

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	Canada-v-Wales		
Player's union	Rugby Canada	Competition	2021 Women's Autumn Internationals
Date of match	21 st November 2021	Match venue	Cardiff Arms Park
Applicable rules	World Rugby's regulations (WRR) 17, 18 and 20, as supplemented by the 2021 Autumn Nations Series Disciplinary Rules (DR)		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	de Merchant	Player's forename(s)	Olivia
Player's union	Rugby Canada	Player's date of birth	n/a
Referee's name	Aurelie Groizeleau	Citing Commissioner's name (if applicable)	n/a
Foul play	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	Red card warranted	<input type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	Law 9.13-A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of sanction	No sanction		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	24 TH November 2021	Hearing venue	Zoom call
Chairman/JO	Tommy Dalton (IRFU)		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	Valeriu Toma (former inter referee) Donal Courtney (former international referee) [insert] (ex-[insert team/referee] etc)		
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)	Kristy Martin Hale Andrew McMaster Jack Hanratty Sandro Fiorino	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	No
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Reports: Referee, AR1, AR2, TMO Statement and clarification from tackled player Medical Report from Wales Team Physiotherapist Player's response to standing directions		

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

The player tackled the Wales Number 7 from her right hand side while another Canadian player was tackling her from her left hand side. The player made contact chest/shoulder to shoulder with the Wales Number 7 while the other tackler made contact with her ribcage. The Wales Number 7 stayed on the ground after the collision. The referee consulted with the TMO and, after reviewing video evidence, they decided there was foul play, the tackler was upright and therefore at fault, there was direct contact to the head, there was no mitigation and, therefore, the only appropriate sanction was a red card.

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

The Medical evidence stated that there were no after effects of a blow to the head when the Wales Number 7 was treated. Her complaints related solely to her ribs. The Wales Number stated that she was unaware of any contact with her head.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The player admitted foul play. She executed a bad tackle technique. She should have lowered her body height to make the tackle. She did not believe that there was any contact between her shoulder and the head of the Wales Number 7. Evidence was also given by Andrew McMaster demonstrating the natural direction of a tackled player's head on impact which did not correspond with the alleged contact in this instance.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The player executed a tackle where she should have lowered her body height before doing so.
2. The tackle that the player executed did not give rise to her shoulder making contact with the tackled player's head.
3. The tackled player did not suffer any head injury in the tackle and was unaware of any contact between head and shoulder.
4. In the circumstances, while she acknowledged that she was guilty of foul play, the player should not have been shown a red card.

DECISION

Foul play	Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Not determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
Red card warranted	Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>	Determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Not determined <input type="checkbox"/>	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of intent – WRR 17.18.1(a)-(b)
Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> reckless <input type="checkbox"/>
State reasons
Nature of actions – WRR 17.18.1(c)
Existence of provocation – WRR 17.18.1(d)
Whether Player retaliated – WRR 17.18.1(e)
Self-defence – WRR 17.18.1(f)
Effect on victim – WRR 17.18.1(g)

Effect on match – WRR 17.18.1(h)
Vulnerability of victim – WRR 17.18.1(i)
Level of participation/premeditation – WRR 17.18.1(j)
Conduct completed/attempted – WRR 17.18.1(k)
Other features of Player’s conduct – WRR 17.18.1(l)

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
<u>Top end*</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>	<u>Mid-range</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>	<u>Low end</u>	<u>Weeks/matches</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

*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

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of guilt and timing – WRR 17.19.1(a)	Player’s disciplinary record/good character – WRR 17.19.1(b)
Youth and inexperience of player – WRR 17.19.1(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – WRR 17.19.1(d)
Remorse and timing of remorse – WRR 17.19.1(e)	Other off-field mitigation – WRR 17.19.1(f)

Number of weeks/matches deducted:

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game – WRR 17.20.1(a)
Need for deterrence – WRR 17.20.1(b)
Any other off-field aggravating factors – WRR 17.20.1(c)

Number of additional weeks/matches:

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.

Total sanction	n/a	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	n/a	
Sanction concludes	n/a	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	n/a	

Costs	None sought
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Signature (JO or Chairman)	Tommy Dalton	Date	24 th November 2021
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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.