## DISCIPLINARY DECISION

### Match

Scotland v Japan

### Player’s union

Japan

### Competition

2021 Women’s Autumn Internationals

### Date of match

14/11/2021

### Match venue

DAM Health Stadium, Edinburgh

### Applicable rules

World Rugby’s regulations (WRR) 17, 18 and 20, as supplemented by the 2021 Autumn Nations Series Disciplinary Rules (DR)

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## PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player’s surname</th>
<th>Sato</th>
<th>Player’s forename(s)</th>
<th>Yuna</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player’s union</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Player’s date of birth</td>
<td>11/09/1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referee’s name</td>
<td>Nikki O’Donnell, England.</td>
<td>Citing Commissioner’s name (if applicable)</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foul play

☒ Admitted
☐ Not admitted

Red card warranted

☒ Admitted
☐ Not admitted

Offence

9.13 Dangerous Tackle

SELECT:

☒ Red card
☐ Citing
☐ Other

If “Other” selected, please specify:

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Summary of sanction

6 weeks mitigated to 3 weeks. Subject to a further reduction of 1 week on successful completion of Coaching Intervention Programme.

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## HEARING DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearing date</th>
<th>16/11/2021</th>
<th>Hearing venue</th>
<th>Zoom call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman/JO</td>
<td>Jennifer Donovan, Ireland.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Members of Disciplinary Committee</td>
<td>Valeriu Toma (ex-referee, Romania)</td>
<td>Rob Vickerman (ex-player, England)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appearance Player

YES ☒ NO ☐

Appearance union

YES ☒ NO ☐

Player’s representative(s)

Hiroyuki Komoyo – Legal Council for JRFU.
Lesley McKenzie – Head Coach.
Keiko Asami – Team Director.
Aya Nakajima – Team Manager.

Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees

Belina Armstrong – 6 Nations.
Kenji Nagoshi – Translator.
Kozue Etsuzen – Translator.

List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing

AR2 Report – Francesca Martin, Wales.
Medical Report, Dr. Carrie McCrae, Scotland Team Doctor.
Player’s Response to Standing Directions.
Hearing Confirmation Letter.
SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE’S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

The Report of the Referee and TMO indicate that the player made an upright tackle on an opponent resulting to direct contact to the head of a Scotland player. Both felt that there was no mitigation and a red card issued. The match footage clearly shows the incident as described in the sending off reports. The players’ shoulder makes contact with the face of the victim player and the victim player’s head can be seen to snap backwards on impact.

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

The victim player confirmed that she was not injured in the tackle and that she had received an apology from the player immediately after the match. The Scotland team Doctor confirmed that there was no evidence of injury and that the player was permitted to play on.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER’S EVIDENCE

The player accepted that the tackle was an act of foul play in breach of Law 9.13 and did not seek to challenge the red card. She did not disagree with any aspect of the sending off reports. The player said that she had intended to tackle at ball height but got her timing wrong. She confirmed that she had left the pitch without argument on receiving the red card and that she had apologised to the victim player at the earliest opportunity. Application was made on the player’s behalf to permit the player to apply for inclusion in the Coaching Intervention Programme. The team coach felt that as a young, inexperienced player, the player would benefit from the programme.

FINDINGS OF FACT

It was found, and the player admitted, that the player carried out a dangerous tackle in breach of Law 9.13 and that the tackle resulted in direct, forceful contact with the head of the victim player. The Committee found that this act was reckless but not deliberate. This victim player was uninjured and remained on the field of play for the remainder of the match.
DECISION

Foul play  Admitted ☒  Determined ❏  Not determined ❏  Other disposal (please state) ❏

Red card warranted  Admitted ☒  Determined ❏  Not determined ❏  Other disposal (please state) ❏

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of intent – WRR 17.18.1(a)-(b)
Intentional/deliberate ❏  reckless ☒

State reasons
The committee accepted the player’s evidence that she had not intended to tackle the victim player in the manner in which she did and that the offending was reckless.

Nature of actions – WRR 17.18.1(c)
An upright tackle resulting in direct contact between the shoulder of the player and the face of the victim player.

Existence of provocation – WRR 17.18.1(d)
None

Whether Player retaliated – WRR 17.18.1(e)
N/a

Self-defence – WRR 17.18.1(f)
N/a

Effect on victim – WRR 17.18.1(g)
Victim was uninjured and played on.

Effect on match – WRR 17.18.1(h)
Nil save the player’s team being reduced to 14 players for the remainder of the match (approx. 60 mins)

Vulnerability of victim – WRR 17.18.1(i)
Victim was on her feet and not in a particularly vulnerable position.

Level of participation/premeditation – WRR 17.18.1(j)
No premeditation, full participation.

Conduct completed/attempted – WRR 17.18.1(k)
Tackle completed
Other features of Player’s conduct – WRR 17.18.1(l)

N/a

**ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry point</th>
<th>Top end*</th>
<th>Weeks/matches</th>
<th>Mid-range</th>
<th>Weeks/matches</th>
<th>Low end</th>
<th>Weeks/matches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If top end, the JO or Disciplinary Committee must identify, based on his/her/its assessment of the seriousness of the conduct, an entry point between the top end and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below (WRR 17.18.2).

Reasons for selecting entry point above top end

n/a

**RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – WRR 17.19.1(a)</th>
<th>Player’s disciplinary record/good character – WRR 17.19.1(b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player accepted the red card in her replies to Standing Directions. She did not seek to argue with any aspect of the sending off report.</td>
<td>The player has a clean disciplinary record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and inexperience of player – WRR 17.19.1(c)</td>
<td>Conduct prior to and at hearing – WRR 17.19.1(d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The player is young and is inexperienced at international level. The match in which the incident occurred was her 4th cap.</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remorse and timing of remorse – WRR 17.19.1(e)</td>
<td>Other off-field mitigation – WRR 17.19.1(f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate apology made</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of weeks/matches deducted: 3

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:
The committee found that the player met all of the criteria for mitigation and that she was entitled to full mitigation. The committee approved the players request to apply for the Coaching Intervention Programme.
### RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Player’s status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game</td>
<td>WRR 17.20.1(a)</td>
<td>N/a – no previous disciplinary issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need for deterrence</td>
<td>WRR 17.20.1(b)</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other off-field aggravating factors</td>
<td>WRR 17.20.1(c)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of additional weeks/matches: 0

### SANCTION

*NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – WRR 17.12.5(f) and 17.13.7.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sanction</td>
<td>3 weeks subject to further 1 week reduction on successful completion of Coaching Intervention Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sending off sufficient</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanction commences</td>
<td>16/11/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanction concludes</td>
<td>09/01/2022 (or midnight 12/12/2021 if Coaching Intervention Programme successfully completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matches/tournaments included in sanction</td>
<td>Ireland v Japan 20/11/2021; Tokyo Sankyu Phoenix v Rissho University 12/12/2021; Tokyo Sankyu Phoenix v Yokohama TMK &amp; Others (collaboration team) 08/01/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE: THE PLAYER WILL HAVE 48 HOURS FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF THE WRITTEN DECISION TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR – DR 6.2(a). TO BE EMAILED TO disciplinary@6nations.net.