

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	Great Britain vs Mexico		
Competition	Women's' Fast 4 Tournament		
Date of match	September 19, 2021	Match venue	BC Place Vancouver B.C.
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Maude	Date of birth	May 17, 2002
Forename(s)	Alicia		
Player's Union	Great Britain		
Referee Name	Duarte	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Law 9.13 – Dangerous Tackling	SELECT:	Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:
Summary of Sanction	3 weeks/matches (6 matches reduced to 3 matches as a result of mitigating factors)		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	September 19, 2021	Hearing venue	BC Place Vancouver B.C.
Chairman/JO	Alan Hudson		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee			
Appearance Player	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Union	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's Representative(s)	Scott Forrest – Britain Head coach J. Rodwell – Britain Assistant Coach	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Jennifer Gray World Rugby
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Citing Commissioner Report Incident Video Clips		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

The Citing Commissioner Report states:

"Mexico 9 is carrying the ball with Great Britain 6 coming across in cover. Great Britain 6 tackles Mexico 9 making direct contact with her upper right arm and shoulder to the head of Mexico 9. The left arm of Great Britain 6 wraps around and grasps Mexico 9, with the right arm dropping down to also grasp. Mexico 9 is brought to the ground in the tackle and carries on with the play. No penalty is called. The actions of Great Britain 6 in making direct high force contact to the head of Mexico 9 with having a clear

line of sight meet the red card threshold. There is no mitigation. As such, Great Britain 6 is cited for contravention of Law 9.13 a player must not tackle dangerously.”

The video footage shows Mexico on attack with a tackle/ruck near the touch line. Mexico secures the ball from the ruck and Mexico 9 carries the ball down the blind side near the touch line. The Player comes across toward the touch line in defence to tackle Mexico 9. The Player does attempt to wrap her arms in the tackle. There is significant direct contact with the Player’s right shoulder to the right side of the head of Mexico 9 and the 2 players go to ground.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

The Mexico team reports no injury to Mexico 9 as a result of the incident.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER’S EVIDENCE

The Player in her evidence confirms the essential details as described in the Citing Commissioner Report. She stated that her intention in coming across in defence to tackle Mexico 9 was to prevent the Victim Player from offloading the ball but, in her words, she got the timing of her tackle wrong and although she did attempt to wrap her arms in the tackle there was high contact to the Victim Player’s head with some force.

The Player’s coach, Scott Forrest, agreed that there was significant contact to the Victim Player’s head but said that this was a not a case of a shoulder charge where the point of the Player’s shoulder made contact with the Victim Player’s head or that the Player was “driving through” in the tackle. He also noted that the Player had attempted to apologize to the Victim Player after the match but had been unable to do so given time constraints, but that the Player intended on doing so following the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Player admitted the act of foul play alleged in the Citing Commissioner Report and that her actions reached the red card threshold. In specific reference to World Rugby’s Head Contact Process, there was contact between the Player’s right shoulder and the head of the Victim Player which was reckless and avoidable in the circumstances. The contact was direct to the Victim Player’s head with significant force. The Player had a clear line of sight as she approached the Victim Player and there was no sudden or significant drop in height or movement by the Victim Player or other mitigating factors that apply in this case.

The Citing Commissioner report is upheld.

DECISION

Breach admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proven <input type="checkbox"/> Not proven <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
---	--

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Intentional <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State Reasons
The actions of the Player were not deliberate but rather this is a case of a young player who, in her own words, got her timing wrong resulting in a poorly executed tackle. The outcome in this tackle situation was avoidable. The Player knew or ought to have known that there was a significant risk of her committing the act of foul play in the actions she undertook.
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
There was a significant direct blow from the Player's shoulder to the head of the Victim Player
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Victim Player was not injured and required no medical attention on the field.
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Victim Player was vulnerable to the unexpected actions of the Player in this situation.
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player fully participated, there was no other player involved in the act of foul play, and there was no premeditation.
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The conduct was completed.
Other features of player's conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
Top end*	Weeks/Matches	Mid-range	Weeks/Matches	Low-end	Weeks/Matches
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End
N/A

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – R 17.19.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player’s disciplinary record/good character – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player admitted at the outset of the hearing that her actions constituted foul play which reached the red card threshold.	The Player’s disciplinary record is completely clear. Her coach spoke very highly of her good character.
Youth and inexperience of player – R 17.19.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – R 17.19.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player is 19 years old and this is her first 7s tournament at the senior level	The Player’s conduct throughout was very good. She was honest and forthright in all interactions during the hearing.
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 17.19.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 17.19.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player was clearly disappointed with her actions and showed considerable remorse at the hearing. She has attempted to apologize to the Victim Player and will attempt to do so in the future.	None

Number of weeks/matches deducted:

3

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

There were significant mitigating factors in this case. This is a young player, with a clear disciplinary record, in her 1st senior tournament. She made an early admission of culpability and presented herself well during the hearing. In the circumstances, a 50% reduction is warranted giving a final sanction of 3 weeks.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 17.20.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The 19-year-old Player has a clear disciplinary record.
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None

Number of additional weeks/matches:

0

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 – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	3 weeks	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	At the conclusion of the hearing.	
Sanction concludes	After the 2 nd game, Great Britain plays in Edmonton on September 25, 2021	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Last game Great Britain plays in the Vancouver Fast Four Tournament and the 1 st 2 games Great Britain will play next week, September 25, 2021, at the Fast Four Tournament in Edmonton.	

Costs	No Order as to costs
-------	----------------------

Signature (JO or Chairman)	Alan Hudson	Date	September 20, 2021
-------------------------------	-------------	------	--------------------

NOTE: YOU HAVE 48 HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

[Standard Appeal Directions to appear on this page]