

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Cosmos Zymvragos	
Player's number: 3	
Player's union: Germany	
Competition: Rugby Europe Championship	
Host Team (T1): Germany	Visiting Team (T2): Netherlands
Venue: National Estadio Nacional Complutense, Madrid	
Date of match: 15/03/2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Saba Makharadze	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: 9.13: A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify: 20 minutes red card</i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson: Mark Curran (Chairperson, IRL)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Richard McGhee (Wing, SCO) - Sarah Smith (Wing, SCO)	
Hearing date: March 17 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): Mark Kuhlmann (Head Coach) Ulrike Faier (Team Manager) Werner Cromm (Board Member) Jürgen Schlicksupp (Vice President High Performance)	
Other attendees: Arthur Magdalou (Rugby Europe)	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red card report• Game sheet• Four Video clips of the incident• Disciplinary Statement of the Player• Rugby Nederland Physiotherapist Statement• Notice of Disciplinary Hearing	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
A Preliminary Point was raised by the Panel in respect of the correct charge to be brought against the Player. The Player was sent off by the Referee pursuant to an offence contrary to Law 9.11: <i>"Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others"</i> . Having considered the nature of this incident, the Panel felt that the matter was more suitably dealt with pursuant to Law 9.13: <i>"A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerous"</i> . The Player agreed with this proposition.	

The Player was sent off 16 minutes into the first half. The Referee's Report noted that: "*N3 German made a no arms tackle with an always illegal action, player landed with his head. I deemed it as a high degree of danger and no mitigation so 20min RC given*"

The video footage shows the Player attempting to tackle the Victim Player in open play. The Player gets very low and has his arms outstretched in front of him to make the tackle. Very shortly before the point of contact, the Victim Player drops his height, and particularly his head, while contemporaneously a Netherland Player exerts some force, albeit light, to the rear of the Victim Player. This results in the Victim Player's head making contact with the back of the Player's head/shoulder area and exerts downward pressure on the Player which results in him placing his hands on the ground. The Victim Player ends up falling onto the back of the Player before hitting his head on the ground.

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

A physio for the Netherlands Team provided a report for the Victim Player stating that he had no serious symptoms, no sign of concussion and no sign of any neck injuries. The physio confirmed that the Victim Player received no off-field treatment and developed no symptoms post the match concluding.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player made both written and oral submissions at his hearing, assisted by his accompanying representatives. The Player's evidence was that he was part of the defending line approximately 10m in front of his goal line with his responsibility in defence being to tackle the Victim Player low in order to stop his forward progress. He stated that he lowered his height as much as he could and did so because he observed a last second drop in height by the Victim Player with his head.

He gave evidence that the Victim Player "*dropped his head so low that he drove his own head into my upper back and this pushed me down onto my hands and I could not reach his legs to grasp them*". The Player stated that he ended up underneath the Victim Player and that the entire situation was so dynamic and fast that he could not get ahold of the Victim Player before he rolled off his back and fell to the ground.

The Player stated that Netherland #7 may have contributed to the impact due to a slight push he gives the Victim Player from behind.

Findings of fact

The Panel finds that the Player had adopted a very low and appropriate tackle position with his arms outstretched in front of him demonstrating his intention to make a lawful tackle targeting the legs of the Victim Player.

Unfortunately, milliseconds before the point of contact, the Victim Player drops his height, and particularly his head, while contemporaneously Netherlands #7 exerts some light force to the rear of the Victim Player. The Panel finds that this last minute drop of head accompanied by the slight force exerted by Netherlands #7 meant that downward pressure was exerted on the Player forcing his hands onto the ground. This in turn led to the Victim Player rolling onto the Player's back and then latterly onto the ground.

On the basis of the foregoing, the Panel accept, therefore, that there was nothing the Player could do to avoid this incident occurring and it was an unfortunate rugby incident.

Therefore, the Panel find that the Player has satisfied the burden on him to show that, on the balance of probabilities, the red card was incorrectly awarded. The Panel wishes to emphasise that it had the benefit of frame-by-frame analysis of the incident from multiple camera angles not available to the match officials at the time of the incident. This video footage greatly assisted the Panel in determining that the downward pressure exerted by the Victim Player to the Player's head/shoulders took place prior to the Player placing both of his hands on the ground.

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 type="checkbox"/> Reckless
State reasons:
Nature of actions
Existence of provocation:
Whether player retaliated:
Self-defence:
Effect on victim:
Effect on match:
Vulnerability of victim:
Level of participation / premeditation:
Conduct completed / attempted:
Other features of player's conduct:
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	10+
Reasons for selecting 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:
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:

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Number of weeks deducted: X
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

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:
Need for deterrence:
Any other off-field aggravating factors:

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: None. Red Card Overturned	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences:	
Sanction concludes:	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:	
Costs: None sought or awarded	

Signature
Name of the Chairman: Mark Curran
Date: 23/03/2026
Signature (JO or Chairman): <i>Mark Curran</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)