

**Andrea Lovotti and Nicola Quaglio decision of the  
Judicial Committee dated 6 October 2019**

Tournament: Rugby World Cup 2019

Player: Andrea Lovotti (Italy #1) and Nicola Quaglio (Italy #17)

Team: Italy

Match: South Africa v Italy, 4 October 2019, Shizuoka Stadium

Hearing venue: Offices of Atsumi & Sakai, Uchisaiwaicho, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo

Appeal panel: Sir James Dingemans (England, chair); Frank Hadden (former Scotland coach); Olly Kohn (former Wales international)

Representation: Andrea Rinaldo, FIR Board Member and Counsel for the players. Luigi Troiani, Team Manager Italy. Yvonne Nolan, DDO and Alistair Maclean, General Counsel for World Rugby

Date of the hearing: 6 October 2019

Announcement of oral decision

1. For reasons that we will set out in writing:

**Andrea Lovotti**

2. it is common ground that the red card issued against Andrea Lovotti was properly issued for a breach of law 9.18 (a player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground). The Committee decided that this was a low end starting point because the dynamics of the tackle had been affected by the actions of Nicola Quaglio, and because there was no lasting injury to South Africa number 8. There were no aggravating factors. Full mitigation of 3 weeks was applied because of the player's clean record and acceptance of the red card. This meant that the sanction was 3 weeks.
3. Under Regulation 17.19.11(c) which provides that sanctions shall apply across the game of rugby, the effect of this decision is that Andrea Lovotti is suspended from the RWC 2019 match v New Zealand on 12 October 2019. Should Italy qualify for the RWC quarter finals on 19 October or 20 October 2019 the quarterfinal, and any other further matches in the tournament, will count as part of the suspension. In the event that Italy do not progress either to the quarterfinals or beyond in the tournament the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> games of the player's suspension shall be served in the Pro 14 tournament in Europe.

## Nicola Quaglio

4. The Committee upheld the citing against Nicola Quaglio for a breach of law 9.18, this was because he was involved in lifting South Africa number 8 with Andrea Lovotti and dropping him to the ground. The Committee decided that this was a low end starting point because the dynamics of the tackle had been affected by the actions of Andrea Lovotti and because there was no lasting injury to South Africa number 8. There were no aggravating factors. Full mitigation of 3 weeks was applied because of the player's clean record and acceptance that he had committed an act of foul play. Although he had disputed the fact that the red card test had been met, the approach taken (for this tournament alone) has been to treat that as full mitigation. This meant that the sanction was 3 weeks.
5. Under Regulation 17.19.11(c) which provides that sanctions shall apply across the game of rugby, the effect of this decision is that Nicola Quaglio is suspended from the RWC 2019 match v New Zealand on 12 October 2019. Should Italy qualify for the RWC quarter finals on 19 October or 20 October 2019 the quarterfinal (and any other further matches in the tournament) will count as part of the suspension. In the event that Italy do not progress either to the quarterfinals or beyond in the tournament the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> games of the player's suspension shall be served in the Pro 14 tournament in Europe.

Sir James Dingemans (Chairperson and England)

Frank Hadden (Scotland);

Olly Kohn (Wales).

6 October 2019