

ABBREVIATED PROCESS – JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION



Match	Emirates Lions v Glasgow Warriors		
Player's Club	Emirates Lions	Competition	United Rugby Championship
Date of match	18 th May 2024	Match venue	Emirates Airline Park
Rules to apply	United Rugby Championship 2023/24 Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Venter		
Player's forename	Ruan	Referee's name	Craig Evans
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:	

JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION

Judicial Officer's name	Tommy Dalton (IRFU)	Date of appointment	20/05/2024
Information reviewed	Referee's report Assistant Referees' reports TMO's report Medical statement/details of injuries (incomplete in respect of HIA/possible nasal surgery) Player's acknowledgement of the facts (through his representative) Player's disciplinary record Player's expression of remorse (through his representative) Player's playing schedule.		
Application of Disciplinary Rule 7.6.30			
Assessment of intent – DR 7.6.30(a) and (b)			
intentional <input type="checkbox"/> reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
State Reasons			
The Player carried out an upright tackle on the victim player when he had a clear line of sight making direct forceful contact with the face of the tackled player. There were no mitigating factors involved. The contact with the victim player's, in my opinion, was not intentional but was very reckless.			

Nature of actions – DR 7.6.30(c)	
Nothing of relevance beyond the foregoing narrative.	
Existence of provocation – DR 7.6.30(d)	
None	
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)	
The victim player was unable to continue. He suffered a clinical fracture to his nose and underwent a HIA which he failed. He continued with the process in the days that followed and passed his HIA2. The results of his HIA3 were not made available to me, nor was I informed if he required surgery to his nose. A medical decision in that regard would be dependent on whether he had trouble breathing.	
Effect on match – DR 7.6.30(h)	
The loss to his team of the victim player was significant.	
Vulnerability of victim – DR 7.6.30(i)	
He was running upright at speed and had little or no capacity to protect himself. Immediately prior to the collision he had broken a tackle. He was vulnerable.	
Level of participation/premeditation – DR 7.6.30(j)	
Nothing of relevance beyond the foregoing narrative.	
Conduct completed/attempted – DR 7.6.30(k)	
Completed	
Other features of the Player's conduct – DR 7.6.30(l)	
The Player had already been shown a yellow card for foul play having come on as replacement for an injured teammate.	
Aggravating factors	None
Mitigating factors	The player met the criteria set out at DR 7.6.32 (a), (b), (c) and (d) but not sufficient to warrant the maximum 50% reduction allowable under DR 7.6.33.
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, I considered that the Player had recklessly carried out a high tackle in which the he made forceful contact with the opponent's head causing injury to him.. It

	was a significant incident and offence that warranted some thought being given to a top end entry point. However, having applied DR 7.6.30, I determined the appropriate entry point to be the mid-range entry point, which is a six (6) week suspension.
Proposed sanction	<p>A playing suspension of four (4) weeks, based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mid-range entry point of 6 weeks • a reduction of 2 weeks for mitigating factors <p>I would have no objection to the Player applying for and successfully securing a coaching intervention to further reduce the period of suspension.</p>
Matches / dates covered	<p>I have, following careful consideration, decided to include as relevant matches from those provided to me, those matches the Player would be selected to play for Wits University Rugby Club.</p> <p>The matches for which the Player is suspended are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lions v Stormers 01.06.2024 2. Wits URC v Alberton 08.06.2024 3. Wits URC v Roodenpoort 15.06.2024 4. Wits URC v Raiders 22.06.2024

Signature (Judicial Officer)	Tommy Dalton	Date	22.05.2024
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