

# DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	Italy v Scotland		
Player's Union	SRU	Competition	Women's Six Nations
Date of Match	20 April 2024	Match venue	Stadio Sergio Lanfranchi, Parma
Applicable rules	2024 Six Nations Disciplinary and Anti-doping Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Surname	Rollie	Player's Forename(s)	Chloe
Player's Date of birth	26 June 1995	Referee's Name	Maggie Cogger-Orr
Foul play	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	Red card warranted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Law 9.18 – A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body makes contact with the ground.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>  If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of sanction	3 matches		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	23 April 2024	Hearing venue	Zoom call
Chairman/JO	Richard Cole		
Other members of Disciplinary Committee	Stefan Terblanche (former South African International player) Valeriu Toma (former Romanian International referee)		
Appearance Player	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Player's union	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's representative(s)	Ms Rollie was assisted by: Ellen Dickson, Scotland team manager Bryan Easson, Scotland coach.	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Tom Price and Annie Quantrill, 6 Nations
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Referee's Red Card Report, signed by the referee and TMO, Dan Jones. FRPO report, Ian Tempest. Brief Statements from the Italian player affected and the Italian Team Doctor Broadcaster Footage of the incident. All Angles footage of the incident.		

## SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

The referee's report stated that she was 2m from the incident which occurred at 79.10 and reads: "15 Scotland arrived at the ruck as a support player. She went to clean out 11 Italy and lifted the player by the leg. She then continued to lift the player so that her legs went above the horizontal - the neck/head of the Italian player made contact with the ground. Upon receiving the card; Scotland 15 was accepting of the decision and apologetic to the Italian player."

The FRPO was Ian Tempest, and his report reads: "A dangerous clear out was referred to myself as FPRO. When reviewing the footage, it was evident that Scotland 15 lifted Italy 11 at the breakdown above the horizontal causing Italy 11's head to come into direct contact with the ground. I deemed this action as highly dangerous with no mitigation. As such I advised the TMO/referee that the YC was to be upgraded to a red card".

The Italian player, Granzotto Francesca stated: "I was trying to retrieve the ball and suffered a dangerous clearance from the Scottish number 15 who lifted me off my legs, flipping me over and landing me on my neck."

The footage of the incident shows the following:

In the 80<sup>th</sup> minute of the match, 13 Scotland has the ball and is tackled and goes to ground. A ruck is formed.

11 Italy is participating in the ruck and seeking to retrieve the ball from the Scotland player. 11 Italy remains on her feet and is crouching with her head facing the Scotland player on the ground.

15 Scotland seeks to clear out 11 Italy. She does so by lifting her left leg off the ground and then essentially flips her over the top of 13 Scotland who is still on the ground. 11 Italy lands on the ground with the point of contact being her head/neck. 15 Scotland does not lift 11 Italy high in the air and the drop to the ground was not significant.

11 Italy manages to complete a 'forward roll'. She looks surprised when she gets back to her feet.

15 Scotland acknowledges her actions by waving to 11 Italy as she leaves the field having been shown a yellow card with a FRPO review to follow.

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

Dr Sparta provided a statement which read “during the action I was busy with another injury, the athlete at the time did not present symptoms and my intervention was not needed, at the end of the game presented a soreness in the neck area. Rest and anti-inflammatory therapy are recommended”.

## SUMMARY OF PLAYER’S EVIDENCE

The Player’s statement was concise.

She accepted that she was the player shown the red card.

She accepted that the reports referred to above were true and accurate and reflected what happened.

She accepted that her actions constituted foul play and that they warranted a red card.

In oral evidence she confirmed the above and the following other matters.

She said that the incident occurred in a split second. The match was tight, and she had lost the ‘head battle’ in the ruck. Her intention was to drive through the Italian player, but her technique let her down. The Italian player’s positioning and her technique meant that she flipped the player. She did not intend for her to flip. She did not drive her into the ground, and she didn’t mean for her to land on her head/neck area. She agreed that the Italian player was in a vulnerable position at the ruck.

Her actions were not intentional, and she apologised to the player more than once on the field. She was glad that the Italian player was not badly injured and had messaged her after the game to see she was alright. She said she wasn’t injured.

Mr Easson confirmed the above and said that the player’s technique had let her down. There was no tip here. He also said that the player was very apologetic for her actions. She was a character around the group and part of the senior leadership team. She is an exceptional squad member.

The player had never received either a yellow or red card in her playing career – and she is an experienced international with 67 caps.

