

# DECISION FORM

To be sent to [discipline@rugbyeurope.eu](mailto:discipline@rugbyeurope.eu).



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Heidi Hennessy	
Player's number: 7	
Player's union: Finland	
Competition: Rugby Europe Sevens Trophy Series Budapest	
Host Team (T1): Finland	Visiting Team (T2): Various
Venue: Budapest Rugby Centre	
Date of match: 13 July 2024	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby and Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Various	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
<i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i> Three yellow cards over the course of the tournament resulting in a red card under Europe Rugby Disciplinary Regulation 4.3.1	
Hearing details	
JO: Rose Alice Murphy	
Hearing date: 13 July 2024	
Hearing venue: Budapest Rugby Centre	
Appearance Player: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No N/A	
Appearance Union: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No N/A	
Player's Representative(s): Richard Hennessy (Coach); Kati Mettinen (Manager)	
Other attendees: Mario Costa as an observer	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: 3 referee reports, footage of the three yellow card incidents.	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The Player was awarded 3 yellow cards during the course of the tournament as set out below:	
<i>Card 1</i>	
Finland v Romania 12 July 2024	
A red card was issued for an infringement of 9.7(a). The referee's report said that it was for delaying the quick throw in. From the incident footage, the ball goes into touch and the touch judge raises his flag to show that it is a throw in for Romania. The Player then picks up the ball and holds on to it while a Romanian player seeks to take it off her.	
<i>Card 2</i>	
Sweden v Finland 12 July 2024	
A red card was issued for an infringement of 9.7(a). The referee's report described it as an intentional knock on. From the incident footage, a Swedish player receives the ball and moves in a slightly sideways direction	

towards her own try line. The Player is outside the Swedish player and steps in to tackle. In the process of starting the tackle, the Player makes contact with the ball which goes forward from the Swedish player's hands.

### *Card 3*

Hungary v Finland

13 July 2024

A red card was issued for an infringement of 9.7(b). The referee's report described it as a knock on in a tackle. From the incident footage, a Hungarian player picks up a ball from the ground (which has been legally passed backwards by her own player). As she stands up, she is tackled by the Player. During the course of the tackle the Player makes contact with the ball which comes forward from the Hungarian player's hand.

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

N/A

### Summary of player's evidence

The Player did not provide a written statement but, along with her coach did give the following statements in relation to each card:

#### *Card 1*

The Player said that she was not intentionally delaying the quick throw in. She said that she picked up the ball when she saw it on the ground and although she didn't release it to the Romanian player her view was that as she had touched the ball it couldn't be used for a quick throw in.

#### *Card 2*

The Player said that she was moving towards the Finnish player to tackle her rather than staying in the passing lane and that she was committed to the tackle before Finnish player makes the pass. She also commented that her hands are wrapped targeting the player.

#### *Card 3*

The Player said that she was seeking to make a legal tackle and approached with both hands out to wrap the player and the ball.

### Findings of fact

In summary, I have upheld Card 1 but have not upheld Cards 2 and 3 for the reasons set out below:

#### *Card 1*

From the footage, the touch judge had clearly indicated that the line out was to be a Romanian ball in advance of the Player picking it up. As such, she prevented the Romanian team from taking a quick throw in and later by continuing to hold the ball when she was challenged by a Romanian player for it she prevented the line out.

#### *Card 2*

I am satisfied that the Player's submissions reflect the footage. She steps into the tackle and is clearly targeting the player and not the ball. The knock on is a consequence of the timing of the pass by the Finnish player and does not constitute a yellow card offence.

#### Card 3

From the Player's submissions and from reviewing the footage, I am satisfied that the Player was attempting to make a legal tackle and as a consequence of the Hungarian player's position as she attempted to stand having picked the ball from the ground, the Player accidentally made contact with the ball knocking it on and that her actions do not constitute a yellow card offence.

Separately, I spoke with the Player and her coach and explained that while I do not view that Cards 2 and 3 constitute yellow card offences she should be mindful of the picture she is painting to referees given she received 2 such cards (off different referees) during the course of the tournament.

#### Decision

Proven  Not proven  Other disposal (please state)

# SANCTIONNING PROCESS

## Assessment of seriousness

*As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby*

### Assessment of intent:

Intentional/deliberate  Reckless

### Reasons for finding as to intend:

### Nature of actions

### Existence of provocation:

### Whether player retaliated:

### Self-defence:

### Effect on victim:

### Effect on match:

### Vulnerability of victim:

### Level of participation / premeditation:

### Conduct completed / attempted:

<b>Other features of player's conduct:</b>

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reasons for entry point:</b>					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
<b>Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:</b>	<b>Player's disciplinary record/good character:</b>
<b>Youth and inexperience of player:</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing:</b>
<b>Remorse and timing of Remorse</b>	<b>Other off-field mitigation:</b>
<b>Number of weeks deducted: [XX]</b>	

<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:</b>

**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:**

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**Need for deterrence:**

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**Any other off-field aggravating factors:**

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**Number of additional weeks: [XX]**

**Summary of reason for number of weeks added:**

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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 – RE Discipline Regulations 4.1.4 / 4.4 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences:	
Sanction concludes:	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:	
Costs:	

<b>Signature</b>
Name of the JO or Chairman: Rose Alice Murphy
Date: 13 July 2024
Signature (JO or Chairman):  Rose Alice Murphy

**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)