

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

**HKRU Appeal Committee Decision**

The HKRU Appeal Committee (“the Committee”) was convened in relation to HKFC’s appeal against the League Fixture Control Panel’s (“LFCP”) decision to postpone the game on the grounds that the game could not take place due to safety concerns surrounding HKCC ‘s inability to field a 22 player match day squad with 5 trained front row players of an appropriate standard in accordance with League Rule 13.4.

A full report of the appeal will be issued shortly together with recommendations for amendments/clarifications to the Men’s Premiership League and Competition rules; however, the Committee felt it was in the rugby community’s interest to issue the brief statement below.

The Committee noted that the LFCP did not receive the original postponement request until Friday mid-morning, and with the consequent ensuing time constraints they made a decision to postpone the match, (“the postponement”) based on the overarching issue of player safety, which sits very much in accordance with World Rugby’s Laws of the Game and the Playing Charter.

The Committee is regretful that both Clubs involved appear in hindsight not to have exhausted all efforts to resolve the issues and get the game played before HKCC moved to request a postponement from the LFCP; it is their strong opinion that in the wider interests and spirit of the game our clubs should proactively seek to find solutions to problems themselves rather than seek immediate recourse to the LFCP.

Subsequently both Clubs have stated very clearly that they wished to have found a way that this game could have been played, so the Committee therefore deems it appropriate that the onus be placed upon them both to engage in further discussions and agree an appropriate date, time and venue to play this fixture.

Given the stated enthusiasm of both Clubs to play the Committee is confident this solution can be achieved, but in the event they are for some reason unable to reach agreement then the Committee accepts that in accordance with League Rule 14.1 the match will be deemed a forfeiture in HKFC’s favour.

The Committee would like to state clearly that it is not desirable for games to be forfeited at any level, and they have requested the HKRU staff to review the League & Competition Rules to identify if there any appropriate mechanisms that can be introduced to help facilitate the fulfilment of games wherever possible.