

RFU SHORT JUDGMENT FORM



Match (home)	Gloucester-Hartpury Women's RFC	Vs (away)	Saracens Women
Club's Level	1	Competition	Premiership Rugby Women
Date of Match	20/01/2024	Match Venue	Gloucester-Hartpury RFC

Particulars of Offence			
Player's Surname	Jones	Date of Birth	04/09/1997
Forename(s)	Kelsey Jade	Plea	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Club name	Gloucester-Hartpury Women's RFC	RFU ID No.	2626843
Type of Offence	Red Card		
Law 9 Offence	9.13 - Dangerous Tackling		
Sanction	3 weeks/matches with permission to apply to World Rugby for Coaching Intervention		

Hearing Details			
Hearing Date	23/01/2024	Hearing venue	Remote
Chairmen/SJO	Martin Picton	Panel Member 1	Inigo Churchill
Panel Member 2	Kylie Hutchison	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 type="checkbox"/> Club Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> World Rugby Head Contact Process
Other (Please list below)			
RFU submissions on sanction.			



The red card report stated:

S attacking the GH try up to the 5m line. Ball was recycled and passed to S15 on the 5m line, near side touchline. S15 carried to ball into contact and was hit high by GH2. My AR immediately told me that was tackle was high, play continued for another 2 phases before the ball was held up in goal.

We reviewed the tackle with the assistance on the TMO. The footage showed head on head contact from GH2. GH2 could have been lower in the tackle, so on these two factors we determined this was foul play. GH2 went forward in the tackle, with force to S15's head which was jolted back on contact. This met the red card sanction, and there was no mitigating factors to lower the sanction from the red card.

The video footage is consistent with the above description.

A medical report submitted by Saracens stated:

Jess Breach was involved in a high contact tackle (head to head) resulting in a red card for the opposition hooker in Saracens Women vs Gloucester-Hartpury Women on the 20.01.24.

She took a knee after the phase of play involving the incident for on field medical assessment aware that with head contacts they require an on field screen. Myself and the team day doctor were attending for this assessment.

Post impact there were no category 1 signs on Hawkeye. She answered her Maddocks questions correctly, behaved appropriately and denied any symptoms related to concussion at the time. The main point of contact was her left cheek – with some bruising over it. There was tenderness over it without being suspicious of a fracture and her vision remained unimpaired.

Her post match review remained as no concussive symptoms however 5/10 pain on palpation of cheek. Again vision remained normal. We organised the players mother to drive her home in the event of delayed symptom onset and handed over the incident to the Red roses medical team for the upcoming camp.

Summary of Player's Evidence

The Player submitted the following statement for the consideration of the Panel:

I am sadly writing this letter due to being involved in a rugby incident over the weekend which regrettably resulted in myself getting a red card in the Gloucester-Hartpury v Saracens Women game.

The incident as I recall: In the build up to the incident, there was some phase play where we (Gloucester-Hartpury) were on our 5m line. Anyone who knows Jess Breach as a player, will understand how fast and quick she is on her feet, a huge talent in our game.

With that understanding, I wanted to shut down her space to not let her get around me. In that moment, my thought process was to stay high until she made the decision to carry where I would, like I always do, drop my body height and make the tackle. However, in this instance, when I felt that right moment to drop my hips (which both players can be seen doing in the video), she had a late and sudden side step which altered my timing of the tackle process. As soon as this happened and I felt the contact, I let go of Jess and did not complete the tackle.

I recognise I needed to initiate the contact much lower and the chop tackle technique is usually an aspect of my game that I pride myself on. A GH player then completed the tackle where the ball was taken from another Saracens player to keep play moving. Jess carried on with the game, cleaned out a ruck, and I notice that at this point, she took a second to herself and then carried on with the game.

This is my first citing incident since I began playing rugby approximately 9 years ago. I am extremely remorseful and apologetic for this action as I am always mindful about being a clean rugby player and upholding positive principles of play. I spoke to Jess after the match and apologised for the tackle and gave her a hug. I also followed up with a message to her the following day to check in on her.

I wish to make it clear that the tackle was absolutely without any malice nor intention of foul play. I have had a meeting with the GH coaching staff today and we discussed a strategy to ensure this was an isolated event, and to continue working on my chop tackle technique.

Lastly, I wish to apologise to Jess, Saracens, and the RFU for my action and I sincerely hope that Jess is ok.

Findings of Fact

We concluded that the video footage, combined with the red card report, demonstrated, as the Player accepted, that the tackle passed the red card test and was justified.

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 action was reckless as opposed to deliberate.

Nature of actions - Reg 19.11.8(c)

See above.

Existence of provocation - Reg 19.11.8(d)

NA

Whether player retaliated - Reg 19.11.8(e)

NA

Self-defence - Reg 19.11.8(f)

NA

Effect on victim - Reg 19.11.8(g)

None.

Effect on match - Reg 19.11.8(h)

None.

Vulnerability of victim - Reg 19.11.8(i)

NA

Level of participation/premeditation - Reg 19.11.8(j)

The tackle was the responsibility of the Player to control.

Conduct completed/attempted - Reg 19.11.8(k)

Completed.

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

NA

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:

Mid-range due to head contact.

Relevant Off-Field Mitgating 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)
Immediate.	Good
Youth and/or inexperience of player - Reg 19.11.10(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing - Reg 19.11.10(d)
NA	Did not attend but submitted respectful statement explaining actions.

Remorse and timing of Remorse - Reg 19.11.10(e)	Other off-field mitigation - Reg 19.11.10(f)
Immediate and fulsome.	N/A

Number of weeks deducted: 3

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
<p>We considered the Payer to be entitled to the full 50% mitigation available. We also considered that she should be able to benefit from undertaking the World Rugby Coaching Intervention should she so choose.</p>

Additional Relevant Off-Field Aggravating Factors - RFU Regulation 19.11.13
<p>Player's status as an offender of the laws of the game - Reg 19.11.13 (a)</p> <p>NA</p>
<p>Need for deterrent to combat a pattern of offending - Reg 19.11.13(b)</p> <p>NA</p>
<p>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)</p> <p>NA</p>

Number of additional weeks: 0

Games for meaningful sanctions:

02/2/24 Leicester Tigers Women
11/02/24 Bristol Bears Women
17/02/24 Sale Sharks (subject to successfully completing the World Rugby coaching intervention).

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/matches	Sending off sufficient	
Sanction commences	23/01/2024		
Sanctions concludes	18/02/2024 (subject to undertaking World Rugby Coaching Intervention)		
Free to play	18/02/2024 (subject to undertaking World Rugby Coaching Intervention)		
Final date to lodge appeal	25/01/2024		
Costs (please refer to Reg 19, Appendix 3 for full cost details)	£125		

Signature (JO or Chairman)	M Picton	Date	24/01/2024
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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