



**21 September 2021**

## **JUDICIAL COMMITTEE HEARING NEWS RELEASE**

**Hearing Details (date, time and venue):** Tuesday 21 September 2021, 10:00am(SAST), 6:00pm(AEST), 8:00pm(NZST) via video-conference

**Judicial Committee Chairman:** Michael Heron QC

**Judicial Committee Members:** Helen Morgan and Chris Smith

**Player:** Jasper Wiese

**Team:** South Africa

**Position:** Backrow

**Date of Incident:** 18 September 2021

**Nature of Offence:** Law 9.12: a player must not physically abuse anyone.

**Elapsed time in match when incident occurred:** 78:04

### **SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE**

#### **Jasper Wiese Citing dismissed**

A SANZAAR Judicial Committee Hearing has found Jasper Wiese of South Africa not guilty of contravening Law 9.12 after he was cited after a Rugby Championship match at the weekend.

No further sanction has been imposed on Wiese and he is free to play.

The incident occurred in the match between Australia and South Africa at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on 18 September 2021.

The SANZAAR Judicial Hearing held via video conference on Tuesday 21 September 2021, 8:00pm(NZST), 6:00pm(AEST), 10:00am(SAST), 5:00am(ART) was heard by Michael Heron QC (Chair), Helen Morgan and Chris Smith.

In his finding, the Judicial Committee Chair 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, a medical report on the opposition player involved, and having considered the submissions from his legal representative, Attie Heyns, the Judicial Committee found that the Player had not committed an act of foul play worthy of the red card threshold.

The Judicial Committee reviewed the case in accordance with Reg 17.16.1 of World Rugby's regulations and the World Rugby Head Contact Process.

The evidence and submissions on behalf of the player, together with surrounding circumstances, satisfied the Committee that the Citing Commissioner was not correct to find there was a high degree of danger involved. Whilst the Australian player was vulnerable, the contact with the

head was not intentional or highly reckless. Weise was shown to be grabbing for the ball rather than targeting the head of the Australian player. The low force, modest speed, indirect contact and the turning motion used by Weise, meant that the situation was not a highly dangerous one (when compared to the World Rugby examples). The Australian player was completely uninjured and his statement suggested the contact looked more serious than it was. There was no adverse reaction by any of the players to the conduct. The referee was in a very good position to see the actions of Wiese.

For those reasons, the Committee was satisfied that the Referee (with the assistance of the TMO) was correct to award a yellow card in the circumstances. The Committee reinforced that the Citing Commissioner was otherwise correct to find that this was foul play, and at least warranted a yellow card in the circumstances.

"Mr Wiese is therefore free to play in the upcoming matches."