



**18 April 2022**

## **FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE**

**Foul Play Review Committee:** Michael Heron QC (Chair), John Langford and Stefan Terblanche

**Player:** Asafo Aumua

**Team:** Hurricanes

**Position:** Hooker

**Date of Incident:** 16 April 2022

**Nature of Offence:** Law 9.11: Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm.

**Elapsed time in match when offence occurred:** 76:37

### **SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Asafo Aumua suspended for 3 weeks**

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Asafo Aumua of the Hurricanes for contravening Law 9.11: Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others, after he was Cited during a Super Rugby Pacific Match at the Weekend.

Aumua has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including 8 May 2022.

The incident occurred in the 76th minute of the match between the Highlanders and Hurricanes played at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin on 16 April 2022.

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee of Michael Heron QC (Chair), Stefan Terblanche and John Langford assessed the case.

In his finding, Foul Play Review Committee Chairman Michael Heron QC 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 Foul Play Review Committee upheld the Citing under Law 9.11."

"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. Taking into account mitigating factors including the Player's clean judicial record and his acceptance of guilt at the first available opportunity, the Foul Play Review Committee reduced the suspension to 3 weeks."

"The Player was informed of his ability to apply for the Head Contact Process Coaching Intervention. Any player who has a citing or red card upheld by a disciplinary panel for foul play involving the Head Contact Process may apply to have the final week of their sanction substituted by undertaking a coaching intervention that specifically addresses the technical tackle/contact technique-error that caused or contributed to the foul play. This intervention will be

overseen by the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Expert Review Panel – a panel of expert independent coaches - and is only be available to first time offenders."

"The player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including 8 May 2022."

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**

**ISSUED BY SANZAAR**