



JUDICIAL UPDATE

Tuesday 26 March 2024

## FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

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

**Player:** Tanielu Tele'a

**Team:** Highlanders

**Position:** Centre

**Date of Incident:** 23 March 2024

**Nature of Offence:** Law 9.11: Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others

**Elapsed time in match when incident occurred:** 38:47

## SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Tanielu Tele'a suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee (FPRC) has found Tanielu Tele'a of the Highlanders guilty of contravening Law 9.20(a) "A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul", after Tele'a was given an upgraded Red Carded following a Super Rugby Pacific Match last weekend.

Tele'a has been suspended from all forms of the game up to and including 19 April 2024.

The incident occurred in the 69th minute of the match between Chiefs and Highlanders, which was played at FMG Stadium Waikato in Hamilton on 23 March 2024.

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

In his finding, FPRC Chairman 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 and found the Player to have contravened Law 9.20(a)."

"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 6 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 6 weeks to 3 weeks. The Player is therefore suspended up to and including 19 April 2024."

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

ENDS