



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

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DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Kuopio - Tampere

Competition: Championship

Date: 31.06.2014

Player/club: Jani Lehtinen, Tampere

Reason for hearing

The player was dismissed with a straight red card for kicking out at an opponent on the floor following a tackle 34mins into the second half.

Panel composition

George Mossford, Steve Thorne, Steve Whittaker

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee and Tampere RC (including a statement by the player).

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was in breach of Law 10.4(c) ("kicking an opponent") and that the issuing of a red card was justified. In Finland, the low-end entry point for this offence is a 2-week suspension, midrange is 3 weeks, and high-end is 4 weeks.

In considering the evidence submitted, the panel is willing to accept the player's contention that he believes that contact was made with his groin during the tackle as this was communicated immediately to the match referee and explains the reaction on the floor. Furthermore, the match referee's report clearly indicates that there was no intent to hurt the player with the kick, but that it seemed intended to indicate displeasure with an aspect of the tackle. As such, the panel deems this to be a low-end infraction, which carries a 2-week suspension.

Given the player's previously unblemished disciplinary record, that the red card was accepted without complaint, and the mitigating circumstances surrounding possible provocation, the panel decided to reduce the 2-week suspension by 1 week. The player is therefore awarded a 1-week suspension that will begin on 11th July 2014 and end on 18th July 2014, rendering him unavailable for selection for Vaasa – Tampere on 12th July 2014. Additionally, the player will not be eligible to play for any club in any competition during this suspension period.

