

APPEALS COMMITTEE

ST JAMES SWIFTS v IFA PLAYER REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE (PRSC)

14th October 2021

John Greer (Chair), Ciara McReynolds, Carley Shields

The Appeals Board would firstly wish to place on record its thanks to all parties to the appeal for their cooperation. In line with the procedures adopted since the commencement of the pandemic this matter was considered by the Appeals Board on the written submission provided by the parties.

This matter was in connection with a dispute raised by St James Swifts over the registration of player Francis Nolan, who, it had been discovered, was also registered with Newington FC. As the two clubs play in different leagues the matter was referred under the Player Registration Regulations to The IFA PRSC for determination.

After their investigation the PRSC decided the following –

- The 2020 registration of the player by St James was invalid as it had not taken place within the stipulated timeframes
- As the original registration was invalid the re-registration could not be considered in order
- That St James' had incorrectly created a new player ID when registering him in 2020 as he had been registered for a sperate club previously and the Comet system provides alerts and safeguards for users as a new separate Player ID can lead to issues (as in this case)
- That Newington had registered the player on 17 July 2021 having received his permission to do so using the correct player ID with his full registration history
- The player was properly registered with Newington.

St James Swifts were appealing this decision claiming that they had acted in good faith at all times and challenging the determination regarding their registration of the player in July 2020.

The Appeals Board noted that the player had been transferred from Newington to St James Swifts on 31 August 2021, however this transfer did not play a part in their deliberations.

The Appeals Board in determining the matter considered in detail the submissions and annexes provided by St James Swifts and the PRSC, and the Professional Game Player Registration Regulations.

The Appeals Board considered the timeline of all the events and the regulations. The Board noted that the player had provided permission for both clubs to register him and that Mr Nolan had participated in a number of training sessions and friendly matches for Newington.

The Board could not find any compelling evidence that the PRSC had erred either in their decision making nor in their interpretation of the regulations and as such it was unanimously agreed that the appeal be dismissed.