

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	Lethbridge Rugby Club v Calgary Saracens RFC		
Competition	Mens Development		
Date of match	May 14, 2022	Match venue	LRC
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Nicholas (Nico)	Date of birth	
Forename(s)	Coppel		
Player's Union	Calgary Saints RFC		
Referee Name	Andrew Derkson	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted
Offence	9.20 dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A Plyer must not charge into a ruck or maul, Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.	SELECT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red Card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction			

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	May 24, 2023	teams	Calgary, Alberta by way of desktop
Chairman/JO	John McDonald		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee			
Appearance Player	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Appearance Club	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Player's Representative(s)		Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Referees Sending Off Report, video provided by Calgary Saracens		

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

A Saracens ball carrier was tackled by two LRC players and all three players (ball carrier and two tacklers) went to ground. Nicolas approached the tackle from a support position, but did not stay on his

feet to establish a ruck. Instead, he charged one of the LRC tacklers who was on the ground. Nicolas left his feet and did not bind anyone to establish a ruck

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

Youtube video footage of the match
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYVx3PvrO2g>



SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The club entered a statement on the players behalf, agreeing that the Player did charge into the ruck, leaving his feet with no attempt to bind to another player. Player and club are of the position a Red Card was not warranted and should have been reduced to a yellow but for the warnings previously given.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Having reviewed the publicly available footage of the match, the referees report, and the club's admission, I find that Nicolas Coppel did charge into the ruck without attempting to bind. I am also not convinced that the presence of a team warning with regard to dangerous play (specifically high tackles) is sufficient to reduce the impugned action to a temporary sending off (yellow), in fact I find that after being warned against dangerous play this player engaged in more dangerous play.

DECISION

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

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intentional <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless
State Reasons
The Saracens players arm was clearly tucked into his chest during the charge striking the LRC Player there was no attempt to wrap and the type of body position could only have occurred had the player intended a charge rather than binding into a Ruck
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Intentional charge into the ruck.
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No provocation
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No retaliation
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No Self-Defence
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No effect adverse or otherwise on the victim
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Reduced the overall number of players in an already short match due to other infractions, in effect it nearly evened the playing field.
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The victim was not necessarily vulnerable at the time of the charge.
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No Premeditation
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Conduct, as shown on video was completed.
Other features of player’s conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A

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"/>	Click Here For #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Click Here For #	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>2</u>

*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 – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Admitted culpability at the first opportunity	No disciplinary history
Youth and/or 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)
Player is not inexperienced in the game	Player was contrite and accepted the sending off without incident
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)
Players statement seems to downplay the seriousness of the offence.	N/A

Number of weeks /matches deducted: 1

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

Player was d immediately apologetic, his conduct both at the time of the incident and the time of the hearing were indicative of a seasoned player who accepted his role in the incident. The player has no disciplinary record to speak of.

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)
N/A
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)

N/A

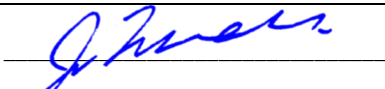
Number of additional weeks/matches: 0

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	1 Weeks/Games	<input type="checkbox"/> Sending off sufficient
Sanction commences	May 14, 2023	
Sanction concludes	May 28, 2023	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	N/A	

Costs	None
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Signature (JO or Chairman)		Date	May 24, 2023
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NOTE: Should the Player or the club wish to appeal this sanction they may do so in accordance with the Rugby Alberta Rules and Regulations dated 2019.