



## DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Goncalo COSTA		
Player's Union	Portugal Rugby Union		
Match	Portugal v Spain		
Competition	Rugby Europe U20 Championship		
Date of match	13/11/2021		
Match Venue	EM Taveiro, Coimbra		
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program		
Referee Name	Shota TEVZADZE	Plea	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	9.12 Physical Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	23/11/2021	Hearing venue	Microsoft Teams
Chairperson/JO	Michael Coghlan		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	Michiel van Dijk TBC		
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	Other attendees	Nuno Salvador
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. Citing Commissioner Report 2. Match Sheet 3. Video Clips		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>In or about the 80<sup>th</sup> minute of the game between Portugal U20 and Spain U20 on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 there was a gathering of players in which some punches were thrown. The Portuguese player No 19 (Gonsalo Costa) arriving on the field of play from the bench punched some opponents with force. The player was identified by the match commissioner Rossano Faccioli. He can be clearly seen on the video clip as he is wearing the yellow bib for substitute players.</p>

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)**

N/A

**SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE**

The player ( Gonsalo Costa ) , after being provided with an opportunity to discuss his response to the citing with his representative Mr. Carlos, accepted that the citing complaint was justified in that he had entered upon the field of play without permission and had engaged with the melee among the players then going on. He said that he was trying to separate the two teams and had not punched anyone.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Having considered the Citing complaint, the evidence taken from the player together with what was explained by Mr. Carlos on the players behalf; and in particular, having carefully studied the video clip presented, the Disciplinary Panel finds the player not guilty of punching as alleged but nevertheless guilty of an offence pursuant to Section 9.27 of the World Rugby disciplinary code - "A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship". This includes leaving the technical zone and entering onto the field of play without permission and getting involved in and inflaming an ongoing fracas between several players.

**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		
<b>Assessment of Intent</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless		
<b>State Reasons</b>		
The player is seen leaving the bench and running onto the field of play and into the middle of the group of players engaged in the melee.		
<b>Gravity of player's actions</b>		
There was the potential of injury and to further inflame the on field situation.		
<b>Nature of actions</b>		
See above		
<b>Existence of provocation</b>		
None		
<b>Whether player retaliated</b>		
N/A		
<b>Self-defence</b>		
N/A]		
<b>Effect on victim</b>		
N/A		
<b>Effect on match</b>		
N/A		
<b>Vulnerability of victim</b>		
N/A		
<b>Level of participation/premeditation</b>		
Reactive – but player knew or ought to have known that he was not permitted onto the field of play in any circumstances.		
<b>Conduct completed/attempted</b>		
N/A		
<b>Other features of player's conduct</b>		
[Insert]		
<b>Entry point</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Top end [XX] Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-range [XX] Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low-end 4 Weeks
*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.		
<b>Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End</b>		
[Insert]		

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS		
As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby		
<b>Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game</b>		
No cards of either colour issued against the player		
<b>Need for deterrence</b>		

Player broke a fundamental rule in Rugby when leaving the technical zone without permission and running onto the field of play
<b>Any other off-field aggravating factors</b>
None

Number of additional weeks: 1

<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks added:</b>
The player had no business being on the field of play at first instance

<b>RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS</b>	
As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby	
<b>Acknowledgement of guilt and timing</b>	<b>Player's disciplinary record/good character</b>
Very late admission of guilt. A disciplinary statement had not been received from the player's Union prior to the hearing.	[Insert]
<b>Youth and inexperience of player</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing</b>
Player an U20 participant	[Insert]
<b>Remorse and timing of remorse</b>	<b>Other off-field mitigation</b>
Only forthcoming on the day of the hearing	[Insert]

Number of weeks deducted: 2

<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:</b>
The Disciplinary Panel have concluded that the player was not engaged in the act of punching, having joined the fracas. He had acted impetuously rather than out of malice when entering onto the field of play.

## SANCTION

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**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)

<b>Total sanction</b>	3 weeks / matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
<b>Sanction commences</b>	15th November 2021	
<b>Sanction concludes</b>	10th December 2021 at 12 midnight	
<b>Matches/tournaments included in sanction</b>		

<b>Costs</b>	0
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<b>Date</b>	23 November 2021
<b>Signature</b> (JO or Chairman)	<i>Michael Coghlan</i>

**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)