

# DECISION FORM

To be sent to [discipline@rugbyeurope.eu](mailto:discipline@rugbyeurope.eu).



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: <b>Haris Begic</b>	
Player's number: <b>14</b>	
Player's union: <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	
Competition: <b>Rugby Europe Conference (2023-24)</b>	
Host Team (T1): <b>Slovenia</b>	Visiting Team (T2): <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>
Venue: <b>Oval stadium, Ljubljana</b>	
Date of match: <b>21/10/23</b>	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other	
Referee Name: <b>Anatolie Tipa</b>	
Plea: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify: <b>Misconduct</b></i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: <b>Matthew O'Grady</b>	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - <b>Dany Roelands</b> - <b>Marcello d'Orey</b>	
Hearing date: <b>26/10/2023</b>	
Hearing venue: <b>On remote</b>	
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): - <b>Mr. Haris Begic, #14 player</b> - <b>Mr. Armin Berberovic, Union general secretary</b> - <b>Mr. Adi Mahic, team manager and Union coordinator</b>	
Other attendees: <b>NA</b>	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: <b>1. Game Sheet</b> <b>2. Report from the Match Commissioner</b> <b>3. Report from the Referee</b> <b>4. Report from the Assistant Referee</b> <b>5. Video Clip of the incident</b> <b>6. Link to a web page (social network where the incident has been published and commented) + 2 screen shots of the page.</b> <b>7. Report from the referee</b> <b>8. Report from the Assistant referee</b>	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The footage shows:  <b>1. The final whistle was blown by the Referee.</b> <b>2. The Touch Judge (appointed by opposition team) was stood near the 22m line and touchline.</b>	

3. The Player ran at pace from over 20m away at the Touch Judge.
4. The Touch Judge raised his arm to keep the Player away and stepped backwards.
5. With his body the Player pushed at the Referee's hand.
6. The Player pushed the Touch Judge's hand away with his right hand.
7. Many people rushed onto the field and there was a significant confrontation.
8. In the mele of people the Player fell to the floor.

The Touch Judge gave written evidence. In summary:

1. The Player ran towards him visibly angry.
2. The Touch Judge defensively put his hand up.
3. The Player slapped the Touch Judge's hand away twice.
4. The Player swore at the Touch Judge.
5. Many people ran onto the pitch.
6. The Touch Judge fell backwards. He was not pushed by the Player.
7. The Touch Judge was apologised to after the match and he judged the apology to be sincere.

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

Deliberately left blank

#### Summary of player's evidence

The Player:

1. Accepted his behaviour was unacceptable.
2. Accepted he ran at the Touch Judge and swore at him.
3. Accepted pushing the Touch Judge's hand away.
4. Accepted his behaviour was threatening.
5. Said he was very sorry

#### Findings of fact

We find on the balance of probabilities:

1. The Player ran from a distance.
2. The Player's behaviour was highly confrontational and threatening in that he:
  - a. Used abusive language to the Touch Judge
  - b. Violated the Touch Judge's personal space
3. The Player physically abused the Touch Judge by slapping his hand and pushing his body against the Touch Judge's hand.
4. The Player's behaviour triggered a significant mele of other people of the field of play.

#### Decision

Proven  Not proven  Other disposal (please state)

## SANCTIONNING 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

### Reasons for finding as to intend:

Running over to the Touch Judge, shouting at him, pushing at him were all deliberate. None were reckless.

### Nature of actions

See findings.

### Existence of provocation:

None.

### Whether player retaliated:

Not applicable.

### Self-defence:

None

### Effect on victim:

The Game is significantly damaged by this behaviour. It undermines the Game's values and deters people from participating as Players and Officials. The incident was published to an online audience.

The threatening behaviour was obviously intimidating to the Match Official.

### Effect on match:

Full-time had been blown. Many people ran onto the field, triggered by the Player's actions.

### Vulnerability of victim:

The Touch Judge was very vulnerable. He was clearly intimidated as he walked back.

### Level of participation / premeditation:

The Player was the sole participant in the misconduct.

<b>Conduct completed / attempted:</b>
Completed.
<b>Other features of player's conduct:</b>

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]
<b>Reasons for selecting entry point:</b>					
Not applicable because the offence is Misconduct.					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:</b>	<b>Player's disciplinary record / good character:</b>
The Player admitted his guilt at the earliest opportunity.	The Player has no disciplinary matters on his record.
<b>Youth and inexperience of player:</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing:</b>
The Player is 26 years old. He has played Rugby since he was 13 years old. He has had over 20 appearances for his national side and he has played in his national 7s team.	Excellent
<b>Remorse and timing of Remorse</b>	<b>Other off-field mitigation:</b>
The Player was very remorseful and apologetic.	Not applicable

<b>Number of weeks deducted: [XX]</b>
<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:</b>
Not applicable because the offence is Misconduct.

**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:**

Deliberately left blank

**Need for deterrence:**

Deliberately left blank

**Any other off-field aggravating factors:**

Deliberately left blank

**Number of additional weeks: [XX]**

**Summary of reason for number of weeks added:**

Not applicable because the offence is Misconduct.

## 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: 14 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: Immediately	
Sanction concludes: TBC upon receipt of fixture list.	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: TBC upon receipt of fixture list.	
Costs:	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: <b>Matthew O'Grady</b>
Date: <b>03/11/2023</b>
Signature (JO or Chairman):  <b>/s/ Matthew O'Grady</b>

**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)