

26 February 2018

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

Foul Play Review Committee: Nigel Hampton QC (Chairman), John Langford and Stephen Hardy

Player: Scott Higginbotham

Team: Reds

Position: Loose Forward

Date of Incident: 23 February 2018

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: 7:58

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Scott Higginbotham suspended for 3 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Scott Higginbotham of the Reds for contravening 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. He was Red Carded in the 7th minute of the match between the Rebels and Reds played at AAMI Park, Melbourne on 23 February 2018.

Higginbotham has been suspended from all forms of the game for 3 weeks, up to and including Saturday 17 March 2018.

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee of Nigel Hampton QC (Chairman), Stephen Hardy and John Langford assessed the case.

In his finding, Foul Play Review Committee Chairman Nigel Hampton QC ruled the following:

"Having conducted a detailed review of all the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including a statement from the player and submissions from his legal representative, Mark Martin QC, the Foul Play Review Committee upheld the Red Card under Law 9.13. This was an objectively dangerous tackle."

"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 Player's direct contact by the Player's shoulder to his opponents head. However, taking into account mitigating factors including the Player's good record over a long career, the lack of injury to the victim and his guilty plea at the earliest possible opportunity, the Foul Play Review Committee reduced the suspension to 3 weeks."

"The player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including the Saturday 17 March 2018."

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.