

RUGBY WORLD CUP 2019, JAPAN

In the matter of the Citing Commissioner's Report ("the Citing") alleging Foul Play (Law 9.13) against Motu Matuú ("the Player")

Summary of Reserved Decision of the appointed Judicial Panel (comprising Wang Shao-Ing (Singapore), John Langford (former Australia International) and Oliver Simon Kohn (former Wales International))

Decision on Citing

After considering all the evidence, the Judicial Panel ("Panel"), by majority, upheld the citing for the act of foul play for the following reasons:

- it was a reckless high tackle which made contact with the head of the opposition ball carrier
- a high degree of danger was reflected in the approach to the contact and follow through
- the factors against mitigation in the High Tackle Decision Making Framework were present, in that the tackler and the ball carrier were in open space and the tackler had clear line of sight of the ball carrier
- the majority of the Panel was not satisfied that that the change in height of the ball carrier was unreasonable and/or outside the estimation the Player. The Player's execution of the tackle resulted in a loss of control of the terms of contact with the opposition ball carrier

Sanction

The Panel applied World Rugby's mandatory mid-range entry point for contact with the head which carries a minimum six (6) week suspension.

Taking into account the clean disciplinary record of the Player, the Panel granted the Player full mitigation of 50% to three (3) weeks which is translated to 3 games.

The Player is not available to play Samoa's next RWC game against Scotland on 30 September 2019 under the HIA protocols. He will be suspended from the following games thereafter:

1. RWC game between Samoa and Japan on 5 October 2019;
2. RWC game between Samoa and Ireland on 12 October 2019; and
3. should Samoa qualify for the RWC quarterfinals on 19 October or 20 October 2019 (depending on their ranking in Pool A), the Player will be free to play on the day after the quarterfinal match (that is to say either 20 October 2019 or 21 October 2019). In the event Samoa does not qualify for the playoffs, the 3rd game of his suspension shall be the Gallagher Premiership Rugby game between London Irish against Sale Sharks on 26 October 2019, in which case, the Player is free to play on 27 October 2019.

Wang Shao Ing
Chair of Judicial Panel
27 September 2019