

FOUL PLAY REVIEW COMMITTEE

DECISION

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Ezieshvili	Player's forename(s)	Levani
Player's Union	Georgia		
Match	South Africa (U20) v Georgia (U20)		
Competition	Junior World Championship	Match Date	2 July 2026
Offence	9.13	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>	Foul Play admitted. Committee finds that it rose to the level of a red card and upholds the red card.		
Summary of Sanction	3 Weeks		
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Remainder of the Junior World Championship Tournament		
REASONS FOR DECISION			
<p>The Referee's report indicated that he gave a YC for GEO 3 making an upright high tackle, direct head contact, meeting the YC threshold for off field review. The TMO recommended that it should be upgraded to a 20-minute Red Card and he issued a RC to GEO 3.</p> <p>The video referee report indicated that Georgia 3 is upright in the tackle on South Africa 10. There is direct head on head contact made by Georgia 3. During the off field review the tackle is a high degree of danger with no mitigation, therefore upgraded to a 20min RC.</p> <p>The videos provided to the panel show that South Africa 10 making an open field run starting around his own 20 metre line, and running up midfield. Approximately 25 meters downfield, he splits two defenders and makes it though them. He veers to the left exiting the attempted tackle just past midfield as Georgia 3 is coming forward to make a tackle. Georgia 3 is tracking South African 10 across the field and has a clear line of sight at all times. Coming into contact, Georgia 3 has a slight bend at the knees, but is always upright at the waist. He makes direct contact (head-to-head) to the South African 10. The tackle is dynamic and with force as the Georgian 3 drives forward into contact moving the South African 10 backwards and to the ground. The degree of force to the head is further evidenced by the player suffering a concussion as a result.</p> <p>The player admitted to foul play, but challenges that it rose to the level of a red card based on the premise that it was not intentional or with malice.</p> <p>The committee finds that there was head contact. While the committee agrees with Geo 3 that there is nothing that appears to be intentional about the conduct, the dangerous tackle was in fact reckless and avoidable as the player was always upright. The committee further finds that the contact to the head was direct, with high force, and it was a dynamic tackle.</p>			

The committee does not believe there was any mitigating circumstances to reduce it from a red card. The player had a good line of sight through the phase, there was no sudden or significant drop or movement, and the tackler had ample time to adjust his height and technique.

In accordance with Appendix 1, the committee finds that it is a mid-level entry point, as there was contact with the head. A mid-level entry carries with it a 6-week sanction as an entry point.

The committee accepts that while the player has a significant playing history, he is still U20. The committee finds the player's acceptance of the foul play as a mitigating factor as well. While the player did have a prior red card, it was his only disciplinary event, it was two years ago, it was not related to a tackle offense, and it was apparently one of several cards given after an on-field melee. The event was apparently insignificant enough to determine that no further sanction for the red card was needed. Consequently, the committee finds that applying the maximum mitigation (50%) is appropriate and reduces the sanction from 6 weeks to 3 weeks.

The committee does not find any aggravating factors that warrant increasing the sanction.

Therefore, the committee finds that a 3-week sanction to include the three remaining matches in this tournament to be appropriate.

If this player is otherwise eligible for the Coaching Intervention Programme, this committee supports his enrollment and upon timely completion reduction of the sanction by one week.

Foul Play Review Committee Members	Matthew Eason (USA), Sara Smith (SCO), Val Toma (ROM)		
Signature Chair	/s/ Matthew Eason	Date	3 July 2026

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