

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	Scotland vs Wales		
Player's Union	Scotland	Competition	Women's 6 Nations
Date of Match	22-03-2025	Match venue	Hive Stadium
Applicable rules	2025 SIX NATIONS DISCIPLINARY AND ANTI-DOPING RULES		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's Surname	Gallagher	Player's Forename(s)	Evie
Player's Date of birth	22-08-2000	Referee's Name	Kat Roche
Foul play	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	Red card warranted	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	9.20 e – A player must not drop their weight onto an opponent or target the lower limbs.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	If "Other" selected, please specify:
Summary of sanction	1 week		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	24-03-2025	Hearing venue	Zoom call
Chairman/JO	Marcello d'Orey		
Other members of Disciplinary Committee	- Val Toma - Stefan Terblanche		
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)	- Ellen Dickson (Team manager) - Bryan Easson (Head Coach)	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	- Tom Price - Holi Smith - Annie Quantrill
List of documents/ materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referee Report – Kat Roche - Foul Play Review Officer – Ian Tempest - Foul Play Review Officer Correspondence - Foul Play Review Officer Incident Report Form – Ian Tempest - Statement – Kelsey Jones, Wales #16 - Statement – Jo Perkins, National Women's Team Head Physiotherapist - Player's Replies to the Standing Directions - Players Disciplinary Schedule - Red Card Letter - Hearing confirmation letter - 4 video footages of the incident 		

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

The Referee Red Card Report stated that:

«At a ruck, Scotland 8 dropped her weight onto the lower limb of a Wales player in a clear out. A YC was shown on field and the bunker came. »

- The Foul Play Review Officer Incident Report stated that «Ref sent a YC referral myself. Once I Viewed the action of S8 at the ruck it was clear that she was targeting the lower limb (a prolong wrap of the leg of the Welsh Player). After she failed the clear out S8 then dropped her full weight onto the outstretched leg. I deemed this action as highly dangerous and upgraded the YC to RC. »

Footage:

- there were 4 video footages of the incident, but in the hearing, it was the citing clips that were shown, because they had the biggest variety of clips of the incident from different camera angles.

- The images were clear and shown from the different angles the incident.

- The video footage was watched initially in silence and without sound. The player then commented the video and explained her actions. After that the player answered some questions from the panel.

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

- Statement from Welsh #16 «In regards to the incident that saw the Scotland no. 8 red carded during the Scotland v Wales game, in live time I felt direct contact to my leg and fell back out of ruck. I shook it off at the time and carried on with the game. It wasn't until seeing the incident on the big screen that I Actually realised what had happened and how sick it made me feel to have been in that situation. As a player coming back from a long-term ACL injury, in my first appearance after 10 months out, for my lower leg to be recklessly targeted is distressing. I was disappointed when there was no apology received when the player was removed from the field of play and was seen to be smiling and laughing coming off. After the game, when shaking hands with the opposition, the player did apologise, however, unfortunately she didn't seem to understand the gravity of the situation. The following morning, I did receive a message from the player apologising for her actions.

Statement From Jo Perkins (National Women's Team Head Physiotherapist):

« No Injury sustained to Kelsey however it was a high-risk position as she has only just returned from ACL surgery.»

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player was invited to give her explanation of what had happened. The essence of what she said was as follows:

- She tackled Wales #6, and immediately tried to jackal for the ball.
- She couldn't because of the actions of Wales #16 and 18.
- She then tried to counter ruck Wales #16.
- When she was doing that, she was pushed in the back by Wales #18, who after initially entering in the ruck from a correct position, was behind her and committing a penalty was pushing her from her back.
- She never intended to fall on Wales #16 lower leg.
- She only dropped there because of Wales #18 pushing her from behind.
- She was in a correct position for rucking and her technique was correct.
- She stated that she never intended to put in risk Wales#16, and that she knows that it is very dangerous to fall in the lower leg like that.
- She also stated that she is very proud of her ruck technique and that she works a lot in that.
- After watching some clips recorded from behind the ruck in the Scottish side, and being questioned by the panel, she accepted that she had fallen after a contact from Wales #18 and that she propelled in front, while holding Wales #16 leg. But she believes that she only dropped in Wales #16 leg because Wales #18 pushed her in that direction.
- She also stated that she never received a red card before and that she considers herself in being a very correct player.
- Mr Easson also stated that the player has a very good ruck technique and that she has always been a very correct player that was never known for being a dirty player and he doesn't believe that she would ever do an act like that intentionally.
- He also stated that the player is in the leader group of the team and is highly regarded by all.

