



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

Member of World Rugby
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DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Turku Eagles – HRC 1
Competition: Men's Winter 7s
Date: 26.02.2017
Player/club: Niko Lehtonen, Helsinki Rugby Club

Reason for hearing

Player was sent off against Law 10.4 (e) Dangerous Tackling on 26 Feb 2017.

Panel composition

Palemia Field, Chris Gibbons, Steve Whittaker

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee and by Helsinki Rugby Club. A follow up report was provided by the match referee at the request of the panel

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was guilty of a reckless tackle. In Finland, the low-end entry point for this offense is a one-week suspension, midrange is two weeks, and high-end is three+ weeks (to a ceiling of 52 weeks).

After considering the evidence submitted, without any video evidence available and in light of World Rugby's Law Application Guideline, the panel deemed this to be a high-end offense. The player's previously unblemished disciplinary record and the subsequent apology to the opposition player involved after the game, act in favour of the player. The panel therefore concluded that the three-week suspension associated with a high-end offense of this nature should be reduced by one week.

The player is therefore awarded a two-week playing suspension that will begin on 5th March 2017.

According to current schedules, this means the player is rendered ineligible for selection in the Men's Winter 7s on April 1st as well as the SM Liiga match against Linna on 27 May and will be available for reselection on 28 May 2017. In addition, the player will not be eligible to play for any club in any competition during this period.