



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO

FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

DECISION FORM

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's Name	Rasmus Toompere		
Player's Club	Tallinn Kalev Rugby Club		
Match	Warriors Rugby Club vs Tallinn Kalev Rugby Club		
Competition	Men's Finnish Championship		
Date of match	9 August 2025		
Match Venue	Myllypuro, Helsinki		
Rules to apply	2025 SRL Competition Regulations & World Rugby Regulation 17		
Referee Name	Alessandro Begnoni	Plea	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Punch or strike contrary to Law 9.12	<input type="checkbox"/> Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	

PANEL DETAILS			
Hearing date	On papers	Hearing venue	Via Slack
Chairperson/JO	Palemia Field		
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel	George Mossford Stephan Whittaker		
List of documents / materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. Intention to cite email from WRC dated 10 August 2025 2. Video stream link from YouTube 3. Nurse's medical report post match dated 9 August 2025 4. Photo of facial treatment 5. Statement from The Player		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE
<p>The Disciplinary Officer received the report from Helsinki Warriors Rugby Club:</p> <p><i>Player #2 Rasmus Toompere hit 3 times with his fists (punching) the head of WRC player #18 Mikko Lakkonen resulting in the substitution by injury of the player at around minute 55 of the game. Later, the WRC player sought treatment from a local clinic (Pihlajalinna Munkkivuori) and received 5 stitches to his cheek. Added to the gravity of the aggression that resulted in the WRC player to be subbed off and having to receive medical attention, the Kalev player was seen joking/laughing about his fists/knuckles later in the game. Finally, at the end of the game, he joked about this incident outside of the changing room to WRC players.</i></p>



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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.

As part of the procedure in receiving the citing request and prior to convening the Panel, the SRL Disciplinary Officer consulted with the Match Officials, and it was confirmed that this event was undetected by them. Therefore, he was permitted to proceed with the formation of the panel and sourcing evidence from both clubs.

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

The victim player attended to a Pihlajalinna Medical Center in Mukkivuori where the facial laceration was cleaned, sutured and wound care. He is under instruction to not engage in intense exercise until the wound is healed.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The Player's and his Club submitted the following

I would like to reply to the citing starting from the last statement for joking after game and then about the situation that was addressed in the video.

For me personally one part of the spirit of rugby is being able to joke about things once the final whistle has gone.

WRC during the whole 80 minutes showed poor sportsmanship and if I can point out a single player then their nr 10 spent 80 minutes on provoking the referee and motivating his teammates to do the same.

Having said that it is good spirit that once the 80 minutes is over we can still maintain some level of respect to each other and have a friendly chat after the game. For future reference this is really poor attitude to point out that people can maintain some level of decency towards each other because in future games this might cause Kalev players not talking to opposition after the final whistle.

Having watched the videoclip that was pointed out I can see a pick and go from Kalev player that I am covering as a support runner, me grabbing for my teammate and on the ground covering the ruck. It is really unfortunate if a WRC player was injured in the situation but I can't see me being the cause of it and it has to be a rugby incident inside a ruck or on the collision that has lead to it.

I've played in the Finnish league for about 10 years and in all that time I haven't had a single citation and in all that time I've only had one yellow card, which is a team yellow and for offside.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Player both denied that there was any Foul Play (and therefore no incident reaching the Red Card threshold). The Panel proceeded with determining the findings of fact.



The Panel was reminded that the onus is on Helsinki Warriors to provide the evidence in support of the citing and that the standard of proof for disciplinary matters is on the balance of probabilities.

The Panel was provided with the citing report from Warriors Rugby Club (WRC), video footage from Warriors Rugby Club, medical evidence from the treating clinic, and The Player's written statement.

The Panel reviewed the video footage from the point where a penalty that was awarded immediately before the alleged incident within the WRC 22m, approximately mid field. After several tackles because of pick and gos, Kalev gains territory and is in possession 1-2 m from the WRC tryline, 15m from the near side try line:



Kalev 16 picks up the ball and drives toward the try line and Kalev 2 ("The Player") is pre latched onto the ball carrier. The BC is tackled short of the try line at which point The Player removes his bind. The Player is seen to clench his right fist as he brings his arm backwards in a flexed position.



