



4 May 2021

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

Foul Play Review Committee: Adam Casselden SC (Chairman), Mike Mika and Stefan Terblanche

Player: Toni Pulu

Team: Force

Position: Wing

Date of Incident: 1 May 2021

Nature of Offence: Law 9.13: A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Elapsed time in match when offence occurred: 40th minute

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Toni Pulu suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Toni Pulu of the Force for contravening Law 9.13: A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously, after he was Red Carded during a Super Rugby AU Match at the Weekend.

Pulu has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including 21 May 2021.

The incident occurred in the 40th minute of the Super Rugby AU Qualifying Final match between the Brumbies and Force played at GIO Stadium in Canberra on 1 May 2021.

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee of Adam Casselden SC (Chairman), Mike Mika and Stefan Terblanche assessed the case.

In his finding, Foul Play Review Committee Chairman Adam Casselden SC ruled the following:

"Having conducted a detailed review of all the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including from the player and submissions from his legal representative, Michael Tudori, the Foul Play Review Committee upheld the Red Card under Law 9.13."

"With respect to sanction the Foul Play Review Committee deemed the act of foul play merited a mid-range entry point of 6 weeks due to the World Rugby instructions that dictate any incident of foul play involving contact with the head must start at a mid-range level. However, taking into account mitigating factors including the Player's good judicial record and pleading guilty at his first available opportunity the Foul Play Review Committee reduced the suspension to 3 weeks."

"The player is therefore suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 21 May 2021. This includes the following fixtures:

- Fortescue Premier Grade - Kalamunda v UWA 8 May 2021
- Super Rugby Trans Tasman Rd 1 - Force v Chiefs 15 May 2021
- Super Rugby Trans Tasman Rd 2 - Force v Highlanders 21 May 2021

The Player is be suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 21 May 2021."

All SANZAAR disciplinary matters are in the first instance referred to the Foul Play Review Committee to provide the option of expediting the judicial process.

For a matter to be dispensed with at this hearing, the person appearing must plead guilty and accept the penalty offered by the Foul Play Review Committee.

ENDS