

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player’s surname	Lopes	Player’s forename(s)	Santiago
Player’s Union	Portugal		
Match	Portugal v Uruguay		
Competition	November Internationals 2025	Match Date	8 November 2025
Offence	Law 9.13 – A player must not tackle an opponent ... dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes... tackling ... an opponent above the line of the shoulders.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/>	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card/Citing upheld?</i>	<p>In the 17th minute of the second half of the match, with Uruguay on attack, the Player infringed by tackling an opposing ball carrier in an upright and dangerous manner, resulting in direct contact by his head with the opponent’s head, in the facial area. The Player was yellow carded on the field by the Referee and that card was upgraded to a 20-minute Red Card by the TMO (also acting as the FPRO).</p> <p>The FPRC determined that there was foul play by the Player – a breach of Law 9.13 and that the Red Card should be, and is, upheld.</p> <p>The Player initially was in a semi-crouched position as he led into the tackle, but rose upwards immediately before contact, thereby making contact directly to the face of the opponent with some force.</p>		
Summary of Sanction	<p>Starting point: such a tackle involving, as it did, head contact “shall result in at least a mid-range sanction”. Mid- range sanction warranted on the facts here, but not any higher.</p> <p>Mitigating features were found present, and no aggravating factors.</p> <p>Discount allowed at 33% given the factors listed in Reasons below.</p> <p>So, from a starting point of a suspension for 6 weeks/matches, a reduction to 4 weeks. The Committee grants the Player permission to apply for WR’s Coaching Intervention Sanction Mitigation (CISM), and should he successfully complete the CISM, a reduction of a further week/match will be applied.</p>		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	<p>All rugby (whether XVs or 7s, and including all internationals and club fixtures) from 8 November 2025 up to and including 30 November 2025, if successful completion of the CISM (including internationals Portugal v Hong Kong, Portugal v Canada, RC Montemor v Cascais (1st Round, Honra Top 12) and any club matches in that period); should he not successfully complete the CISM, all matches up to and including 7 December 2025 (which would then include Wolves v Lusitanos and any other club matches in that additional period).</p>		

REASONS FOR DECISION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Player rising upwards when entering and initiating contact. 2. Contact direct to the opponent's head. 3. No HIA required; although a cut to eyelid which was sutured later, without further complications. 4. Immediate acceptance of responsibility; and apology made to opponent. 5. Not a clear disciplinary record. – 1 previous red card in 2024, but not relating to a dangerous tackle. 6. Allowing a 33% discount – from a 6-week starting point down to a 4-match suspension from all rugby, whether internationals or club, XVs or 7s. 7. The Player is eligible to apply to WR for the application of the CISM which, if successfully completed, would reduce the suspension to 3 matches. 	

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Nigel Hampton KC, chair (New Zealand) John Langford, former international player (Australia) Leon Lloyd, former international player (England)		
Signature Chair	Nigel Hampton KC	Date	9 November 2025

Proposed sanction	Accepted by Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not accepted by Player <input type="checkbox"/>
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