



DECISION FORM

| PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE | | | |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| Player's Name | Radzius Zygimantas | | |
| Player's Union | LRF – Lithuanian Rugby Federation | | |
| Match | Lithuania v Czech Republic | | |
| Competition | RWC Sevens Men Qualifier | | |
| Date of match | 17-07-2022 | | |
| Match Venue | Arcul de Triumf National Rugby Stadium | | |
| Rules to apply | Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook | | |
| Referee Name | Finlay Brown (SRU) | Plea | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted |
| Offence | 9.13 – A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously | <input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify: | |

| HEARING DETAILS | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|---|
| Hearing date | 17-07-2022 | Hearing venue | Arcul de Triumf National Stadium |
| Chairperson/JO | Achille Reali | | |
| Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel | Na | | |
| 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) | NA | Other attendees | |
| List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing | The Player received before the hearing started by Rugby Europe Competition Director these documents and material: - Notice of Disciplinary hearing - Citing Commissioner report - link with video footage of the incident - Disciplinary Statement | | |

| SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE |
|---|
| <p>The Citing Commissioner Report stated that:</p> <p>At the second half, 2 minutes and 10 seconds, Czech Republic Player n.3 "is tackled by 2 Lithuanian Players after running approx. 3 metres. The first tackler L11 is about to engage his tackle to the left side of Cz3, when L1 (Radzius Zygimantas) is seen to approach Cz3 from his right side. L1 has his right arm extended straight and in a swinging motion. The extended right hand of L1 makes contact to the right jaw of CZ3. The contact is with force and there is a high degree of danger. After the incident, CZ3 is seen to lay on the ground and needs medical attention. He then leaves the field for the remainder of the game. The referee issues L1 with a YC. I consider the actions of L1 to be reckless and dangerous worthy of a red card. I</p> |

subsequently cite L1 Razius Zagymantas."

The video footage shows clearly the incident of the citing report.

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

NA

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player accepted the content of the Citing Commissioner Report and that he committed an act of foul play, and that it was worth a red card.

He stated that he intended to tackle regularly, but Czech Player was shorter than him and also lowered a bit.

In any case he confirmed that there was a head contact and accepted that his tackle was worth a red card, even if he did not have the intention to do so.

He was sorry and after the game he went to speak to the Czech team manager to find out about the victim player's conditions and apologize.

The player is 32 years old, is expert, plays in national team from 15 years and has a unblemished disciplinary record.

FINDINGS OF FACT

No preliminary points arose.

The Player confirmed to have received:

- Notice of Disciplinary hearing
- Citing Commissioner report
- link with video footage of the incident
- Disciplinary Statement

The video of the incident from different angles was seen at the hearing.

The Lithuanian Rugby Federation was represented at the hearing with the Player Dovydas Taujanskas, because he was fluently in English while the team manager was not.

The Player accepted that he was the Player involved in the citing commissioner report and that there was a foul play.

The standard of proof for all matters under this Regulation 17 is on the balance of probabilities.

When the Player does not accept that the act(s) of Foul Play which is the subject of the disciplinary hearing warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited, the burden of proof rests on the Player to show that the referee/citing commissioner was wrong.

The Player tried to justify his high tackle with shirt stature of Czech player and the lowering of the latter at the moment of the contact, but the images of the incident show that the tackle, although no intentional, was in any case high.

At the end, the player accepted that there was a foul play, reckless, and that it was worth a red card.

The Judicial Officer found, on the balance of probabilities, that Lithuanian Player n.1 did a high tackle on Czech Player n.3, and that there contact with the head of the Czech Player.

The level of danger was high.

The images of the incident were clear and show the whole incident.

The player accepted that there was foul play which merited a red card, and therefore the citing was upheld.

Any act of foul play which result in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at

least a mid-range sanction.

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

Intentional/deliberate Reckless

State Reasons

There was no evidence that the Player wanted to tackle high intentionally, to the head of Czech Player n.3. This action was reckless, because the tackle was badly executed.

Gravity of player's actions

The contact was with the right jaw of Czech Player, who needed medical assistance on the pitch and left the field for the remainder of the game

Nature of actions

High tackle

Existence of provocation

No provocation

Whether player retaliated

No retaliation

Self-defence

No Self-defence

Effect on victim

Czech player left the field, but had not any injury

Effect on match

No effect

Vulnerability of victim

Medium. High tackle arrived from the side and Czech player did not see it coming

Level of participation/premeditation

No premeditation

Conduct completed/attempted

Conduct completed

Other features of player's conduct

None

Entry point

Top end [XX] Weeks Mid-range [6] Weeks Low-end [XX] 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

| 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 accepted that there was foul play and that it was worth a red card | The Player has never before sent off or cited |
| Youth and inexperience of player | Conduct prior to and at hearing |
| No | Very good |
| Remorse and timing of remorse | Other off-field mitigation |
| The player showed remorse and immediately after the game asked information about health conditions of Czech player and apologized for his action. | None |

Number of weeks deducted: [3]

| Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted: |
|---|
| The player accepted that he had committed an act of foul play, he apologized for his action immediately after the match and conducted himself in an exemplary manner at the hearing. The player has a clean disciplinary record |

| 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 | |
| None | |
| Need for deterrence | |
| None | |
| Any other off-field aggravating factors | |
| None | |

Number of additional weeks: [NA]

| Summary of reason for number of weeks added: |
|---|
| NA |

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 matches/weeks | <input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient |
| Sanction commences | 17-07-2022 at the conclusion of the hearing | |
| Sanction concludes | <p>Dependent of the games that Lithuanian player Radzius Zygimantas will play after the tournament, because Lithuanian team finished his tournament and had not any more game.</p> <p>Therefore, the last match of the sanction will be dependent of the impending information regarding the player's schedule, evidencing his playing commitments for the remainder of season or next, information to be provided by the Lithuanian Federation as soon as possible.</p> | |
| Matches/tournaments included in sanction | <p>Dependent of the impending information regarding the player's schedule, evidencing his playing commitments for the remainder of season or next, information to be provided by the Lithuanian Federation as soon as possible</p> | |

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Costs | None |
|--------------|------|

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|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Date | 17-07-2022 |
| Signature (JO or Chairman) | Achille REALI |

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)