

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Jacob Nicolaas Oliver Immelman	
Player's number: 8	
Player's union: Romania	
Competition: Rugby Europe Championship	
Host Team (T1): Romania	Visiting Team (T2): Spain
Venue: Estadio Ontime Butarque, Leganes	
Date of match: 15/03/2026	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Filippo Russo	
Plea: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: Law 9.20(a) – A Player must not charge into a ruck or maul <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</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): Aaron Lloyd	
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• Five Video clips of the incident• Written Submissions to the Panel on behalf of the Player• Disciplinary Statement on behalf of the Player• Notice of Disciplinary hearing	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>The Referee's report notes that the Player effected a <i>"dangerous clearout at the ruck with tucked shoulder"</i>. The incident footage shows the Player entering a ruck in the 18th minute of the Match, and making contact with the side of the face of the Victim player.</p> <p>The Player received the Red Card following a review by the Match Officials of the incident.</p>	

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

The Victim Player suffered no injuries and was not removed from the field of play for a HIA.

Summary of player's evidence

The Panel were grateful for the extremely well-researched and helpful submissions from the Player's representative both in written form in advance of the hearing and orally at the hearing itself, the entirety of which have been considered in the Panel's deliberations.

The Player's position in respect of foul play and the red card as follows:

- The Player admits an act of foul play occurred;
- The Player admits that the red card was correctly awarded; and
- The Player admits that "*forceful contact*" was made to the side of the face of the Victim Player.

Findings of fact

Red Card Admitted by the Player.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless
State reasons:
The Panel gave careful consideration to the Player's evidence and the video footage of the incident. The Panel are satisfied that the Player entered the ruck with the intention of legally clearing out a different Spanish Player who was over the ball. Unfortunately, the Player missed his intended target and made contact with the Victim Player instead.
Nature of actions
Shoulder to the Head
Existence of provocation:
No
Whether player retaliated:
No
Self-defence:
No
Effect on victim:
The Victim Player suffered no injuries.
Effect on match:
N/A
Vulnerability of victim:
The Victim Player was vulnerable given his position in the ruck
Level of participation / premeditation:
The Player did not intend to make contact with Victim Player. The action was not premeditated
Conduct completed / attempted:
Conduct completed
Other features of player's conduct:
N/A

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	10+
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
The Panel are conscious that World Rugby has directed that any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or the neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction. The Panel see no reason to elevate the entry point beyond the mid-range and in this regard note the lack of injury to the Victim Player and the lack of intentional wrongdoing by the Player himself					

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 acknowledged guilt at the earliest opportunity	The Player has a relevant disciplinary record having received two red cards in the last two years: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2024: a 1 week suspension only for a high tackle incident- September 2025: a 3 week suspension for a headbutt
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
N/A	The Player conducted himself in an exemplary fashion both prior to and at the hearing.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The Player apologised to the Victim Player immediately after the match and appeared genuinely remorseful for his actions at the hearing.	N/A

Number of weeks deducted: 2

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

The Panel notes that Regulation 17 dictates that when assessing the percentage reduction applicable for mitigating factors, the Panel shall start at no reduction and apply the amount, if any, to be allowed by way of mitigation up to the maximum reduction of 50%.

The Player's Representative drew the Panel's attention to relevant previous disciplinary cases such as *Deysel* (RWC 2023, Namibia v France) wherein previous Panels have exercised their discretion to give a discount of up to 50%, even where not all of the mitigating actors identified in Regulation 17.19.1 are present.

While this Panel is cognisant of *Deysel* and other related decisions, given the Player has received two red cards within the last two years, one of which involved a high tackle, the Panel does not believe that the Player warrants the award of full 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:

The Panel notes that the Player has been playing rugby for over 15 years, the majority of that spent playing at a very high level in both South Africa and Europe. In that context, the Panel does not deem the Player to be an offender of the laws of the Game.

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:

N/A

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: 4 matches	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 17/03/2026	
Sanction concludes: 26/04/2026	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: The Player is suspended for the following matches: 28/3/26: (Romania Supercup) CSM Știință Baia Mare v SCM USV 11/4/26: (Romania Domestic) CS Dinamo v CSM Știință Baia Mare 18/4/26: (Romania Domestic) CSM Știință Baia Mare v CSA Steaua 25/4/26 (Romania Domestic) CS Rapid v CSM Știință Baia Mare We note the Player has indicated that he intends to apply for the “Head Contact Process Coaching Intervention Programme”. We note that Rugby Europe does not oppose this course since the Player has not previously accessed this programme which is available to a player only once. The Panel agrees to permit the Player to apply for the Coaching Intervention Programme. We do so because the Player’s offending occurred under the “Head Contact Process” and was, as has been admitted, a poorly executed clear out at a ruck. In the event of the Player receiving a confirmation of successful completion from World Rugby then the final specified match of the Player’s suspension will be substituted by the successful Coaching Intervention	
Costs: None sought or awarded	

Signature
Name of the JO or 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)