

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Vojtěch Vomáčka	
Player's number: 2	
Player's union: Czechia	
Competition: Rugby Europe Men's Trophy (2025)	
Host Team (T1): Czechia	Visiting Team (T2): Luxembourg
Venue : Prague Marketa Stadium	
Date of match: March 8 th , 2025	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook	
Referee Name: Diogo Miranda	
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: Matthew Weaver KC (ENG)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Richard McGhee (SCO) - Luca Di Gregoria (ITA)	
Hearing date: March 11 th , 2025	
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): • Michal Ouředník	
Other attendees: David Baird-Smith (Rugby Europe)	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: • Red card report from referee • Video clips (normal speed and slow-motion) • Game sheet • Medical report • Response to notice of disciplinary hearing • Statement on behalf of player	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The referee's report describes the incident as follows: <i>"The Player was reckless and was never in a realistic position to catch the ball. The Player admitted his action and apologised to the opponent"</i> The video footage of the incident shows the Player chasing the restart with his eyes fixed on the ball. He avoids contact with one opponent and then lowers his eyes to see the opponent catching the ball with both feet off	

the ground. He proceeds to make a tackle whilst the opponent is still off the ground, causing the opponent to fall to the ground, landing on his back.

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

The Luxembourg RFU confirmed that the tackled player suffered no injury as a result of the incident and was able to play on

Summary of player's evidence

A statement on behalf of the Player explained the incident as follows:

"Player no. 2. After the kick off, this player had his eyes focused on the ball. At that moment, however, bright sunlight was shining into his eyes, which could have negatively affected his vision and reaction abilities.

Based on the match footage, it is clear that player no. 2 narrowly avoided the first opponent, which demonstrates his intention to adhere to the rules of the game and to avoid dangerous situations. As soon as he looked up at the ball again, an opponent suddenly appeared in the air. Due to the high speed at which the situation developed, player no. 2 was unable to react in time.

It should be emphasized that the incident was unintentional, and any injury was not intentional. Immediately after the incident, the player expressed remorse and apologized to the involved players.

The situation deeply affected the excluded player, who left the field with tears in his eyes.

Addition

The player from Luxembourg fortunately did not sustain any injuries and continued to play in the match"

The Player gave evidence at the hearing, describing the incident in very similar terms to the above.

Findings of fact

The Panel accepted the Player's account of the incident, namely that he was chasing a kick off, keeping his eyes on the ball until very late. He made his way past a defending player and assumed, incorrectly, that he would be unchallenged when catching the kick off. In fact, another defender jumped for the ball and when the Player noticed that defender, he did not have sufficient time to avoid making contact with the defender whilst he was in the air. The actions amounted to foul play and warranted a red card but were reckless rather than intentional.

Fortunately, the defender landed on his back, not his head or neck.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
Assessment of intent:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless	
State reasons:	
The Player had his eyes on the ball until shortly before the incident. His actions were unintentional	
Nature of actions	
The Player tackled the opponent whilst he was still in the air, causing him to fall to the ground and land on his back	
Existence of provocation:	
None	
Whether player retaliated:	
N/A	
Self-defence:	
N/A	
Effect on victim:	
The opponent was not injured	
Effect on match:	
Czechia was leading 17-7 at the time of the incident and went on to win 40-16	
Vulnerability of victim:	
The opponent was in the air and unable to protect himself	
Level of participation / premeditation:	
Not premeditated	
Conduct completed / attempted:	
Completed	
Other features of player's conduct:	
None	

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
Given that the defender landed on his back and suffered no injury, the Panel were content that this was an incident towards the lower end of seriousness under Law 9.17 and, as such, merited a low-end 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:
The Player admitted the red card at the earliest opportunity	The Player has no previous red cards or any other disciplinary matters
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:

The Player is 25 years old	The Player conducted himself entirely appropriately at the hearing
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The Player apologised for his actions immediately and was apologetic during the hearing	

Number of weeks deducted: 2
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
Given the Player's previously clean disciplinary record and his obvious remorse, the Panel were content that he should receive the maximum 50% 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:

None

Number of additional weeks: 0


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: 2-week suspension from playing	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 8.3.2025	
Sanction concludes: 29.3.2025	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: 23.3.2025 - Saint Marcellin Sport v Union Sportive Veore - Federale 3 29.3.2025 - Lithuania v Czechia – Rugby Europe Trophy	
Costs: 0	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Matthew Weaver KC
Date: 11.3.2025
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)