

IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

APPEALS COMMITTEE

In the matter of an appeal taken by Albert Foundry (“the Appellant”) against a decision taken by NAFL (“the Respondent”)

Appeals Board

James Tracey (Chair)

David Lennox

Mervyn Wheatley

Albert Foundry (Appellant)

Brian Gilmore

Stephen Young

Jamie Bryson (Legal Representative)

NAFL (Respondent)

Paul Causby

David McCarthy

Decision

This is the unanimous decision of the IFA Appeals Committee which was reached following a hearing on Tuesday 30 June 2026. The Panel considered a significant volume of material and written submissions in addition to hearing from representatives from Albert Foundry and the NAFL. The Appeals Committee are grateful to both parties for their comprehensive and detailed submissions, both orally and in writing.

For the reasons set out below, the Appellant’s appeal is rejected.

Issue

1. This appeal was brought by Albert Foundry against the decision of NAFL to abandon a game between the Appellant and Crumlin United that was played on the 25th April 2026.
2. In the 25th minute of the match, a player of Crumlin United became seriously injured, causing a delay of game. An Ambulance attended the scene to address the injured player.
3. After a 15-minute delay, the referee spoke to the Manager of Crumlin United, whom advised that his team would not continue with the fixture.
4. The match was abandoned.
5. The time periods that gave rise to this abandonment are contested by the Appellant.

6. The Appellant has alleged a misinterpretation of the NAFL Bye-Law B 3.11. *“Where a match within the first 60 mins is delayed over 20 minutes due to injury of a player, and unless both teams agree to continue, the NAFL committee may declare the game void and replayed”*
7. The Appellant has alleged that the Decision taken by the Respondent is unsustainable, and the Bye-Law B3.11 could not have been engaged as a 20-minute period had not yet passed, when the decision to abandon the match was taken.
8. The Appellant further alleges that, when interpreting Bye-Law B 3.11, the two elements, *‘within the first 60 mins’* and when a delay is *‘over 20 minutes due to injury of a player’* must be read sequentially. The Appellant has therefor accepted that the first element has been satisfied, but that the 20- minute period of delay had not yet passed when the decision to abandon the match was taken.
9. It is contended by the Respondent that the delay had exceeded 20 minutes, therefore the powers of Bye Law B3.11 are exercisable.

Relevant findings of fact

10. On 25 April 2026, a match between Albert Foundry and Crumlin United was stopped in the 25th minute due to a serious injury to a player.
11. After 15 mins had elapsed, referee spoke with the manager of Crumlin United regarding the continuation of play.
12. The manager of Crumlin United confirmed that his team would not continue with the match.
13. Paramedics attended the scene, arriving 15 minutes after the match was stopped, and remaining on the pitch until at least 30 minutes after the match was stopped.
14. The game was abandoned.
15. The referee’s report confirms that after 20 minutes, the match was abandoned.

Findings

16. It is agreed by both parties that on the 25 April 2026, during a match between Albert Foundry -v- Crumlin United, a player for Crumlin United was seriously injured.
17. It is agreed that the game was stopped at the 25 Minute Mark.
18. It is agreed that after a 15-minute delay, the referee spoke to the Manager of Crumlin untied, who advised that they would not resume play.
19. It is contended that at the 20-minute mark, the game was abandoned – this is verified in the referees report.
20. It is agreed by both parties that an ambulance took 15 minutes to arrive to the pitch, and that the ambulance did not depart for at least 30 minutes.
21. This panel finds that Bye-Law B 3.11 is applicable. This panel rejects that the 2 elements of Bye-Law B3.11 are sequential, but rather concurrent. This panel accepts that both elements were satisfied on the date in question, being that the match was stopped prior to the 60-minute mark, and that a delay, which exceeded 20 minutes

occurred, resulting in the abandonment of the game. This panel accepts that both teams did not agree to continue.

22. The appeal is dismissed.

James Tracey (Chair)

David Lennox

Mervyn Wheatley