

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Sandra Lihovida	
Player's number: 13	
Player's union: Latvia	
Competition: Rugby Europe 7s Trophy Series (Women's)	
Host Team (T1): Latvia	Visiting Team (T2): Georgia
Venue: Zagreb	
Date of match: 17/06/2023	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook / Tournament Disciplinary Program	
Referee Name: Antonia Nussbaumer	
Plea: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: Jennifer Donovan	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: N/a	
-	
-	
Hearing date: 17/06/2023	
Hearing venue: Zagreb	
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): Girts Sirsnims, Team Manager	
Other attendees:	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: Sending off Report	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>The Referee reported that the player had been sent off for an offence contrary to Law. 9.12. The report indicated that the incident occurred in the second minute of the first half. The report stated:</p> <p>"After pink knocked the ball backwards legally Latvia's #13 yelled at me: Are you fucking kidding me?"</p>	
Summary of Player's Evidence	
<p>The player confirmed that she was the player who had received the red card.</p> <p>The player was advised that the J.O. had made the decision to amend the offence from 9.12 to 9.28 and that the offence the subject of the hearing would now be one of disrespecting the authority of the referee.</p> <p>The player accepted that she had committed an act of foul play and that the offending warranted a red card. She accepted that the referee's report was a fair reflection of the incident.</p>	

The player apologised unreservedly for what she had said. She fully accepted that she should not have spoken in the manner in which she had. She said that the comment was not directed personally at the referee but that she had lost control of herself in that moment. She said that she fully agreed with the decision to send her off and that she wished to apologise to everyone involved.

The player asked if it would be appropriate to approach the referee directly to offer an apology in person. The hearing took place very quickly after the match and she did not have an opportunity earlier and did not know if it was appropriate.

The player indicated that she is a referee herself and ought to have know better. The player was very remorseful.

Findings of fact

It was found, and that player admitted, that she had committed an offence contrary to Law 9.28 and that the offending warranted a red card.

The J.O. exercised her discretion under Rugby Europe Regulation 4.5 in amending the charge from a breach of Law 9.12 to Law 9.28, 9.28 dealing more specifically with foul play relating to match officials. The J.O. was not of the view that the offending amounted to abuse but that it was more properly categorised as disrespecting the authority of the match official.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONNING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
Assessment of intent:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless	
Reasons for finding as to intend:	
The offending was intentional, it not really being possible to speak unintentionally. It was accepted that the utterance was meant more as a comment on the decision than a remark directly personally toward the referee but a fully unacceptable one.	
Nature of actions	
Verbal	
Existence of provocation:	
N/a	
Whether player retaliated:	
N/a	
Self-defence:	
N/a	
Effect on victim:	
N/a	
Effect on match:	
None apart from the player's team being disadvantaged.	
Vulnerability of victim:	
N/a in the physical sense	
Level of participation / premeditation:	
No premeditation.	
Conduct completed / attempted:	
Completed.	
Other features of player's conduct:	

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
Offending held to be low end based on the factors outlined above.					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:	Player's disciplinary record / good character:
At hearing	Clean
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
5 years' experience of international 7s	Player was upset, remorseful and fully co-operative.

Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
At hearing.	N/a

Number of weeks deducted: 1
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
It was held that the player was entitled to full mitigation based on her apology, remorse, conduct at the hearing and clean disciplinary record.

Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors <i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
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:
N/a

Number of additional weeks: 0
Summary of reason for number of weeks added:
N/a

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: 1 match	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 17/06/2023	
Sanction concludes: Midnight 18/06/2023	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: The player's final play off game in the present tournament (opposition unknown at time of hearing)	
Costs:	
Signature	
Name of the JO or Chairman: Jennifer Donovan	
Date:17/06/2023	
Signature (JO or Chairman): Jennifer Donovan	

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)