



11 November 2020

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE HEARING NEWS RELEASE

Hearing Details (date, time and venue): Tuesday 10 November 2020, 7pm(NZDT), 5pm(AEDT)

Judicial Committee: Robert Stelzner SC (Chairman), Lawrence Sephaka and José Luis Rolandi

Player: Ofa Tu'ungafasi

Team: New Zealand

Position: Prop

Date of Incident: 7 November 2020

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: 22:22

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Ofa Tu'ungafasi suspended for 3 weeks

A SANZAAR Judicial Committee Hearing has found Ofa Tu'ungafasi of New Zealand guilty of contravening Law 9.13: A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously, after he was issued with a Red Card during a Tri Nations match at the weekend.

Tu'ungafasi has been suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including Saturday 20 February 2021.

Tu'ungafasi made high contact with Australia #14 Tom Wright during the match between Australia and New Zealand at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane on Saturday 7 November 2020.

The SANZAAR Judicial Committee Hearing held via video conference on Tuesday 10 November 2020, 7pm(NZDT), 5pm(AEDT) was heard by Robert Stelzner SC (Chairman), Lawrence Sephaka and José Luis Rolandi.

In his finding, the Judicial Committee Chairman Robert Stelzner SC ruled the following:

"Having conducted a detailed review of all the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including submissions from the Player and from his legal representative, Stephen Cottrell, the Judicial Committee upheld the Red Card under Law 9.13.

With respect to sanction the Judicial 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. However, taking into account mitigating factors including the fact the Player has pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity and has a clean judicial record, the Player was entitled to a full 50% reduction.

The player is therefore suspended for 3 weeks, up to and including Saturday 20 February 2021. This sanction includes the Player's next three scheduled matches as presented."

ENDS