

DISCIPLINARY DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Paul Mihai Graure		
Player's Union	Romania		
Match	Ireland v Romania		
Competition	Men 7s Trophy 2022 – Budapest		
Date of match	19 June 2022		
Match Venue	Budapest Rugby Centre		
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook and Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations		
Referee Name	Jonathan Tepler	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foul Play admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Foul Play not admitted
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RC/Citing admitted <input type="checkbox"/> RC/Citing not admitted
Offence	9.7 A player must not: a. Intentionally infringe any law of the game. 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	1 week suspension translated into 1 match of 7s.		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	19 June 2022	Hearing venue	Budapest Rugby Centre
Judicial Officer	Valeriu Toma (Romania)		
Appearance Player	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Appearance Union	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Player's Representative(s)	Horatiu Bargaunas – team manager	Other attendees	Andre Brand (Hungary) – Designated Disciplinary Officer
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	n/a		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>1. The hearing has been convened as a result of the Player being sent off after accumulating two temporary suspensions in the quarter-final match against Ireland.</p> <p>2. The Referee's reports on the two incidents leading to the temporary suspensions were as follows: YC 1</p>

“1st minute” of the first half, “Offside (not 10 m)” against Law 9.7.a, with detailed description: “Ireland passed quick from PK. Romania #1 did not drop back 10 m and interfered with play”;

YC 2

“4th minute” of the second half, “2nd yellow” against Law 9.29, with detailed description: “Romania #1 received 2nd yellow and was shown a red card”. The Disciplinary Officer clarified with the referee that the offence was actually against Law 9.11, namely “leading with the elbow or forearm”.

3. Match footage has been available and viewed by the Judicial Officer.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

n/a

SUMMARY OF PLAYER’S EVIDENCE

4. In respect of YC1, the Player accepted his fault and the correctness of the referee decision.

5. In respect of YC2, the Player explained that he did not have the intention to commit an act of dangerous play. He wanted to hand off the approaching Irish opponent, however he admits that he illegally used his forearm which made contact first on the opponent chest and then slipped up and applied some pressure on his neck. He admitted that his action merited a yellow card.

FINDINGS OF FACT

6. In respect of YC1, it is clear that the Player’s infringement prevents the ball carrier to pass the ball to a teammate. There was a clear material effect in a situation where the play was in close proximity of the Romanian in-goal. The match referee has been contacted by the Judiciary and he confirmed this reasoning.

7. In respect of YC2, the Judicial Officer found that the Player’s description of the incident was credible. There was no malicious intention, however the act of foul play was reckless, dangerous and it merited a temporary suspension.

DECISION

Breach admitted Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

As per Article 4.2.3 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Appendix 4 of Regulation 17 of World Rugby

ACCUMULATION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS AND/OR CITING COMMISSIONER WARNINGS

8. The relevant part of Article 4.2.3 of RE Disciplinary Regulations provides that:

“Where a Player has received over a Match two yellow cards; or a combination of one yellow card and one Citing Commissioner Warning; the designated Judicial Officer is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each yellow card and/or Citing Commissioner Warning. Ordinarily, the appropriate entry point sanction in such circumstances is a suspension of one to two weeks.”

which is further detailed in Appendix 4 of WR Regulation 17:

“...B. Player receives two Temporary Suspensions/Citing Commissioner Warnings in one Match

1. ...Ordinarily, the appropriate entry point for persistent offending within a single Match is a suspension of one to two weeks. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.

2. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee may decide that sending off was sufficient (or otherwise that no further sanction is appropriate) in the following circumstances: ...

...(b) that exceptional circumstances exist which would warrant no further sanctions being imposed. This situation could arise when a Player was temporarily suspended for an act of Foul Play but on review it was clear that there was no Foul Play or only a minor act of Foul Play had been committed which would not have warranted a Temporary Suspension and/or Citing Commissioner Warning;

...(c) any of the Temporary Suspensions were awarded for so-called technical offences (including following a team warning) not involving a breach of Laws 9.11 to 9.28 inclusive.”

9. Having given due consideration to the fact that:

a. YC1 was a so called “technical offence”, committed with clear intention and in a playing context where the opponents were threatening the Romanian goal line, with obvious material effect on the game;

b. YC2 was an act of dangerous play;

and having regard of the earlier case in this tournament (Gulnur Sak/Türkiye) which involved accumulation of two YCs, one for dangerous play and the other for a “technical offence”, the Judicial Officer determined that, unlike the case of Gulnur Sak, in the present case there are no exceptional circumstances or out of the “ordinary”, where it would be appropriate to apply clause B.2.(c) from the Appendix 4 of WR Regulation 17.

10. Moreover, even though YC1 was for a “technical offence”, the infringement had a clear material effect in a potential try scoring situation.

Therefore, the appropriate entry point sanction in the present case is a suspension of one week.

Entry point

1 week suspension.

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS	
As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby	
Acknowledgement of guilt and timing	Player's disciplinary record/good character
At the first occasion.	Very good record with no red cards or citations and a couple of yellow cards for technical offences.
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
The Player is 19 and plays rugby since he was 11. He also has very limited 7s experience.	Polite and respectful throughout.
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
Shown during the hearing.	n/a

Number of weeks deducted: n/a

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
n/a

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS	
As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby	
Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game	
n/a	
Need for deterrence	
n/a	
Any other off-field aggravating factors	
n/a	

Number of additional weeks: n/a


Summary of reason for number of weeks added:
n/a

SANCTION

NOTE: Players ordered off or cited by a citing commissioner are provisionally suspended pending the hearing of their case, such suspension should be taken into consideration when sanctioning – RE Discipline Regulations 4.1.4 / 4.4 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	1 week suspension translated into 1 match of 7s.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	Immediately.	
Sanction concludes	20 June 2022 00:00	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	The remaining 7s match of this tournament, Romania – Wales.	

Costs	n/a
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Date	21 June 2022
JO Signature	

NOTE: You have 24 hours from notification of the decision of the JO to lodge an appeal with the tournament director – RE Discipline Regulations 4.2.1