

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence

Player's Name: Enzo Fernandes

Player's number: 2

Player's union: Lusitanos

Competition: Rugby Europe Super Cup

Host Team (T1): Iberians

Visiting Team (T2): Lusitanos

Venue: National Rugby Center, Amsterdam

Date of match: 24/01/2026

Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations

Referee Name: Saba ABULASHVILI

Plea: ☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted

Offence: ☐ Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other *If "Other" selected, please specify:*

Hearing details

Chairperson: Gareth Rees (ENG)

Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel:

- Florence Van Den Broucke (BEL)
- Philipp Knop (GER)

Hearing date: January 27th, 2026

Hearing venue: On remote

Appearance Player: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Appearance Union: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Player's Representative(s): Carlos Polainas, José Carlos Augusto and Francisco Martins

Other attendees: David Baird-Smith (Rugby Europe)

List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel:

- Citing Commissioner report
- Game sheet
- Video Clips of the incident
- Statement from Carlos Polainas (Team Manager Lusitanos)
- Medical Report on Iberian No.11 from Dr Sebastián Morandé

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

Quote from the Citing Commissioner report:

"Iberians 11 and 10 are over the remaining Lusitanos player but all scuffles have stopped and the incident is complete.

Then Lusitanos 2 returns and grabs Iberians 11 and pulls the shirt of the player and then whilst under no obvious threat lashes out with his right arm, it is unclear whether connection is with the fist or arm but from the wide angle it shows that the head of Iberians 11 moves to his right and backwards before spinning and being knocked to the floor leaving him prone.

I did receive a WhatsApp from Carlos Polainas, the Lusitanos Team Manager which stated, "He (Enzo) told me that wasn't (h)is intention to hit the player and he complimented and apologised to his opponent"

This confirmed that he had hit/struck the player”

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

The medical report stated that there was no concussion and noted no other medical injuries

Summary of player’s evidence

Enzo Fernandes (EF) told the panel that he had gone over to assist his team members who were being prevented from getting up by opposing players. He stated that he grabbed the Iberian No.11 to let his team member get up and the Iberian No.11 touched his face causing EF to signal to the touch judge. EF then stated that he used his open hand to push Iberian No.11 away and his hand slid up and caught the face of Iberian No.11 causing him to fall to the ground. He did not accept that the foul play passed the red card threshold.

Findings of fact

The panel concluded from all the evidence including a number of video clips from various angles that EF had gone over to Iberian No.11, had grabbed the shirt of this player and was involved in a minor struggle when raising his arm and striking Iberian No.11 with an arm or hand to the face.

It was found that EF had committed an act of foul play contrary to Law 9.12.

The game of Rugby Union has made considerable efforts to address the issue of head contact and it is unacceptable for players to engage in foul play which makes contact with the head.

Contact with the head of Iberian No.11 was made by EF with his arm and and/or hand and that contact was sufficiently forceful to warrant a red card. The red card threshold was met and the citing was upheld.

The panel did not accept the players contention that he rushed to his team members’ assistance. EF may have been trying to support his team members but striking the Iberian No.11 was unjustified. It was found that the offending was intentional.

The panel also concluded that the Iberian No.11 exaggerated his fall to the ground including having regard to the fact that his ensuing medical assessment was satisfactory and that he resumed play.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless
State reasons:
EF clearly raised his arm to strike the Iberian No.11
Nature of actions
It was a moderately forceful blow to the face
Existence of provocation:
Very little if any provocation for such a blow
Whether player retaliated:
He had little reason to retaliate
Self-defence:
No
Effect on victim:
He fell to the ground but suffered no injury
Effect on match:
EF received a yellow card and the match continued
Vulnerability of victim:
Minimal
Level of participation / premeditation:
EF was one of two players involved and struck the blow to the face of the other player
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed
Other features of player's conduct:
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
<p>World Rugby Regulation 17 governs 'Discipline and Foul Play'. Appendix One to Regulation 17 provides that: <i>"Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent's head and/or neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction"</i>.</p> <p>EF has committed an act of foul play involving contact with the head and/or neck of Iberian No. 11. As a result, the correct starting point was a mid-range sanction. The mid-range sanction for punching (9.12) is 6 weeks.</p>					

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:
At the match and prior to the hearing	Very good
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
Age 21 years	Excellent
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
Apologised through his team manager	

Number of weeks deducted: 3
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
Excellent mitigation including age, good record, early acceptance that he had committed foul play and good conduct at the hearing.

Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game:
Good
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:

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 matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 27 January 2026	
Sanction concludes: 22 February 2026	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: The Player is suspended for the following matches 7 February Belgium v Portugal; 14 February Portugal v Germany; 22 February Portugal v Romania. The player will therefore be eligible to resume with competitive rugby on February 23 rd .	
Costs:	

Signature
Name of the JO or Chairman: Gareth Rees
Date: 27 January 2026
Signature (JO or Chairman): <i>Gareth Rees</i>

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)