

Citing of Guillermo Pujadas (Uruguay)

Decision of the Independent Judicial Panel Dated Friday, 25 October 2019

Tournament: Rugby World Cup 2019

Player: Guillermo Pujadas (Uruguay #16)

Team: Uruguay

Match: Uruguay vs Wales, 13 October 2019

Hearing venue: Offices of Atsumi & Sakai, Uchisaiwaicho, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo
with The Player and his representatives remotely from Uruguay

Judicial Panel: Alan Hudson (Canada, chair); Stefan Terblanche (South Africa, former international player) and Leon Lloyd (England, former international player)

Representation: Ben Rutherford, DDO

Date of Hearing: Friday, 25 October 2019

Announcement of oral decision

For reasons that we will set out in writing:

Guillermo Pujadas (the “Player”)

1. The Player accepted the Citing Commissioner’s Report and admitted that he had committed an act that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship, namely spitting at an opposing player, and that his actions were worthy of a red card.
2. The action of the Player in spitting at and on an opposing player is contrary to the core values of the Game and in particular the values of integrity, discipline and respect.
3. The Judicial Panel determined that this was a mid-range offence given that the Player’s action was intentional, that is deliberate, as he approached an opposing player from behind and proceeded to spit on the back of that player’s neck from close range.

4. The entry point for such mid-range offending is 8 weeks. The Judicial Panel found no off-field aggravating factors were applicable but did identify some mitigating factors, namely the admission of wrongdoing by the Player and his remorse for his actions. The Judicial Panel is concerned by the Player's inability during the hearing to recall any specifics of the incident in question which we regard as a concern as to his forthrightness in this matter. He also does have a disciplinary record of note, namely a 5 week suspension in 2016 resulting from a red card issued during a match for referee dissent or abuse which the Player was unable to describe in any specific detail. This incident together with the subject incident before us, together in a period of 3 years, indicate that the Player has a significant issue with the core rugby value of respect. In the result, we have determined that the Player is entitled to a reduction of 2 weeks in his period of sanction resulting in a final suspension of 6 weeks.
5. Regulation 17.19.11 provides that sanctions shall apply universally across the Game. The Player is an amateur player and plays both 15's and 7's for his club in Montevideo Uruguay, Champagnat Rugby Club. The Player is therefore suspended from the following matches:
 - a. Nov. 5, 2019; Champagnat vs CTM (Uruguay Div. 1)
 - b. Nov. 9, 2019; Champagnat vs Lobos or Seminario (Uruguay Div. 1)
 - c. Nov. 16, 2019; Vaimaca 7s
 - d. Nov. 30, 2019; PSG 7s
 - e. Dec. 7, OBC 7s
 - f. Dec. 14, CPC 7s
6. The Player's period of suspension will end following the conclusion of the CPC 7s on Dec. 14, 2019. He may not play the Game or any form thereof or be involved in any on-field activities anywhere until this period of suspension has expired.

Alan Hudson (chair)
Leon Lloyd
Stefan Terblanche

25 October 2019