

DISCIPLINARY DECISION

Match	Wales vs Fiji		
Player's union	Fiji Rugby	Competition	2024 Autumn Nations Series
Date of match	10 November 2024	Match venue	Principality Stadium, Cardiff
Applicable rules	World Rugby's regulations (WRR) 17, 18 and 20, as supplemented by the 2024 Autumn Nations Series Disciplinary Rules (DR)		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Radradra	Player's forename(s)	Semi
Player's date of birth	16 June 1992	Referee's name	Luc Ramos
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	9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of sanction	3 weeks. The suspension can be reduced to 2 weeks if the player successfully completes the Coaching Intervention under World Rugby's Coaching Intervention Programme.		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	12 November 2024	Hearing venue	Zoom call
Chairman/JO	Philippe Cavalieros (France)		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	Valeriu Toma (Romania) (former referee) Stefan Terblanche (South Africa) (former player)		
Appearance Player	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance union	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's representative(s)	Bill Gadolo (Team Manager and Player Representative)	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Tom Price (Head of Sporting Operations, Six Nations Rugby) Annie Quantrill (Rugby Administrator, Six Nations Rugby)

<p>List of documents/ materials provided to Player in advance of hearing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadcast footage - TMO/citing clips - Referee delivering FPRO/Bunker decision - a report from Luc Ramos, referee; - a report from Eric Gauzins, TMO; - a report from Brett Cronan, Foul Play Review Officer; - a statement from Cameron Winnett (player); - a statement from Dr Geoff Davies (medic); and - the Disciplinary Rules. <p>Additionally, the Disciplinary Panel (“Panel”) has received the following documents from the Player :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Player’s Response to standing directions - Player’s Disciplinary Record - Player’s Schedule
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SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE’S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

The Referee’s Report provides that *“TMO called to show a dangerous tackle by 11 Fiji. Player was upright and made direct contact with the shoulder to the head of his opponent.”*

The FPRO/Bunker decisions provides that *“Fiji 11 makes direct contact with the head of the Wales player with his shoulder. The contact was made with high force and danger with no mitigation was applied.”* (sic)

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

Wales 15’s statement essentially provides that : *“I received medical attention from and deemed fit to continue playing and have no side effects.”*

The Medical report provides that *“I attended to Cam Winnett (Red 15) during the Wales V Fiji game on Nov 10th 2024 along with WRU physiotherapist, John Miles. This was because of a tackle by an opponent which subsequently resulted in a Red Card sanction. When assessed on the field of play he was orientated in time, place and person and correctly answered his Maddocks questions. He had no concussion symptoms or signs. He was complaining of a sore neck primarily. He had a full range of neck movements with no bony tenderness and no upper limb neurological deficit. We managed him as a soft tissue neck injury and cleared him to continue playing. Post-match he had some residual neck soreness as expected. I would anticipate these symptoms will settle completely as the week progresses”.*

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

In his Response to the Standing Directions, the Player accepted to have committed an act of Foul Play that warranted being issued a Red Card. He then confirmed the same during the Hearing upon invitation of the Panel.

FINDINGS OF FACT

In the 20th minute into the first half, following a box kick by Fiji 9, Wales 15 catches the ball and is concomitantly impacted by the Player coming at speed.

Following the incident, the TMO called for a review, leading to an initial yellow card decision by the Referee, which was subsequently upgraded to a red card upon further review by the FPRO/Bunker in the 24th minute.

Upon reviewing various footage, which was also confirmed by the Player during the hearing, it is clear that the Player attempted to tackle Wales 15. During this attempt, the Player, with his leading left shoulder, made direct contact with the head of Wales 15, at high speed.

The Player's action, which resulted in direct contact with Wales 15's head, constitutes a dangerous tackle as defined under Rule 9.13.

Pursuant to Rule 17.16.1 (a), the Player has admitted that the act of Foul Play warranted being ordered off. The Panel's role therefore is to determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed on the Player under Rules 17.17 to 17.21.

In so doing, the Panel is mindful of Appendix 1 to Rule 17, and particularly the Note pursuant to which *“Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent's head and/or the neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid range sanction.”*

Given in particular that there was fortunately no injury sustained by Wales 15, and that as explained below, the act was reckless rather than intentional, the Panel considers that a mid-range entry point is warranted.

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

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of intent – WRR 17.18.1(a)-(b)
Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State reasons
The Panel was satisfied that the Player, coming at speed with little time to adjust, knew or should have known there was a risk of committing an act of Foul Play.
Nature of actions – WRR 17.18.1(c)
Head contact with the Player’s left shoulder.
Existence of provocation – WRR 17.18.1(d)
n/a
Whether Player retaliated – WRR 17.18.1(e)
n/a
Self-defence – WRR 17.18.1(f)
n/a
Effect on victim – WRR 17.18.1(g)
Neck stiffness. Wales 15 continued playing.
Effect on match – WRR 17.18.1(h)
n/a
Vulnerability of victim – WRR 17.18.1(i)
Quite vulnerable.
Level of participation/premeditation – WRR 17.18.1(j)
n/a
Conduct completed/attempted – WRR 17.18.1(k)
Completed
Other features of Player’s conduct – WRR 17.18.1(l)
n/a

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point		
Top end* Weeks/matches <input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-range Weeks/matches 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low end Weeks/matches <input 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 (WRR 17.18.2).

Reasons for selecting entry point above top end

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – WRR 17.19.1(a)	Player’s disciplinary record/good character – WRR 17.19.1(b)
The Player admitted having committed foul play in his response to the Standing Directions.	Clean disciplinary record.
Youth and inexperience of player – WRR 17.19.1(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – WRR 17.19.1(d)
n/a	Exemplary
Remorse and timing of remorse – WRR 17.19.1(e)	Other off-field mitigation – WRR 17.19.1(f)
The Player indicated to have apologised to Wales 15 immediately after the game.	n/a

Number of weeks/matches deducted: 3

The Player has a clean disciplinary record, apologised to Wales 15 and expressed remorse during the hearing.

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player’s status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game – WRR 17.20.1(a)
n/a

Need for deterrence – WRR 17.20.1(b)
n/a
Any other off-field aggravating factors – WRR 17.20.1(c)
n/a

Number of additional weeks/matches:

0

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 – WRR 17.12.5(f) and 17.13.7.

Total sanction	3 matches	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	13 November 2024	
Sanction concludes	30 November 2024 covering the game scheduled on that date*	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	<p>The suspension covers the following matches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 November 2024: Spain vs Fiji, Autumn International - 23 November 2024 : Ireland vs Fiji, Autumn Nations Series - 30 November 2024 : Pau vs Lyon, Top 14* <p>* The player has additionally been given permission to apply to take part in World Rugby’s Coaching Intervention Programme to substitute the final match of his sanction.</p>	

Costs	n/a
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Signature (JO or Chairman)		Date	13 November 2024
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NOTE: THE PLAYER WILL HAVE 48 HOURS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE WRITTEN DECISION TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR – DR 6.2(a). TO BE EMAILED TO disciplinary@sixnationsrugby.com.