

Ruling for Premier 1 (17th May) – Foleshill Gas A v Haunchwood A

This ruling concerns the above mentioned match where The League must rule as Foleshill Gas A provided no players. The reason given was that a number of players were otherwise engaged and players from the lower division sides refused to play for the A Team. Under the rules and guidance this is not a valid 'exceptional circumstance' for a game to be postponed so as many players as were available should have played the match.

In situations where an entire team does not contest a match the League Committee reviews the teams and awards 'appropriate points'. The rule is in place to ensure the League is not unduly influenced by this unusual occurrence and that the non-offending team are not unduly penalised or rewarded. For reference, the full rule is:

F4a. Should fixtures not be played as scheduled within the handbook then the NON-OFFENDING Team must send in a match sheet to the Match Secretary explaining why the match has not been completed.

b. The non-offending Team will then be awarded appropriate points by The League Committee and their players given scores of 21-11 at home and 21-15 away.

When deciding the result, the Committee reviews previous match and the relative merits of the teams this year, and the fact that the offending would have been short.

Based on this Haunchwood A are awarded nine points (six winners and three for an away win) and all Haunchwood A players will be awarded a win in relation to the Averages (as per Rule F4b).

The system automatically awards full points (e.g. 11) so a two point deduction for Haunchwood A will be shown as this is the only mechanism available to reflect the outcome (i.e. $11 - 2 = 9$).

I hope that explains the situation and that the decision follows the current rules but if you require any more clarity or feel I have made a mistake please contact me. Appeals can be made as set out under Rule B3b of the Coventry & District Constitution.