



JUDICIAL UPDATE

Monday 18 March 2024

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

Foul Play Review Committee: Stephen Hardy (Chairman), Ofisa Tonu'u and Stefan Terblanche

Player: Owen Franks

Team: Crusaders

Position: Prop

Date of Incident: 15 March 2024

Nature of Offence: Law 9.20b - Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.

Elapsed time in match when incident occurred: 80:31

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Owen Franks suspended for 2 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee (FPRC) has found Owen Franks of the Crusaders guilty of contravening Law 9.20b "Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders", after Franks was Red Carded following a Super Rugby Pacific Match last weekend.

Franks has been suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 29 March 2024.

The incident occurred in the 80th minute of the match between Crusaders and Hurricanes, which was played at Apollo Projects Stadium in Christchurch on 15 March 2024.

The FPRC comprising Stephen Hardy (Chairman), Ofisa Tonu'u and Stefan Terblanche assessed the incident.

In his finding, FPRC Chair Stephen Hardy ruled as follows:

"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 Foul Play Review Committee upheld the Red Card under Law 9.20b."

"Applying the World Rugby Head Contact Process, the FPRC assessed the Player's actions as including direct head contact with the shoulder, that was reckless, made at high speed, in dynamic play with the Player colliding with a high degree of force. There was no sudden or significant change in height or direction (or any other relevant mitigating factor set out within the Head Contact Process) to result in mitigation sufficient to downgrade the incident to a yellow card."

"The entry point for the offence was 4 weeks (assessed as mid range in line with World Rugby's mandate). The Player was given a discount for entering an early guilty plea (and other relevant mitigating factors) reducing the suspension from 4 weeks to 2 weeks. The Player is therefore suspended up to and including 29 March 2024."

The Player is eligible to apply for the "Head Contact Process – Coaching Intervention" process.

ENDS