

## **Decision of PRL Panel regarding the appropriate points allocation following the cancellation of the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Match between Worcester Warriors and Newcastle Falcons.**

**Date:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Panel:**

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

### **Summary of Panel's Decision**

1. As a result of Newcastle Falcons' inability to fulfil a fixture as a result of Covid-19 and the cancellation of the Round 10 Gallagher Premiership match between Worcester Warriors and Newcastle Falcons, Worcester Warriors shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and Newcastle Falcons 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 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Newcastle Falcons was unable to fulfil its fixture obligations under Premiership Regulations for its Round 9 match against Northampton Saints. The reasons for this were due to Covid-19 and are set out in the PRL Panel Decision dated Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
3. On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021, further testing was carried out which presented 3 additional positive tests.
4. In light of these additional positive tests following on from those returned in the previous week, the Professional Rugby Testing Oversight Group and Public Health England are of the opinion that these tests amount to an outbreak and that further transmission cannot be ruled out. Therefore, all rugby activity for the Newcastle Falcons squad should be suspended for 10 days from the last contact between the squad on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021, due to the incubation period of the virus. Further testing will be conducted on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
5. Due to the suspension of all rugby activity, Newcastle Falcons is no longer able to fulfil its fixture obligations under Premiership Regulations for its Round 10 match against Worcester Warriors on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **Decision of the Panel**

6. 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."*

7. In respect of the points result and the points allocation, the Panel has concluded that due to Newcastle Falcons' inability to fulfil the fixture due to Covid-19, Worcester Warriors shall be awarded the win and 4 league points and Newcastle Falcons shall be deemed to have lost the match but awarded 2 league points. The match score shall be recorded as 0-0.

## **Appeal**

8. 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**

**19<sup>th</sup> February 2021**