DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.

Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Gabriel Placinta	
Player's number: 8	
Player's union: Romania	
Competition: Rugby Europe U20 Championship (XV)	
Host Team (T1): Romania	Visiting Team (T2): Czechia
Venue: Marketa Stadium Prague	
Date of match: 16/11/2025	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Saba MAKHARADZE	
Plea: ☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted	
Offence: ☐ Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other *If "Other" selected, please specify:*	

Hearing details
Chairperson: Antony Davies (ENG)
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Francesco Grillo (ITA) - Flaminia Longobardi (ITA)
Hearing date: November 18th, 2025
Hearing venue: On remote
Appearance Player: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Appearance Union: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Player's Representative(s): Carcei Ovidiu (Team Manager)
Other attendees: David Baird-Smith (Rugby Europe)
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: • Citing Commissioner report • Game sheet • Video Clip

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

The report of the Citing Commissioner, David Connolly, dated 16th November 2025 referred to an incident in the 60th minute of the game, where Romania had been awarded a lineout approximately 8 meters from the Czechia line. After the lineout was taken, the Referee penalised Romania and awarded Czechia a free kick. Czechia 9 attempted to take the ball from Romania 8 to take the free kick, during which Romania 8 struck Czechia 9 in the face with his head. The CC concluded that those actions passed the red card threshold and cited Romania 8 for striking an opponent in the face with his head, contrary to Law 9.12.

We viewed the incident footage, which showed the incident exactly as described by the CC. The ball is thrown to the player at the front of the lineout. He catches it and returns to ground, following which a free kick was awarded to Czechia. He is in possession of the ball. Czechia 9 attempts to take it from him and he appears not to want to give it up. C9 continues to try and get the ball from the player's grasp and the player leans forward towards C9 and makes contact with C9's face, using his head. It is a clear head to face contact. The incident

appears not to have been noted by the Match Officials, despite a number of Czechia players expressing some incredulity at what they had just seen.

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

There was no injury and therefore no medical report.

Summary of player's evidence

The player, Placinta Gabriel, had made a written statement in advance of the hearing confirming that he was a member of the Romanian Under 20 team. During the match on 16th November against the Czech Republic team and towards the end of the game he confirmed he had made a "reprehensible gesture that I cannot explain myself and for which I feel ashamed because in my short career I have never had an outburst like this before. I am sorry that I have lost my control, perhaps due to fatigue or excessive desire for results."

Findings of fact

- There was direct contact between the player's head and the face of the victim player
- The contact was without significant force or consequence. There was no injury. It was not carried out in an aggressive forceful manner
- It was unjustified.

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:

The player had accepted that he had carried out the actions deliberately, but without intent to cause injury

Nature of actions

These are described in the CC report. There was very little force or aggravation and one contact only

Existence of provocation:

We saw nothing in the actions of C9 to which the player could have objected. C9 was simply attempting to get hold of the ball following the award of the free kick to continue with the game. To his credit, the player did not advance provocation as a motivation for doing what he did.

Whether player retaliated:

Not found

Self-defence:

N/A

Effect on victim:
None, he was not injured
Effect on match:
None
Vulnerability of victim:
The victim player would not have been expecting the act of foul play as he was simply trying to take possession of the ball to continue the game.
Level of participation / premeditation:
Full
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed contact made
Other features of player's conduct:
None found

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
☐		☒	10	☐	
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
Contact was clearly with the face and therefore the mandatory mid-range entry point provisions apply					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors *As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby*	
Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:	**Player's disciplinary record / good character:**
Full and immediate – the player accepted the citing immediately it was made and in his disciplinary statement in response. That admission was continued at the hearing	The player has no previous disciplinary record and is of good character.
Youth and inexperience of player:	**Conduct prior to and at hearing:**
The player has been playing for four years. He has been with the national team at representative age groups for three years and plays Club rugby, but he is not particularly experienced.	The player presented well and displayed genuine remorse for his actions.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	**Other off-field mitigation:**
The player described himself as feeling ashamed and apologised that he had lost control. After the game, he went to apologise to his opponent and that apology was accepted. He was relieved that there was no injury.	

Number of weeks deducted: 5
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
In view of the mitigation considered, we felt the player should be allowed the maximum permissible 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:
Need for deterrence:
Any other off-field aggravating factors:

Number of additional weeks:
Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

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: 5 weeks/matches	☐ Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 16th November 2025	
Sanction concludes: TBC	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: The player did not have a definitive schedule of matches and tournaments and the Disciplinary Committee will confirm the games to be missed once this information has been supplied to Rugby Europe. In the meantime, the player remains suspended.	
Costs:	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Antony Davies
Date: 20th November 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)