

DECISION FORM

To be sent to discipline@rugbyeurope.eu.



Particulars of offence	
Player's Name: Majdanics Laura	
Player's number: 5	
Player's union: Hungary	
Competition: Rugby Europe Women 7s Trophy #1 2024	
Host Team (T1): Hungary	Visiting Team (T2): Romania
Venue: NK Lučko Stadium, Zagreb, Croatia	
Date of match: 15 June 2024	
Rules to apply: Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook and RE Disciplinary Regulations	
Referee Name: Philip Manolopoulos	
Plea: Foul play: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted; Red Card/Citing: <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	
JO: Valeriu Toma (Romania)	
Hearing date: 15 June 2023	
Hearing venue: NK Lučko Stadium, Zagreb, Croatia	
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): Vitez Georgina (Hungary team captain)	
Other attendees: n/a	
List of documents/ materials considered by the Panel: Referee RC report	
Summary of essential elements of citing / Referee's report / Incident footage	
<p>1. The Player has been sent-off for an alleged breach of Law 9.12. The red card report reads: <i>"Punch. Penalty against Romania 9 for clear-out after the whistle. HUN #5 punches the player with a closed fist to the face."</i></p> <p>2. The footage shows that Hungary is attacking close to Romania goal line. H18 is thrown to the ground by R9 and shows obvious discomfort. The Player comes and crouches in a low position as to protect the breakdown area. R9 comes from her side to clear out the Player and while attacking the whistle blows. R9 completes the clear out and drives the Player backwards to the ground. The Player punches R9 with the side of her closed fist somewhere between the left upper edge and top of R9's head gear. Realising what she just did, the Player offers her hand to R9 who lays on the ground with her hands to her head.</p>	
Essential elements of other evidence (e.g. medical reports)	
The Romania team manager confirmed that the victim player sustained no injury.	
Summary of player's evidence	
<p>At the beginning of the hearing the JO explained the disciplinary procedure including the burden of proof (in the event that the Player does not accept that the act of foul play warranted the Player being sent off or cited, the burden of proof rests on the Player to show that the referee/citing commissioner was wrong).</p> <p>In summary, the player and her representative submitted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the Player accepts that she committed an act of foul play that warranted a red card;	

- in her defense, the Player stated that she saw her team-mate (H18) thrown to the ground and heard her screaming in pain upon her face making contact with the playing surface;
- she went there and crouched more to see if H18 is fine rather than to protect the ball because she was expecting the referee to blow his whistle to stop the game;
- therefore she was relaxed and not ready to receive a clear out;
- R9 cleared her out after the whistle and with her shoulder making forceful contact to her side of the neck;
- she felt this was a brutal attack and retaliated by punching R9 to the head (not to the face but to her head protected by a head gear);

Upon questioning from the JO, the Player however admitted that:

- players are both allowed and encouraged to play to the whistle;
- the moment when the ref blows his whistle is just a few fractions of a second before the contact, when R9 already engaged in her clear out and she wouldn't have enough time to stop her action. However, the Player was of the view that even if R9 could not have stopped, she could have at least reduced the force of engagement upon hearing the whistle.

Findings of fact

The standard of proof for all matters under disciplinary procedures is the balance of probabilities.

The JO found the Player's submissions genuinely candid. To a certain degree she acted in retaliation to what she perceived as a physical aggression from R9. However, as she admitted, this cannot be an excuse for her offence.

Decision

Admitted 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:

Punching an opponent is a deliberate act.

Nature of actions

As described above. The punch was however not extremely forceful.

Existence of provocation:

She felt R9 action as an aggression.

Whether player retaliated:

To a certain degree.

Self-defence:

n/a

Effect on victim:

None.

Effect on match:

None.

Vulnerability of victim:

Vulnerable as any player receiving a punch to the head, albeit protected by the headgear.

Level of participation / premeditation:

Full participation no premeditation.

Conduct completed / attempted:

Completed.

Other features of player's conduct:

n/a

Entry point

Low-end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]	Mid-range <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [6]	Top end <input type="checkbox"/>	Weeks [XX]
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Reasons for selecting entry point:

The JO applies the minimum mid-range entry point required for any act of foul play which results in contact with the head.

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 the red card immediately.	Clean record.
Youth and inexperience of player:	Conduct prior to and at hearing:
The Player is 25 years old.	Excellent.
Remorse and timing of Remorse	Other off-field mitigation:
Immediate reaction of remorse on the field of play and apologies presented to R9 after the match.	

Number of weeks deducted: [3]

Summary of reason for number of weeks deducted:

The Player meets all criteria to be awarded a maximum 50% reduction by way of mitigation.

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:

n/a

Need for deterrence:

n/a

Any other off-field aggravating factors:

n/a


Number of additional weeks: [XX]

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 week suspension translated into 3 matches of 7s.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences: Immediately.	
Sanction concludes: On 16 June, after the final match of Hungary in this tournament.	
Matches/ tournaments included in sanction: QF match SF match Final classification match	
Costs: n/a	

Signature
Name of the JO: Valeriu Toma
Date: 15 June 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)