

RFU SHORT JUDGMENT FORM



Match (home)	Bedford Blues	Vs (away)	Doncaster RFC
Club's Level	2	Competition	Championship
Date of Match	04/05/2024	Match Venue	Bedford

Particulars of Offence			
Player's Surname	Dolly	Date of Birth	15/11/1997
Forename(s)	Alexander	Plea	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Club name	Doncaster RFC	RFU ID No.	1108748
Type of Offence	Red Card		
Law 9 Offence	Law 9.13 - Dangerous Tackling		
Sanction	3 weeks (subject to successful completion of the World Rugby Coaching Intervention)		

Hearing Details			
Hearing Date	07/05/2024	Hearing venue	Papers only
Chairmen/SJO	Jeremy Summers	Panel Member 1	
Panel Member 2		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflict of Interests	Conflict raised <input type="checkbox"/> No conflict raised <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player Statement	Video footage Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical report	<input type="checkbox"/> Citing report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Club Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> World Rugby Head Contact Process
Other (Please list below)			
Appendix 2 Sanction Table extract RFU Submissions			



The Referee's report of the incident read as follows:

"Bedford were attacking around 8m from the Doncaster goal line. Bedford 13 received the ball and was tackled high by Doncaster 21 (D21). The game was stopped as both players had bleeding wounds. I had a clear view of the incident but took the time available to check the facts with my AR to ensure we both agreed and had seen the full picture between us. It was agreed that D21 was upright in the tackle and there was head-on-head contact where D21 could have been lower so we had foul play. There was a high level of danger and this was not a passive tackle with any clear and/or significant mitigation present so having entered at a red card we remained at a red card."

The video footage available showed the incident clearly and fully reflected the Referee's report.

Bedford Blues Head Physiotherapist provided an update on the Player involved in the tackle as follows,

"Whilst on pitchside duty on Saturday the 4th of May I witnessed a head on head collision involving one of our players, Michael Le Bourgeois.

When I ran onto the pitch he had sustained a large laceration within/ above his left eyebrow.

I called over my colleague and between us we dressed it and taped it up to allow him to continue with the game until it could be stitched post game by one of our doctors."

The medical note showed it was a 'laceration transecting left eyebrow approx 4-5cm in length.

Diagnosis - Stellate skin laceration."

The RFU provided written submissions in which they set out their position on the incident. It was categorised as a reckless act, caused by the Player failing to lower his height when going into contact. The Bedford player sustained a cut to his left eyebrow but no further injury. He was not inherently vulnerable when going in to contact having been expecting contact albeit not at that height.

Based on those factors, the RFU suggested the appropriate entry point was mid-range. Whilst it was for the Player to speak to mitigation, the RFU noted that the Player has a clean disciplinary record and had accepted the charge.

Summary of Player's Evidence

On behalf of the Player, the Club confirmed that he accepted the charge. The Club provided a brief statement which read as follows,

"Alex showed compassion for Bedford 13 and checked on his wellbeing immediately post-match. Alex also sent a text message on the journey home expressing remorse and checking on the wellbeing of the player.

He also concedes the incident was caused by poor technique due to him pre-empting Bedford 13 to come on the inside and Alex then failing to adjust his body position in time - rather than any malice or ill intent towards a fellow player.

Alex has a previous clean record and is of outstanding character. He hopes this will stand in his favour."

The Club confirmed that should he be eligible, the Player would also wish to undertake the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme.

Findings of Fact

This was a reckless tackle, the act of foul play being caused by the Player failing to reduce his height sufficiently so as to avoid making head contact. The level of danger was accepted as being high and the Judicial Officer agreed with the Match Officials on-field assessment in finding that there was no basis on which to mitigate down from a red card.

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:

A reckless tackle in which the Player failed to appropriately lower his height. This was not an intentional act of foul play.

Nature of actions - Reg 19.11.8(c)

A high tackle resulting in head on head contact.

Existence of provocation - Reg 19.11.8(d)

Not applicable.

Whether player retaliated - Reg 19.11.8(e)

Not applicable.

Self-defence - Reg 19.11.8(f)

Not applicable.

Effect on victim - Reg 19.11.8(g)

Bedford player sustained a 4-5cm cut to his eyebrow.

Effect on match - Reg 19.11.8(h)

None.

Vulnerability of victim - Reg 19.11.8(i)

Not especially vulnerable albeit he would not have been expecting head on head contact as it arose.

Level of participation/premeditation - Reg 19.11.8(j)

This was not a premeditated action.

Conduct completed/attempted - Reg 19.11.8(k)

The conduct was complete.

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

None.

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:

There was head contact and therefore the mandatory minimum mid-range entry point applied. Whilst there was an injury to the Bedford player, it was not so serious as to require an increase in the entry point to top end.

Relevant Off-Field Mitigating Factors - Reg 19.11.10

Acknowledgment of the commission of foul Play & timing - Reg 19.11.10(a)	Player's disciplinary record - Reg 19.11.10(b)
The Player accepted the charge at the earliest opportunity on receipt of the papers.	The Player has a clear disciplinary record.
Youth and/or inexperience of player - Reg 19.11.10(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing - Reg 19.11.10(d)
Not relevant.	The matter was dealt with on the papers but the Player assisted the Judicial Officer by providing information in a timely manner.

Remorse and timing of Remorse - Reg 19.11.10(e)	Other off-field mitigation - Reg 19.11.10(f)
The Player apologised to Bedford 13 post-match and followed up again on the way home.	None,

Number of weeks deducted: 3

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The Player accepted the charge at the earliest opportunity, had a clear disciplinary record and expressed remorse to the Player as soon as possible following the match, following up again later on in the evening. the Judicial officer therefore found that the Player was entitled to receive the maximum 50% reduction from the entry point by way of 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)
Not applicable.
Need for deterrent to combat a pattern of offending - Reg 19.11.13(b)
Not applicable.
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)
Not applicable .

Number of additional weeks: 0

Games for meaningful sanctions:

11/05/2024 v Ealing
25/05/2024 v Hartpury

The Player has 2 fixtures remaining in the 23/24 season as above. Should the Player apply for and complete the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme, then the 3rd week of the sanction will be replaced by the CIP and he will be free to play after the match against Hartpury on the 25th May 2024.

Should the Player not apply or complete the CIP then Doncaster will need to provide details of the Player's next meaningful fixture so that the third week of the sanction can be confirmed.

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	Sending off sufficient	
Sanction commences	07/05/2024		
Sanctions concludes	26/05/2024 (if the World Rugby Coaching Intervention is completed)		
Free to play	27/05/2024 (if the World Rugby Coaching Intervention is completed)		
Final date to lodge appeal	09/05/2024		
Costs (please refer to Reg 19, Appendix 3 for full cost details)	£125		

Signature (JO or Chairman)	Jeremy Summers	Date	07/05/2024
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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