



FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Bayfield	Player's forename(s)	Laura
Player's Union	New Zealand		
Match	New Zealand v Japan		
Competition	Rugby World Cup 2025	Match Date	31 August 2025
Offence	Law 11.3 – A player must not intentionally knock the ball forward with hand or arm Law 9.7(a) – A player must not intentionally infringe any law of the game	SELECT: Red card ☒ 2xYCs Citing ☐	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card upheld?</i>	Red card (2xYCs) upheld.		
Summary of Sanction	Warning – sending off sufficient		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	N/A		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
The Player received two Yellow Cards in the Match resulting in a Red Card being issued to the Player. The first Yellow Card was issued to the Player in the 42nd minute of the Match for intentionally knocking the ball forward with her arm/hand in breach of Law 11.3. We consider the Match Official was correct to issue the Yellow Card to the Player. The Player was never in a realistic position to intercept the ball in circumstances where Japan had superior numbers out wide and open space to the try line. Accordingly, in our opinion the Player deliberately knocked the ball forward with her hand in breach of Law 11.3. It was cynical offending by the Player. The second Yellow Card was issued to the Player in the 69th minute of the Match for collapsing a maul on New Zealand's try line. Again we consider the Match Official was correct to issue the second Yellow Card to the Player. There was a lineout close to New Zealand's try line. Japan had the throw, won the lineout and set up a maul metres out from New Zealand's try line.			

As the Japanese controlled maul moved forward perilously close to New Zealand's try line the Player is seen to collapse the maul preventing a try. This was in breach of the Laws of the Game. The Player's offending was clearly cynical.

When the Player received her Red Card the score was New Zealand 62 v Japan 19.

Under Appendix 4 to World Rugby's Regulation 17 the Judicial Committee has a discretion when considering a sanction for an accumulation of temporary suspensions.

Clause B of Appendix 4 provides as follows:

1. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each Temporary Suspension and/or Citing Commissioner Warning. Ordinarily, the appropriate entry point for persistent offending within a single Match is a suspension of one to two weeks. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.

2. The Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee may decide that sending off was sufficient (or otherwise that no further sanction is appropriate) in the following circumstances:

...

(c) any of the Temporary Suspensions were awarded for so-called technical offences (including following a team warning) not involving a breach of Laws 9.11 to 9.28 inclusive.

The Player is 26 years of age and has an unblemished disciplinary record.

The Player's two Yellow Cards are for technical offences not for Foul Play of the type addressed by Laws 9.11 to 9.28 inclusive.

The Player is an experienced rugby player with an exceptional disciplinary record.

Her offending was cynical and had no meaningful impact on the outcome on the Match or on the welfare of any opponent.

In the exercise of our discretion, we consider that the sending off was a sufficient sanction in the circumstances of this case and accordingly the Player should be issued with a warning.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Adam Casselden SC (Chair) John Langford Ofisa Tonu'u Junior		
Signature Chair	Adam Casselden SC	Date	1 September 2025