

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Luka Gorgodze	
Player's number: 2	
Player's union: Georgia	
Competition: Rugby Europe Boys 2 - 7s Trophy Budapest 2026	
Host Team (T1): Austria	Visiting Team (T2): Georgia
Venue: Dr. Koltai Jenő Sports Centre	
Date of match: 18.07.2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Marius Bollian	
Plea: ☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted	
Offence: ☐ Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other	
If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Hearing details	
JO: Val Toma	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: n/a	
Hearing date: 22.07.2026	
Hearing venue: Zoom meeting	
Appearance Player: ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Appearance Union: ☒ Yes ☐ No	
Player's Representative(s): George Tkesheliadze – Team Manager	
Other attendees: n/a	
List of documents/materials considered by the JO: CC report, match footage, medical statement from Austria physio, referee statement by email.	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
1. The Citing Commissioner Jay Curts cited the Player for an act of foul play against Law 9.13 – "A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders". The citing report description reads: <i>" Georgia restart after a try. Austria fields the kick between their 22 and 10 meter line, and win the ball. They open to the left and play the whole width of the pitch. Georgia's line moves forward and follows the ball. AUS#11 is closest to touch and receives the ball. He pushes forward, attacking the space between GEO#2 and the touch line. GEO#2 approaches the tackle almost perpendicular to the ball carrier. He has both arms extended in a tackling motion. He is in an upright position, making contact with his head on the ball carrier's head. His arms follow through, wrapping the ball carrier and completing the tackle. Both players fall to the ground, and the ball goes into touch. The referee awards Austria a penalty and reviews the incident with the AR. AUS#11 can be seen on the ground receiving treatment; however, he does not leave the field of play and carries on playing. The MO issues a YC to GEO# for the high tackle.</i>	

Following the latest World Rugby Head Contact process March 2023

1. Has head contact occurred? Yes
2. Was there any foul play? Yes.
3. What was the degree of danger? High. Direct head-on-head contact.
4. Is there any mitigation?

Considerations in accordance with the WR HCP were given to:

Was this avoidable?

-GEO#2 had a clear line of sight.

-GEO#2 did not have any obstructions when approaching the tackle.

Was there a sudden or significant change in direction? No.

Was there a sudden or significant change in height? No.

Was it passive? No.

Was there a change in dynamics? No.

I find Georgia #2 in breach of law 9.13 "A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously." His actions are considered an act of foul play that reaches the red card threshold."

2. The YC report indicates an offence against Law 9.13 "High tackle" but there is no detailed description of the act of foul play. The JO requested an extra statement from the match referee. Mr Bollian submitted that *"I couldn't see the contact and asked my assistant referee if she was happy with the contact. She told me that there was head to head contact on the way down, as second contact and we agreed on a yellow card."*

3. The footage was available only from one angle (TV broadcasting) but the CC provided a zoomed-in version of the incident in both real time and slow motion. Reviewing it reveals that the CC description is an accurate account of the incident.

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

4. Mr Bastian Ernst Schulte (Austria physio) submitted the following:

"During yesterday's Austria-Georgia match, the player sustained a laceration beneath the right eye following contact from a high tackle. Initial first aid was provided pitch-side, with the bleeding controlled and the wound assessed.

At the time of assessment, the player was alert and responsive. No visual disturbance, loss of consciousness, dizziness, or other neurological symptoms were reported. Further medical assessment is recommended if any of these symptoms develop or if the wound requires closure.

After the match, the player was accompanied by the physio and team medic to the ambulance for further treatment. The wound was cleaned and closed with staples by the attending medical personnel."

Summary of player's evidence

5. The hearing was originally scheduled for 19 July. However, at Mr Tkesheliadze's request, and as any potential sanction would not have affected the tournament, it was agreed to postpone the hearing. Accordingly, the hearing was convened on 22 July by remote means. All evidence was made available to the Player in advance.

The Player had limited knowledge of English language such that his submissions were translated by his representative.

In summary, the Player submitted that he accepts that the citing report is a true and accurate account of the incident, that he accepts that he committed an act of foul play and that the act of foul play reached the red

card threshold.

The Player further explained that his action was not deliberate as to the high contact, that he attempted to execute a legal tackle but he regrettably miscalculated the speed and the distance as he was coming to tackle the ball carrier, such that he failed to lower enough as to avoid the head-on-head collision, which caused some minor injuries to both players.

It was also submitted that:

- the Player is 18 years old and this is the first international competition he played in for his country;
- the Player plays rugby since the age of 7;
- the Player has a clean disciplinary record;
- the Player looked for his opponent after the match to check if he was fine but did not find him.

Findings of fact

6. The standard of proof for all matters under disciplinary procedures is the balance of probabilities.

Additionally, for acts of foul play involving:

- High tackles
- Shoulder charges
- Dangerous cleanouts
- Head-on-head collisions
- Leading elbow / forearm

match officials and disciplinary personnel must use the guidance of the [Head Contact Process](#).

The JO accepted the Player's submissions and found that the CC correctly applied the Head Contact Process, as acknowledged by the player. The citing was therefore upheld.

Decision

☒ Accepted and 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:
☐ Intentional/deliberate ☒ Reckless
State reasons:
The Player misjudged his approach, was upright when he executed the tackle and his action resulted in a head-on-head collision.
Nature of actions
Reckless high tackle.
Existence of provocation:
n/a
Whether player retaliated:
n/a
Self-defence:
n/a
Effect on victim:
The victim player was replaced but was later cleared and rejoined the match. Although the player sustained a minor laceration beneath his right eye, there were no indications of a concussion.
Effect on match:
None.
Vulnerability of victim:
The victim player would have expected to be tackled, albeit not at his head level.
Level of participation / premeditation:
Full but with no premeditation.
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed.
Other features of player's conduct:
n/a

Entry point					
Low-end ☐	Weeks [XX]	Mid-range ☒	Weeks [6]	Top end ☐	Weeks [XX]
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
The first note to Sanctions Table (Appendices 1/3 of WR Regulation 17) reads "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". The JO found no reasons to explore a higher 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 commission of foul play:	Player's disciplinary record:
Full and immediate.	Unblemished.

Youth and/or inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
The player plays from the age of 7 (11 years) however he is still very young and unexperienced at this level.	Very good.
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
Genuine remorse.	n/a

Number of weeks deducted: [3]
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The Player meets all the criteria that justify the maximum 50% reduction from the entry point.

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:

n/a

Number of additional weeks: [XX]**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: Three matches	☐ Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: Immediately	
Sanction concludes: To be decided at a later time per bellow.	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: As submitted by the Player's representative, the Player's future playing schedule is not known at this time. As such, the JO advised the Player that, at the time when the new season playing schedule will become available, he (with assistance of his Union) must provide a list of matches so that the JO may review proposed upcoming matches that may be "counted" against the three matches of his sanction. These matches must be "meaningful" matches which comply with criteria defined by WR Regulation 17.21.3 (or equivalent RE Disciplinary Regulations 4.5.6).	
Costs: n/a	

Signature
Name of the JO: Val Toma
Date: 22 July 2026
Signature (JO or Chairman): 

NOTE: You have 24 hours from notification of the decision of the JO to lodge an appeal with the Disciplinary Committee – RE Discipline Regulations 4.7.2