Rugby and London Irish.**

**Date:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 London Irish's inability to fulfil a fixture as a result of Covid-19 and the cancellation of the Round 4 Gallagher Premiership match between Bath Rugby and London Irish, Bath Rugby shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and London Irish 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 Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020, London Irish were tested as part of the Premiership Rugby testing programme.
3. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, London Irish returned 4 positive COVID tests:
  - two were players who had been on a week off and had not had any contact with the rest of the squad since their previous negative tests;
  - one player who participated in the Club's European Challenge Cup match on Sunday 20 December 2020;
  - a member of the backroom staff also present at the European match.
4. The positive cases were immediately isolated and a number of players were isolated through contact tracing process.
5. Since testing took place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, the Club has had players (who had returned negative results) experiencing symptoms. These players have also been isolated and further test results are pending.
6. Following discussions with Public Health England and concerns about a wider outbreak, the Club has closed its training facility until Monday 28 December when it will reopen for further testing.
7. Due to the closure of the training facility and the isolation of its playing squad, London Irish is no longer able to fulfil its fixture obligations under Premiership Regulations for its Round 4 match against Bath Rugby on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### **Decision of the Panel**

8. 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.”*

9. The Panel has concluded that due to London Irish’s inability to fulfil the fixture due to Covid-19, Bath Rugby shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and London Irish shall be deemed to have lost the match but awarded 2 league points. The match score shall be recorded as 0 – 0.

### **Appeal**

10. 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**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2020**