

# **Abandoned Matches**



The Referee has the right to abandon any game for many reasons. This decision can be made at any time but usually falls into two categories: -

## **1. Before game commences:**

- Because of weather - ground is unfit for play as it is unsafe for players. Particular caution should be taken with storm activity, noting that fixtures can be delayed for a short period and commence/re-commence when danger has passed (taking time off both halves in ALL grades, except Men's Premier Division, so that the game finishes on time).
- The field of play does not conform to the requirements/laws.  
Note: Always give the club the opportunity to fix the problem/s before abandoning the match.
- Referee or Assistant Referee/s are physically assaulted before the game commences – officials do not take the field for the game.

## **2. During the game:**

- Weather deteriorating makes conditions unsafe for further play.
- Problems caused by spectators invading the pitch, leading to a dangerous situation.
- A violent incident occurs on the field of play involving players engaging in violent conduct.
- Referee or Assistant Referee/s are physically assaulted during the game.
- Any circumstances where grave danger or threat to any person may be suspected near the fixture/venue.

Remember, fixtures can be delayed for whatever reason if the Referee feels that the match may be resumed in a short space of time (e.g. delayed because of brief storm activity). The Referee is the sole judge of how long this interval should be. The Referee should make it known to the captains of both sides her/his intentions and how much time will be taken off each half, each half being equal (except Men's Premier League).

When a game has been abandoned, the Referee must submit a full Conduct Report to Football Mid North Coast, by 9am Tuesday OR no later than 48 hours after the match. The Conduct Report Form can be found in the Referees Headquarters section of the FMNC website.

## **Abandoned Match Payments**

No match payment will be paid to match officials on games that are abandoned/called off by the Referee before it commences. However, once a game has been kicked off and later abandoned for whatever reason, the match official/s are entitled to match payments as follows:

- Half match fees for games abandoned/called off in the first half.
- Full match fees for games abandoned/called off between half time and full time.

Where other circumstances are involved in the calling off or abandoning of a game Football Mid North Coast will be the adjudicating body regarding the payment of match official payments. A full report must be submitted to Football Mid North Coast detailing the circumstances of the abandonment.