



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

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DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Pori - Espoo

Competition: Championship

Date: 30.08.2014

Player/club: Malcolm Stewart

Reason for hearing

The player was dismissed with a straight red card for kicking out at the head of an opponent standing over him whilst on the floor during a ruck.

Panel composition

George Mossford, Chris Gibbons, Petter Larsen

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee, Espoo RC, and photographic evidence showing that the offending player sustained head injuries reportedly during the ruck in question.

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was in breach of Law 10.4(c) ("kicking [out at] an opponent") and Law 10.4(l) ("retaliation") 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 contention of Espoo that the Pori player toward whom the kick was directed made contact with the head of Mr Stewart with his boot and did so with sufficient force to cause notable stud marks. Despite this provocation, a kick aimed at the head of another player is highly dangerous and as such is a high-end offense, which corresponds to an entry point of 4 weeks suspension. Given the player's previously unblemished disciplinary record and the likelihood of provocation however, the panel decided to reduce the suspension period by 1 week.

The player is therefore awarded a 3-week suspension that will begin on 12th September 2014 and end on 3rd October 2014, rendering him unavailable for selection for Espoo – Warriors on 13th September 2014. Additionally, the player will not be eligible to play for any club in any competition during this suspension period.

It should be noted however that the panel was very concerned that the player aggressively contested the dismissal and offered no apology either immediately or after the game. There player is therefore advised to ensure that his discipline improves in the future.

