

RFU SHORT JUDGMENT FORM



Match (home)	Northampton Saints	Vs (away)	Leicester Tigers FC
Club's Level	1	Competition	Premiership
Date of Match	20/04/2024	Match Venue	Northampton Saints

Particulars of Offence			
Player's Surname	Kata	Date of Birth	03/12/1994
Forename(s)	Solomone	Plea	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Club name	Leicester Tigers FC	RFU ID No.	2817934
Type of Offence	Red Card		
Law 9 Offence	9.13, Dangerous Tackling		
Sanction	3 week suspension (2 weeks subject to completion of World Rugby Coaching Intervention Program)		

Hearing Details			
Hearing Date	23/04/2024	Hearing venue	On Papers
Chairmen/SJO	Daniel Gore	Panel Member 1	Veryan Boscawen
Panel Member 2	Philip Davies	Panel Secretary	Rebecca Morgan-Scott
Appearance Player	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Club	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Player's Representative(s):		Other attendees:	
Conflict of Interests	Conflict raised <input type="checkbox"/> No conflict raised <input type="checkbox"/>	Conflict of Interests	Conflict raised <input type="checkbox"/> No conflict raised <input type="checkbox"/>

List of documents/materials provided to player in advance of hearing:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red Card report	<input type="checkbox"/> Player Statement	Video footage Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical report	<input type="checkbox"/> Citing report	<input type="checkbox"/> Club Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> World Rugby Head Contact Process
Other (Please list below)			
Written Submissions from RFU			
Written Submissions from Player			



The Referee's report was as follows:

'After a stoppage in play, the TMO advised me that I needed to review a tackle for potential foul play. On review from a lineout Northampton attacked in the middle of the field. Leicester 12 comes up to make a tackle on the ball carrier. There is head on head contact with which is deemed as foul play due to the tackler not being bent enough. It is at high speed and therefore a high level of danger. Mitigation was considered but nothing was found. A red card was issued.'

Video of the incident was provided from multiple different angles and in different speeds. It showed the incident as described by the Referee.

Northampton Saints provided medical evidence from the club's Head of Medical which stated that:

'Re: Fraser Dingwall vs Leicester Tigers – 20th April 2024

- Fraser was attended to on the field by myself following a tackle incident.
- Fraser reported no neck pain. No signs of head injury were found during assessment on-field.
- He was allowed to continue play.
- He was reviewed post-match and remained well with no signs of evolving injury.'

Summary of Player's Evidence

Written submissions were provided on behalf of the Player and the key part of those submissions as it related to the incident in question stated:

'Whilst the Player's actions were reckless, it was not an intentional act of foul play. The Player moved out of the defensive line to close down the Northampton Saints player and to quickly carry out a tackle in order to propel the Northampton Saints attack but, regrettably, the Player mistimed his tackle and unintentionally failed to drop his height sufficiently enough to avoid making head contact with the Northampton Saints player. Those actions were reckless not intentional.'

Findings of Fact

The Player admitted the charge so it is found that he dangerously tackled the Northampton player by making a head contact, with a high degree of danger and no mitigation.

Decision

Breach admitted

Proven

Not Proven

Other Disposal (please state below)

SANCTIONING PROCESS



Assessment of Seriousness

Assessment of intent - Ref 19.11.8

PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

19.11.8(a) Intentional

19.11.8(b) Reckless

Reasons for finding as to intent:

The Player failed to sufficiently lower his body height while trying to make a legal tackle.

Nature of actions - Reg 19.11.8(c)

Making head on head contact with his opponent with force while moving out of the defensive line at speed to effect a tackle.

Existence of provocation - Reg 19.11.8(d)

N/A

Whether player retaliated - Reg 19.11.8(e)

N/A

Self-defence - Reg 19.11.8(f)

N/A

Effect on victim - Reg 19.11.8(g)

Victim was checked by medical team but no injury reported and he continued to play the remainder of the match.

Effect on match - Reg 19.11.8(h)

Red card issued to player and match continued.

Vulnerability of victim - Reg 19.11.8(i)

Vulnerable to the extent that he was not expecting head contact.

