



19 April 2021

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

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

Player: Alex Hodgman

Team: Blues

Position: Prop

Date of Incident: 16 April 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: 72nd minute

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Alex Hodgman suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Alex Hodgman of the Blues 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 Aotearoa match at the Weekend.

Hodgman has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including 8 May 2021.

The incident occurred in the 72nd minute of the match between the Highlanders and Blues played at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin on Friday 16 April 2021.

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

In his finding, Foul Play Review Committee Chairperson 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 his legal representative, Aaron Lloyd, 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 8 May 2021. This includes the following fixtures:

- Super Rugby Aotearoa Round 9 - Crusaders v Blues 25 April 2021
- Super Rugby Aotearoa Round 10 - Chiefs v Blues 1 May 2021
- Super Rugby Aotearoa Final - 8 May 2021

The Player is be suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 8 May 2021.

In the event the Blues do not reach the Super Rugby Aotearoa 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