DISCIPLINARY DECISION

Match	South Africa v Great Britain		
Competition	HSBC SVNS Singapore 2025		
Date of match	5 April 2025	Match venue	Singapore National Stadium
Applicable rules	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; HSBC SVNS Tournament Disciplinary Programme		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Jobb	Player's forename(s)	Sebastiaan
Player's Union	South Africa	Date of birth	May 20, 1999
Referee's name	Nick Hogan		
Foul Play	☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted	Red card warranted	☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted
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.	SELECT: Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other ☐ If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	4 weeks (translated to 4 games)		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	Thursday 24 April 2025	Hearing venue	Remote
Chairman/JO	Wang Shao-ing		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	NA		
Appearance Player	Yes ☒ No ☐	Appearance Union	Yes ☒ No ☐
Player's Representative(s)	Mr Marius Botha, Legal Counsel Ashley Evert, Team Manager Willemien Van der Merwe, SARU counsel Isma-eel Dollie, Player's union Thato Mavundla, Player's union	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Brian Hammond, DDO
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	1. Notice of hearing 2. Red Card Report 3. 2 Video Clips with end titles "Playlist", "Other"		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

1. The hearing was convened before the Judicial Officer under Tournament Disciplinary Programme following the Ordering off of the Player under Law 9.13.

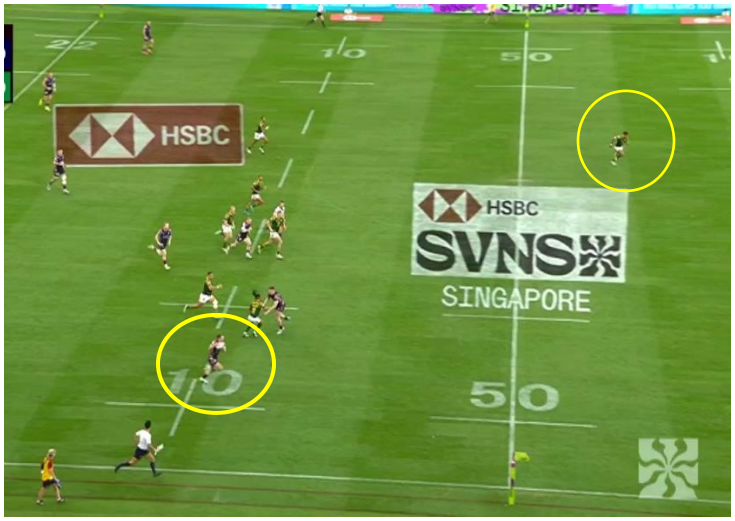
2. The Referee's Report states:

> "*The South African player made a tackle in an upright position that was high. The contact was direct to the head with force and had no mitigation*."

3. Video clips of the incident from the clips showed:

   a. GB#10 making a line break down the right side of the field after receiving the ball in GB's 10m line. The Player is just inside the RSA half of the field closer to the middle of the field;

   b. As GB#10 sprints about 40m along the touch line, the Player accelerates to track across the field to meet GB#10;



   c. GB#10 breaks hard off his right foot just inside RSA's 22m cutting in-field, beating RSA#3, RSA#8 and the Player who were chasing down the line break;

d. the Player turns to moves forward to tackle GB#10 (who is now running parallel to the 22m line) and makes head-on-head contact with GB#10 ;

e. as the play moves on, GB#10 appears motionless and is attended to by the pitch side medical personnel.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

4. This was the first match for both GB and RSA in Singapore. GB#10 took no further part in the tournament over the weekend. GB management confirmed that GB#10 suffered a concussion and was put through a 12 day return to play protocol. The Independent Concussion Consultant has set his return to play date as 23 April 2025.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

5. Instead of attending the hearing immediately after the match, the Player requested to postpone the hearing until after he returned to South Africa. As a result, the Player was stood down for the three (3) remaining matches that he was scheduled to play for RSA in the Singapore SVNS.

6. This was the Player's second experience with disciplinary proceedings, having just served a suspension for a similar incident in the Vancouver SVNS.

7. In the Player's written submissions, the Player:

   a. admitted that he had committed an act of foul play which met the red card threshold;

   b. disagreed that he was always upright but conceded that he was somewhat upright at the point of contact;

   c. highlighted that GB#10's height changed just before impact;

   d. explained his intention was always to execute a legal tackle but he got his head in the wrong position and caused the head contact;

   e. submitted there were nonetheless mitigating factors under the HCP, in he had little time to adjust because of the sudden and significant change by GB#10, two other players had obstructed his view and he had wrapped GB#10 with both arms.

8. When asked about his reflection on the two recent incidents of foul play, the Player explained that although he had been in the RSA 7s team since 2023, he had only played in two (2) tournaments that year. He has not played at this level for the better part of the last two years as he has had two (2) shoulder surgeries. He accepted that he needed to improve his tackle technique and that he had been practicing ever since he arrived back home from Singapore.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Relevant Law

9. The Player was Ordered Off under Law 9.13 which states:

   "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."

