



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

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DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Jyväskylä - Helsinki
Competition: Championship
Date: 21.08.2016
Player/club: John Poole, Helsinki

Reason for hearing

The player was dismissed with a straight red card for biting an opponent on their forearm whilst on the ground during/following a ruck.

Panel composition

George Mossford, Chris Gibbons, Steve Whittaker

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee, Helsinki RC (including a statement from Mr Poole) and the player that received the alleged bite (at the request of the disciplinary panel).

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was guilty of biting. In Finland, the low-end entry point for this offense is a four-week suspension, midrange is six weeks, and high-end is eight+ weeks (to a ceiling of 208 weeks).

After considering the evidence submitted (which included an admission of guilt from the player), the panel deemed that the act of biting the opposition player was relatively unprovoked and was, by its very nature, deliberate. As such, the panel deemed this to be a high-end offense. The player's previously unblemished disciplinary record and the admission of guilt and remorse demonstrated in his statement and after the game acts in the player's favour, but this is counteracted by the need to set a deterrent. The panel therefore concluded that the eight-week entry point for a high-end bite would be appropriate.

Given the above, the player is therefore awarded an eight-week suspension that will begin on 26th August 2016. As the 2016 XV's season will conclude before the expiration of the eight weeks, the disciplinary panel has to rule whether the suspension should include other codes (i.e. 7s) or whether it should carry into the next XV's season. Given the player's club is mathematically already in the playoffs and that the majority of the suspension would already be served by the end of the season, the panel determined that the ban would run concurrently.

In short then, the player is awarded an eight-week suspension that will begin on 26th August 2016 and end on 21st October 2016. This ban covers all forms of rugby at all levels.

