



Sunday 21 February 2021

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

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

Player: Izaia Perese

Team: Waratahs

Position: Centre

Date of Incident: 19 February 2021

Nature of Offence: 9.18: A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground

Elapsed time in match when offence occurred: 35:10

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Izaia Perese suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Izaia Perese of the Waratahs for contravening Law 9.18 Lifting Tackle, after he was Red Carded during a Super Rugby AU Match at the Weekend.

Perese has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including 19 March 2021.

The incident occurred in the 35th minute of the match between the Reds and Waratahs played at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Friday 19 February 2021.

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

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

"In submissions to the hearing, Perese pleaded guilty to the citing under Law 9.18.

With respect to sanction, the Foul Play Review Committee were cognisant of the fact that recent amendments to Appendix 1 of Regulation 17 meant that World Rugby's directive, that any incident of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction, did not apply to a contravention of Law 9.18.

The Foul Play Review Committee, having conducted a detailed review of all of the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including submissions from his legal representative, Aaron Lloyd, determined that the act of foul play merited a low-end entry point of 6 weeks. This was primarily due to the reckless rather than intentional nature of the action which ultimately placed Perese's opponent in a vulnerable position but which did not cause an injury to the opponent.

When taking into account mitigating factors including the Player's clean judicial record and the fact the Player pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity, the Foul Play Review Committee reduced his suspension to 3 weeks."

"The Player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including Friday 19 March 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