



DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Pablo Torres		
Player's Union	Spain Rugby Union		
Match	Netherlands v Spain		
Competition	Rugby Europe U20 Championship		
Date of match	13/11/2022		
Match Venue	Jaimor, Portugal		
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook;		
Referee Name	Jonathan Gasnier	Plea	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Law 9.13 - Dangerous tackle	<input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	18 Nov 2022	Hearing venue	Remote
Chairperson/JO	Fred Gilligan (IRFU)		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	Chris Morgan (WRU) Bartosz Marczyński (PRU)		
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)	Eliseo Patron Costas	Other attendees	
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Notice of Disciplinary Hearing Video Evidence Citing Commissioners Report		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
SPA 12 Pablo TORRES high tackle, shoulder to head of NL 4 Full Citing Match 80:04Video 01:41:43Score 6-13NL 4 carries off a ruck in SPA's 22, SPA 4 attempts to tackle low from the side but misses, SPA 4's actions do not affect the body height of the ball carrier. SPA 12 has a clear line of sight of the ball carrier NL 4, is upright with his right arm low and his right shoulder strikes the head of NL 4 with a high degree of danger, NL 4 falls to ground with loss of body control and lies motionless. Play continues and NL 4 is attended by medics and subsequently removed from the pitch on a stretcher. NL 4 was transported to hospital as though he was lucid post incident he reported persistant/significant neck pain. Before he was transported to hospital, NL 4 reported coherently to the Tournament Doctor (Dr Fernando

Torres) and the NL Physio (Sebastiann Van Osch) that he received a direct high force blow to the head from a shoulder. The camera angle at the moment of impact is partially obstructed by an NL player. In slow motion and frame by frame it is clear that the only possible modus of injury to NL 4 is due to the upright, forceful, direct contact of SPA 12's right shoulder to NL 4's head. SPA 12 had a clear line of sight of the Ball Carrier NL 4 and NL 4's body height or line did not change suddenly or significantly - there is no mitigation per the World Rugby Head Contact Process, Due to the mud and the low light quality the jersey number of SPA 12 is difficult to distinguish in the moment of the incident. Review back through the game comparing players' faces and boots to confirm that SPA 12 Pablo TORRES is the correct player for the Citing. The Foul Play by SPA 12 Pablo TORRES contrary to Law 9.13 dangerous tackling breaches the Red Card threshold per the World Rugby Head Contact Process and merits a Full Citing.

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

In the final minutes of the final against Spain on the 13th of November, NL4, Teun Karst suffered a knock to the head from the shoulder of an opponent. He did not lose consciousness, but had immediate severe neck pain. He was immediately supported in MILLS and taken off the field with a stretcher. He was conscious and present and apart from neck pain did not show any other symptoms of concussion. He had neck pain on palpation of the paravertebral muscles on both sides of the cervical spine, most on the right. He was taken to the hospital by the ambulance for an X ray of the cervical spine. The photo concluded that there was no fracture present. The acting doctor prescribed him with Ibuprofen 600 mg, rest and warmth to decrease the spasm of the muscles. The day after the game Teun has neck pain and stiffness when rotating the head in both directions. When kept still, he does not experience any symptoms. There are still no other signs of concussion. In conclusion, Teun suffered a whiplash type injury due to the knock to the head, which caused the paravertebral muscles in the cervical spine to cramp, leading to neck pain and stiffness. There are no clear signs of concussion. Medical advice was relative rest until the symptoms decrease, using the mobility in the neck according to pain, starting off with low intensity mobilizing exercises within pain limits. Return to training and building up to taking contact can start when the neck pain has completely resolved.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

Player did not accept that his shoulder made contact with NL4's head. The Player accepted that he went in high in an effort to rip the ball as his team mate was in a positioned to make a tackle. As soon as he realised he couldn't rip the ball he says he pulled back. Player stated that he made contact with the body more so than the head of NL4.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Committee found that the Player went into contact high and did not make an effort to lower his body position. This led to contact between the head of NL4 and the shoulder of SPA 12. NL 4 suffered a concussion and whiplash type injury.

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		
SPA 12 genuinely believed that he could rip the ball but ultimately was unable to do so and ended up making contact with the head of NL4.		
Gravity of player's actions		
The Player's actions of a medium gravity.		
Nature of actions		
Going into contact in a high body position.		
Existence of provocation		
NA		
Whether player retaliated		
NA		
Self-defence		
NA		
Effect on victim		
Moderate in that he sustained a mild concussion and whiplash type injury.		
Effect on match		
NA		
Vulnerability of victim		
NA		
Level of participation/premeditation		
NA		
Conduct completed/attempted		
NA		
Other features of player's conduct		
NA		
Entry point		
<input type="checkbox"/> Top end [XX] Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-range 6 Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> 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		
Reckless contact with contact to the head.		

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
None	Good
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
Under 20 player	Excellent

Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
[Insert]	[Insert]

Number of weeks deducted: 3

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
While not accepting the offense the player was at all time acting in good faith and did not intend to cause any injury to the other player. He behaved well afterwards and has a good 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
One previous red card when playing for his club where he received a 1 week ban at Under 18 level.
Need for deterrence
NA
Any other off-field aggravating factors
NA

Number of additional weeks: 0

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 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	14 November 2022	
Sanction concludes	05 December 2022	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	20/11: CR El Salvador – CP Les Abelles (FER Top 13) 27/11: Ordizia RE – CR El Salvador (FER Top 13) 04/12: Gernika RT – CR El Salvador (FER U23) // Black Lions – Iberians (RE Supercup)	

Costs	NA
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Date	18 November 2022
Signature (JO or Chairman)	<i>F. Gilligan</i>

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)