



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

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DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Helsinki - Tampere
Competition: SRL 7s (Porvoo)
Date: 11.04.2015
Player/club: Ross Mullen, Helsinki

Reason for hearing

The player was dismissed with a straight red card for lashing out at an opponent on the ground.

Panel composition

George Mossford, Chris Gibbons, Palemia Field

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee and assistant referee (the card was awarded based on the recommendations of the AR as the referee did not see the incident).

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was in breach of Law 10.4(a) ("striking an opponent") and that the issuing of a red card was justified. In Finland, the low-end entry point for this offence is a 1-week suspension, midrange is 2 weeks, and high-end is 3 weeks.

After considering the evidence submitted, the panel accepts that the strike was primarily an effort to persuade the opposing player to release him, as he was being illegally held on the floor at the time following a 'crocodile role' at a ruck. The AR's report further indicates that there was no intent to cause injury to the player, but that the 'weak' strike seemed intended solely to get the player to break his hold. The referee report also noted that the player accepted the red card with absolutely no protest, either verbally or through body language. As such, the panel deems this to be a low-end infraction, which carries a 1-week suspension.

The circumstances surrounding this dismissal are unusual, as the competition regulations did not explicitly stated how player suspensions should be managed in 7s tournaments following a change in Finland's disciplinary procedures last year (this has now been corrected). As such, it was agreed on the day that Mr Mullen would serve a 1-match suspension and that this panel would then convene to determine whether any additional suspension period should be applied. Given the low-end nature of this offense and the lack of clarity surrounding the administrative procedure to be followed, the panel finds that the 1-match suspension already served is sufficient in this instance and therefore the player is free to play again immediately.

