



DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE		
Player's Name	Philip Murphy	
Player's Union	Sweden Rugby Union	
Match	Sweden v Czechia	
Competition	Rugby Europe Conference 1 North	
Date of match	14/05/2022	
Match Venue	Stockholm Stadion (Stockholm)	
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program	
Referee Name	Killian O'Brien	Plea charge admitted
Offence	9.13 Dangerous tackle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:

HEARING DETAILS		
Hearing date	17/05/2022	Hearing venue: On remote
Chairperson/JO	Matthew Weaver QC	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	Richard McGhee Mark Curran	
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)		Other attendees Neil Johnson (Swedish Rugby Union)
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. Referee report 2. Game sheet 3. Video Clip * 1 4. Report from match day doctor 5. Statement from Player	

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>The Referee described the incident as follows:</p> <p><i>"CZ was in possession and attacking around the halfway line. CZ#15 was the ball carrier. He carried the ball to the SE defensive line. He was simultaneously tackled by SE#11 and SE#12. In attempting to make the tackle, SE#12 (Philipp Murphy), made direct contact with the head of CZ#15. Immediately stopped play.</i></p> <p><i>In line with the applicable head contact process (HCP), I decided that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Head contact had occurred.</i><i>2. An act of foul play had occurred and that the attempt to tackle by SE#12 was reckless.</i><i>3. The act of foul play involved a high degree of danger due to the direct contact to the head, the</i>

high speed as well as the upright and dynamic nature of the attempted tackle.

4. No mitigating factors applied. SE#12 had a clear line of sight and, although SE#11 was also tackling CZ#15 simultaneously, any resultant drop in height was not sufficient to justify the application of mitigation.

Following consultation with the Assistant Referees as to the facts I had established and my application of the HCP, I determined that SE#12 must be shown a red card. I explained my decision to the captains and (once SE#12 had been treated for an injury sustained in attempting to make the tackle) sent SE#12 from the field."

The video footage mirrors the Referee's description of the incident. SE#12 attempts to make a tackle on the ball carrier. He remains upright and makes limited effort to bend at the waist and lower his tackle height. Whilst CZ#15 is being tackled by a second Sweden player, this does not cause a sudden or significant drop in height. SE#12 makes direct contact to the head of CZ#15.

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

The report from the match day doctor confirmed the following:

"The injured player, Mr. M. C., was witnessed having a head trauma. He was unconscious immediately after the hit. I was match doctor and ran out on the field to the player, along with some Czech team officials. The player was unresponsive to pain, Glasgow Coma Scale 3, for a couple of minutes. He was breathing but had inspiratory stridor due to his tongue falling back. He also has his mouth guard in his mouth, which I removed. His neck was immediately stabilised by one of the Czech officials, and as soon as I understood that the player was unresponsive, I called SOS Alarm 112, for an ambulance. The SOS operator stayed on the phone while I continued to try to wake the patient with pain stimulation on the sternum with no response. After a couple of minutes the player gained conscience. I checked that he could move and feel his arms and legs and that he didn't have any pain upon palpation of his cervical spine or in the abdomen. The player was now responding to questions and repeatedly denied having any pain in his neck or head, or anywhere else in his body. After that, the player received a neck collar. The player asked the same questions over and over, regarding what had just happened. The player had nystagmus in the direction of gaze to both sides. Once the ambulance came, they examined the player and moved him from the pitch onto their stretcher chair and transported him to the hospital."

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player admitted the charge but provided a statement explaining his actions in the following terms:

"The tackle, while reckless, was reactionary in a fast-moving dynamic contact point. Czech player was moving at high speed and was tackled low by Sweden #11, as mentioned in referees report. This tackle was hard and the subsequent turning of the momentum of Czech #15 body changed the point of contact. In contrary to the referees report, this tackle did not happen simultaneously to Sweden #11. As can be seen in the video, I initially was bent at the knees and hips to make a lower tackle but after the contact by Sweden #11 I raise my body height to assume the tackler assist role aiming to help ground the player and ultimately steal the ball. The moment in advance of impact I was still raising my body and head and did not mean to direct any intentional force towards the Czech player. Although it looks that way in the video my shoulder did not contact the Czech players head, only my head, any forward

movement towards the player was in an attempt to wrap. I accept it was my responsibility to react better in these circumstances and this was reckless behaviour on my part. It was however not my intention to injure the player in any way.

I was also injured making the tackle and received treatment.

After hearing the explanation from referee as to his decision, I accepted the red card without dispute and left the field, due to the nature of the Czech players injury I was unable to apologize to him at the time of the incident.

Later that day and on the Sunday I asked the Sweden team manager to check on Czech #15 wellbeing after the incident who informed me that the player had been able to travel and arrived home safely with his team.”

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Player admitted the charge

DECISION

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS		
As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby		
Assessment of Intent		
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless		
State Reasons		
There was no intent to tackle high or dangerously		
Gravity of player's actions		
The player made direct contact with the ball carrier's head		
Nature of actions		
As above		
Existence of provocation		
None		
Whether player retaliated		
N/A		
Self-defence		
N/A		
Effect on victim		
The victim was knocked unconscious for a short time		
Effect on match		
Sweden won the match despite the red card		
Vulnerability of victim		
N/A		
Level of participation/premeditation		
Not premeditated		
Conduct completed/attempted		
Completed		
Other features of player's conduct		
None		
Entry point		
<input type="checkbox"/> Top end [XX] Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-range 6 Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-end 2 Weeks
*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.		
Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End		

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		
None		

Number of additional weeks: 0

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:
N/A

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
The Player admitted the charge at the earliest opportunity	Previous unblemished disciplinary record
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
	Exemplary
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
The Player was obviously remorseful and took steps to check on the health of the other player	

Number of weeks deducted: 3

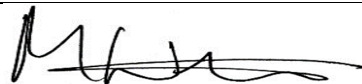
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The Player's remorse, early acceptance of the charge and previous clean disciplinary record all lead the Panel to consider it appropriate to apply the maximum 50% mitigation

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	3 weeks / Matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	14/5/2022	
Sanction concludes	26/6/2022	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	<p>3 fixtures in the GB Super 7's series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28th May 2022 – London Irish • 11th June 2022 – Stafford • 25th June 2022 – Aldershot <p>This is on condition that the coach of the Lambs 7's team (Alex Laybourne) provides written confirmation that, but for this sanction, the Player would have been selected in the Lambs 7's squad for these three fixtures.</p> <p>If such confirmation is not forthcoming, the Player will, instead, be banned from playing the following fixtures for Watsonians FC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-season friendly – 13th August 2022 • Pre-season friendly – 20th August 2022 • Cup game – 27th August 2022 	

Costs	0
--------------	---

Date	16/5/2022
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)