

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Lukas Rapant	
Player's number: 1	
Player's union: Czech Republic	
Competition: Rugby Europe Men's Trophy	
Host Team (T1): Ukraine	Visiting Team (T2): Czech Republic
Venue: Rugby Club Havirov - Havirov	
Date of match: 23/03/2024	
Rules to apply: Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations, World Rugby Regulation 17.	
Referee Name: Mike HAWKINS (DEN)	
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: - Richard McGhee - Mirian Tavzarashvili	
Hearing date: 26/03/24	
Hearing venue: On remote	
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): Lukáš Rapant (Penalized player), Jiří Boháček (General Secretary)	
Other attendees: Alizé Millet, Rugby Europe	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: 1. Red card report 2. Game sheet 3. Message from Match Commissioner 4. Video clips of the incident 5. Yellow Card Report 6. Video clips of the incident 7. Player's Submissions and Disciplinary Statement	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>The referee reported that the player had come up in defence at speed and made direct contact with the Ukrainian No. 8 ("U8") on the "shoulder/head with his shoulder/head". The referee reported that the player was always upright, that there was a high degree of danger and that there was no mitigation.</p> <p>Match footage showed U8 in possession of the ball and the player advancing in defence. Both players were upright. The player made a tackle on U8. U8 was caused to step backwards but remained on his feet and in possession. The player immediately fell to the ground and looked to be unconscious. Play was halted and the player was attended to on the pitch by medics.</p>	

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

The Match Commissioner submitted an email outlining communications with the parties post match. He stated that he had spoken to the player who reported that he was ok but that he did not remember anything that happened. It was reported that U8 had not been injured and had played the entire game.

Summary of player's evidence

The player accepted having committed an act of foul play deserving of a red card. He said that he recalled the approach to the tackle and that he had intended to tackle the player and the ball in order to prevent the pass or to dislodge the ball. The player said that he did not remember the tackle itself but could remember being on the ground with people around him. The player apologised for what had happened. He explained that it was a big match and an important occasion for his team and he was sorry that this had happened. He was glad that the other player was not injured.

The player said that having looked at the footage he did not believe that he had made contact with the head of U8. He believed that the contact was between his own head and the shoulder of U8. He said that he had not intended to carry out a dangerous tackle and again apologised for having done so.

When asked, the player confirmed that he suffered a concussion. He had signed himself out of hospital after the match because he was due to travel home with his family. He has since seen his own doctor who has diagnosed concussion. He is to avoid contact training for two weeks and he will be reviewed thereafter before he is permitted to return to play. The player is not fit to play at present.

Findings of fact

It was found, as admitted by the player, that the player committed a dangerous tackle contrary to Law 9.13. It was found that contact was made between the head of the player and the shoulder but not the head of U8. It was found that the offending was reckless but not deliberate or intentional. It was noted that there was no injury to U8.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING 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 type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless
Reasons for finding as to intend:
The player's evidence was accepted in relation to lack of intent.
Nature of actions
Head of player to shoulder of victim player.
Existence of provocation:
n/a
Whether player retaliated:
N/a
Self-defence:
N/a
Effect on victim:
Nil. The victim player was uninjured. The main effect of the offending was on the player himself who was concussed.
Effect on match:
Nil
Vulnerability of victim:
The victim player was not in a vulnerable position.
Level of participation / premeditation:
Full participation, no premeditation.
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed.
Other features of player's conduct:
N/a

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:					
For the reasons outlined above including the lack of intent to offend and the lack of injury to U8.					

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:
The player acknowledged guilt in pre-hearing submissions and again at the outset of the hearing.	The player received a one match suspension for having received two yellow cards in 2007/2008 (technical offences) but otherwise the player has a clean disciplinary record.

Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
The player has played professional rugby for 11 years	Excellent
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The player apologised post match and again at the hearing	n/a

Number of weeks deducted: 1
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
It was found, having considered all of the relevant criteria, that the player was entitled to full 50% mitigation.

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:

Need for deterrence:

Any other off-field aggravating factors:

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 week	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 23/03/2024.	
Sanction concludes: Date will be determined when the player is passed fit to play and his playing schedule is submitted for consideration.	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: One match, to be confirmed as outlined above.	
Costs: Nil	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Jennifer Donovan
Date: 27/03/2024
Signature (JO or Chairman): <i>Jennifer Donovan</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)