

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Hugo Malyon	
Player's number: 12	
Player's union: Switzerland	
Competition: Rugby Europe Men's Championship (2025)	
Host Team (T1): Belgium	Visiting Team (T2): Switzerland
Venue : Stade du Pachy	
Date of match: March 1 st , 2025	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; or Tournament Disciplinary Program; or Other	
Referee Name: Alex Frasson	
Plea: <input checked="" 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: Daniel Gore (ENG)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Palemia Field (FIN) - Andrei Zamfirescu (ROM)	
Hearing date: March 4th, 2025	
Hearing venue: On remote	
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): • Yann Benoit (Swiss Rugby Union)	
Other attendees: David Baird-Smith (Rugby Europe)	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: • Red card reports from referee and TMO • Video clips of the incident (5 different angles) • Preliminary Statement from Swiss Rugby Union • Player's Disciplinary Statement • Player's Playing Schedule and Record including analysis in support of Disciplinary Statement • Medical Report from Belgium Rugby Union • Statement from Belgium Player	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The Red Card report stated: <i>'HCP after AR1 + TMO calls Head Contact – Foul Play, is upright tackler – high degree of danger'</i>	

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

The medical report from the Team Doctor of Belgium Rugby stated:

'The substitution was required by the Match Day Doctor for head contact, criteria 2 (holding his head during a few seconds).

The HIA test was normal. No further investigations were conducted except follow up during 48 hours for late onset symptoms'

The Belgium Player also submitted a statement which was:

'There was a head contact during the match, but nothing serious. The Belgian medical staff made a precautionary substitution, and the concussion protocol was negative. No worries on that side! Wishing good luck to the player involved—it was clearly not his intention to hurt me.

Following additional questions, Belgium Rugby responded with the following comments:

'With regards to the point of contact, the player declared that it was shin/throat

With regards to the medical consequences, the player declared that he didn't missed any training neither competition after this'

Summary of player's evidence

The Player's disciplinary statement included the following comments:

'While the foul play is clear and obvious, the Swiss Rugby Union (FSR) is contesting the RC sanction, arguing that point 2 above [that head contact occurred] is incorrect: the contact point was lower than the neck (shoulder), and the attempt to tackle the ball carrier was evident (arms engaged, meaning it was not a shoulder charge). The FSR has tried to illustrate these statements in the attached document.

As a result, the FSR is challenging the RC for Mr. MALYON, who has earned 14 caps with the national team and has received no cards (neither yellow nor red) in recent years while playing for Switzerland. Mr. MALYON has played most of Switzerland's matches in their REC promotion campaign over the past few years, again without any disciplinary sanction.'

The document in support included still frame images from some of the video clients and with the summary:

'1. No Head Contact

2. Arms Engaged to tackle the ball carrier

→ NO RED CARD'

At the hearing, the Player and his representative focused in oral submissions on the degree of danger and, in particular, the point of contact. The Player's submissions were focused on the fact that he stated that the point of contact was the shoulder of the Belgium Player, which meant that there was a low degree of danger and that the red card threshold was not met. The Panel were taken to the video clips and still images of the tackle. The Player's representative accepted that it was "not clear and obvious" that head contact occurred

from looking at the images and video clips (while being clear that he was not criticising the Match Official Team in any way).

The Player confirmed to the Panel that he was attempting to make a dominant tackle and that he wanted to either force the Belgium Player into touch or to be in position to turn the ball over at the resulting ruck. He confirmed that he saw the Belgium Player near the touchline and then saw his movement to cut inside such that he had good visibility. When questioned about the tackle technique, the Player confirmed that his action was instinctual as opposed to deliberate. It was also pointed out to the Panel that this action took place in the 77th minute of the match.

Findings of fact

The Panel considered all of the written and oral submissions as well as the video clips and images.

The Panel determined that the Player committed a high tackle which made initial contact with the throat area of the opposition player. On that basis, and adopting World Rugby's Head Contact Process, the Player committed foul play, head contact occurred, there was a high degree of danger on the basis of direct contact to the neck area and force, there was no mitigation. The red card threshold was met.

The burden was on the Player to convince the Panel on the balance of probabilities that the Match Official Team were wrong to issue the red card and the Panel was not persuaded that they were wrong.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING 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

State reasons:

The Panel determined that the Player was attempting to make a dominant but legal tackle and failed to properly adjust his body height to react to the opposition Player's own height and movement. The Player attempted to bend at the waist but did not do so sufficiently to effect a legal tackle and made contact with the neck area of the opposition player, with sufficient force for this to be a dangerous tackle.

Nature of actions

A high tackle which made contact with the neck area of the opposition player with force.

Existence of provocation:

Not applicable

Whether player retaliated:

Not applicable

Self-defence:

Not applicable

Effect on victim:

The victim was treated and tested for concussion, but the medical report is clear and he informed the Panel that he has missed no game or training time.

Effect on match:

Incident took place in 77th minute of a match where the outcome was not in question. Following the red card the match continued.

Vulnerability of victim:

All ball carriers are vulnerable to head and neck contact which is dangerous and can cause injury.

Level of participation / premeditation:

The Player participated fully and had no premeditation.

Conduct completed / attempted:

Completed the tackle.

Other features of player's conduct:**Entry point**

Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	[XX]

Reasons for selecting entry point:

In accordance with the Sanction guidelines, foul play of this type which involves contact with the head / neck area of the victim must result in at least a mid-range entry point. The Panel did not consider that a higher entry point was appropriate given the dynamics of the incident and the lack of any injury to the victim.

Relevant off-field mitigating factors

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

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:	Player's disciplinary record / good character:
The Player accepted foul play at the earliest opportunity and the Panel was prepared to accept the sincere nature of this arguments around the point of contact and degree of danger.	The Player confirmed in the hearing that he had received a red card and suspension from the FFR (in relation to a club match) in January 2025 for a high tackle.
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
The Player is very experienced at club level and has played 14 international matches.	The Player's conduct at the hearing was acceptable and he presented his submissions respectfully.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The Player showed clear remorse about the incident itself and his involvement in the disciplinary process, this was even the case whilst he was arguing that the incident did not meet the red card threshold.	The Player confirmed that he had previously been involved with youth rugby before taking up another job which limited his available time.

Number of weeks deducted: 2**Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:**

The Panel did not consider that it could apply full mitigation on the basis of the very recent (within a couple of months) red card for a high tackle at club level. However, on the basis of the other factors which the Player did engaged, the Panel considered that a 2 week reduction would be appropriate.

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:

Not applicable

Need for deterrence:

Not applicable

Any other off-field aggravating factors:

Not applicable

Number of additional weeks: 0

Summary of reason for number of weeks added:

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: 4 weeks (or 3 weeks subject to CIP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: 04.03.2025	
Sanction concludes: 29.03.2025 (Or 22.03.2025)	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction:	
The Player is suspended for the following matches:	
08.03.2025 - Courbevoie v Sarcelles	
15.03.2025 - Germany v Switzerland	
22.03.2025 - Courbevoie v Tulle	
29.03.2025 - Courbevoie v Chartres*	
*The Player is eligible to apply to World Rugby to undertake the Coaching Intervention Program. If he is successful in completing that program to the satisfaction of World Rugby, then the final sanction can be reduced by 1 week which would apply to the match on 29.03.2025, such that the final match in the sanction would be the match on 22.03.2025.	
Costs: Not applicable	
Signature	
Name of the JO or Chairman:	
Date: 05/03/2025	
Signature (JO or Chairman):	
<i>Daniel Gore</i>	

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)