



Disciplinary Reporting

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Why do disciplinary reports?

- To track offenders
- To provide information the Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer needs to determine if Foul Play or Misconduct has occurred, and if so what Sanction to impose

Things the DC/JO Must Determine

MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED IN A REF REPORT, IF KNOWN TO THE REF

- What is the gravity of the Player's actions in relation to the offending?
- What is the nature of the action, i.e., the manner in which the offense was committed, including part of body used?
- Was there provocation?
- Did the Player act in self-defense (that is whether he used a reasonable degree of force in defending himself)?
- What was the effect of the Player's actions on the victim (for example, extent of injury, removal of victim Player from the game)?
- What was the effect of the Player's actions on the Match?

Things the DC/JO Must Determine (cont.)

- What was (1) the level of participation in the offending; and (2) level of premeditation?
- Was the conduct of the offending Player completed or did the conduct amount to an attempt?
- The presence and timing of an acknowledgement of culpability/wrong-doing by the offending Player.

What needs to be in reports?

Reports need to be SPECIFIC

- What part of the offender's body hit the victim player?
 - Closed fist, open hand, toe of boot
- What part of the victim's body was hit?
 - Right side of the head, kidney, finger in/near the eye
- What was the effect on the victim player?
 - None
 - Carried on with the match with no need for assistance or treatment
 - Had to be treated by a medic on the field
 - Had to go off to be treated, but returned later in the match
 - Had to go off and was unable to return
 - Complained of symptoms (i.e. blurred vision, headache, dizziness)

What needs to be in reports? (cont.)

Reports need to be SPECIFIC

- What was the effect on the match?
 - None
 - Victim team lost its primary kicker
 - Victim team unable to attack thereafter

What do you think of these reports...

Example #1

At a ruck that was already formed, [the Player] came to the rucking player on the other team and leaned back and then struck the attacking player in the ruck with his knee.

Example #2

After the ball was cleared from the ruck and the ball was away, [the Player] struck the player on the ground with his forearm in the face and neck.

Example #3

(“the Player”) received a Red Card for 10.4e Dangerous Tackling.
He picked up an opponent took him past the horizontal and
drove that player into the ground

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - First Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 2 Week Ban

Referee Report: Approximately 2 minutes prior to the incident, the referee spoke to Mr. Player (Blue), the Blue captain, White captain, and another White player about a brief scuffle that took place off the ball. Both players and the captains were told that they needed to control their tempers and eliminate any off the ball contact with the other team. After play resumed with a scrum, Mr. Player unleashed a hard, yet legal tackle on a White player. He was reminded by the referee during open play to be careful and play in control. As the ball moved away from the next breakdown, Mr. Player once more lined up a hard tackle, but this time drove a high tackle shoulder first into the the [sic] head of a White player. The offense took place directly in front of the referee, who had an unobstructed view of the contact. The offense occurred at approximately the halfway line and play was stopped. Due to the shoulder contact with the head, Mr. Player was sent off for his offense. The White player was not injured and play continued. At the completion of the match, Mr. Player approached the referee to offer his apology and he was aware of the reason for the red card.

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - First Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 2 Week Ban

Blue team chooses to appeal ruling, provides video evidence.

Appeal officer reviews the case.

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - First Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 2 Week Ban - **UPHELD / Reduced to 1 Week (Mitigating Factors)**

The video shows the offender moving from his previous tackle of the White player to a ruck, not getting back fully onside behind the last feet of the next breakdown (23:06) and then as the ball comes out of the ruck advancing on the White player at 23:07. Unfortunately, another White player, No 17, came between the camera and the contact between the offender and the White player and the initial contact cannot be seen. However, an instant later the offender and the White player emerge from behind No 17: the offender has his arm around the White player's upper back and the top of the offender's head appears to be contacting the White player's ear. **More importantly, the video confirms the referee's Report that the referee was right on the spot, and that he had an unobstructed view of the tackle right in front of him.**

Based on the video which the DC was unable to see, and on the offender's admissions, I cannot say the referee's decision was wrong. Therefore I uphold the Decisions of the referee and the RC DC that the incident constituted Foul Play under Law 10.4(e) and that the Red Card/Send Off was valid and proper.

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - Second Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 3 Week Ban

Referee's report: "It was a late hit elbow to the throat."

The offending player's team later submitted a video as part of an appeal of the 3 week ban that was handed down by the RC disciplinary committee.

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - Second Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 3 Week Ban

As set forth above, the referee very briefly indicated that the reason for the Red Card sending off was “a late hit elbow to the throat”. In their various statements the Player and his supporters (Coach, Assistant Coach, and Mother) argued that (1) there was no high hit to the throat, but rather a low hit and slight lift, followed the Player’s dropping Blue No 9 without any spearing or driving of No 9 into the ground, and (2) the referee didn’t actually see the hit, lift, and drop.

The video, which as I have stated was unavailable to the RC DC, shows Blue No 9 at the base of a ruck at most touching but not picking up the ball, the Player then contacting Blue No 9 low on his body, around his buttocks, driving him back, lifting him, and then dropping him such that No 9 landed on his side.

Repercussions of Reports

Two Rugby Colorado Examples from Spring 2016 - Second Example Sanction/Disciplinary Action - Red Card and 3 Week Ban - **VACATED**

Normally the referee is the sole judge of fact and Law, Law 6.A.4 (a), and their position as that sole judge of Law and fact is unassailable, WR Reg 17.17.2. However, when the available evidence reveals that the referee was wrong, judicial officers can and must overturn the referee's decision. The DC quite properly relied on the referee's Report and its Decision was correct based on the information it had in front of it, which as I have indicated did not include the subsequently created video clip. However, based on that admissible new video evidence which the DC was unable to see, I find that the referee's decision was wrong. The Player did not hit Blue No 9 high, and certainly did not throw an elbow into the throat. Therefore as to this part of the action, I find that the player did not commit a high tackle and must reverse the Decision to that effect by the RC DC.