



27 April 2021

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

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

Player: Tevita Kuridrani

Team: Force

Position: Centre

Date of Incident: 23 April 2021

Nature of Offence: Law 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: 1:01

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Tevita Kuridrani suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Tevita Kuridrani of the Force for contravening Law 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, after he was cited during a Super Rugby AU Match at the Weekend.

Kuridrani has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including 15 May 2021.

The incident occurred in the 1st minute of the match between the Force and Reds at HBF Park in Perth on 23 April 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:

"In submissions to the hearing, Kuridrani 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, Michael Tudori, 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 Kuridrani'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 relatively good judicial record over a long career 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 from all forms of the game up to and including 15 May 2021. This includes the following fixtures:

- Super Rugby AU Qualifying Final - Brumbies v Force 1 May 2021
- Super Rugby AA Final - 8 May 2021
- Super Rugby Trans Tasman Rd 1 - Force v Chiefs 8 May 2021

The Player is to be suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 15 May 2021.

In the event the Force do not reach the Super Rugby AU Final, the FPRC have reserved the right to amend the sanction to include the Player's next scheduled match."

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

