

EPCR CHALLENGE CUP

Decision 24 January by consideration of the papers

In respect of:

Igor Kurashov ("the Player") Enisei-STM Krasnoyarsk

And

The ordering off of the Player ("Red Card") following two temporary suspensions ("Yellow Card(s)") issued by referee Daniel Jones ("the Referee") in the match between Worcester Warriors and Enisei-STM Krasnoyarsk ("the Match") played at Sixways Stadium, Worcester on 21 January 2017.

Judicial Officer appointed

Roger Morris (Wales) ("the Judicial Officer")

Decision of the Judicial Officer

- i. The Judicial Officer found that the act of foul play for which the Yellow Cards were awarded did not constitute a pattern or persistence of offending such that any further sanction should be imposed in addition to the Red Card.
- ii. The Player is immediately free to play the game.

Introduction

- 1.1 The Judicial Officer was appointed by Prof Lorne D Crerar, Chairman of the EPCR Disciplinary Panel, under the disciplinary rules applicable to the EPCR Challenge Cup ("the Tournament") for season 2016-2017 to consider matters arising from the Red Card issued to the Player in the Match
- 1.2 The parties agreed that the matter could be dealt with by the Judicial Officer by way of considering the Referee's report and without the need for a formal hearing with the Player present either in person or by electronic means
- 1.3 Daniel Jones ("the Referee") who was appointed as referee of the Match issued a Red Card to the Player following the issue of a second Yellow Card to the same player in that match. The first yellow card ("YC1") was issued for an offence at a ruck. The Player had illegally entered the side of a ruck and kicked the ball so as to prevent his opponents (in a strong attacking position) from playing it. The second yellow card ("YC2") was issued for an offence committed by the Player of deliberately knocking the ball out of play with his hand.

2. **Circumstance of YC1**

In terms of the Referee's report:

"The first yellow card was on 30.05 whereby Worcester were in an attacking position on 22 meters line and Kurashov deliberately entered the side of a formed ruck and kicked the ball to stop a Worcester player from playing the ball away in a strong attacking position."

3. **Circumstances of YC2**

Again in terms of the Referee's report:

"the second yellow card came on 68.45. The Worcester player kicked the ball through to the corner (5 meters from Enisei glow line and 5 meters from the far touchline). There were two Worcester players and Kurashov... chasing back for the ball. Kurashov arrived split second before the two Worcester players and slid down towards the ball. Kurashov made no effort to catch the ball, he just used one hand to bat the ball into touch. For me there was no attempt at all to cover the ball and it stopped the probable time from being stored if it was not for his action. He was issued the second yellow card and then the red card and left the pitch with no issues".

4 The Judicial Officer noted that following memorandum guidance from World Rugby, in considering cases where a red card was the result of the issue of two yellow cards, he was required to assess the persistent nature of a player's offending and then consider sanction in relation to that persistence and not in relation to the substantive offending itself.

5 The Judicial Officer also noted that neither Yellow Card was issued for an act of foul play that involved violence in any way, shape or form. On the contrary the two Yellow Cards had been issued for what have become known as "technical offences" i.e. not offences involving violence or a breach of Law 10.4 of the Laws of the Game.

6 In the circumstances, the Judicial Officer determined that the Red Card was sufficient sanction and that no further sanction would be imposed. Accordingly the Player is immediately free to play.

7 The parties have a right of appeal under the Rules.

Signed: 
ROGER MORRIS
Judicial Officer

7th January 2017