

## EPCR SHORT JUDGMENT FORM

Match	Racing92	Leicester Tigers	
Competition	European Champions Cup		
Date of match	14/10/2017	Match venue	Stade Yves Manoir, Paris

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### PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE

Player's surname	Williams	Date of birth	04/11/1991
Forename(s)	Mike	Plea	Admitted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Admitted <input type="checkbox"/>
Club name	Leicester Tigers	SELECT: Red card <input type="checkbox"/> Citing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Offence	10.4(h) - Charging into a ruck or maul		

### HEARING DETAILS

Hearing date	18/10/2017	Hearing venue	Sofitel, Heathrow Airport
Chairman	Roger Morris (Wales)	Secretary	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Panel member 1	Jennifer Donovan (Ireland)	Panel member 2	Tommy Dalton (Ireland)
Decision	Proven <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not proven <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposal (please state) <input type="checkbox"/>		<a href="#">Click to enter other disposal.</a>

### SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/DVD FOOTAGE

The incident occurred at a ruck following a tackle and turnover by Leicester Tigers. The Victim Player was "jackaling" for the ball leaning over and into the ruck. The Player, who had arrived at the ruck and was positioned a behind it, went to "clear out" the Victim Player. The Referee was beside the ruck but was unsighted by another player. The Player completed the "clear out" he covered a very short distance, a few paces, and there was no question of diving or running into the ruck. His manoeuvre resulted in his right shoulder coming into contact with the Victim Player's neck and head. The Victim Player visibly went backwards after the contact holding the top of his head. The play continued without any intervention by the referee. The Victim Player did not require medical treatment.

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## FINDINGS OF FACT

The Panel noted the admission of the offence and the acceptance that it warranted a Red Card. The Panel found that the Player had committed an act of illegal and/or foul play as alleged in the citing complaint in respect of the allegation of breach of Law 10.4 (h). The Panel were satisfied that offence committed by the player warranted a Red Card and that he should have been ordered off the field for his involvement in the incident.

## DECISION

The Player is suspended from playing rugby until midnight on Sunday 22nd October 2017 which represents a suspension of 1 week. The Player has a right of appeal against this Decision.

Decision

Proven  Not Proven

## ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent	
PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX    Intentional/deliberate <input type="checkbox"/> Reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
State Reasons	
The Player intended to “clear out” the Victim Player, who was “jackaling” for the ball in a ruck controlled by Leicester Tigers, by legally shouldering him in the shoulder/trapezius area. The impact resulted in his own shoulder continuing sideways and upwards thereby coming into contact with the neck and head of the Victim Player. It was accepted that the Player took a minimal number of steps into the ruck and had not run into it.	
Gravity of player’s actions	Nature of actions
The actions of the Player could have resulted in a serious injury but, thankfully, did not.	The Player was completing a manoeuvre in “clearing out” the Injured Player which he had been coached to do.
Existence of provocation	Whether player retaliated
None	No
Self-defence	Effect on victim
N/A	Some pain and discomfort but was able to continue without needing treatment.
Effect on match	Vulnerability of victim
None	Did not arise. The initial contact was legal.
Level of participation/premeditation	Conduct completed/attempted
Did not arise	The Panel accepted that the Player was attempting and solely intended to complete a legal “clearing out”
Other features of player’s conduct	
The Panel was satisfied, bearing in mind there was no complaint by the Victim Player at the time of the incident and that the Referee, who was in close proximity to it, did not react, that the Player was unaware of his offending then and for the remainder of the match.	

Entry point	Top end* Click weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-range Click weeks <input type="checkbox"/>	Low end Click weeks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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\*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 17.19.2(a), 17.19.2(h), and 17.19.2(i) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for entry point:

The Panel determined that the Player's actions were reckless, the injury was not serious in that the Injured Player continued to play without medical treatment, there was no effect on the game, the Victim Player was not in a vulnerable position and there was no element of premeditation. It also found that the features of provocation, retaliation and self-defence were not present or relevant to determining the seriousness of the conduct. The Panel determined that the appropriate entry point was Low End (2 weeks). No aggravating features were found to be present. The Panel were satisfied that Player met all the off field mitigating factors, taking into account a disparity in sanctioning protocols for cumulative Yellow Cards between the RFU and the national Unions of participating from other countries. In those circumstances, the Player was entitled to the maximum 50% reduction from the entry point of 2 weeks. The Player having supplied his forthcoming schedule of games, the Panel were satisfied that he would have been available and expected to play on 21st October 2017 in the European Champions Cup.

**ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS**

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the game

The Player had been suspended for 1 week in Season 2014-15 pursuant to "totting up" protocols for cumulative Yellow Cards operated by the RFU. The suspension in that instance, for 3 Yellow Cards, was the mandatory minimum sanction of 1 week..

Need for deterrent

None

Any other off-field aggravating factors

None

Number of additional weeks:  weeks

Acknowledgement of guilt The Player acknowledged his guilt immediately the citing was brought to his attention once he was given an opportunity to review the video evidence and carefully consider all of the circumstances of the incident.	Player's disciplinary record/good character The Player's good character was vouched by the Leicester Tigers' Head Coach Matt O'Connor in a glowing written reference. This was supplemented in person by Mr David Bassett of the Leicester Tigers who attended the hearing with the Player
Youth & inexperience of player The Player is 25 years old and is a Squad Member of the Senior England International Team.	Conduct prior to and at hearing Exemplary.
Remorse & timing of remorse The Player was remorseful and expressed this at the first opportunity.	Other off-field mitigation The Player is a very willing rugby ambassador for the game and Leicester Tigers in the local community. He coaches at underage level. He is seen as an excellent role model for younger players. He has been very unlucky with a recurring injury to his left arm which actually denied him his first Senior Cap for his country last autumn.

Number of weeks deducted:  weeks

NOTE: SUBJECT TO REGULATION 19.11.13, A DISCIPLINARY PANEL CANNOT APPLY A GREATER REDUCTION THAN 50% OF THE RELEVANT ENTRY POINT SUSPENSION

## SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING

Total sanction  weeks  Sending off sufficient 

Banned from	14/10/2017	Banned to	22/10/2017
Ban split from	N/A	Ban split to	N/A
Free to play	23/10/2017		

Signature  Date

(Chairman)	Roger Morris		
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**NOTE:** YOU HAVE 48 HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE RELEVANT BODY