FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Tuitama (the 'Player')	Player's forename(s)	Tuna
Player's Union	Samoa		
Match	Samoa v. USA		
Competition	Pacific Nations Cup	Match Date	September 14, 2025
Offence	9.20a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.	SELECT: Red card x Citing ☐	
Finding of Committee *Foul play determined?* *Red card upheld?*	In determining foul play, the Committee found that the Player's actions were reckless. The Committee found that the Player made direct forceful head contact with the USA #4, that his actions amounted to a high degree of danger and that no mitigation applied. The Red Card was upheld.		
Summary of Sanction	The committee upheld the red card and imposed the mandatory mid-range sanction for offending which occurs under the Head Contact Process which led to a six match entry point. The Committee decided to award full 50% mitigation due to the acceptance of foul play resulting in a final sanction of three matches (reduced to two on successful completion of the coaching intervention program)		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Samoa v. Chile on September 20, 2025 Samoa v. Chile on September 26, 2025 Manuma v. New Zealand Heartlands on November 4, 2025 (if coaching intervention program is not completed by this date)		

REASONS FOR DECISION

At 78.46 game time, #11 Samoa charged into a ruck with a tucked right shoulder making direct contact with the head of USA #4. The Player did not bind onto another player, had a clear line of sight, head contact was avoidable and the act was always illegal (tucked arm, leading with the shoulder). This was an act of foul play. The degree of danger was high as there was direct contact with force to the head of USA #4. The Player's actions were always illegal and there is no mitigation.

HCP Step 1: Has Head Contact Occurred?

a. Yes. The Player's head made contact with the USA #4's face and/or head.

HCP Step 2: Was there foul play?

b. Yes. The Player charged into a ruck with a tucked right shoulder making direct contact with the head of USA #4. The Player did not bind onto another player, had a clear line of sight, head contact was avoidable and the act was always illegal (tucked arm, leading with the shoulder). The Player's actions were highly reckless. By charging into the ruck with a tucked right shoulder, he knew or should have known that there was a risk of committing the act of foul play.

HCP Step 3: What was the degree of danger?

c. The degree of danger was high. The Committee considered the following factors:

i. Direct contact – the Player's shoulder made direct contact with USA #4's head/face;

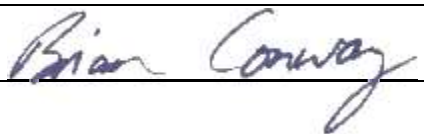
ii. High force – the Player drives into the USA #4 with force;

ii. Always illegal act - the Player's right arm is tucked and there is no attempt to bind;

HCP Step 4: Is there any mitigation?

d. The Committee found there was no mitigating factors present.

Consequently, having considered all the evidence, the Committee upheld the Red Card.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Brian Conway (Chair), Juan Pablo Spirandelli, Stefan Terblanche		
Signature Chair		Date	September 15, 2025