

# DECISION FORM

To be sent to [discipline@rugbyeurope.eu](mailto:discipline@rugbyeurope.eu).



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Bianca Alexandra Preda	
Player's number: 2	
Player's union: Romania	
Competition: Rugby Europe Women 7s Trophy Chisinau #2 2025	
Host Team (T1): Romania	Visiting Team (T2): Austria
Venue: Dinamo Stadium, Chisinau, Moldova	
Date of match: 28 June 2025	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook and RE Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Nino Eloshvili	
Plea: Foul play: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted; Red Card/Citing: <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	
If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Hearing details	
JO: Val Toma (Romania)	
Hearing date: 28 June 2025	
Hearing venue: Dinamo Stadium, Chisinau, Moldova	
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): Ovidiu Carcei – Team Manager	
Other attendees:	
List of documents/ materials considered by the JO: RC report; Footage of the incident; Submission of Sophie Koller – Austria no 7 (A7), the victim player.	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The hearing has been convened as a result of the Player having been red carded for an incident in the match against Austria.	
The referee awarded a red card for an alleged act of foul play against Law 9.13 (Dangerous tackling). <i>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.</i>	
The red card report reads: <i>"Romania defender N2 Bianca Alexandra did foul play in particular up, head to head contact against Austrian Player. Degree of danger was high. There was no mitigation: red card."</i>	
The footage reveals that: - After a ball is lost in the Romanian 22, Romania no 11 (R11) dives on it but fails to secure possession;	

- A7 bends over R11's body and picks up the ball to carry it forward to the Romanian goal line;
- While still in a lowered position, A7 is charged by the Player who comes at speed from her left side;
- A violent contact between the Player's head and A7's left shoulder and head occurs;
- Both players recoil from the collision with the Player falling to the ground on her back and A7 showing obvious distress;
- The referee blows her whistle, consults with the assistant referee and awards the Player a red card.

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

The JO interviewed A7.

In summary she submitted that she felt a blow to her left side of her face. Asked about the level of force involved, A7 submitted that it was not 'extreme' but 'significant'. However, she sustained only a minor wound of her upper lip which was hardly visible. She further said that she has been cleared of a potential concussion by his team medical personnel and is available to play.

Ms Koller's submissions have been recorded and played for the Player and her representative at the beginning of the hearing.

The Tournament Doctor – Mr Alin Popescu – confirmed that the Player sustained a concussion and, in any case, will not play anymore in this tournament.

### Summary of player's evidence

The JO explained to the Player that she is required to confirm whether she accepts she committed the alleged act of foul play specified in the RC report and whether she accepts that the foul play warranted the issuing of a red card. In such case the JO must consider evidence as to establish a sanction, if any, in accordance with the three-stage sanctioning process. If the player does not accept the citing, the burden is on her to demonstrate that the referee's decision to issue a RC was wrong either because her actions do not amount to foul play or, if there is foul play, the act of foul play would not have warranted a red card.

For acts of foul play involving:

- High tackles
- Shoulder charges
- Dangerous cleanouts
- Head-to-head collisions
- Leading elbow / forearm

match officials and disciplinary personnel must use the guidance of the [Head Contact Process](#).

The Player accepted that she committed an act of foul play and that it warranted a red card.

In this respect the Player submitted that:

- She had no intention of causing the high contact;
- She was focused on the ball on the ground and rushed to gain possession of it;
- Then the collision occurred and she does not recall anything else;
- She was later told by the Romania medical staff that she lost consciousness;
- She was also transported to the hospital for investigation, diagnosed with a concussion and just returned for the hearing.

Upon reviewing the footage, the Player admitted that she acted recklessly in that she rushed in with no control and focus on the context of play. She admitted that she had a clear line of sight and that she must have had enough time to realise that the ball had been already picked up by A7 and to adjust her approach and body position such as to avoid the head contact.

The Player further declared that she is 22 years of age and she plays rugby since 2017. In 2022 she was awarded a RC out of two YCs which resulted in a "Sending off sufficient" disciplinary decision. The Player was genuinely apologetic for committing the act of foul play.

### Findings of fact

The standard of proof for all matters under disciplinary procedures is the balance of probabilities.

The JO considered all the evidence and having accepted the Player's submissions, on balance of probabilities, made the following findings of fact:

- The Player had a clear line of sight. She ought to have known that by charging to the ball in the way she did, with no control and no focus on what would occur next, she ran a significant risk to commit the act of foul play;
- Fortunately for A7, the Player's head collided first with A7's left shoulder (hence the concussion sustained by the Player) and then with A7's left side of the head/neck. Although the contact to A7's head was secondary, a significant amount of force was involved, such that the degree of danger was high;
- There are no applicable mitigation factors as A7's body position is slightly bent throughout.

The red card is upheld.

### Decision

☒ Accepted and 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, by her own admission, rushed with no control and no focus on the context of play when she ought to have known that there is a risk to commit an act of foul play.

### Nature of actions

As described above.

### Existence of provocation:

N/A

### Whether player retaliated:

N/A

### Self-defence:

N/A

### Effect on victim:

Minor.

### Effect on match:

None.

### Vulnerability of victim:

The victim was carrying the ball such that a tackle would have been expected, however players are always vulnerable in relation to the contacts to the head.

<b>Level of participation / premeditation:</b>
Full participation/no premeditation.
<b>Conduct completed / attempted:</b>
Completed.
<b>Other features of player's conduct:</b>
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[6]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]
<b>Reasons for selecting entry point:</b>					
Reckless contact to the head with no significant consequence on victim's welfare. The minimum mid-range entry point is mandatory (and fully appropriate in any case), however there is no reason to elevate the entry point to Top-end level.					


Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Acknowledgement of the commission of foul play:</b>	<b>Player's disciplinary record / good character:</b>
Foul play and red card admitted from the beginning.	One RC out of 2 YCs with a "Sending off sufficient" three years ago.
<b>Youth and inexperience of player:</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing:</b>
The Player is young but not inexperienced.	Excellent.
<b>Remorse and timing of Remorse</b>	<b>Other off-field mitigation:</b>
Acknowledgement of remorse during the hearing.	N/A

<b>Number of weeks deducted: [3]</b>
<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:</b>
The Player meets most of the criteria. The single issue in the Player's disciplinary record is old enough and of such a level that it would be inappropriate to prevent the Player to be awarded the full 50% reduction.

Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Need for deterrence:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Any other off-field aggravating factors:</b>	
N/A	
<b>Number of additional weeks: [XX]</b>	
<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks added:</b>	
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)

<b>Total sanction:</b> 3-week suspension (translated into 3 matches of 7s, if applicable).	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
<b>Sanction commences:</b> Immediately	
<b>Sanction concludes:</b> The date is to be established after the future playing calendar will become available.	
<b>Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:</b> Per chapter 17.21 of WR Regulation 17: <i>"For the purposes of imposing a suspension, Disciplinary Committees and Judicial Officers shall take into account weeks in which there is a Match(es) which comply with each of the following criteria:          (a) until such time as the Player was suspended, the Player would otherwise have been scheduled to play in the Match, the burden resting with the Player to prove that he was scheduled to play."</i>  As the Player and the Tournament Doctor confirmed that, due to the concussion sustained, the Player would not have been cleared to play in the remaining matches of Romania in the tournament, these matches cannot be taken into account for the purpose of the suspension.  The Player's future competition calendar is not yet known. When available, the Player must make a request to the JO in this respect.	
<b>Costs:</b> n/a	
<b>Signature</b>	
Name of the JO or Chairman: Val Toma	
Date: 28 June 2025	
Signature (JO or Chairman):  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	

**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)