

# DECISION FORM

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



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Adriana Popescu	
Player's number: 18	
Player's union: Romania	
Competition: Women's Conference	
Host Team (T1): Romania	Visiting Team (T2): Bulgaria
Venue: CSN Elisabeta Lipa, 077165 Snagov	
Date of match: 22/09/2024	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other	
Referee Name: Vadims GALAJEVS (LAT)	
Plea: <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	
Offence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>If "Other" selected, please specify:</i>	
Hearing details	
Chairperson / JO: Rose-Alice Murphy (IRL)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Palemia Field (FIN) - Bogdan Zebega (ROM)	
Hearing date: 24/09/2024	
Hearing venue: Remote via MS Teams	
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): N/A	
Other attendees: David Baird-Smith, Rugby Europe	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: 1. Game sheet 2. Red card report from Referee 3. Video clip of the incident 4. Response by Player to the Questions posed	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The referee reported that the Player made a tip/ spear tackle in open player whereby she tackled a green player at the hip then lifted her over her shoulder and released her resulting in the green player landing on her head/ neck first. The referee noted no mitigation and awarded a red card.	
Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)	
Requested from the Bulgarian Union but not received.	
Summary of player's evidence	
The Player accepted that she had committed an act of foul play, which warranted a red card, and gave the following explanation for that foul play. She submitted that the act of foul play was not intentional and that	

the tackle had very quick and much harder than she expected due to Bulgarian 13's speed in entering the tackle.

She said that she had positioned herself very low for the tackle with the intention that she would make a front on tackle. As she was very low, Bulgarian 13 ended up on her shoulder and the Player tried to hold her tight to avoid injury. The Player ended up off balance and Bulgarian 13 fell on the Player's right shoulder before making contact with the ground with her left shoulder.

#### Findings of fact

We are satisfied that the Player committed an act of foul play contrary to Law 19.18 which warranted a red card in that in the course of a tackle she lifted Bulgarian 13 off the ground and drove her such that her upper body made contact with the ground.

Whereas the referee viewed that the Player had released Bulgarian 13 who had landed on her neck/ shoulder, we are satisfied from reviewing the footage that there was no release but instead in bringing Bulgarian 13 down from the tackle, the Player drove her towards the ground with the consequence that her left shoulder made contact with the ground.

We accept the other elements of the referee's report.

#### Decision

Proven  Not proven  Other disposal (please state)

## SANCTIONING PROCESS

<b>Assessment of seriousness</b>
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
<b>Assessment of intent:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless
<b>Reasons for finding as to intend:</b>
N/A
<b>Nature of actions</b>
The actions of the Player were reckless in that in attempting to make a legal tackle she ended up lifting Bulgarian 13 above the horizontal and did not ensure that she landed safely from the tackle.
<b>Existence of provocation:</b>
N/A
<b>Whether player retaliated:</b>
N/A
<b>Self-defence:</b>
N/A
<b>Effect on victim:</b>
A report was sought from the Bulgarian Union but was not obtained. We understand from the footage that Bulgarian 13 played on after the incident and spoke to the Player after the match.
<b>Effect on match:</b>
N/A
<b>Vulnerability of victim:</b>
A player who is lifted off the ground in a tackle is intrinsically in a vulnerable position, which is built into the higher entry points for this offence.
<b>Level of participation / premeditation:</b>
N/A
<b>Conduct completed / attempted:</b>
Completed.
<b>Other features of player's conduct:</b>
N/A

<b>Entry point</b>					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	[X]	<input type="checkbox"/>	[X]
<b>Reasons for selecting entry point:</b>					
The low entry point was selected as it was a reckless rather than deliberate action and Bulgarian 13 was not injured in the course of the tackle.					

<b>Relevant off-field mitigating factors</b>	
<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>
The Player admitted foul play both in her written submissions and at the hearing.	She has no previous record.

<b>Youth and inexperience of player:</b>	<b>Conduct prior to and at hearing:</b>
She has played 7s for approximately 11 years but is relatively new to 15s.	She attended at the hearing and engaged fully in the process.
<b>Remorse and timing of Remorse</b>	<b>Other off-field mitigation:</b>
She apologised to Bulgarian 13 after the game.	N/A

<b>Number of weeks deducted: 3</b>
<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:</b>
The Player is being given the benefit of full mitigation in light of her: early admissions; previous clean record; and apology to Bulgarian 13.

<b>Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors</b> <i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
<b>Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game:</b>
N/A
<b>Need for deterrence:</b>
N/A
<b>Any other off-field aggravating factors:</b>
N/A

<b>Number of additional weeks: [X]</b>
<b>Summary of reason for number of weeks added:</b>

## 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)

<b>Total sanction:</b> 3 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
<b>Sanction commences:</b> 22 September 2024	
<b>Sanction concludes:</b> 27 October 2024	
<b>Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:</b> National 7s Championship, 6th round - 28 Sept, Campia Turzii National 7s Championship, 7th round - 12 Oct, Cluj National 7s Championship, 8th round - 26 Oct, Cristian	
<b>Costs:</b>	

<b>Signature</b>
Name of the JO or Chairman: Rose Alice Murphy
Date: 24/09/24
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)