Level of participation/premeditation - Reg 19.11.8(j)

Full participation, no premeditation to make contact with the head of his opponent.

Conduct completed/attempted - Reg 19.11.8(k)

Conduct completed with tackle being made.

Other features of player's conduct - Reg 19.11.8(l)

Assessment of Seriousness Continued

Entry point

<u>Low-end</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Mid-range</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Top-end*</u>	<u>Weeks</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making the above assessment, the Panel should consider the RFU Practice Note as set out in Appendix 5 to Regulation 19. Significant weight should be given to RFU regulation 19.11.8(a), 19.11.8(h) and 19.11.8(i).

Reasons for selecting entry point:

Any act of foul play of this type which results in contact with the head and/or neck of the victim must result in at least a mid-range entry point.

The Panel did not consider that there were any features of this incident which would merit a top end entry point being applied.

Relevant Off-Field Mitgating Factors - Reg 19.11.10

<u>Acknowledgment of the commission of foul Play & timing - Reg 19.11.10(a)</u>	<u>Player's disciplinary record - Reg 19.11.10(b)</u>
Acknowledged guilt at the earliest opportunity	The Panel was informed that the Player has a clean disciplinary record.
<u>Youth and/or inexperience of player - Reg 19.11.10(c)</u>	<u>Conduct prior to and at hearing - Reg 19.11.10(d)</u>
International player for Tonga and an experienced professional rugby player including in Super Rugby and the Premiership.	The Player has assisted with the efficient disposal of these disciplinary proceedings.

Remorse and timing of Remorse - Reg 19.11.10(e)	Other off-field mitigation - Reg 19.11.10(f)
Clear remorse shown immediately after the incident. No personal statement was provided by the Player.	N/A

Number of weeks deducted: 3

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
On the basis of the factors listed above, in particular the Player's early acceptance of his wrongdoing and clean disciplinary record, the Panel considered it appropriate to apply the full amount of 50% mitigation.

Additional Relevant Off-Field Aggravating Factors - RFU Regulation 19.11.13
Player's status as an offender of the laws of the game - Reg 19.11.13 (a)
N/A
Need for deterrent to combat a pattern of offending - Reg 19.11.13(b)
N/A
Any other off-field aggravating factor that the disciplinary panel considers relevant and appropriate - (including poor conduct prior to or at the hearing) Reg 19.11.13 (c)
N/A

Number of additional weeks: 0

Games for meaningful sanctions:

The Player is suspended from playing or any match day activity for the following matches:

27.04.2024 v Bristol Bears
03.05.2024 v Georgia Black Lion
10.05.2024 v Sale Sharks

The Player is eligible for the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Program which means that upon successful completion of that program in accordance with World Rugby guidelines he will be eligible to play in the match on 10.05.2024 against Sale Sharks.

Should any of the matches above not be played then Leicester Tigers should inform the RFU immediately and this list of matches may have to be amended.

Sanction

NOTE: PLAYER ORDERED OFF ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING

Total sanction	3 weeks (or 2 weeks)	Sending off sufficient	
Sanction commences	23.04.2024		
Sanctions concludes	13.05.2024 (or 06.05.2024)		
Free to play	14.05.2024 (or 07.05.2024)		
Final date to lodge appeal	25.04.2024		
Costs (please refer to Reg 19, Appendix 3 for full cost details)	£250		

Signature (JO or Chairman)	Daniel Gore	Date	24/04/2024
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NOTE: YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST THIS DECISION AS SET OUT IN REGULATION 19.12 OF THE DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS. YOUR ATTENTION IS SPECIFICALLY DRAWN TO THE TIME LIMIT AND DIRECTIONS/REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO AN APPEAL SET OUT IN REGULATION 19.12.9

ANY PERSON SUSPENDED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS IS REMINDED THAT UNDER RFU REGULATION 19.11.16 THE SUSPENDED PERSON MAY NOT PLAY THE GAME (OR ANY FORM THEREOF) OR BE INVOLVED IN ANY ON-FIELD MATCH DAY ACTIVITIES ANYWHERE WHICH INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO) ACTING AS WATER CARRIER/ RUNNING ON A TEE ETC