

Collins bitterly disappointed,

disgusted

Des Collins, new coach of Surfers Paradise Australian Rules Club, has lashed out at the Gold Coast Football League for its handling of his recent appeal against a transfer refusal by his old club, Southport.

Collins also said he was bitterly disappointed at Southport's stand in the controversy, which has caused a great deal of interest in Rules circles along the Coast.

In the first inter-club transfer on the Gold Coast, Collins has been cleared by Southport for an unprecedented figure of \$250.

The fee was paid by the Surfers Paradise Supporters' Social Club, formed the day after Collins' appeal was dismissed. Collins had offered to pay the amount himself from coaching payments, but the club would not accept this.

"I am bitterly disappointed with the Southport Football Club over the way in which they have acted in this matter," Collins said yesterday. "And I am thoroughly disgusted in the way

in which the Gold Coast League appeals committee meeting was conducted.

"All my evidence was on paper, but I'm sure they didn't even read it.

"When the committee decision was announced I simply walked out. At no time did I become heated, as some people have implied."

Collins now claims the appeals committee meeting was not in order.

He argues that in the constitution of the League, a delegate from each club is to be in attendance at these meetings, and this was not the case.

Not in order

According to the Surfers Paradise coach, the only people present were committee chairman, Mr G. Stevens, Mr S. Smith and Mr G. Elswick.

Collins had been accompanied by Surfers Paradise club secretary,

Horrie Boorer and also present was Southport president, Leo Busch.

Collins still claims his case was based on watertight facts which should have made the appeal decision a foregone conclusion — in his favour.

However Leo Busch told the Bulletin his club had to stand firm on the issue because Collins' services were still required by Southport. (This was the club's official reason for refusing Collins application for transfer.

"I have been president of Southport for three years and in that time we have never knocked back a transfer," Busch said.

Collins claims the appeals committee decision has been detrimental to Rules on the Coast.

He said it now stepped the way for substantial transfer fees to be placed on any player or coaches wishing to change clubs.

On a brighter note, Collins said he was looking forward to his first season with Surfers Paradise and assured club supporters that his efforts both as a coach and player would be 100 per cent.



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