She felt that the case should fall into the lower entry point category, rather than the mid entry point.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The incident occurred in the last minute of the game.
2. 13 Scotland had the ball and is tackled and goes to ground. A ruck is formed.
3. 11 Italy is participating in the ruck and seeking to retrieve the ball from the Scotland player. 11 Italy remains on her feet and is crouching with her head facing the Scotland player on the ground.
4. 15 Scotland seeks to clear out 11 Italy. She does so by lifting her left leg off the ground and then essentially flips her over the top of 13 Scotland who is still on the ground. 11 Italy lands on the ground with the point of contact being her head/neck.
5. 11 Italy manages to complete a 'forward roll' and does not need on-field treatment.
6. 15 Scotland acknowledges her actions by waving to 11 Italy as she leaves the field having been shown a yellow card with a FRPO review to follow.
7. We find that the player's intention was to clear out 11 Italy. We do not find that it was the player's intention to carry out a dangerous clear out but by lifting 11 Italy's leg off the ground and above the horizontal, she was reckless in her actions. We further find that the lift was not high and consequently the drop to the ground was not significant. We accept the player's explanation that a combination of her poor technique and 11 Italy's stance/positioning (which we do not criticise) led to the incident occurring.
8. 11 Italy was in a vulnerable position (crouched and facing the player on the ground) and had no control of her movements once she was flipped.
9. We find that the player did not deliberately drive 11 Italy's head into the ground but that her actions led to 11 Italy's neck/head coming into contact with the ground.
10. It was clearly dangerous play and warranted a red card, as was accepted by the player. There was a high degree of danger and no mitigation.
11. We find that the player was contrite immediately following the incident and remains so.
12. 11 Italy did not require on-field treatment but had a sore neck after the game.

## DECISION

Foul play	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not determined <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
Red card warranted	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not determined <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>

## SANCTIONING PROCESS

References below are to provisions in the 2024 Disciplinary and Anti Doping Rules, which form Schedule Four of the 2024 Six Nations Terms of Participation documentation.

### ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of intent – clause 2.5.89 (a) and (b)
Intentional <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State reasons
The act of cleaning out 11 Italy was deliberate but we find that the player did not deliberately intend to flip her onto her head/neck area, as occurred. She did not drive 11 Italy's head/neck area into the ground. Her actions were reckless in lifting 11 Italy's leg above the horizontal, which ultimately led to the flip.
Nature of actions – clause 2.5.89 (c)
This was a dangerous clear out with 11 Italy's leg being lifting above the horizontal which led to her being flipped onto her head/neck area.
Existence of provocation – clause 2.5.89 (d)
Not applicable.
Whether Player retaliated – clause 2.5.89 (e)
Not applicable.
Self-defence – clause 2.5.89 (f)
Not applicable.
Effect on victim – clause 2.5.89 (g)
The victim looked surprised on the footage after the incident. She had a sore neck after the game and rest and anti-inflammatories were recommended by the team doctor. She told the player via text message that she was not injured.
Effect on match – clause 2.5.89 (h)
The incident occurred in the last minute of normal time. The result was unaffected with Scotland winning 17-10.
Vulnerability of victim – clause 2.5.89 (i)
The victim was vulnerable. She was crouched over the Scotland player on the ground and was looking at her. She was then flipped over, landing on her head/neck area.
Level of participation/premeditation – clause 2.5.89 (j)
The player was entirely responsible for the incident but there was no pre-meditation.
Conduct completed/attempted – clause 2.5.89 (k)
The dangerous clear out was completed.
Other features of Player's conduct – clause 2.5.89 (l)
The player recognised her error whilst on the field and remains apologetic.

## ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
Top end*	Weeks/matches	Mid-range	Weeks/matches	Lower end	Weeks/matches : 6
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

\*If top end, the JO or Disciplinary Committee must identify, based on his/her/its assessment of the seriousness of the conduct, an entry point between the top end and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below (see clause 2.5.90).

Reasons for selecting entry point above top end
Not applicable

## RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of foul play (and timing) – clause 2.5.91(a)	Player’s disciplinary record – clause 2.5.91 (b)
This was apparent on the field and remains the case.	This is exemplary. The player has never received a yellow or red card for club or country (67 caps).
Youth and/or inexperience of Player – clause 2.5.91 (c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – clause 2.5.91 (d)
The player is an experienced international player.	Excellent conduct in the preparation for and at the hearing.
Remorse (and timing if remorse) – clause 2.5.91 (e)	Other off-field mitigation – clause 2.5.91 (f)
Remorse occurred on the field, after the game and was evident at the hearing.	The player is an exceptional member of the Scotland squad and part of the leadership team

Number of weeks/matches deducted: 3

<p>Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:</p> <p>Full mitigation applies here in our judgment.</p>
---

## RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – clause 2.5.94 (a)
Not applicable
Need for deterrence – clause 2.5.94 (b)
Whilst the committee of course recognise the need to protect a player's neck/head area, we did not think that in this particular case the offending was aggravated by this factor.
Any other off-field aggravating factors – clause 2.5.94 (c)
Not applicable

Number of additional weeks/matches: Nil

## SANCTION

**NOTE:** PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – CLAUSES 2.5.14 AND 2.5.33.

Total sanction	3 matches	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	23 April 2024	
Sanction concludes	19 May 2024	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	3 during the above period. Ireland vs Scotland, Six Nations L'boro Lightning vs Gloucester Hartpury, PWR L'boro Lightning vs Harlequins, PWR	

Costs	None
-------	------

Signature (JO or Chairman)	Richard Cole	Date	23 April 2024
-------------------------------	--------------	------	---------------

**NOTE:** THE PLAYER WILL HAVE UNTIL 4PM (BST) ON THE THIRD DAY (EXCLUDING WEEKENDS) AFTER RECEIPT OF THE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DISCIPLINARY PANEL C/O THE DISCIPLINARY OFFICER – CLAUSE 2.6.4. APPEAL TO BE EMAILED TO [disciplinary@sixnationsrugby.com](mailto:disciplinary@sixnationsrugby.com).