10. Due to the head contact, the Head Contact Process (HCP) would apply. Whilst the Player accepted that his actions met the Red Card threshold, he had submitted that there were several "mitigating" factors under the HCP. The JO considered these arguments for completeness:

   HCP Step 1: Has Head Contact Occurred?

   a. Yes. The Player's made direct head-on-head contact with GB#10.

   HCP Step 2: Was there foul play?

   b. Yes. This was not disputed by the Player.

   HCP Step 3: What was the degree of danger?

   c. High - There was direct head-on-head contact. The Player was dynamic and he had approached with pace, driving upwards resulting in the direct head-on-head impact which caused GB#10 to be knocked down and become motionless;

HCP Step 4: Is there any mitigation?

d. The there was no mitigation:

i. clear line of sight – notwithstanding the presence of #RSA 3 and #RSA 8, the Player had a clear line of sight as he approached (NL Corner SSM);

ii. sudden/significant change in direction – the GB#10 had made a sudden and significant change in direction as the Player had tracked across the field but was otherwise running in a straight line when the Player made contact with him

DECISION	
Foul play	Admitted ☒ Determined ☐ Not determined ☐ Other disposal (please state) ☐
Red card warranted	Admitted ☒ Determined ☐ Not determined ☐ Other disposal (please state) ☐

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS	
Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	
Intentional ☐	Reckless ☒
State Reasons	
The JO accepted that the Player had not approached the tackle with the intent of executing a high tackle. However, his actions were reckless. By accelerating and driving upwards into GB#10 he knew or should have known that there was a risk of a high tackle.	
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	

The Player made direct head-on-head contact with GB#10 with force as he was dynamic and upright at the point of contact.
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA
Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
GB#10 suffered a concussion. He was motionless after impact and played no further part in the Singapore SVNS. He was only able to return to play on 23 April 2025.
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
There was a long stoppage in the match whilst GB#10 was attended to and had to be removed from the field by the medial staff.
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
GB#10 was not particularly vulnerable; he was on his feet and moving freely at the point of contact.
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The JO accepted that the Player did not plan to make contact with GB#10's head
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player completed the high tackle.
Other features of player's conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED		
Entry point (*select entry point and indicate n° of weeks/matches starting point*)		
Top end* ☐	Mid-range ☒	Low-end ☐
N° of Weeks/Matches	N° of Weeks/Matches 6 *Mandatory mid-range under Regulation 17 Appendix 1*	N° Weeks/Matches

*****If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End
NA

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS	
Acknowledgement of commission of foul play – R 17.19.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player's disciplinary record – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player accepted the commission of the foul play and that it met the Red Card Threshold	The Player has recently served a three (3) match suspension for a similar incident (head-to-head contact) but has never received a yellow or red card prior to that in his professional career.
Youth and/or inexperience of player – R 17.19.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – – R 17.19.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player is neither young nor inexperienced at 25 years of age. He has played through the age groups at a provincial level and represented South 7s Africa since 2023.	The Player was respectful of process.
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 17.19.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 17.19.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
The Player apologized to GB#10 in a private message	In anticipation of his suspension and because of the delay in this hearing, the Player has been left out of the LA SVNS squad. Mr Evert confirmed that the Player would otherwise have been selected and was on the standby for the team.

Number of weeks/matches deducted | 2 |

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:
Considering all the factors above, particularly the recency and similarity of the Player's last act of foul play, the JO determined that two (2) matches should be deducted.

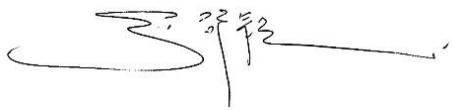
ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS
Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 17.20.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Whilst the player had recently received a suspension for a High Tackle, he has otherwise had a clean disciplinary record.
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
NA

Number of additional weeks/matches | - |

SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	4 weeks (translated to 4 games)	Sending off sufficient ☐
Sanction commences	5 April 2025	
Sanction concludes	See below	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	The three (3) matches in Singapore SVNS which the Player had been stood down from. <u>On Day 1 & 2 of the Singapore SVNS – 5 & 6 April 2025</u> *Match 1 – RSA v ARG* *Match 2 – RSA v USA* *Match 3 – RSA v AUS* <u>Day 1 of Los Angeles (LA) SVNS – 4 May 2025</u> *Match 4 - The Player may resume playing after RSA's first match in the LA SVNS.*	
Costs	NA	

Signature (JO or Chairman)		Date	25 April 2025

NOTE: YOU HAVE **48 HOURS (15s) / 24 HOURS (7s)** FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) / R 17.38.1 (or equivalent Tournament rule)