

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Seu	Player's forename(s)	Taleni
Player's Union	Samoa		
Match	Samoa v Fiji		
Competition	PNC	Match Date	6 September 2025
Offence	2 YC offences: - Brech of Laws 9.16 and 9.13	SELECT: Red card ☒ Citing ☐	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card upheld?</i>	Foul Play Determined (two YCs resulting in a RC) Red Card Upheld		
Summary of Sanction	1 week		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Samoa v USA (14 September 2025)		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
- The Player was ordered off following receiving 2 yellow cards during the fixture. First Yellow Card - The first yellow card, was issued for a breach of Law 9.16 – <i>a player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.</i> - A description of the first yellow card is in these terms: <i>"After the ball carrier kicked the ball, blue 6 late no arms tackle."</i> - The TMO/FPRO's Report notes <i>"In the 48 min #6 Samoa Taleni Seu tackled #12 Fiji dangerously by not using his arms in the tackle. The tackle was not considered high danger as there was no head contact. The tackle started at Yellow card threshold and remained a Yellow card with no mitigation."</i> - The video footage identifies an incident consistent with the above. - The medical evidence is that <i>"#12 was taken off for a precautionary HIA assessment and passed so that he returned to the game with no issues and post game was symptom free so no concussion injury was diagnosed."</i> - The Player provided no evidence or submissions in relation to this incident. Second Yellow Card (which led to a RC) - The second yellow card was issued for a breach of Law 9.13 – <i>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</i>			

- A description of the second yellow card incident is in these terms: *"After the ball was passed blue 6 completed a late tackle. This was a second yellow card so red card issued"*.
- The video footage identifies
- The medical evidence is that *"#10 had a hit to the rib cage which didn't cause him to come off so he finished the game with bruising over his rib cage region. He will be [fit] to play next week."*

The Player's submits, in relation to incident 2, that:

"At the time of the incident, I was committed to making a defensive tackle. I already initiated my motion towards the ball carrier prior to the pass being made. Given the speed and dynamics of rugby, I was unable to alter my trajectory once the ball was passed, and I immediately adjusted to make the tackle on the player in question."

The distance between myself and the ball carrier at the moment the pass was thrown contributed to the perceived severity of the impact. I did not have the ability to pull out of the tackle or reduce the momentum as I had already committed to the action. The timing of the pass, in conjunction with my positioning on the field, made the contact appear worse than the intent behind it."

The FPRC found that the tackle was sufficiently late to warrant a yellow card and that the Player needed to take more care in the execution and timing of the tackle.

Sanction

The FPRC considered an appropriate entry point for the RC (2 YCs) at 2 weeks (reflecting Low End nature of offending). The FPRC found the offending to be reckless, but not higher than YC in each instance. The FPRC noted there was no ongoing medical issue on either victim player – with both victim players having continued the match (other than a HIA assessment in the first incident (which the victim player passed)).

Having regard to a plea of guilty and the Player's disciplinary record, should the FPRC offer be accepted, the FPRC determined a 50% reduction was appropriate mitigation in the circumstances.

There were no aggravating circumstances identified by the FPRC.

Accordingly, the sanction proposed to be imposed by the FPRC (if accepted) is a sanction of 1 week, with the Player to miss Samoa v USA fixture on 14 September 2025.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Stephen Hardy (Chair, AU) Stefan Terblanche (RSA) David Croft (AU)		
Signature Chair		Date	7 September 2025