



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO

FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Stefan Rogers		
Player's Club	Old Town Shamrocks Porvoo		
Match	OTS Porvoo vs Turku Eagles		
Competition	Men's Finnish Championship		
Date of match	24 May 2025		
Match Venue	Hamari, Porvoo		
Rules to apply	2025 SRL Competition Regulations & World Rugby Regulation 17		
Referee Name	Olli Linnossuo	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Tackling contrary to 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 If "Other" selected, please specify:	

PANEL DETAILS			
Hearing date	27 May 2025	Hearing venue	Via Slack
Chairperson/JO	Palemia Field		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	George Mossford Stephen Whittaker		
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. 250524 Rogers OL Referee Report on ordering off 2. 250524 Rogers AK AR Report on an Ordering Off 3. 250524 Rogers NL AR Report on ordering off		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>The Disciplinary Officer received notification of a Red Card issued during the match during OTS Porvoo and Turku Eagles. The MO's report stated:</p> <p><i>"I heard a loud knock after the first tackle, and when I came closer, I saw Turku player number 7 bleeding with a cut above his eye. I stopped the clock and asked ARs how they saw the incident. Both of them confirmed the head contact by OTS no 8. Nico further assessed that there were no mitigating factors, even if there was no malice involved. Hence, I awarded the red card."</i></p> <p>The Panel also received reports into the incident from both Assistant Referees. AR1 stated:</p> <p><i>"An eagles player was running with the ball. A OTS player came to tackle but the Eagles</i></p>



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player stayed on his feet and did not fall down at all. Then OTS player number 8 came as a second tackler but the tackler (OTS no 8) did not dip at all so there was a head on head collision with the Eagles attacker and OTS no 8 defender. The attacker was running still fully upright when the collision occurred. I reported this immediately as a head on head collision. The main referee (Olli) stopped the game. The Eagles player was also injured. We discussed the foul play with all referees and came to the conclusion that it was foul play with no mitigation. OTS player 8 Stefan was sent off by a red card."

AR 2 stated:

"The situation happened over on the other side of the pitch so I was quite far from it. From that point I could only see that the ball carrier (Turku nro 7) got hit to the head by the head of a Porvoo player apparently trying to tackle him. Turku nro 7 was immediately bleeding from the head after the collision."

OTS Porvoo as the host club also provided the link to the YouTube stream unedited for the Panel to consider.

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

Turku Eagles was asked to provide an update on the victim player:

"Turku #7 picked ball up at the base of the scrum, broke away, fended off one player, after which the OTS #10 attempted a tackle which was not completed. The OTS #8 came to assist the OTS #10 in getting the Turku #7 to the ground. When he came in his head collided with the victim's head (Turku #7), splitting him open, requiring him to leave the field for safety reasons after receiving a second head knock in the game as well requiring stitches (6) to seal the wound."

The club also provided a link to a first head knock early in the first half.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player provided his evidence through his club. His playing schedule was provided as well as the YouTube link for the game stream. He stated:

"I thought the initial tackling player was going to tackle him so I was going to attempt the ball. I saw he broke through the tackle and tried to adjust my body height but I got it wrong. I spoke with the player after and apologised. Arttu was good hearted and told me we just clashed heads on his bad side that gets cut open easily and has been glued on a number of times."





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FINDINGS OF FACT

The Disciplinary Panel, whilst acknowledging The Player's early remorse and acknowledging the importance of Player Welfare, reviewed the footage of the Red Card incident only, given the jurisdiction of this Panel.

On reviewing the video made available to us, our analysis is based on World Rugby's Head Contact Process issued 9 March 2023. Also, it is for us to us to consider the Law Application Guideline fully, in that, *"The focus must be on the actions of those involved, not the injury."*

1. Has head contact occurred – **Yes**
2. Was there any foul play? – **Yes**, OTS 8 had the opportunity to tackle lower (and admits as much himself), contacts the BC's shoulder and the ball, and drives up from an already upright position.
3. What was the degree of danger? – **Low danger**. The head contact was indirect after initial contact with the Turku player's shoulder.
4. Is there any mitigation? – **No**. The Ball Carrier doesn't suddenly change direction, isn't excessively low, nor does the other OTS player influence the tackle significantly. Green 8 is well sighted of the BC of the tackle zone.

Therefore, we believe this incident does not meet the threshold for a red card.

However, and to be clear, this Panel does not question the match officials but emphasise the benefit we have in viewing the incident repeatedly at various speeds, along with a frame-by-frame analysis, to reach our decision, which they did not.

The Player is available for immediate selection.

DECISION

☐ Proven ☐ Not proven ☒ Other disposal (please state): Red Card not upheld





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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 – As per Article 1.5 of SRL Competition Regulations and (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	(X) week	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences		Not applicable
Sanction concludes		Not applicable
Matches/tournaments included in sanction		Not applicable

Costs	N/A
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Date	28 May 2025
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 – SRL Competitions Regulation 5.5.1 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

