

DECISION FORM



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Batuhan ALTAN	
Player's number: 6	
Player's union: Türkiye	
Competition: Conference	
Host Team (T1): Türkiye	Visiting Team (T2): Bulgaria
Venue: Kızılcahamam İlçe Stadyumu	
Date of match: 5/10/2024	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook	
Referee Name: Shota TSAGAREISHVILI	
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: Gert-Mark Smelt (NED)	
Other Members of the Disciplinary Panel: - Palemia Field (FIN) - Bartosz Marczyński (POL)	
Hearing date: 8/10/2024	
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): Servant İlker Ertan – vice-president of Rugby of the Turkish Federation Zafer Eray – coach and team manager Esra Kiliç – Federation staff	
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. Disciplinary Statement from the Player, including the Player's disciplinary record. 5. Medical statement from the Bulgarian team physiotherapist 6. Medical statement from the Turkish match doctor	
Preliminary remarks Player (about panel, procedure, documents): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<i>If "yes", please specify:</i>	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
The referee reports the Player making an upright tackle with direct head to head contact. He found a high degree of danger with no mitigation and sent the Player off.	
The video footage supports the report of the referee in full.	

The game sheet shows the Bulgarian player (BUL 12) leaving the Match after the incident.

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

The match doctor states that he did his examinations to rule out a concussion. The tackled player answered clearly with no signs of cognitive impairment. He also checked for signs of head trauma but found none. He also examined the leg and couldn't rule out a non-displaced fracture. He recommended icing and, if the leg didn't improve, an x-ray.

The team physio states that the doctor did his examinations as to the head injury. He himself looked at the tackled player's right leg, which was painful after the Player landed on it. After examination the Player left the field. There was still a lot of pain the following day.

Summary of player's evidence

The Player accepted the offence in the pre-hearing Disciplinary Statement. At the hearing he confirmed it was foul play, warranting a red card.

He told the Panel he came running and went into the tackle, but at that moment he was still too fast to adjust his height in time.

Findings of fact

Having read the reports, seen the footage and given the Player's admission the Panel finds that the high tackle constitutes foul play, warranting a red card. It is a dangerous tackle (Law 9.13) with head contact.

Decision

Proven Not proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

Assessment of seriousness
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
Assessment of intent:
<input type="checkbox"/> Intentional/deliberate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reckless
Reasons for finding as to intent:
There are no reasons to deem the action intentional. It came from poor tackling technique.
Nature of actions
Dangerous high tackle.
Existence of provocation:
N/a
Whether player retaliated:
N/a
Self-defence:
N/a
Effect on victim:
The tackled player left the match directly after the incident.
Effect on match:
N/a
Vulnerability of victim:
The head is a vulnerable part of the body.
Level of participation / premeditation:
N/a
Conduct completed / attempted:
Completed
Other features of player's conduct:
N/a

Entry point					
Low-end	Weeks	Mid-range	Weeks	Top end	Weeks
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Reasons for selecting entry point:					
Contact to the head or neck carries a mandatory mid range entry point. The Panel finds no reason to apply a top end entry point.					

Relevant off-field mitigating factors	
<i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>	
Acknowledgement of guilt and timing:	Player's disciplinary record / good character:
The Player admitted guilt at the first possible instance and repeated it at the hearing.	The Player had no disciplinary record. In his spare time, he coaches youth rugby (U16-U12)
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:

N/a	Exemplary. He was open in his answers. He was notably respectful towards the panel and showed to understand the gravity of the situation.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
The Player showed remorse at the hearing. He also stated his apologies to the injured player after leaving the pitch.	N/a

Number of weeks deducted: 3
Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:
The Panel awards full mitigation of 50%.


Additional relevant off-field aggravating factors <i>As per Article 4.5 of Rugby Europe Disciplinary Regulations and Regulations 17 of World Rugby</i>
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: none
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: 3 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: with the sending off (provisional suspension)	
Sanction concludes: The Player is directed to supply an accurate playing schedule – also substantiating the meaningfulness of the matches – to allow calculation of the remaining two matches. Until this is supplied and 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.	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: 19 October – ODTÜ - Anadolu Lions; and two other matches as specified in the above.	
Costs: N/a	

Signature
Name of the Chairman: Gert-Mark Smelt
Date: 9 October 2024
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 – RE Discipline Regulations 4.6.2 (or equivalent Tournament rule)