

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Justin Renc	
Player's number: 7	
Player's union: Germany	
Competition: Rugby Europe Championship	
Host Team (T1): Switzerland	Visiting Team (T2): Germany
Venue: Stade municipal, Yverdon les Bains	
Date of match: 07/03/2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Carwyn Sion	
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: Martin Picton (Chairperson, ENG)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Francesco Grillo (Wing, ITA) - Bartosz Marczyński (Wing, POL)	
Hearing date: March 10 th , 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): Jürgen Schlicksupp (Board member), Mark Kuhlmann (Head Coach), Ulrike Faye (Team Manager).	
Other attendees: David Baird-Smith (Rugby Europe)	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red card report• Game sheet• Video clips of the incident (*4)	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>"In the action of clearing out, a red player holds black 7. In retaliation, Black 7 dropped his knee making a glancing blow to the head of the red player."</p> <p>The video footage of the match was consistent with the Referee's red card report as above.</p>	
Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)	
There was no medical evidence nor any evidence from the red player involved. Given the lack of significant contact between the Player's knee and the head of the red player no injury would have resulted.	
Summary of player's evidence	
The Player readily accepted that he was properly issued with a red card in the context of his actions. The Player related that the member of the opposition had been holding his shirt as the Player was attempting to get back into the defensive line. He suggested that there was a level of involuntariness in how his knee came to land on the ground. He suggested it was an unlucky fall and that he had been attempting to avoid landing on the opposing player. He said he had been focused on the play itself. He denied there was any element of	

'bad intention' behind his actions but accepted that what he did was reckless as to the risk of his knee coming into contact with the head of the red player. The Player reported that he had attempted to find the relevant member of the opposition after the game in order to apologise but was unable to locate him. He said he would still wish to express his apology to the player involved. He reported that he had never had a red card before and had been playing since he was 14 years of age. He made his debut for the senior team in 2019 and is currently the captain of both the national team and also his club.

Evidence from the Player's representatives described him as being a role model to others. He was described as an honest player who gives 100%. He was also said to be hard but always fair. The Player was clearly held in very high esteem by those managing the national side and the club to which he was associated. The Player was described as always doing a great job and never being intentionally physically abrasive. He was said to be great with other team members and with the members of other teams.

Findings of fact

The Player did drop his knee in a manner that meant it was in contact with the head of the opposition player as it landed on the ground. In fact his leg appeared to be in contact with the opposition player's head throughout. It appeared to be an act of frustration on the part of the Player rather than one born of significant malice. We were also satisfied the level of contact between the Player's knee and the head of the red player was very slight. It would not have caused any injury and the red player would barely have noticed what had happened. It was an action, however, that we were satisfied amounted to physical abuse involving a strike with the knee and thus came within 9.12. It was an appropriate dealt with by way of a red card being issued.

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:
The dropping of the knee appeared to be deliberate but it was done in a way that was essentially reckless as to the risk of making any or any significant contact with the head of the red player.
Nature of actions
See above
Existence of provocation:
The red player had been holding the Player by his shirt but equally he had lost his grip on the Player's shirt by the time the Player dropped his knee.
Whether player retaliated:
The Player was reacting to having had his shirt held when he was trying to get back into the defensive line.
Self-defence:
N/A
Effect on victim:
There was no evidence of any effect upon the red player and none would be anticipated in the context of that which the video footage showed.
Effect on match:
The only impact on the match was to the disadvantage of the Player's team.
Vulnerability of victim:
There was an element of vulnerability in the context of the position of the red player as he would not have been able to protect himself.
Level of participation / premeditation:
The action did not appear to be premeditated.
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed
Other features of player's conduct:
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	12+
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
We concluded that the absence of any significant impact between the Player's knee on the red player's head justified this case having a low-end entry point. It was however a potentially dangerous action on the part of the Player and he should count himself fortunate that his knee was not an inch or more towards the head of the red player. That could have resulted in a significant injury which might well have placed the assessment of entry point at mid-range if not higher.					

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:
The Player indicated in advance that he would accept the red card.	The Player has a good disciplinary record
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
N/A	Both the Player and his representatives conducted themselves with complete professionalism and respect both prior to and during the hearing.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
We accepted the expression of remorse on the part of the Player to be wholly genuine and had he been able to find his opponent on the day we were confident he would have apologised to him and meant it.	As mentioned above the Player is held in high esteem and has a good reputation within both the national side and also the club of which he is a member.

Number of weeks deducted: 2**Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:**

In the circumstances we consider the player merited the full 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:
XX
Need for deterrence:
N/A
Any other off-field aggravating factors:
XXX
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: 2 matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 11/03/2026	
Sanction concludes: 22/03/2026	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: The Player is suspended for the following matches 15/03/2026 Finals in Madrid 21/03/2026 BL v RGH	
Costs:	
Signature	
Name of the JO or Chairman: Martin Picton	
Date: 11/03/2026	
Signature (JO or Chairman): <i>M Picton</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)