

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence

Player's Name: Zaafafani Yiftach

Player's number: 15

Player's union: Izrael

Competition: RE 7's boys U18 Trophy

Host Team (T1): Izrael

Visiting Team (T2): Turkey

Venue: Budapest, Hungary

Date of match: 19/07/2025

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

Referee Name: Victor Lungu

Plea: ☐ Admitted ☒ Not admitted

Offence: ☐ Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other

If "Other" selected, please specify:

Hearing details

Chairperson / JO: Bartosz Marczyński

Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel:

- -

- -

Hearing date: 19/07/2024

Hearing venue: Budapest, Hungary

Appearance Player: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Appearance Union: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Player's Representative(s): team manager: Tamir Blass, Technical Director of Izrael RU: Kevin Musikanth

Other attendees: -

List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel:

1. Citing Commissioner report,
2. team sheet,
3. video clip
4. Notice of disciplinary hearing
5. 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.

Israel 15 tackled Turkey 8 who was the ball carrier. Israel 15's shoulder made direct contact with the head of Turkey 8. Israel 15 was always upright in the tackle, no attempt to dip. There was no change of angle by the ball carrier Turkey 8.

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

I have reviewed the available video in real time and slow motion.

I also had the evidence given by the Player and representatives.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player accepted head contact and foul play. The Player accepted that his position was upright but he denied the red card threshold has been met due to the following reasons:

1. Head contact was initiated by the ball carrier,
2. The tackler was passive
3. The force of the impact was low and that caused the degree of danger was not high.

The Player is 18 years old and is a school pupil. He has 4 years of experience in playing rugby

Findings of fact

From the video footage it was clear that there was a direct head contact with the opponent.

I find this action reckless and dangerous, contrary to Law 9.13

Following World Rugby's Head Contact Process:

1. Head contact was made by Israeli 15's shoulder directly to the head of Turkish 8. I also considered head on head contact (Israel 15's jaw to the opponents eyebrow area but the video from available angle is not clear). From available video it is more likely, that the first impact/contact was made by Israel 15's shoulder.
2. Israeli 15 was always in a upright position, with unobstructed line of sight towards the ball carrier.
3. The impact is direct and forceful because the ball carrier was in a full speed. That is the reason I find the degree of danger was high.
4. No mitigation was available as I considered that there wasn't sufficient change in height or direction. No other player was involved in the tackle.

I didn't accept players statement that he was a passive tackler as it was clear, after reviewing the footage, that Israel 15's body did not absorb the impact nor falls backwards. World Rugby low application guidelines expect a zero forward movement into the ball carrier. After reviewing available footage, I believe that the forward movement has been made by Israel 15 therefore I did not mitigate the red card.



Decision

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

SANCTIONING 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 was dynamic and the Izrael 15 is inexperienced, what leads me to accept that the action was unintentional but reckless.

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 X	Weeks 6	Top end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks
Reasons for entry point:					
Direct head contact, high degree of danger					
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. Challenged RC			None		
Youth and inexperience of player:			Conduct prior to and at hearing:		
18 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 is a volunteer at his community		
Number of weeks deducted: [3]					
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:					
Full mitigation due to the reasons stated above and based on WR sanctions adjusted for underage rugby. Off field mitigating factors shown above and also behavior of the player after the game and during the hearing, convinced me to apply a sanction 50% mitigated.					

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: 3 weeks/matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: RE U18 Trophy semi-final against Ukraine 20/07/2025	
Sanction concludes: to be provided by Izrael Rugby Union	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: 1. RE U18 Trophy semi-final against Ukraine 20/07/2025 2. RE U18 Trophy for places at 20/07/2025 3. to be provided by Izrael Rugby Union	
Costs: -	

Signature

Name of the JO or Chairman: Bartosz Marczynski

Date: 19/07/2025

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)