

## **Ordering Off of Tomas Lavanini**

### **Decision of the Independent Judicial Panel dated Monday, 7 October 2019**

Tournament: Rugby World Cup 2019

Player: Tomas Lavanini (Argentina #5)

Team: Argentina

Match: England v Argentina, Saturday, 5 October 2019, Tokyo Stadium

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

Appeal panel: Adam Casselden SC (Australia, chair); Frank Hadden (Scotland; former international coach); Donal Courtney (Ireland; former international referee)

Representation: Aaron Lloyd, Counsel for the player. Gabriel Travaglini, Team Manager Argentina. Ben Rutherford, DDO and Alistair Maclean, General Counsel for World Rugby

Date of the hearing: Monday, 7 October 2019

Announcement of oral decision

For reasons that we will set out in writing:

#### **Tomas Lavanini (“Player”)**

1. The Player, at the earliest opportunity, admitted the correctness of the Red Card and the offence for which he was ordered off, namely a breach of Law 9.13 (a player must not tackle an opponent dangerously). The Player was frank and fully cooperative with the Panel.
2. As to sanction, the Panel found that this was mid-range offending, involving, as it did, forceful contact with the head of an opponent.
3. The Panel were persuaded that this was not deliberate offending, but was reckless.
4. The entry point for sanction for such mid-range offending is a 6 weeks suspension. The Panel found no aggravating factors; but found mitigation in terms of the early admissions by the Player, his contrition (expressed to his opponent after the match), his good character, demeanour and candour. Accordingly, the Panel found that the Player was entitled to a discount of 2 weeks for mitigation.

5. The Player is, therefore, suspended for 4 weeks from all rugby up to and including midnight on 30 October 2019, which means that he will miss Argentina's next RWC pool match against the USA on 9 October 2019 and three matches for his club, the Leicester Tigers against Northampton on 12 October 2019, Worcester on 19 October 2019 and Saracens on 27 October 2019.
6. By Regulation 17.19.11(c) the Player may not play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field activities anywhere until this suspension has expired).

Adam Casselden SC (Chairperson, Australia)

Frank Hadden (Scotland);

Donal Courtney (Ireland)

Monday, 7 October 2019