



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO

FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Jaakko Juutilainen		
Player's Club	Helsinki Rugby Club		
Match	Warriors Rugby Club vs Helsinki Rugby Club		
Competition	Men's Finnish Championship		
Date of match	5 July 2025		
Match Venue	Myllypuro		
Rules to apply	2025 SRL Competition Regulations & World Rugby Regulation 17		
Referee Name	George Mossford	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Early, late or dangerous tackle contrary to Law 9.13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	

PANEL DETAILS			
Hearing date	10 July 2025	Hearing venue	Via Slack
Chairperson/JO	Palemia Field		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	Stevan Thorne Stephan Whittaker		
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. Referee's Report on the ordering off 2. Assistant Referee's Report on the ordering off		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>The Disciplinary Officer received the report from the Match Official:</p> <p><i>Warriors were attacking the wing close to the try line. I saw Blue #7 go to tackle the ball carrier and make contact with the upper body area, but my view of the incident was limited. Both players appeared to me to be reasonably upright at the time of contact. The incident happened directly in front of one of my ARs, Thibaut Reuchet, who immediately raised his flag to signal foul play. Although WRC maintained possession, I immediately blew the whistle.</i></p> <p><i>The report from the AR was that blue #7 had attempted the tackle but made direct contact to the neck of the ball carrier. From my own view of the tackle I expressed that I believed that there had been at least a medium-degree of force to the tackle, which was</i></p>



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confirmed by the AR. It was also reported that the ball carrier had made a quick lateral movement just before contact that likely impacted the tackler's ability to make a clean tackle, however it was asked and confirmed that there was no change in the height of the ball carrier leading into the contact. Based on these facts - direct contact to the neck, no immediate change in height by the ball carrier, and a reasonable degree of force - I made the decision to issue a red card to blue #7.

It should be said that the player's actions after the tackle were exemplary. He immediately apologised to the ball carrier for the tackle in real time and made no effort to contest the card when it was issued. He also went out of his way to shake the ball carrier's hand again before leaving the field.

As the sending off was a result of an assistant referee's report, the Disciplinary Officer also received his report:

Action happened 5 meters from HRC try line and 3 meters from touch line.

WRC player #11 had the ball and run towards HRC try line.

WRC #11 did an inside sidestep and got tackled first by HRC player #8 and by HRC player #7.

HRC #7 tackled high WRC #11. HRC #7 left arm made contact with the neck and head of WRC#11, and the arm of HRC#7 acted as a clothesline on the head of WRC#11.

There was a high degree of danger (direct contact, dynamic and middle level of force).

No mitigation has been identified (the sidestep of WRC#11 just before the tackle hasn't been considered as a mitigation, according to main referee George Mossford).

Video footage was provided by Warriors Rugby Club via YouTube. As per Regulation 17 requirements, audio was removed from the video clips (ie no referee audio link was available) and this was also made available to the Disciplinary Panel.

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

The Disciplinary Officer requested further information for the Warriors Rugby Club with regards to the potentially injured player. The following was given:

I attended to [The Tackled Ball Carrier] on the field and together with [another technical zone medic] put him on his back, securing his neck while assessing his condition. We did not see any indication he was having any major issues, and after asking him the usual questions and him answering correctly, we helped him back up. After checking how he was while standing (balance was alright) we decided to let him continue playing.

He was substituted several minutes later by the coach on a normal substitution, unrelated to his earlier incident.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player's club submitted the following:



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The board and our player are accepting the reporting of the offense and its conclusion without any contest... The player has personally apologized to Warriors player on the pitch for his risky handling of the situation.

Disciplinary statement

During our defensive effort near our own try line against the Warriors, I became aware at the last moment that the opposition had a numerical advantage on the left side of the ruck. Their player number 10 moved the ball quickly out wide, and I observed that player number 11 (Jiri) had significant space with only a few meters to the try line. I managed to close the distance, and as I prepared to tackle him from the side, I noticed him step infield and lower his body height.

I attempted to execute a clean and legal tackle, initially making contact with his shoulder. Simultaneously, our player number 8 engaged him from a different angle, which effectively stopped his forward momentum. As a result of number 11's sudden change in direction and height, combined with the force of the simultaneous tackle, my arm continued its motion and unfortunately made contact with his head.

Upon realizing the head contact, I immediately attempted to avoid further impact. Player number 11 fell to the ground, and I checked on his condition right away. The on-field officials determined that the incident warranted a red card, and I respectfully left the field. Before exiting, I approached player number 11 to sincerely apologize for the incident, and we later had a respectful and constructive conversation regarding the situation.

As both a player and the captain of my team, I take great pride in upholding the values of fair play and compliance with the laws of the game. This unfortunate event does not reflect my character or intent as a player. I fully understand the seriousness of the incident and the importance of player welfare.

Given the context of the situation, including the dynamic nature of the tackle, the simultaneous contact from another player, the lack of malicious intent, and my immediate concern for the opponent's well-being, I respectfully ask the disciplinary panel to consider these factors when determining the outcome. I remain committed to playing the game safely, fairly, and in the spirit of sportsmanship.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Given The Player's acceptance of the charge and no contest, The Disciplinary Panel considered the officials' statements at the findings of fact and upheld the sending off.

DECISION

☒ Proven ☐ Not proven ☐ Other disposal (please state)



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SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS		
As per Article 1.5 of SRL Competition Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby		
Assessment of Intent		
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless		
State Reasons		
The Player knew, or should have known, that going into a dynamic situation could have resulted in Foul Play.		
Gravity of player's actions		
The ball carrier was immediately attended to by on field medics and after a short period of attention, was able to continue play. As stated by his club, he was subsequently tactically replaced.		
Nature of actions		
Upright tackles are of particular concern		
Existence of provocation		
Not applicable		
Whether player retaliated		
Not applicable		
Self-defence		
Not applicable		
Effect on victim		
The victim player was able to continue.		
Effect on match		
Minimal effect		
Vulnerability of victim		
The victim was in a vulnerable position given he was already being tackled by another member of The Player's team		
Level of participation/premeditation		
None		
Conduct completed/attempted		
Completed		
Other features of player's conduct		
None.		
Entry point		
<input type="checkbox"/> Top end [6+] Weeks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid-range [4] Weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Low-end [2] 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		
n/a		



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RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

As per Article 1.5 of SRL Competition Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing	Player's disciplinary record/good character
Immediate	The Player received a Yellow Card contrary to Law 9.20 on 24 May 2025. No other entries of note
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
Not applicable. The Player is a member of the National Team.	Exemplary
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
Immediate and meaningful	None

Number of weeks deducted: 2

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

The Player was awarded a 40% mitigation where the only limitation to giving the full 50% was the yellow card issued six weeks before this incident. However, in calculating the sanction, the rounding was in favour of the player.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

As per Article 1.5 of SRL Competition 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: 0

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

N/A





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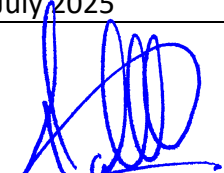
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SANCTION

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	(2) weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	11 July 2025	
Sanction concludes	28 July 2025	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	12 July 2025 vs Tampere Rugby Club 26 July 2025 vs Turku Eagles	

Costs	N/A
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Date	11 July 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 1.5.9 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

