

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Qawe	Player's forename(s)	Chumisa
Player's Union	South Africa		
Match	South Africa v France (Womens)		
Competition	RWC25	Match Date	7 September 2025
Offence	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>	SELECT: Red card ☒ Citing ☐	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card upheld?</i>	Foul Play Determined (plea of guilty) Red Card Upheld		
Summary of Sanction	3 matches. In the event that the Player applies for and successfully completes World Rugby's Coaching Intervention Programme, the sanction will be reduced by 1 match.		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Fixtures to be confirmed. At a minimum to include Women's World Cup Quarter Final. It will also include the semi-final should South Africa make it to that fixture (and the final in the event that the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Program is not applied for and successfully completed by that time). We are informed that the Player has no other confirmed fixtures beyond the tournament at this stage. In those circumstances, in the event that South Africa is, for example, knocked out of the tournament after the Quarter Final, the Player is to notify World Rugby of her playing schedule as soon as it becomes available so that the FPRC can confirm the fixtures to be included with the sanction.		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
- The Player was ordered off following receiving a red card during the fixture. - The red 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> - The referee's report is in these terms: "<i>Dangerous tackle, direct contact to head, tackler upright.</i>" - The FPRO's report is in these terms: "<i>Head contact, foul play, high degree of danger, no mitigation.</i>" - The video footage identifies an incident consistent with the above description.			

- The medical evidence from France is that *"Just spoke with our doctor. Our player is suffering of an hematoma and bone contusion of the right zygomatic bone subject to clinical and paraclinical evolution. We will see over the next few days what the outcome is."*

The Player submitted that:

- the Player attempted a legitimate wrap tackle but failed to sufficiently lower her body height. As a result, direct head contact occurred between her and France 11;
- the Player admits foul play, that there was head contact, that the degree of danger was high, and that the incident warranted a red card;
- the Player's actions were not intentional (but were reckless);
- the Player attempted a legitimate wrap tackle but mistimed her body position;
- no provocation, retaliation or self-defence relevant;
- the victim player continued to play after the incident (and was still awaiting medical report);
- other players did not react as if it were an intentional incident;
- the victim player was not unusually vulnerable; and
- no premeditation.

The FPRC accepts these submissions.

Sanction

The FPRC determined the entry point as being mid-range given World Rugby's directive where there is a head contact in a breach of 9.13.

The entry point for a mid-range for a dangerous tackle (9.13) is 6 weeks.

Having regard to a plea of guilty (at the first available opportunity), and that the FPRC was informed the Player apologised to the victim player at the conclusion of the match, and feels remorseful for her actions (which it accepts), the FPRC is of the view that a 50% reduction is appropriate mitigation in the circumstances.

The FPRC notes in awarding the full 50% in mitigation that it considered the 2022 red card for a breach of 9.13. However, there was no sanction imposed in that instance and, having reviewed the decision, and given the effluxion of time, it believes 50% is the appropriate mitigation in present 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 3 matches.

The Player has sought (and been granted) leave to apply to World Rugby 's Coaching Intervention Program. In the event that the Player applies for and successfully completes the Program, the sanction would be reduced by 1 match.

At a minimum the Player's sanction will include Women's World Cup Quarter Final. It will also include the semi-final should South Africa make it to that fixture (and the final in the event that the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Program is not applied for and successfully completed by that time).

We are informed that the Player has no other confirmed fixtures beyond the tournament at this stage. In those circumstances, in the event that South Africa is, for example, knocked out of the tournament after the Quarter Final, the Player is to notify World Rugby of her playing schedule as soon as it becomes available so that the FPRC can confirm the fixtures to be included with the sanction.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Stephen Hardy (Chair, AU) Stefan Terblanche (RSA) Ofisa Tonu'u (NZ)		
Signature Chair		Date	8 September 2025