

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Buruiana	Player's forename(s)	Stefan
Player's Union	Romania		
Match	Chile v Romania		
Competition	N/A	Match Date	5 July 2025
Offence	Law 9.20	SELECT: Red card ☒ Citing ☐	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card upheld?</i>	Foul play admitted but the player did not accept the foul play merited a red card. Instead, he asserted it is "borderline RC/YC". Red card upheld.		
Summary of Sanction	Proposed sanction: 3-week suspension. We have not been told if the player is eligible for the 'coaching intervention programme'. If he is eligible, we approve that course, and the sanction will be reduced to 2 weeks upon successful completion thereof.		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	The 3 matches for which the player would be suspended: - Uruguay v Romania - 12 July 2025 (International). - Argentina XV v Romania - 18 July 2025 (International). - SC Albi v Carcassonne - 1 August 2025 (Pre-Season).		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
Evidence and materials considered: - Video footage of the incident. - Red card report. - Player's written submissions filed by his lawyer. Red card upheld: - Foul play, which the player accepted, contrary to Law 9.20. - Contrary to the players submissions, red card threshold met: direct contact with the side of the head with sufficient speed and force that the degree of danger was high, so entry point is a red card (<i>per</i> Head Contact Process ['HCP']).			

3. There was no attempt to bind or to wrap with the right arm, so an always illegal action. Mitigation (if there was any) cannot apply so correct outcome is a red card (*per* HCP). Even if this was not always illegal, there is no mitigation so outcome the same: red card.

Propose sanction:

1. Mid-range entry point (mandated as minimum and no basis for moving to top end) – 6 matches
2. Full mitigation – 50% reduction namely 3 weeks. He has one previous red card (for 2xYellow Cards (resulting in no suspension) in club rugby in 2024. We do not agree with the characterisation of that as a “*clean record*”; but it does not deprive him of full mitigation.
3. There are no aggravating factors.
4. If he is eligible for the coaching intervention programme the FPRC approves that course. Successful completion of that will reduce the suspension to one of 2 weeks

The Player submitted: “*It is therefore borderline YC/RC offending, and if the RC remains on the record, a Warning (no further sanction) is appropriate*”. The FPRC has no power to overturn the RC save and except in the case of mistaken identity, which this is not. If this submission was an oblique reference to footnote 5 to Appendix 1 of World Rugby Regulation 17 (the wholly disproportionate provision) we reject it. The proposed sanction is proportionate.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Bogdan Zebega (Rom) Martyn Wood (Eng)		
Signature Chair	Christopher Quinlan KC, JPC	Date	6 July 2025