

A banner for Super Rugby Judicial Release. It features the Super Rugby logo on the left and the text 'JUDICIAL RELEASE' on the right. The background is a dark, semi-transparent image of a rugby team huddle.

SUPER S RUGBY

JUDICIAL RELEASE

7 December 2020

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS RELEASE

Hearing Details (date, time and venue): Monday 7 December 2020, 5pm(AEDT) via video-conference

Player: Lukhan Salakaia-Loto

Team: Australia

Position: Lock

Date of Incident: 5 December 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: 59th Minute

SANZAAR NEWS RELEASE

Lukahana Salakaia-Loto suspended for 4 weeks

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee has accepted a guilty plea from Lukhan Salakaia-Loto of Australia for contravening Law 9.13: A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously, when he made high contact with Argentina's #6 Santiago Grondona during the match between Australia and Argentina at Bankwest Stadium in Sydney on Saturday 5 December 2020.

Salakaia-Loto has been suspended from all forms of the game for 4 weeks, up to and including Friday 26 February 2021.

The SANZAAR Foul Play Review Committee of Adam Casselden SC (Chairman), Stefan Terblanche and Mike Mika assessed the case.

In his finding, Foul Play Review Committee Chairman Adam Casselden SC ruled the following:

"Having conducted a detailed review of all the available evidence, including all camera angles and additional evidence, including submissions from his legal representative, Maryjane Crabtree, the Foul Play Review Committee upheld the Red

Card under Law 9.13.

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. However, taking into account mitigating factors including the fact the Player has pleaded guilty at the first available opportunity, the Foul Play Review Committee reduced the suspension to 4 weeks. The Player was not entitled to a full 50% reduction due to the presence of a prior offence on his record.

The player is therefore suspended for 4 weeks, up to and including Friday 26 February 2021.”

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