

**ABBREVIATED PROCESS – JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION**



Match	Leinster Rugby v Zebre Parma		
Player's Club	Zebre Parma	Competition	United Rugby Championship
Date of match	25/10/2025	Match venue	Aviva Stadium
Rules to apply	United Rugby Championship 2025/26 Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Dominguez		
Player's forename	Thomas	Referee's name	Match Referee: Ian Kenny
Offence	Law 9.13 <i>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 if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.</i>	SELECT:	Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>

JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION			
Judicial Officer's name	Neil Snellenburg SC	Date of appointment	28/10/2025
Information reviewed	<u>Documents/materials provided to the Player by URC:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 x Video files at full speed, 50% speed and 25% speed with 9 angles</li> <li>• Report of referee Ian Kenny (Scotland)</li> <li>• Assistant Referees' reports</li> <li>• TMO's report</li> <li>• Medical statement, Garreth Farrell, Lead Physio, Leinster Rugby</li> <li>• Formal red card notification from Jude Canniffe, URC Disciplinary Officer, dated 27 October 2025 containing standing directions</li> <li>• Email, dated 29 October 2025, from Leinster regarding the expected layoff time as result of the injury.</li> </ul> <u>Documents/materials filed by the Player:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Player response to standing directions containing the Player's statement, disciplinary record, expression of remorse and playing schedule</li> </ul>		

**Application of Disciplinary Rule 7.6.30**

Assessment of intent - DR 7.6.30(a) and (b)

intentional  reckless

**State Reasons**

Referee, Ian Kenny, stated in his report:

*"L 8 picks from the base of the scrum and Z 9 goes to make a tackle. Prior to making the tackle, Z 9 goes onto his knee, makes contact with the L players leg without a sufficient arm wrap. The Leinster player then goes above the horizontal and lands in a potentially dangerous position. A yellow card was issued and off field review recommended. YC was then upgraded to a 20minute red card."*

Colin Brett, the TMO, stated: *"Zebre 9 was on the ground when making the tackle with no wrap. Leinster player landed dangerously."*

Leinster #8 (James Culhane) said in his written statement:

"I recall picking up the ball from the base of the scrum and breaking out to the right when the Zebre scrum half dropped to his knee to tackle me. I then felt a degree of force go directly through my left knee and my body flipping over onto my neck/shoulder. As I landed on the ground, I experienced pain in my left knee and a jolt in my upper back/neck upon impact. I remained on the ground in some discomfort until the team doctor arrived and I was then examined and removed from the pitch."

The Player said in his written statement contained in the response to the standing directives:

"As L8 carried from the scrum, I started to run from the blind side of the scrum to cover. As I braced to tackle, I put my head in the wrong place, lost my footing on my right leg and fell to my knee, as I realized I was with my knee on the floor I regathered my footing and I raised my self back up. I attempted to wrap my left arm but L8 right leg was already over my head and missed his leg. This does not justify my clumsy action and I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for what I did. I made terrible rugby mistake. I deeply regret what happened and took the opportunity post match to visit Leinster changing room to apologize to L8."

Having considered the various statements in conjunction with video footage at full speed, 50% speed and 25% speed with 9 angles the following findings of fact are made:

- The Player had a clear line of sight.
- Before contact, the Player's body position was wrong with his head clearly in the wrong place.
- The Player goes down on his knee before contact. Whilst no longer being able to execute a lawful tackle at this stage, as result of the Player's body position, he is also not able to wrap.
- Leinster #8's left knee hyperextends on impact with the Player. As Leinster #8 attempts to bring his right leg over the Player, the Player bears up (rises).
- The player's upwards movement causes Leinster #8 to go through the horizontal, causing the Player to land 'in a potentially dangerous position'.
- The Player did not act with intent. The Player's actions were reckless.
- The Player correctly accepted that he committed an act of foul play in terms of Law 9.13.

Nature of actions – DR 7.6.30(c)

See discussion on the reasons for my assessment of intent.

Existence of provocation – DR 7.6.30(d)

N/A

Whether the Player retaliated – DR 7.6.30(e)

N/A

Self-defence – DR 7.6.30(f)

N/A

Effect on victim – DR 7.6.30(g)

L8 suffered a serious knee injury as result of the offending conduct. Garreth Farrell, Lead Physio at Leinster explained the following in his medical report:

"James (Leinster #8) sustained a left knee injury in the Leinster v Zebre game on 25.10.25. The injury occurred at 36:27. James picks the ball from the scrum, the impact from the tackle occurs to the anterior aspect of his left knee. James hyperextended his left knee from the impact. He was removed from the field of play as he was struggling to weight bear on a single leg. James had an MRI on 26.10.25 which demonstrates impaction fractures

<p>to both the tibia and femur at the anterior aspect of the joint. Internally James sustained a meniscal tear and posteriorly through the joint James sustained tearing of the stabilising ligaments. These ligaments will be checked clinically in a few day once the swelling comes down to understand whether he may need surgery to stabilise the posterior lateral aspect of the joint." Regarding the anticipated layoff time: Hi Jude, there is no further update. James is due to meet the surgeon on Friday afternoon. Our head of medical has though estimated a layoff of 10 weeks."</p>	
Effect on match – DR 7.6.30(h)	
The foul play had no effect on the match.	
Vulnerability of victim – DR 7.6.30(i)	
The vulnerability of the victim includes an assessment of the part of the victim's body involved/affected; the position of the victim and his ability to defend himself. As result of the Player's body position, Leinster #8 was in fact in a vulnerable position when the Player went down on his knee as evidenced by the hyperextension injury that Leinster #8 suffered. The Player's further action by moving upward caused Leinster #8 to land in a potentially dangerous position.	
Level of participation/premeditation – DR 7.6.30(j)	
The foul play was not premeditated.	
Conduct completed/attempted – DR 7.6.30(k)	
The action was completed.	
Other features of the Player's conduct – DR 7.6.30(l)	
N/A	
Mitigating factors	The Player indicated in his response to the standard directions that he accepted he had committed an act of Foul Play contrary to Law 9.13 deserving a red card. The Player has an exemplary and unblemished disciplinary record. This was the Player's first red card. The Player apologized to Leinster #8 in the Leinster changing room after the match and the Player expressed remorse in his response to the standard directions.
Aggravating factors	N/A
Summary of Judicial Officer's sanctioning assessment	In assessing the seriousness of the Player's conduct based on the features set out in DR 7.6.30, I find that the Player had recklessly attempted to carry out a tackle thereby causing a serious serious knee injury to Leinster #8. I determine the appropriate entry point to be the mid-range entry point, which is a six (6) week suspension. The Player satisfies all the factors entitling him to the maximum mitigation that I may consider and impose and there are no aggravating factors bearing on the sanction.
Proposed sanction	A playing suspension of <b>three (3) weeks</b> , based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a mid-range entry point of <b>six (6) weeks</b>;</li> <li>• an increase of <b>zero 0 weeks</b> for aggravating factors; and</li> <li>• a reduction of <b>three 3 weeks</b> for mitigating factors.</li> </ul>
Matches / dates covered	Zebre Parma v Benetto Treviso 20/11 Zebre Parma v Cardiff 29/11 Zebre Parma v Montauban 06/12 <b>Sanction concludes 7 December 2025, 0001 UK/Irish time</b>

Signature (Judicial Officer)		Date	30 OCTOBER 2025
---------------------------------	---	------	-----------------