



CALGARY RUGBY UNION

Box 5888, Station "A", Calgary, Alberta T2H 1Y4

Office: 403-255-9199

Fields 9025 Shepard Rd SE

MEMBER
Canadian Rugby Union
Alberta Rugby Union
Sports Alberta

July 11, 2023

Citation: 2023 CRU 14

RECORD OF DECISION

Player's Name: Steve Spackman (Hornets)

Date of Match/Alleged Offence: July 5, 2023

Division: Men's Rec

Teams: Holy Goats v Hornets

Disciplinary Hearing Date: July 10, 2023 @ 8:30 pm via MS Teams

Disciplinary Hearing Attendees: Steve Spackman, Tobin Rooney, Steen Hinman-Miller, and Martin Rejman (Disciplinary Officer)

Documents Received:

- A. Referee's Red Card Report, dated July 6, 2023, Match Official Kimberley Spiller
- B. Written Statements by Jared Procysen (Hornets), Brendan Nickles (Holy Goats), Kai Koruntchev (Holy Goats), Tobin Rooney (Spectator), and Awstyn McDonald (Hornets)

Decision:

1. I have received written statements from Jared Procysen (Hornets), Brendan Nickles (Holy Goats), Kai Koruntchev (Holy Goats), Tobin Rooney (Spectator), and Awstyn McDonald (Hornets).
2. I make note that no yellow or red card was issued in respect to Mr. Spackman.
3. While I have no doubt that Match Official Ms. Spiller perceived or heard a threat as alleged in the Referee's Red Card Report, on the balance of probabilities, I believe Mr. Spackman was misheard.
4. Mr. Spackman admitted that he yelled out "WHAT" in response to what he perceived was a poor call by the Match Official during a breakdown.
5. Mr. Spackman's submission was that he was on the opposite side of the field (widthwise), approximately "35 meters" from the Match Official. In the absence of any contradictory evidence, I must accept this as fact.
6. He further submitted that immediately after his "WHAT" response, he stated "I need a substitution before I'll do something I'll regret" while running off the field to take himself off. Mr. Nickles' written statement states that he heard Mr. Spackman say "I need a



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substitution before I do something stupid", as did Mr. McDonald. All the witness statements concur that at no point did anyone hear Ms. Spackman utter a threat.

7. Mr. Spackman denies making any threats to the Match Official, or to anyone in that regard. He also testified that at no point had he approached the Match Official during the game.
8. The five witness statements overwhelmingly support Mr. Spackman's version of events.
9. I also recognize that the above noted distance between Mr. Spackman and the Match Official was a contributing factor that injected the divergence in what was said and what was heard.
10. I must commend Mr. Spackman for recognizing that his temper was about to get the better of him, and that he needed a cool-off period.
11. Shortly after reaching the sideline, Mr. Spackman was ejected from the technical zone and the spectator area by the Match Official. He left as instructed.
12. Mr. Spackman admitted that he often "chirps" or "questions" Match Officials, and that he is "well known to the club that I take cards for chirping to refs". He has also admitted to previously receiving yellow cards for such conduct, with the last one during a 2019 match in Lethbridge.
13. This troubles me, as Mr. Spackman is a certified Match Official, coach, and long-time player. His conduct breaches the Laws of the Game, is disrespectful, and he fails to set a good example for our younger players or spectators. My stern warning and suggestion is that Mr. Spackman make a conscious effort to minimize and eliminate his chirping and challenging of Match Officials.
14. I refer to Law 9.28 - "A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official."

Conclusion

15. I find that, on the balance of probabilities, no threat was made by Mr. Spackman towards the Match Official or anyone else. As such, I find no infringement of Rule 9.12 occurred (A player must not physically or verbally abuse anyone.) No other disciplinary process applies, and Mr. Spackman is free to participate in the next match.
16. As no red card was issued, I do not need to reinstate Mr. Spackman.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2023, in Calgary, Alberta.

Disciplinary Officer:
Martin Rejman
CRU