

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Williams	Player's forename(s)	Jayden
Player's Union	USA		
Match	Ireland v USA		
Competition	U20s Championship	Match Date	7 July 2026
Offence	Law 9.20 (d) and/or (e) – a “croc roll” as described by the officials.	SELECT: Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Finding of Committee <i>Foul play determined?</i> <i>Red card/Citing upheld?</i>	We find that USA 21's actions constituted foul play. We find that the citing is upheld and the player's actions merited a red card.		
Summary of Sanction	3 weeks		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	To include the remainder of the u20s Rugby Championship and a match as indicated at the end of July (if that is a meaningful match – 'Beach 5's' is mentioned) otherwise the match at the end of August).		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
<p>The referee's report stated: “After a TMO review I sanctioned USA 21 for the illegal action of dropping weight onto an opponents lower limb during a ruck. This was sanctioned with a yellow card and send for an off field review. After the review the yellow card was not upgraded because there was low speed and force.”</p> <p>The TMO reports stated: “USA 21 croc roll at the ruck. Low speed and force - for that reason yellow remains yellow.”</p> <p>The Citing Commissioner's report states: “USA 16 in possession of the ball close to Ireland try line. USA 16 is tackled by Ireland 8. Ireland 6 join play in an attempt to gather the ball from the tackled player. Ireland 6 has feet firmly on the ground before attempting to gather the ball from the tackled player whilst bent over the tackled player. USA 21 joins play and wraps his arms around Ireland 6's upper body in an attempt to remove him from the breakdown. The action of USA 21 is an attempt by him to roll Ireland 6 side ways (a croc roll). USA 21 has a second attempt at rolling Ireland 6 out of what is now a ruck. The second attempt at the clean out causes both players to go to the ground and USA 21 lands on Ireland6's lower right leg and his left leg buckling . There was no attempt by USA 21 to push or drive Ireland 6 backwards as required by law 9.20(d).There is no other player (USA or Ireland) that has any influence on the way USA 21 joins the play or influences the actions of USA 21. Therefore there is no mitigation for these actions as he attempts to clean out Ireland 6.Ireland 6 can be seen lying</p>			

on the ground after the incident. This act of foul play is an infringement of Law 9.20(d) and 9.20 (e). Although the player immediately continues to take part in play he subsequently leaves the field as a result of an assessment by the medical staff given the discomfort he was experiencing as a result of USA 21 rolling him out of the ruck and landing on his lower leg. In the referral request received it appears as if Ireland 6 is receiving post match medical treatment as a result of the incident on the field. A medical report has been received from the team doctor indicating that the incident has resulted the player experiencing discomfort in his left knee. USA 21 received a Yellow Card for a dangerous clean out and the referee requested a review of the Yellow Card. The Yellow Card remained a Yellow Card after the off field review. Based on all available angles I am of the view that the actions of USA 21 meets the Red Card threshold and I cite USA 21 under law 9.20(d) and Law 9.20(e)".

The video footage shows USA 21 attempt to 'croc-roll' Ire 6 on more than one occasion. The Citing Commissioner describes the footage in detail. On the second attempt, USA 21's actions cause both players to fall to the ground with Ire 6s leg clearly buckling.

The medical report from the Ireland doctor confirms a working diagnosis of a posterolateral corner knee injury, and distal hamstring injury on his left side. Further assessment is required.

The Player's submissions state: "I came in to clear the ruck and ended up on top of the defender as I lost my weight. I intended to drive the player straight back, however, I lost the battle which led to my hip dropping. I was unaware that I was on the defender's leg, so I decided to try and hold onto him in the ruck. It was never my intention to commit any acts of foul play or harm the opposition player. I do concede my actions resulted in foul play and would like to reiterate I had no intention to cause harm to the Irish Player"

We find that this was reckless behaviour by USA 21. He did not intend to harm the Irish player, but he did intend to 'croc roll' him sideways and as a result put him at real risk of injury.

We find that the foul play merited a red card.

We find that the Irish player was injured but that the exact injury is unclear as further medical assessment is required. The player did not finish the match.

We find that the offence falls into the mid-range as a starting point.

We find that the offence merits a 6 week suspension.

Given the player's young age, his previous good behaviour (we appreciated his frank admission regarding a non-related yellow card in a college match) and his partial admissions we apply the full 50 % reduction. The outcome is a 3 week suspension.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Richard Cole (Wales) Leon Lloyd (England) Ofisa Tonu'u (New Zealand)		
Signature Chair	RICHARD COLE	Date	8 July 2026

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