

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Francisco Uva	
Player's number: 20	
Player's union: Portugal	
Competition: Under 20 Men's Championship	
Host Team (T1): Portugal	Visiting Team (T2): Czechia
Venue: Marketa Stadium, Prague	
Date of match: 17/11/2024	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Lucas Yendle	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i> Accumulation of yellow card and citing commissioner's warning (CCW). In accordance with RE Disciplinary Regulation 4.3.3, the player was contesting the CCW which was for foul play and it is the subject of this decision.	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: Rose-Alice Murphy (IRL)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Michiel van Dijk (NED) - Brendan Flanagan (IRE)	
Hearing date: 19/11/2024	
Hearing venue: Remote via MS Teams	
Appearance Player: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appearance Union: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Player's Representative(s): Jose Carlos Augusto, Legal Counsel for the Portuguese Rugby Union; Jose Manuel Antunes for the Portuguese Rugby Union; Callum McLean Head Coach Portuguese Men's U 20; Marcello d'Orey Assistant Coach	
Other attendees: Antoine Spillman, Rugby Europe	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: 1. Citing Commissioner's Warning 2. Yellow Card Report 3. Footage provided by Rugby Europe 4. Medical Report with respect to the injured player 5. Submissions of the Player 6. Annotated footage of the incident provided by the Portuguese Rugby Union	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The CCW stated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Player had come in to tackle Czechia 16 (C16) at high speed and without control and attempted to tackle after C16 had passed the ball.• The Player made contact with his shoulder and did not attempt to wrap C16 in the tackle. C16 was injured and removed by stretcher.• There was a high degree of danger as evidenced by the injury to C16.	

- The action met the red card threshold but is mitigation because the Player made an attempt to wrap.

Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)

There was a medical report provided with respect to C16 which concluded that he has a fracture of the upper part of the tibia.

Summary of player's evidence

Evidence was provided by the Head Coach on behalf of the player. He submitted that the tackle was not late, not illegal and that the Player was in control.

He took the panel through the footage and said:

- The Player was coming from the right side of C16 hard off the line.
- The Player sighted C16 and lowers his tackle height at the last minute.
- The Player's shoulder makes contact with the shorts of C16.
- C16 turns his body sideways in the course of the contact which changes the context of the tackle.
- The Player's left-hand wraps and he tries to wrap his right hand but is impeded by the movement of C16 in doing so

He further stated that it was a high velocity impact but one which is within the confines of the laws of rugby which was made to look worse by the dynamics of the movement of the players and by the subsequent injury to C16.

Findings of fact

We accept the submissions made by on behalf of the Player.

We consider that the Player was committed to the tackle before the ball was passed by C16 and the tackle was not therefore late. We also consider that the tackle, albeit one that was made at high speed, was legal in that the Player was at a low height and at the correct angle entering the tackle. We also accept the Citing Commissioner's position that the wrap, while an attempt was there, could have been clearer but are of the view that the failure to complete the wrap was caused not by the Player but by C16's late change to a sideways position which made completing the wrap impossible and ultimately made him more vulnerable in the tackle.

We are satisfied that the Player did not commit an act of foul play which met the yellow card threshold.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
Assessment of intent:
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless
Reasons for finding as to intend:
Nature of actions
Existence of provocation:
Whether player retaliated:
Self-defence:
Effect on victim:
Effect on match:
Vulnerability of victim:
Level of participation / premeditation:
Conduct completed / attempted:
Other features of player's conduct:

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reasons for selecting entry point:					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:	Player's disciplinary record / good character:
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:

Number of weeks deducted:

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors

As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game:

Need for deterrence:

Any other off-field aggravating factors:

Number of additional weeks: [X]

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

SANCTION

NOTE: Players ordered off or cited by a citing commissioner are provisionally suspended pending the hearing of their case, such suspension should be taken into consideration when sanctioning – RE Discipline Regulations 4.1.4 / 4.4 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences:	
Sanction concludes:	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:	
Costs:	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Rose Alice Murphy
Date: 19/11/2024
Signature (JO or Chairman): Rose Alice Murphy

NOTE: You have 48 hours from notification of the decision of the chairman/jo to lodge an appeal with the tournament director – RE Discipline Regulations 4.6.2 (or equivalent Tournament rule)