FINDINGS OF FACT

No preliminary points arose.

The Player accepted that she was the player involved in the alleged foul play.

The Player did accept that there was foul play.

The Player did not accept that the incident met the red card threshold.

The player and her representatives argued that it was an accidental incident due to the actions of Wales #18 that pushed the player in the direction of Wales #16 leg. The player and her representatives argued also that the incident was not an intentional one.

The images were clear and show that:

- There was foul play.
- The player tried to contest a ruck, and was brought to the ground by Wales #18 who dropped her weight onto Player's body from an offside position.
- The player then lifted herself and propelled her body to the front, in an angle.
- The player was grabbing Wales #16 left leg at that moment.
- When she propelled herself to the front, she clearly dropped her weight on the leg of Wales #16.
- The arms extension of Wales #18 with hands in contact on the player's back does not seem to have sufficient force to meaningfully magnify or alter player's dynamics. Accordingly, the Disciplinary Panel found, on the balance of probabilities, that this was not a mitigating factor.
- Wales #16 was lucky because her feet was not trapped and she was able to twist her knee and leg correctly, otherwise the incident could have resulted in a very nasty injury.
- The panel considered that the action was reckless and not intentionally.

There was no mitigating factor.

Therefore, the Red Card was upheld and the Disciplinary Committee was required to consider what further action should be taken as a result of the player being red carded in respect of a contravention of law 9.20e.

The player's behavior prior to and during the hearing was impeccable and she showed remorse for her actions.

The player disciplinary record prior to this incident was clean.

With respect to determining the appropriate sanction, and firstly the relevant entry point, the player's representative submitted that, a low entry point could be selected.

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 type="checkbox"/> Determined <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not determined <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>

SANCTIONING PROCESS

References below are to provisions in the 2025 Disciplinary and Anti-Doping Rules, which form Schedule Four of the 2025 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 Player knew or should have known that, by holding Wales #16 leg and entering in that angle and height and without holding her own weight there was a risk of dropping in Wales #16 leg and so her conduct was reckless. It was accepted that the Player's offence was not intentional.
Nature of actions – clause 2.5.89 (c)
A player must not drop their weight onto an opponent or target the lower limbs.
Existence of provocation – clause 2.5.89 (d)
No provocation
Whether Player retaliated – clause 2.5.89 (e)
No retaliation
Self-defence – clause 2.5.89 (f)
No Self defence
Effect on victim – clause 2.5.89 (g)
None, but only because the player was able to lift her left foot and fall in a correct angle with her left knee.
Effect on match – clause 2.5.89 (h)
There was no effect on the Match, other than that Scotland was reduced to 14 players because of the red card shown. However, this was not a relevant factor in determining the seriousness of the offending by the Player.
Vulnerability of victim – clause 2.5.89 (i)
The victim was in a vulnerable position.
Level of participation/premeditation – clause 2.5.89 (j)
No premeditation.
Conduct completed/attempted – clause 2.5.89 (k)
Conducted completed.
Other features of Player's conduct – clause 2.5.89 (l)
None

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
<u>Top end*</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>	<u>Mid-range</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>	<u>Lower end</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2

*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
NA

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)
The player accepted that she committed an act of foul play.	The player had no previous disciplinary record.
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 24	exemplary
Remorse (and timing if remorse) – clause 2.5.91 (e)	Other off-field mitigation – clause 2.5.91 (f)
The player showed remorse in the hearing and also apologized to the player in the end of the game and in the next day sent her a message apologizing again.	None

Number of weeks/matches deducted: 1

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

- The Player admitted the misconduct, has a clean disciplinary record and her conduct was exemplary prior and in the disciplinary process throughout.

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – clause 2.5.94 (a)
None
Need for deterrence – clause 2.5.94 (b)
None
Any other off-field aggravating factors – clause 2.5.94 (c)
None

Number of additional weeks/matches:

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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	1 week/game	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	23th March 2025	
Sanction concludes	31 st March 2025	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	29 th March 2025 – France v Scotland, Women's Six Nations	

Costs	None
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Signature (JO or Chairman)	Marcello d'Orey	Date	25-03-2025
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NOTE: THE PLAYER WILL HAVE UNTIL 4PM (GMT) 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.