

**13 August 2020**

## **JUDICIAL COMMITTEE HEARING NEWS RELEASE**

**Hearing Details (date, time and venue):** Thursday 13 August 2020, 7pm(NZST)

**Judicial Committee:** Stephen Hardy (Chairperson), Chris Smith and John Langford

**Player:** Jacobus Van Wyk

**Team:** Hurricanes

**Position:** Wing

**Date of Incident:** 8 August 2020

**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 incident occurred:** 36:45

### **SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Jacobus Van Wyk suspended for 3 weeks**

A SANZAAR Judicial Committee Hearing has declared Jacobus Van Wyk of the Hurricanes guilty of 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 Aotearoa match at the weekend.

Van Wyk pleaded guilty to the contravention and has been suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including **Saturday 29 August 2020**.

The incident occurred in the 36th minute of the match between the Hurricanes and Chiefs at Sky Stadium in Wellington on 8 August 2020.

A SANZAAR Judicial Hearing was held via video conference on Thursday 13 August 2020, 7pm(NZST) and was heard by Stephen Hardy (Chair), Chris Smith and John Langford.

In his finding, the Judicial Committee Chair, Stephen Hardy, ruled the following:

"At the outset of the hearing, Van Wyk pleaded guilty to the citing under Law 9.18.

With respect to sanction, the Judicial 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 Judicial Committee, having conducted a detailed review of all of the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including from the Player and submissions from his legal representative, Aaron Lloyd, and 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 Van Wyk'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 and demonstrated genuine remorse for his actions, the Judicial Committee reduced his suspension to 3 weeks."

"The Player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including **Saturday 29 August 2020**. The Judicial Committee is aware of the issues involving the uncertainty of playing schedules as a result of the ongoing affects of Covid-19, and have accordingly reserved the right to revisit the sanction date in the event that the Player's schedule is subsequently impacted. "

**ENDS**