

DECISION FORM



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Luka Ivanishvili	
Player's number: 6	
Player's union: Georgian Rugby Union	
Competition: Super Cup	
Host Team (T1): Tel-Aviv Heat	Visiting Team (T2): Black Lion
Venue: Tsirio stadium, Limassol (Cyprus)	
Date of match: 18/11/23	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook	
Referee Name: Luc Ramos	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: Gert-Mark Smelt	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Dany Roelands - Andrei Zamfirescu	
Hearing date: 21/11/23	
Hearing venue: On remote	
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): N. Kurtanidze and V. Abashidze	
Other attendees: n/a	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: 1. CC report 2. Game Sheet 3. Video clip of the incident 4. Disciplinary statement, also containing disciplinary record and playing schedule 5. Medical statement	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The citing commissioner reports: <i>In open play after a ruck, Tel Aviv no. 2, is the ballcarrier. He is tackled by BLA6, Luka IVANISHVILI with a chop tackle. The ballcarrier is lifted, his legs go over 90° and then he lands with his head. [...] Black Lions no.6 makes no effort to make a legal tackle, he is not wrapping the opponent with his arms and he uses his right knee on the ground to lift the opponent. After the impact he raises himself, generating the rotation of the player.</i> He concludes the action was an illegal dangerous tackle and that the Player is in breach of law 9.18, reaching the red card threshold.	

The footage that accompanies the cc's report shows the Player going to ground, just in front of the Opponent, Tel Aviv no. 2. He doesn't wrap the Opponent. At first he is on hands and right knee, left foot, with his body parallel to the ground. The Opponent comes in low/bent. His left leg makes contact with the Player's right shoulder. The Opponent's body moves over the Player. When the Opponent's upper body is above the Player's back, the Player raises his upper body. In raising the lower part of the Opponent is lifted, until the body of the Player is in (about) a 45 degree angle to the ground. The Player erects himself, whilst the Opponent falls to the ground, upside down. The Player is on his feet. The Opponent places the ball. The referee blows the whistle and awards a penalty to TAH for a no arm tackle. The exact landing is unsighted.

At the hearing the Union showed footage in which the landing is visible. It shows the Opponent landing upside down. The first contact with the ground is with a the right upper arm and the left hand. After that shoulder, then head, then the rest of the body.

Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)

Sport Physiotherapist A. Mor states that there was no immediate effect on the Opponent and that he experienced slight pain around the patella later. There has been no medical treatment on or off field.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player admits the no arm tackle was foul play. He does not admit to lifting the Opponent intentionally nor does he concede that his action warranted a red card.

The Player told the Panel he felt the Opponent touching his back, so he thought it was safe to get up. The Opponent didn't land on his head or neck, according to the Player.

Findings of fact

The Panel finds that the Player acted recklessly by raising himself whilst the Opponent was still above him. That is an act of foul play (law 9.18, dangerous lifting).

The question before the Panel is if the action reaches the red card threshold. The Panel finds the footage – that was not available to the CC at the time of citing – sufficient to conclude that the major part of the force of the landing went through right arm and upper body of the Opponent and that the fall was also partly broken by the left hand. Although in itself not conclusive the immediate placing of the ball by the Opponent and the absence of the need for medical treatment supports that finding.

Given that landing the Panel finds that the foul play did not warrant the Player being cited.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

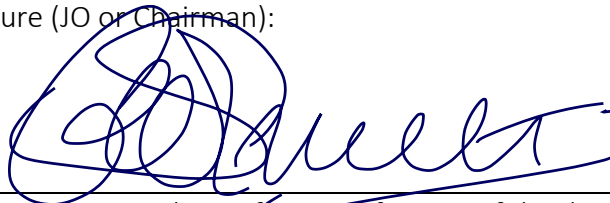
The Panel shall expunge the citing from the Player's disciplinary record.

Signature

Name of the JO or Chairman: Gert-Mark Smelt

Date: 21 November 2023

Signature (JO or Chairman):



NOTE: You have 48 hours from notification of the decision of the chairman/jo to lodge an appeal with the tournament director – RE Discipline Regulations 4.6.2 (or equivalent Tournament rule)