



DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Jordan Conroy		
Player's Union	Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)		
Match	Ireland x Italy		
Competition	Men's 7'S RWCQ		
Date of match	17-07-2022		
Match Venue	Arcul de Triunf Stadium – Bucharest		
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook;		
Referee Name	Ben Breakspear	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	9.12 – A player must not physically abuse anyone – punching or striking with hand, elbow or shoulder.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	17-07-2022	Hearing venue	Arcul Triunf Stadium
Chairperson/JO	Marcello d'Orey		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel			
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)	No	Other attendees	Val Toma and Andre Zamfirescu – JO liaison
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	The player was presented before the hearing started with the following documents and material: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link to video images of the incident. - Referee's Report on the sending off - Notice of hearing - Disciplinary statement 		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The referee's report stated that: 1 Min, into the game, Ireland were attacking inside the Italy 22m line 7m from the touch. The ball carrier IRL #7 entered contact with a high leading elbow. There was separation from the body and the elbow/forearm made direct contact with the throat of the tackler. There was no mitigation so I issued IRL #7 with a RC. - The video images show clearly the incident.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

None.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The player stated that he was carrying at speed into contact between two defenders, the inside defender didn't drop his body height and as he tried to fend the Italian on his far shoulder, The Italian defender connected with his forearm at the bottom of the Italian throat. This was in no way intentional and he apologized immediately to the Italian player and after the game also.

The Italian player said he was 'fine' and he didn't receive any medical attention on the field of play.

FINDINGS OF FACT

No preliminary points arose.

The Player accepted that he was the Player involved in the alleged foul play.

The standard of proof for all matters under this Regulation 17 shall be on the balance of probabilities.

At first instance disciplinary hearings, in the event that the Player does not accept that the act(s) of Foul Play which is the subject of the disciplinary hearing warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited, the burden of proof rests on the Player to show that the referee/citing commissioner was wrong.

There was little dispute as to the facts as displayed in the video recording and as described by the Referee's Report, except that the player wanted to make sure that the contact was not with his elbow, but with his forearm with the throat of the Italian Player.

The video images confirmed that the contact was between the throat of the Italian player and the forearm of the Irish n#7.

In any event it was submitted that the player accepted that there was a foul play, and that it was worth a red card.

Therefore, the Judicial Officer was required to consider what further action should be taken as a result of the player being shown a Red Card by the referee in respect of a contravention of law 9.12. The Judicial Officer found, on the balance of probabilities, that the Irish n#7 struck the Italian player throat with his forearm.

The images of the incident were clear and show the whole incident.

The player accepted that there was foul play which merited a red card, and therefore the Red Card decision was upheld.

Any act of foul play which result in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction.

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

There was no evidence that the player wanted to strike the throat of the Italian player with his forearm intentionally. This action was reckless and it carried the very clear risk that there would be a dangerously contact between the forearm of the Irish player and the throat of the Italian player, as it did, Whilst the Judicial Officer accepted the player had not intended to physically abuse the Italian player striking him with his forearm in the throat, he had acted in a highly dangerous manner in relation to the risk of injury and in relation to potential to cause injury.		
Gravity of player's actions		
The Irish player was in full speed, there was a direct contact between the forearm of the Irish player and the throat of the Italian player.		
Nature of actions		
Striking with arm. Contact with the throat of the defender.		
Existence of provocation		
No Provocation		
Whether player retaliated		
No retaliation		
Self-defence		
No Self defence		
Effect on victim		
Italian player was briefly on the floor, but was able to keep playing.		
Effect on match		
No consequence		
Vulnerability of victim		
Italian player saw the Ireland player coming to him, and although didn't expect to be strike by the forearm of the Irish player, knew that there was going to be a collision. Italian player was upright and not prepared to tackle.		
Level of participation/premeditation		
No premeditation found		
Conduct completed/attempted		
Conduct completed		
Other features of player's conduct		
None		
Entry point		
<input type="checkbox"/> Top end [XX] Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-range [6] Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-end [XX] Weeks

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End
NA

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 accepted that there was foul play and that it was worth a red card.	The player have never before been sent off
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
The player is 28 years old	Very good

Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
The player showed remorse and informed that he apologised to the player. It is also clear by the video image that.	None

Number of weeks deducted: [3]

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The player accepted that he had committed an act of foul play, he apologised to the Italian player immediately after the incident and in the end of the match and indicated that he had no intention to cause an injury and conducted himself in an exemplary manner at the hearing. The player had a clean disciplinary record.

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
None
Need for deterrence
None
Any other off-field aggravating factors
None

Number of additional weeks: [NA]


Summary of reason for number of weeks added:
NA

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/weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	17-07-2022 – at the conclusion of the hearing	
Sanction concludes	Sanction concludes after the second match of Ireland in the Los Angeles 7's, to be played in the 27 th and 28 th of August 2022, information to be provided by the Irish Union as soon as they have information about the draw of the tournament.	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Ireland x Georgia – 17-07-2022 Sanction concludes after the second match of Ireland in the Los Angeles 7's, to be played in the 27 th and 28 th of August 2022, information to be provided by the Irish Union as soon as they have information about the draw of the tournament.	

Costs	None
--------------	------

Date	17-07-2022
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)