



4 June 2019

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE HEARING NEWS RELEASE

Hearing Details (date, time and venue): Tuesday 4 June 2019, 9am(SAST), 5pm(AEST), 7pm(NZST) via video-conference

Judicial Committee: Helen Morgan (Chairperson), John Langford, De Wet Barry

Player: Vaea Fifita

Team: Hurricanes

Position: Loose Forward

Date of Incident: 1 June 2019

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.

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Vaea Fifita suspended for 3 weeks

A SANZAAR Judicial Committee Hearing has found Vaea Fifita of the Hurricanes guilty of contravening Law: 9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously, after he was issued with a Red Card during a Super Rugby match at the weekend.

Fifita has been suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including Saturday 22 June.

The incident occurred during the match between the Sharks and Hurricanes at Jonsson Kings Park in Durban on 1 June 2019.

The SANZAAR Judicial Hearing held via video conference on Tuesday 4 June 2019 was heard by Helen Morgan (Chairperson), John Langford, De Wet Barry.

In her finding, the Judicial Committee Chairperson Helen Morgan 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, Aaron Lloyd, the Judicial Committee upheld the Red Card under Law 9.13."

"With respect to sanction the Judicial 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. Taking into account mitigating factors including the Player's clean judicial

record, his acceptance of foul play and his expressed remorse, the Judicial Committee reduced the suspension to 3 weeks."

"The player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including 22 June 2019."

ENDS