

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Sheehan	Player's forename(s)	Dan
Player's Union	British & Irish Lions ("BIL")		
Match	BIL v Australia		
Competition	BIL Tour 2025	Match Date	2 August 2025
Offence	9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul	SELECT: Red card ☐ Citing ☒	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card upheld?</i>	Foul Play not admitted. Foul play determined. Citing upheld.		
Summary of Sanction	Four (4) week suspension reduced to (3) weeks upon successful complete of the coaching intervention programme.		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Four (4) matches for Leinster: <i>Match 1</i> 13 September 2025, Leinster vs Cardiff [pre-season] <i>Match 2</i> 26 September 2025, Leinster vs Stormers [URC] <i>Match 3</i> 11 October 2025, Leinster vs Sharks [URC] <i>Match 4</i> 18 October 2025, Leinster vs Munster [URC] The Player will be free to play in <i>Match 4</i> if he completes the coaching intervention programme		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
Evidence 1. The FPRC received and considered the following material: a. Citing Commissioner's Report; b. victim player's (AUS#10) statement; c. Australia team doctor's report that AUS#10 failed the HIA (i.e. suffered a concussion); d. written submission on behalf of the Player; e. testimonial from Chief Operating Officer of Leinster Rugby.			

2. The Player did not accept that he committed an act of foul play¹ and argued:
- he made contact with the upper body and shoulder AUS#10, not AUS#10's head;
 - he made an attempt to bind with both arms but there was no space for his right arm;
 - the contact which caused the head injury to AUS#10 was made by BIL#19's knee, subsequent to the Player's contact with AUS#10.

Decision

3. The Red Card threshold was met. The FPRC upheld the Citing applying the Head Contact Process (2023):
- head contact – Yes. The Player's right upper arm and/or elbow made contact with the right side of AUS 10's head, which was consistent with video footage (01:27) and AUS#10's statement on a heavy blow to the right side of his head. Contact by BIL#19's knee was to the top of AUS#10's head (00:44);
 - foul play – Yes. The Player's actions were reckless. AUS#10 had already set in position at the ruck prior to the Player's approach. The Player had time and clear line of sight. The Player did not bind with his right arm.² He approached at pace from distance; launched off his right foot and dropped his right shoulder with his upper arm and/or elbow making contact with AUS#10's head;
 - degree of danger – High. The Player approached from a distance, at speed and did not slow down. He was dynamic;
 - mitigation – None. The Player had time and clear line of sight. The Player did not have control – he accelerated from a distance; he did not slow down and he lost his feet. AUS#10 braced for contact but there was no significant drop or movement.

Sanction

- The FPRC applied the mandatory mid-range entry point of 6 weeks due to the head contact. There was no basis for moving to top end.
- As the Player denied foul play, the FPRC did not agree to full 50% mitigation. Based on the Player's clean record and experience the FPRC applied a reduction of 2 weeks (reducing sanction to 4 weeks).
- The Player applied for and is eligible for the coaching intervention programme, which the FPRC approves.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Mike Mika (NZ) Valeriu Toma (ROM)		
Signature Chair	 Wang Shao-Ing	Date	3 August 2025

¹ Paragraph 14 of Written Submissions - *The Player does not accept that he committed an act of foul play or that any action on his part merited a red card.*

² Law 15.7 - A player must bind onto a team-mate or an opposition player. The bind must precede or be simultaneous with contact with any other part of the body.

Dan Sheehan (BIL) FPRC Decision

Postscript: (22 August 2025)

On 7 August 2025, the Player's counsel informed the FPRC that a Leinster's URC fixture on 4 October 2025 against the Bulls had been omitted (in error) from the fixtures provided to the FPRC at the time of its decision. The FPRC considered the delayed request and agreed to include the fixture in the suspension. Consequently, the Player is suspended from the following:

Four (4) matches for Leinster:

Match 1 -13 September 2025, Leinster vs Cardiff [pre-season]

Match 2 - 26 September 2025, Leinster vs Stormers [URC]

Match 3 - 4 October 2025, Leinster vs Bulls [URC]

Match 4 - 11 October 2025, Leinster vs Sharks [URC]

The Player will be free to play in *Match 4* if he completes the coaching intervention programme.