

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence

Player's Name: Vitalii Popovych

Player's number: 8

Player's union: Ukraine

Competition: RE 7's boys U18 Trophy

Host Team (T1): Ukraine

Visiting Team (T2): Izrael

Venue: Budapest, Hungary

Date of match: 20/07/2025

Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook (Underage Adjustment); or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other

Referee Name: Geoffrey Serralbo

Plea: ☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted

Offence: ☐ Red card ☐ Citing ☒ Other

If "Other" selected, please specify: accumulation of 2 yellow cards in one game = red card

Hearing details

Chairperson / JO: Bartosz Marczyński

Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel:

- -
- -

Hearing date: 20/07/2024

Hearing venue: Budapest, Hungary

Appearance Player: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Appearance Union: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Player's Representative(s): team manager: Anton Shashero

Other attendees: -

List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel:

1. 2 yellow card reports,
2. team sheet,
3. Notice of disciplinary hearing
4. Player's statement

Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage

9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

1. High tackle, direct head contact, mitigations
2. Dangerous tackle - speartackle

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

I have read the YC reports.

I also had the evidence given by the Player and representative. Izrael Team Member confirmed to me, that the Player apologised victim players and also their team members and staff just after the game.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player accepted both yellow cards.

The Player is 17 years old and is a school pupil. He has 5 years of experience in playing rugby, but RE 7's Trophy tournament in Budapest is his first international appearance.

Findings of fact

The Player accepted the foul play and YC.

Decision

☒ Proven ☐ Not proven ☐ Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONNING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness

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

Assessment of intent:

☐ Intentional/deliberate ☒ Reckless

Reasons for finding as to intent:

The player stated, he had no intention of foul play. The situation were dynamic and it was a semi-final game. He also stated it is his first international tournament and also a first games for the national team of Ukraine, what leads me to accept that the actions were unintentional but reckless. Inexperience of the Player, his age and the level of competition lead him to careless actions.

Nature of actions

As above

Existence of provocation:

None

Whether player retaliated:

N/A

Self-defence:

N/A

Effect on victim					
None					
Effect on match:					
None					
Vulnerability of victim:					
As described above					
Level of participation / premeditation:					
N/A					
Conduct completed / attempted:					
N/A					
Other features of player's conduct:					
N/A					
Entry point					
Low-end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks	Mid-range <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks	Top end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks
Reasons for entry point:					
Entry point for accumulation of 2 YC is 1 game. Due to age of the Player, his inexperience and stress, also no effect on victims convinced me, there was na reason for agravation of an 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:		
Player accepted the foul play and upright position. Accepted both YC			None		
Youth and inexperience of player:			Conduct prior to and at hearing:		
17 years old, inexperienced			Both the player and the team representatives behaved in an exemplary way at the hearing.		
Remorse and timing of Remorse			Other off-field mitigation:		
The Player, straight after the game apologised to opponents and Izrael team members.			The Player is a volunteer at his club		

Number of weeks deducted: [0]

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

N/A

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:

N/A

Need for deterrence:

N/A

Any other off-field aggravating factors:

N/A

Number of additional weeks: [XX]

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

N/A

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: -

X Sending off sufficient

Sanction commences: the Player is free to play

Sanction concludes:

The Judicial Officer imposes the non-playing sanction of two individual tackle trainings. They are meant as an extra prevention of dangerous actions taken by the Player. Until 1 October 2025 the Player or his Union has to confirm that the training sessions were carried out properly by the Player by sending to RE disciplinary committee videos.

The sanction is to improve Player's technique and is adequate to U18 game regulations and aims.

Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:

N/A

Costs: -

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Bartosz Marczyński
Date: 20/07/2025
Signature (JO or Chairman): 

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)