

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Milan MARINKOVIC	
Player's number: 8	
Player's union: Serbia	
Competition: Rugby Europe Men's Conference (XV)	
Host Team (T1): Serbia	Visiting Team (T2): Slovenia
Venue: Wiselj Park Stadium, Belgrade	
Date of match: 18/04/2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Rules	
Referee Name: Philip MANOLOPOULOS	
Plea: <input 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: Rose Alice Murphy (IRL)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Richard McGhee (SCO) - Chris Morgan (WAL)	
Hearing date: 21/04/2026	
Hearing venue: On remote	
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): Stevan Ilijašević, Team Manager	
Other attendees:	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red card report• Match sheet• Video Clip• Still photograph• Medical Report and Statement of Tackled Player• Player's submissions	
Summary of essential elements of Referee's report	
The referee provided the following report: Number 1B [the Tackled Player] carries the ball into contact. Number 18A attempts to tackle the player and Number 8A [the Player] comes in as an assist tackler. 8A makes contact with his right shoulder to the head/face of 1B with force. There is no attempt to wrap with his right arm. 1B went to ground.	
Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)	
As part of the medical report the Tackled Player provided the following statement: "I can recall being tackled simultaneously by two Serbian players, at least one of the tackles made direct contact with the head (area below the nose). I was cleared to continue playing after initial stoppage."	

The Slovenian team doctor confirmed that no medical intervention on the field during the match had occurred but that following the match the Victim Player reported pain in the lower part of his face and neck in the immediate aftermath of the incident but that there were no lasting symptoms and no medical treatment was required.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player provided written submissions in addition to providing oral evidence at the hearing. The salient points of which are summarised below. He accepted that he had committed an act of foul play but submitted that that foul play did not meet the red card threshold.

The Player said that his team mate had tackled the Tackled Player and that his intention was not to go in as an assist tackler but rather to seek to disrupt the ball and gain possession of it. He contended that his initial contact was by the ball and that his right hand was ultimately wrapped around the ball and his left hand was wrapped around the Tackled Player.

He accepted that he had made contact with the Tackled Player's head but stated that that had occurred because of a sudden and significant change in the height of the Tackled Player which had left him in a lower position than the Player expected. He further indicated that the contact had occurred indirectly as a consequence of the tackle made by his team mate rather than because of direct contact by him.

Findings of fact

The Player committed an act of foul play contrary to Law 9.13 in that he tackled the Tackled Player high. We found that the contact was indirect in that the initial tackle by the Player's team mate changed the Tackled Player's body position and therefore the contact with the Player. We also found that the contact did not occur at force. As such, the foul play did not meet the red card threshold and the red card should be dismissed.

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:

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]	Mid-range <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]	Top end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]
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: [XX]
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:

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Need for deterrence:

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Any other off-field aggravating factors:

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Number of additional weeks: [XX]

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

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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: 21 April 2026
Signature (JO or Chairman): Rose Alice Murphy

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