

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Maks Zukič	
Player's number: 3	
Player's union: Slovenia	
Competition: Rugby Europe Men's Conference (XV)	
Host Team (T1): Slovenia	Visiting Team (T2): Slovakia
Venue: Oval Stadion, Ljubljana	
Date of match: 25/04/2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Rules	
Referee Name: Anatolie TIPA	
Plea: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: Roddy MacLeod (SCO)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Francesco Grillo (ITA) - Brendan Flanagan (IRE)	
Hearing date: 28/04/2026	
Hearing venue: On remote	
Appearance Player: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appearance Union: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Player's Representative(s): None – the player was self-representing (accompanied by an interpreter)	
Other attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arthur Magdalou, acting as Disciplinary Officer, Rugby Europe• Interpreter	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red card report• Match sheet / game report• Video footage x2• Notice to the player• Emails from Damjan Jović, Team manager, Slovenian Rugby Union, comprising:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Statement on behalf of the Player○ Disciplinary record and list of upcoming matches (*)	
(*) This was confirmed post hearing	

Summary of essential elements of Referee's report

The referee's report consists of the following:

- Foul play
- High tackle
- Direct contact with the head
- No mitigation

The Notice to the Player referred to a breach of Rule 9.13: *"A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders."*

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

The video footage shows the incident.

The Panel confirmed with the Disciplinary Officer that there was no medical information about the tackled player. The Panel proceeded on the basis that there was no reported injury.

Summary of player's evidence

[NB: In the absence of representation, the Panel asked questions of the Player to ensure that he was aware of the responses which had been submitted on his behalf. Through his Interpreter the Player confirmed: (i) the content of the responses; and (ii) that he had committed an act of foul play with warranted a Red Card.]

The written response was to the effect that the Player had made a mistake / error in judgement; that he did not properly focus on the opponent and made contact too high.

At the hearing the Player explained that he had attempted a tackle which was late (which the Panel infer means that the Player did not have time to consider the tackle: the tackle is not a late tackle); that he made a seatbelt tackle and in doing so made contact with the neck of the tackled player.

In the written response and at the hearing the Player expressed his regret at the incident. He stated that he apologised at the time and he accepted the Red Card without dissent. He reiterated and he was glad there was no injury. The Player also observed that the incident may have looked worse than it was due to the difference in sizes of the respective players.

Findings of fact

Having considered the evidence, in particular the video footage, red card report and the evidence of and submissions on behalf of the Player, the Panel was of the unanimous view that:

- Following a penalty, the Slovakian player picked up the ball to make a quick break.
- The Player, who was in front and to the side of the Slovakian player, reacted immediately.

- The Player attempted to tackle the Slovakian player and in doing to, he stretched out his right arm which appears from the video footage to wrap round the neck of the Slovakian player.
- The Player then dived and wrapped his left hand round the body of the Slovakian player, bringing the Slovakian player to the ground.
- The Player acted recklessly.

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

State reasons:

See above. There was no obvious pre-meditation: this was an instinctive attempt to tackle a player running from a quick penalty.

Nature of actions

High tackle to the neck area of the tackled player.

Existence of provocation:

N/A

Whether player retaliated:

N/A

Self-defence:

N/A

Effect on victim:

No apparent effect. The video footage does show that the tackled player lay on the ground immediately after the tackle. However, the tackled player then stood up without any obvious sign of injury. As noted above, the Panel had no medical report of injury and proceeded on that basis.

Effect on match:

No apparent effect.

Vulnerability of victim:

The Player was upright and running.

Level of participation / premeditation:

No obvious premeditation.

Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed act.
Other features of player's conduct:
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]	Mid-range <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [6]	Top end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
Contact above the line of the shoulders (around the neck area). However, the Panel considered that there was no malice and there was no report of injury.					

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:
Yes – immediately and subsequently	The Player has a clean record
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
N/A	Exemplary. The Player engaged fully at the hearing.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
Yes – immediately and subsequently. The Panel considered the statements to be genuine.	N/A

Number of weeks deducted: [3]
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The Panel considered that the genuineness of the Player's remorse and acceptance of having committed an act of foul play warranting a red card, along with this good record entitled him to full mitigation.

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: [0]

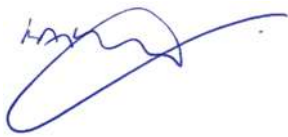
Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

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 week ban	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: immediately	
Sanction concludes: 31 May 2026	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9 May – RRC: Dalmacija vs Ljubljana• 24 May – Ljubljana vs RC Graz• 30 May – Ljubljana vs Olimpija	
Costs: N/A – no application was made	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Roddy MacLeod
Date: 29 April 2026
Signature (JO or Chairman):


NOTE: You have 2 calendar days from notification of the decision of the Panel to lodge an appeal with the Disciplinary Committee – RE Discipline Regulations 4.7.2