



SUOMEN RUGBYLIITTO
FINNISH RUGBY FEDERATION

Member of International Rugby Board (IRB)
Member of European Rugby Association (FIRA-AER)
Member of Finnish Olympic Committee (NOC)
Member of Suomen liikunta ja urheilu (SLU)

DISCIPLINARY PANEL REPORT

Match: Helsinki - Tampere

Competition: Championship

Date: 15.08.2015

Player/club: Ronan Rochford, Helsinki RC

Reason for hearing

The player was dismissed with a straight red card for a dangerous high tackle.

Panel composition

Palemia Field, Chris Gibbons, Steve Whittaker

Evidence submitted

Written reports by the match referee and Helsinki RC, and a match video supplied by an affiliate of Tampere Rugby Club.

Outcome

The disciplinary panel considers that the player was in breach of Law 10.4(e) by committing a 'dangerous tackle or attempted tackle above the line of the shoulders'. 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.

After considering the evidence submitted, the panel finds that the tackle was both high and serious in nature, as this tackle was made from behind and, as the first contact, absorbed the ball carrier's momentum before the player in front of him aided the tackle. The panel therefore deemed this to be a midrange offense, but the fact that Helsinki had already received a yellow for the same offense earlier in the game also demonstrates a degree of recklessness that acts as an aggravating factor. That said, given the player's previously unblemished disciplinary record and the immediate and sincere apologies offered to both the player and the referee act in favour of the player. The panel therefore concluded that the aggravating and mitigating factors cancel each other out, resulting in a midrange offense with no plus/minus suspension period.

The player is therefore awarded a two-week suspension that will begin on 28th August and end on 11th September, rendering him unavailable for selection for Helsinki – Jyväskylä on 29th August. Additionally, the player will not be eligible to play for any club in any competition during this suspension period.

