

**IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
APPEALS BOARD**

In the matter of an appeal by Grove Unite Football Club(“FC”) against two decisions taken by the NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL LEAGUE (“NIFL”)

Appeals Board:

Rachel Best KC

Carley Shields

David Lennox

The Appellant was represented by Brian Boyd (Secretary) & Gavin Graham (Solicitor-Reavey & Co):

NAFL were represented by David Morrow (Director NAFL) & Steven Carlisle (Chair & Director)

DECISION

This is the unanimous decision of the IFA Appeals Board which was reached following a hearing which took place on 23rd June 2025.

The Appeals Board are grateful to both parties in relation to the focused and realistic manner in which they approached this appeal. The Appeals Board is also grateful to the parties in relation to the written submissions made in advance of this Appeal.

Having regard to the reasons set out below, the unanimous decision of the Board is that the Appellant’s appeal is dismissed.

Relevant Findings of Facts and Background

1. In the course of the hearing before the Appeals Board, the Appellant confirmed that their appeal was to the decision of the League dated 20th May 2025. NAFL had declined to deal with the Appellant's appeal regarding a match played between St Matthews FC v Portaferry FC. The League had declined the appeal as it had been lodged outside of the time limit provided for in the rules.
2. It was the agreed factual position that the protest to the League was 8 days outside of the time limit.
3. The League informed the Appeal Board that there was no discretion under their rules regarding an extension of time.
4. No adequate explanation was provided for the protest being brought out of time and the Appeals Board does not consider that any grounds of appeal to it have been made out.
5. Accordingly the Appeal is dismissed and the original decision of NAFL refusing the appeal on the basis of time is upheld.

R Best KC

Chair of the IFA Appeals Committee