

DISCIPLINARY DECISION



Match	France v Fiji		
Competition	HSBC SVNS Dubai		
Date of match	30 November 2025	Match venue	7he Sevens, Dubai
Applicable rules	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook; Tournament disciplinary manual		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Siqila	Player's forename(s)	Sakiusa
Player's Union	Fiji	Date of birth	27 July 2000
Referee's name	AJ Jacobs		
Foul Play	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted	Red card warranted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Admitted <input type="checkbox"/> Not admitted
Offence	9.18: A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and / or upper body make contact with the ground.	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	3 matches		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	30.11.25	Hearing venue	7he Sevens, Dubai
Chairman/JO	Scott Hutton		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	None		
Appearance Player	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance Union	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Player's Representative(s)	Willie Baleinabuli, Team Manager Osea Kolinisau, Coach	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Brian Hammond – Disciplinary Officer Joyce Hayes, World Rugby (in attendance)
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	RC Report Video Clips of Incident		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

Lifted the player, through the horizontal and dropped him on his head.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

FR8 was uninjured and able to play on.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

Player ("Fiji 92") reviewed the video footage and accepted the RC and acknowledged the offence. Fiji 92 also noted that he was attempting to catch the player and not drop him, but was unable to hold him. Before leaving the field of play, he apologised to FR8 and shook hands.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Fiji 92 accepted the RC and therefore we move to sanction.

Reg. 17.18 - Seriousness of the Incident

The first stage is to consider the seriousness of the incident to determine the entry point for the sanction. The factors I have considered from Reg.17.18 include:

- (a) The tackle was reckless.
- (b) The ball carrier was lifted above the horizontal plane and landed on his head.
- (c) The incident was avoidable but Fiji 92 does attempt to pull out of the tackle and catch the player as he falls. He tries to lower the player safely but was unable to do so.
- (d) FR8 was not 'driven' into the ground but rather was dropped.
- (e) FR8 was uninjured.

In all the circumstances noted above, I believe that a low-end entry point of 6 weeks is appropriate.

17.19 Mitigating Factors

The second stage is to consider mitigating factors under Reg. 17.19. Factors I have considered are:

- (a) Fiji 92 acknowledged the offence and accepted the RC.
- (b) Fiji 92 has never received an RC in his rugby career.
- (c) Fiji 92's conduct at the hearing was very polite and respectful.
- (d) Fiji 92 approached FR8 immediately after the incident and apologised.
- (e) FR8 was uninjured.

For these reasons, I award full mitigation to Fiji 92 of 50% and, therefore, the sanction will be reduced to 3 matches.

In making this decision, I have considered the terms of Reg.17.19.3 which allows the JO to apply sanctions lower than 50% of the lower end entry sanction where:

- (a) There are off-field mitigating factors; and
 (b) The sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending.

In this case, I believe that Fiji 92's acknowledgment and apology satisfy the first leg; however, I do not consider the sanction to be wholly disproportionate. I believe that Fiji 92 did attempt to prevent FR8 from landing on his head but the fact remains that Fiji 92 has a responsibility to ensure that FR8 landed safely, which he was not able to do. Therefore, I do not consider that I am able to lower this sanction below 50% as I do not consider the sanction to be wholly disproportionate and the sanction remains at 3 matches.

17.20 Aggravating Factors

I am not aware of any aggravating factors in this situation.

Matches / tournaments included in the sanction

Total sanction is **3 matches**. Matches included in this sanction are:

1. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's first pool match.
2. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's second pool match.
3. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's third pool match.

DECISION

Foul play	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not determined <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>
Red card warranted	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not determined <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	
Intentional <input type="checkbox"/>	Reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State Reasons	
FR8 was lifted above the horizontal in a tackle and landed on his head. Fiji 92 can be seen trying to catch FR8 as he falls but is unable to prevent him landing on his head.	
Nature of actions – R 17.18.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	
Lifting player off the ground and dropping him so that his head makes contact with the ground.	
Existence of provocation – R 17.18.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	
N/A	

Whether player retaliated – R 17.18.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Self-defence – R 17.18.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Effect on victim – R 17.18.1(g) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None. FR8 was uninjured.
Effect on match – R 17.18.1(h) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None. No further score for either team.
Vulnerability of victim – R 17.18.1(i) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
High.
Level of participation/premeditation – R 17.18.1(j) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Full
Conduct completed/attempted – R 17.18.1(k) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Completed, however Fiji 92 is seen to try and avoid dropping FR8.
Other features of player's conduct – R 17.18.1(l) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Fiji 92 apologised to FR8, to Referee and to JO.

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point (select entry point and indicate n° of weeks/matches starting point)		
<u>Top end</u> * <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Mid-range</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Low-end</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
N° of Weeks/Matches	N° of Weeks/Matches:	N° Weeks/Matches 6 matches

*If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End
N/A

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of commission of foul play – R 17.19.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player's disciplinary record – R 17.19.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Yes	Clean record

Youth and/or inexperience of player – R 17.19.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – R 17.19.1(d) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A	Very good. Polite and respectful.
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 17.19.1(e) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 17.19.1(f) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Apologised to FR8, Referee and JO.	Fiji 92 apologised to FR8 on the pitch and shook his hand.

Number of weeks/matches deducted

3

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

Player acknowledged the offence and apologised to FR8. Player has no disciplinary record and his conduct at the Hearing was very good.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 17.20.1(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Need for deterrence – R 17.20.1(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 17.20.1(c) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None

Number of additional weeks/matches

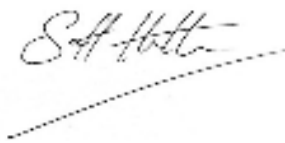
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SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	3 matches	Sending off sufficient <input type="checkbox"/>
Sanction commences	30 November 2025	
Sanction concludes	06 December 2025	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's first pool match. 2. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's second pool match. 3. HSBC SVNS Cape Town – 06.12.25; Fiji's third pool match. 	

Costs	None
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Signature (JO or Chairman)		Date	30 November 2025
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NOTE: YOU HAVE **48 HOURS (15s) / 24 HOURS (7s)** FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) / R 17.38.1 (or equivalent Tournament rule)