DISCIPLINARY DECISION

Match	Wales v South Africa		
Competition	WXV Global Series 2026		
Date of match	18 September 2026	Match venue	Cardiff Arms Park
Applicable rules	Regulation 17 World Rugby Handbook WXV Global Series Disciplinary Manual Global Off-Field Sanctioning Process		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Lochner	Player's forename(s)	Danelle
Player's Union	South Africa	Date of birth	16 May 1997
Referee's name	Ella Goldsmith		
Foul Play	☒ Admitted ☐ Not admitted	Red card warranted	☐ Admitted ☒ Not admitted
Offence	Law 9.13 - a player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders, even where the tackle commences below the line of the shoulders	SELECT: Red card ☒ Citing ☐ Other ☐ If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	None, red card dismissed		

HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	22 September 2026	Hearing venue	Zoom
Chairman/JO	Roddy Dunlop KC		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	Jamie Corsi Ollie Kohn		
Appearance Player	Yes ☒ No ☐	Appearance Union	Yes ☒ No ☐
Player's Representative(s)	Marius Botha, Player's Representative Dave Wessels – SARU General Manager: High Performance Barry McDonald – SARU: High Performance	Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	Brian Hammond, World Rugby – DDO Joyce Hayes, World Rugby – Disciplinary Coordinator

	Thato Mavundla – MyPlayers Representative Cindy Booi – MyPlayers Representative Chantal du Pisani – SARU: Head of Legal and Compliance Willemien Van der Merwe – SARU: Rules and Regulations		
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Player Submission Form; Match Official reports, video footage and still photographs of the incident; medical report; disciplinary record as furnished by SA Rugby and Harlequins Rugby Club		

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

The incident occurred at approximately the 35th minute of the first half, with play taking place approximately 10 metres from the 22-metre line in the middle of the field. Wales No. 22 made a long skip pass, which was caught by Wales No. 6 whilst airborne. Ms Lochner, playing for South Africa, moved to effect a tackle on the ball carrier. Contact was made with the head of No. 6. Ms Lochner was shown a yellow card by the referee and was removed from the field of play at that point, taking no further part in the match. The yellow card was subsequently upgraded by the FPRO to a red card.

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

The medical report confirmed that Wales No. 6 sustained a minor nose bleed following the incident, which resolved quickly. She was assessed and cleared via HIA protocol and continued to participate in the match. No concussion or other material injury was identified.

The Player's disciplinary record, as furnished by SA Rugby and Harlequins Rugby Club, confirmed no previous cards.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

Ms Lochner, represented by Marius Botha, disputed that the red card was warranted. The Player's position, supported by video footage and still photographs, was as follows.

Wales No. 6 caught a long skip pass whilst jumping in an upright position. Ms Lochner had already committed to the tackle, with her arms extended in front of her and her body bent at the knees and hips in a position appropriate for a legal wrap tackle. There was a sudden and significant drop in height and change of direction by the ball carrier from the moment she caught the ball until the moment of contact, with a reaction window of less than one second.

The initial and primary contact was between the shoulder and chest areas of the two players. Any head contact was slight and incidental — described as side-to-side or temple-level contact — arising from the change in height and direction by No. 6 rather than from any deliberate or forceful movement by Ms Lochner. There was no leading elbow, forearm or shoulder, and no swinging motion. Ms Lochner completed a full wrap tackle with both arms.

It was further submitted that the Player's body absorbed the majority of the contact, causing a spinning movement consistent with an attempt to minimise rather than increase the impact, and that there was no meaningful forward acceleration at the point of contact.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Committee found the following facts established:

1. Head contact occurred between Ms Lochner and Wales No. 6 during the tackle.
2. The conduct constituted foul play within the meaning of Law 9.13, in that contact was made with the head in circumstances where it could have been avoided. However, the Committee accepted that any recklessness on the part of Ms Lochner, if established, fell at the lowest possible end of the spectrum.
3. The contact with the head was not deliberate and was not the result of any targeted, forceful or aggressive movement directed towards No. 6's head. There was no leading elbow, forearm or shoulder, and no swinging motion.
4. The primary cause of the head contact was the sudden and substantial drop in height and change of direction by the ball carrier in the moments before contact. The reaction time available to Ms Lochner from the point at which No. 6 caught the ball until contact was made was approximately half a second, leaving insufficient time to readjust her tackle height fully.
5. Ms Lochner herself attempted to respond to the change in position by stepping backwards and attempting to lower her own height. These efforts, while ultimately insufficient to prevent head contact entirely, are consistent with the execution of a legitimate rugby action rather than a dangerous or unlawful one.
6. The degree of danger was low. The contact was not square-on but side-to-side and at temple level. The force involved was limited; there was no significant acceleration, jumping or launching action. No. 6 sustained only a minor nose bleed, was cleared through HIA and continued to play without apparent distress.
7. There were no aggravating features in the conduct itself.

DECISION

Foul play	Admitted ☒ Determined ☐ Not determined ☐ The Committee determined that foul play was established insofar as head contact occurred in the context of a tackle. However, for the reasons set out above — in particular the substantial and sudden drop in height by the ball carrier, Ms Lochner's own attempts to step back and lower her height, the extremely short window of time (approximately half a second) available to her to adjust her position, the absence of any deliberate targeting of the head, the absence of any leading arm or shoulder, and the low degree of force involved — the conduct did not meet the threshold required for a red card. The Committee was satisfied that the appropriate on field sanction should have been a yellow card only.
Red card warranted	Admitted ☐ Determined ☐ Not determined ☒ Other disposal (please state) ☐

Following sections left intentionally blank as not relevant

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

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	None, red card rescinded	Sending off sufficient ☐
Sanction commences	N/A	
Sanction concludes	N/A	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	N/A	
Costs	N/A	

Signature (JO or Chairman)	Roddy Dunlop KC	Date	23 September 2026

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)