The Player's right arm then swings forward with deliberate force, in that no other player appears to influence the isolated movement of the right arm. As the BC goes fully to ground, a second contact from The Player's arm contacts the head of the victim player's head which is then "sandwiched" between the ball and The Player's chest. He appears to grasp the head gear of the victim player briefly.



As the BC rolls to present the ball to his own team, The Player, who is now on top of the victim player and repeats the striking action with a closed fist. The victim player attempts to block the incoming strike by lifting his now free right arm and attempts to rotate his head.



Kalev performs another pick and go and as the breakdown dissipates, the victim player is seen as being in some form of immediate distress by raising his hand and subsequently drops back behind the defensive line. He is attended to by team medics within the in-goal area but was substituted and played no further part in the match.





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The panel notes the account provided by The Player in his written statement. He contended that he was not the cause of the injury, that he was covering a support runner at the relevant time, and denied any foul play.

On the balance of probabilities, the Panel is satisfied that the incident described took place as set out in the citing report and supported by the video clip.

The Panel therefore finds that foul play occurred and reaches the red card threshold.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless		
State Reasons		
While not necessarily premeditated, The Player's action in pulling back his arm before the first strike, then the subsequent strikes, indicate intentional and deliberate actions as opposed to a reckless one.		
Gravity of player's actions		
The Player made multiple strikes to the head of the victim in a deliberate and powerful manner.		
Nature of actions		
Repeatedly punching head of opponent with closed fist.		
Existence of provocation		
None present		
Whether player retaliated		
Not applicable		
Self-defence		
Not applicable		
Effect on victim		
The victim player could not continue and sought further treatment from a medical center resulting in stitches to a facial laceration.		
Effect on match		
Minimal effect		
Vulnerability of victim		
WRC player is bound at the tackle and is in a vulnerable, indefensible position. At one point he is trapped under The Player		
Level of participation/premeditation		
None		
Conduct completed/attempted		
Completed		
Other features of player's conduct		
No remorse expressed on or off the field, or as part of his evidence.		
Entry point		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Top end [6+] Weeks	<input 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		
No reasons for selecting an Entry Point above Top End		



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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
No acknowledgement	The Player received a Yellow Card contrary to Law 9.8 on September 9, 2018. No other entries of note
Youth and inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
Not applicable. In his own words, he has "played in the Finnish league for about 10 years". The Player also plays for the Estonian National Team.	Didn't respond directly to the allegation in his statement
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation
No remorse. On field he continued play with no concern for the opponent	None

Number of weeks deducted: 1

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

The Panel is required to consider mitigation in the range of 0-50%. The only area where The Player was found that we could credit him related to his disciplinary record. As his one demeanour relates to what WR Regulations refer to as a "technical offences", we award a 15% mitigation because of his disciplinary record.

This resulted in a rounding up in The Player's favour of one week.

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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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 SRL Competition Regulations and (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	Five (5) weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	Immediately	
Sanction concludes	TBC	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	<p>For the avoidance of doubts please note that the sanction must be understood as 5 weeks where at least one meaningful match was to be played by the player. Based on the current information, The Player is suspended for the following matches:</p> <p>16 August 2025 vs Turku Eagles 30 August 2025 vs Helsinki Rugby Club 6 September 2025 vs Tampere Rugby Club 20 September 2025 SM Semi Finals (TBC) 27 September 2025 SM Finals (TBC)</p> <p>If The Player's club does not play in the last two games, The Player is directed to supply his playing schedule to allow recalculation per WR Regulation 17.21.3.</p> <p>Until this is supplied and until the information provided is deemed sufficient by the Panel to base its decision upon, the Player is not eligible to participate in any on field activities worldwide.</p>	

Costs	N/A
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Date	13 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 5.5.1 (or equivalent Tournament rule)