

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	St Albert RFC v Calgary Hornets RFC		
Competition	AWP		
Date of match	July 13, 2024	Match venue	Calgary Rugby Union
Rules to apply	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Villeneuve	Date of birth	
Forename(s)	Katya		
Player's Union	Calgary Hornets RFC		
Referee Name	Assistant Referee Daniel Wahba	Plea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted
Offence	9.11 on Send Off report but properly 9.12 (shoulder charge)	SELECT: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red Card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	1 Week ban		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	July 29, 2024	Hearing venue	Google Meet – Virtual
Chairman/JO	Clinton Slogrove		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	NA		
Appearance Player	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Appearance Union	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Player's Representative(s)	Laurisa Robson	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	NA
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Send Off Report Statement of Hornets Players Statements from St Albert Rugby Football Club (SARFC) players Bachynsky, Flynn, Dewitt and Coach Mitch Millett Photographs from Ron Le Blanc – 20240713 Hornets Vs StAlbert 000987 – 1053.		

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

Following an incident between SARFC players and another Hornets player, Hornets # 18 Katya Villeneuve ran into St. Albert #11 knocking her to the ground in violation of law 9.11. This action was violent and had the potential to cause injury as that the player did not see her coming when she made the contact.

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

Photographs from the incident show that after the initial incident had concluded the Player intentionally and unnecessarily charged the SARFC #11 and knocking her to the ground.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

The incident began during a ruck in which both Grace (the Hornets #20) and I were involved. As the ruck intensified, the ball was eventually released, and I disengaged from the situation. The play continued to the right of my position. Shortly thereafter, I turned my head to the left and observed three players on top of Grace, with one player punching her in the back while she was lying face down on the ground. Concerned for Grace's safety and seeing that she was defenseless, I intervened by pushing the player who was hitting her to protect my teammate. At no point did I punch anyone or intend to cause harm; my sole intention was to stop the immediate threat to Grace. The player I pushed fell to the ground, then stood up and struck me in the right eye. I did not retaliate; instead, I walked away.

I understand that what I did was wrong, and I agree with being removed from the game at that point to de-escalate the situation. However, I do not believe this incident warrants a suspension since I only pushed one of the players. During the incident, multiple people threw punches and bit others, but I was not one of them.

FINDINGS OF FACT

It is admitted by the Player that she charged into the SARFC #11 after the whistle and off the ball. It's also admitted and acknowledged by the Player that charging into the SARFC #11 was wrong and in contravention of the Laws of Rugby.

DECISION

Breach admitted

Proven Not Proven Other disposal (please state)

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Intentional

Reckless

State Reasons

Player admitted to intentionally charging the SARFC #11 as she perceived an ongoing threat to her teammate as the SARFC #11 had moments prior been engaged in foul play against the Player's teammates.
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Off the ball and after the whistle shoulder charge of opposing player.
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The incident followed immediately after the SARFC player had been clearly seen punching a downed Hornets player in the back. While not provocation vis-à-vis the Player, it contributed to the Player's perception that her teammate was in immediate danger and required intervention.
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player was intervening in an incident which she perceived to be a threat to her teammate and retaliated to that. The Player was, subsequent to her charging the SARFC #11, punched in the face, a violent act to which she did not react or retaliate.
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
While not in defence of her own body, it was in defence of a teammate.
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
There was little effect on the victim save knocking her off her feet.
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
It had no impact on the game.
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
According to the Send Off Report, the victim did not see the charge coming, but was otherwise not in a vulnerable position.
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player was responding instinctively to a perceived threat on a teammate.
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)
NA

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"/>	2

*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

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)
The Player acknowledged guilt and showed remorse immediately and accepted that the conduct merited a Send Off.	The Player has a clean record.
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)
The Player is experienced and has no history of violence.	The Player was calm, respectful and genuinely remorseful.
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 acknowledged wrongdoing and was immediately remorseful.	NA

Number of weeks /matches deducted: 1

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

The Players acknowledgement of wrongdoing, clean disciplinary record and genuine remorse merits a 50% reduction in the circumstances.

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)
NA
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
While there is a need to deter foul play and to ensure that players do not see fit to take the law into their own hands, the act of protecting a teammate in circumstances which appear to be dangerous and violent ought not be severely sanctioned.
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

NA

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	July 14, 2024	
Sanction concludes	July 20, 2024	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	The Player was forced to sit out of an otherwise eligible development game on Friday 19th vs The Titans as a result of the pending Send Off Report hearing.	

Costs	
-------	--

Signature (JO or Chairman)	<i>Clinton Slogrove</i>	Date	July 29, 2024
-------------------------------	-------------------------	------	---------------

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) (see Page 6)