ABBREVIATED PROCESS – JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION

Match	Vodacom Bulls v Munster		
Player's Club	Vodacom Bulls	Competition	United Rugby Championship
Date of match	20th April 2024	Match venue	Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria
Rules to apply	United Rugby Championship 2023/24 Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Goosen		
Player's forename	Johan	Referee's name	Adam Jones
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 ☒ Citing ☐ Other ☐ If "Other" selected, please specify:	

JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION			
Judicial Officer's name	Sherriff Kathrine Mackie	Date of appointment	23/04/2024
Information reviewed	Match footage Referee's report Assistant Referees' reports TMO's report Medical statement from Dr Brian Hall, Munster Team Doctor Statement from Craig Casey, Munster 21 (M21) Player's statement Player's disciplinary record Player's playing schedule		
Application of Disciplinary Rule 7.6.30			
Assessment of intent – DR 7.6.30(a) and (b)			
intentional ☐ reckless ☒			
State Reasons			
Contrary to what is stated in the player's statement he knew, or ought to have known, that there was a risk of foul play in his attempted tackle of M21. He ran from a distance, at speed, and at all times had a clear line of sight of M21. While there is a significant height differential between the players (the player being 6' and M21 being 5' 5") the player was always in an upright position making no attempt to lower his height to an appropriate level.			
Nature of actions – DR 7.6.30(c)			
Direct head to head contact with the player's chin or jaw striking M21's left temple area.			

Existence of provocation – DR 7.6.30(d)
N/A
Whether the Player retaliated – DR 7.6.30(e)
N/A
Self-defence – DR 7.6.30(f)
N/A
Effect on victim – DR 7.6.30(g)
M21 suffered a moderate contusion and minor abrasion to his left temple. He was removed from the field of play to undergo an HIA. He did not return to the match. As at 21/4/24 he was not reporting any ill effects.
Effect on match – DR 7.6.30(h)
The player's act of foul play, and the subsequent issue of the red card, had no effect on the match other than to prejudice the player's team who ultimately lost.
Vulnerability of victim – DR 7.6.30(i)
M21 was in the process of passing the ball. He would not have expected a strike to the head. He was not in a position to defend himself.
Level of participation/premeditation – DR 7.6.30(j)
The player was the only person involved.
Conduct completed/attempted – DR 7.6.30(k)
The conduct was completed.
Other features of the Player's conduct – DR 7.6.30(l)
N/A

Aggravating factors	N/A
Mitigating factors	Although the player's statement is at times inconsistent, suggesting that he did not know there was a risk of foul play, that the incident was "accidental" and an "unfortunate rugby collision", the player does acknowledge that he committed an act of foul play which warranted the issue of a red card; he immediately showed remorse and apologised to M21 after the match; in a professional career of 14 years or so the player has been issued with one red card for a non-analogous offence in 2019.
Summary of Judicial Officer's sanctioning assessment	In assessing the seriousness of the Player's conduct, based on the features set out in DR 7.6.30, the Judicial Officer considered that the Player had carried out, recklessly, a high tackle in which the Player's head made direct contact with M21's head. M21 immediately left the field of play and did not return to the match. Fortunately, he does not appear to have suffered a significant injury. The Judicial Officer determined the appropriate entry point to be mid-range, which is a 6 week suspension. The Player's disciplinary record, comprising one red card 6 years ago, was not considered to amount to an aggravating factor. While not "exemplary" as suggested by the player the Judicial Officer did not consider that the offending history, which was not analogous, was sufficiently serious or proximate to disallow its reference in mitigation. The Judicial Officer

	also considered that notwithstanding the inconsistencies in the player's statement the foregoing factors should be taken into account in mitigation.
Proposed sanction	A playing suspension of 3 weeks, based on • a mid-range entry point of 6 weeks; and • a reduction of 3 weeks for mitigating factors. The player has indicated an intention to apply to World Rugby to undertake the Coaching Intervention Programme. The Judicial Officer would support such an application. If completed successfully the period of sanction would be reduced by one further week.
Matches / dates covered	27 April 2024 – versus Ospreys 11 May 2024 – versus Glasgow Warriors 18 May 2024 – versus Benetton

Signature (Judicial Officer)	*Kathrine EC Mackie*	Date	24 April 2024