

ABBREVIATED PROCESS – JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION



Match	Hollywoodbets Sharks v Ulster Rugby		
Player's Club	Hollywoodbets Sharks	Competition	United Rugby Championship
Date of match	18/10/2025	Match venue	Kings Park
Rules to apply	United Rugby Championship 2025/26 Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Mapimpi		
Player's forename	Makazole	Referee's name	Ben Whitehouse
Offence	9.18	SELECT: Red card <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citing <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If "Other" selected, please specify:	

JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION			
Judicial Officer's name	Sheriff Kathrine Mackie	Date of appointment	20/10/2025
Information reviewed	Match footage Referee's report Assistant Referees' reports TMO's report Medical statement U15's statement Response to Standing Directions Written Submissions on behalf of player Player's disciplinary record Player's playing schedule.		
Application of Disciplinary Rule 7.6.30			
Assessment of intent – DR 7.6.30(a) and (b)			
intentional <input type="checkbox"/> reckless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
State Reasons			
<p>The match officials observed the player carry out a lifting tackle with U15 landing dangerously on his head/neck area. The incident was reviewed with the TMO. Following the review the referee determined that it met the yellow card threshold. It was further reviewed off field and upgraded to a red card. The player knew or ought to have known that there was a risk of committing an act of foul play in the technique employed in the tackle. He anticipated the ball being passed to U15 and steadied himself to effect a tackle. The player initially moved backwards and then was in a stationary position as U15 approached. After receiving the ball U15 moved about 6 or 7 strides forward before passing the ball to U11. As U15 released the ball the player grabbed him around and behind his knees. The player's left elbow rose upwards so that he executed a lifting manoeuvre. He continued to lift U15 so that his legs went above the horizontal and his right leg pointed skywards. In so doing the player knew or ought to have known that there was a risk that U15 would land on a vulnerable part of his anatomy. It was the player's duty to ensure that U15 landed safely but he failed to do so. Instead he drove him into the ground with force.</p>			
Nature of actions – DR 7.6.30(c)			

The player lifted U15 off the ground with his legs above the horizontal and drove him to the ground so that U15's head and upper back/neck made contact with the ground.	
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)	
Required medical assessment on the pitch. No neck or head injury. Significant pain in left iliac crest/left abdominal region. Aggravation of pre-existing injury. Fit to play on. Post match stiff and sore in left lower abdomen/left lateral hip region. Expected to be fit to play in next match.	
Effect on match – DR 7.6.30(h)	
None other than that the player's team were reduced to 14 for 20 minutes.	
Vulnerability of victim – DR 7.6.30(i)	
Extremely vulnerable.	
Level of participation/premeditation – DR 7.6.30(j)	
Sole participant. Reckless so no premeditation	
Conduct completed/attempted – DR 7.6.30(k)	
Completed act	
Other features of the Player's conduct – DR 7.6.30(l)	
N/A	
Mitigating factors	The player acknowledged culpability and accepted that the act of foul play merited a red card. No other mitigating factors were found.
Aggravating factors	None
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, the Judicial Officer considered that the Player had recklessly carried out a dangerous lifting tackle in which the Player lifted U15's legs above the horizontal, his right leg pointing skywards, and drove him into the ground so that his head and upper back/neck made contact with the ground. No significant injury was sustained although U15 suffered a minor aggravation to a pre-existing injury. He was fit to continue to play and was expected to be fit to play in the next match. The Judicial Officer determined the appropriate entry point to be low end, which is a 6 week suspension. The player acknowledged that he had committed an act of foul play meriting a red card. He is a very experienced player with a number of caps for South Africa. He has received two red cards recently, in 2023 and 2025, and cannot be said to have a clean disciplinary record. The player is said not to have had any interaction with U15 after the incident. The player gave no statement. No expression of remorse has been made.

Proposed sanction	<p>A playing suspension of 5 weeks, based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a lower end entry point of 6 weeks; • an increase of 0 weeks for aggravating factors; and • a reduction of 1 week for mitigating factors.
Matches / dates covered	<p>25 Oct 2025 v Scarlets 1 Nov 2025 South Africa v Japan 08 Nov 2025 South Africa v France 15 Nov 2025 South Africa v Italy 22 Nov 2025 South Africa v Ireland</p>

Signature (Judicial Officer)	Kathrine EC Mackie	Date	22 nd October 2025
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