

ABBREVIATED PROCESS – JUDICIAL OFFICER DETERMINATION



Match	Dragons RFC vs Scarlets		
Player's Club	Scarlets	Competition	United Rugby Championship
Date of match	01/01/2026	Match venue	Rodney Parade, Newport
Rules to apply	United Rugby Championship 2025/26 Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Douglas		
Player's forename	Max	Referee's name	Ben Connor
Offence	9.20b - Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.	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	Rose Alice Murphy	Date of appointment	03/01/2025
Information reviewed	Match footage Referee's report Assistant Referees' reports TMO's report Medical statement Statement of Harrison Keddie Player's statement, including expression of remorse 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			
The Player knew or ought to have known that the manner in which he entered the ruck could lead to him committing an act of foul play.			
Nature of actions – DR 7.6.30(c)			
The Victim Player (Dragon 6) was at the back of a ruck seeking to steal the ball, which had been retained by Scarlets following a box kick from the previous ruck. When the Player was in a crouched position reaching for the ball, the Player entered the ruck from a couple of metres back with a clear line of sight of the Victim Player. He entered at force and in a position which resulted in him making head contact with the Victim Player.			
Existence of provocation – DR 7.6.30(d)			

N/A	
Whether the Player retaliated – DR 7.6.30(e)	
Self-defence – DR 7.6.30(f)	
N/A	
Effect on victim – DR 7.6.30(g)	
The Victim Player said that following the incident he had pain in his shoulder/ neck area which he described as a stinger. He was reviewed on the day and was able to continue to play and his medical team has reported no ongoing issues as a consequence of the incident.	
Effect on match – DR 7.6.30(h)	
N/A	
Vulnerability of victim – DR 7.6.30(i)	
The Player made shoulder to head contact with the Victim. The Victim was in a static crouched position at the ruck over the ball at the time of the incident. As a consequence of this position, his head/ neck area was exposed and he was not in a strong position to defend himself which increased his vulnerability to contact by the Player.	
Level of participation/premeditation – DR 7.6.30(j)	
N/A	
Conduct completed/attempted – DR 7.6.30(k)	
Completed	
Other features of the Player's conduct – DR 7.6.30(l)	
N/A	
Mitigating factors	The Player accepted the red card and had a previously clean disciplinary record. As such, he will get the benefit of full mitigation (50% from starting point/ 2 matches).
Aggravating factors	
Summary of Judicial Officer's sanctioning assessment	<p>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 manner in which the Player attempted to clear out a ruck was reckless in that he had a clear line of sight of the Victim Player and entered the ruck in at force in a position where he made shoulder to head contact with the Victim Player. The Victim Player experienced pain in the immediate aftermath of the incident, but did not suffer any ongoing injury, and the Judicial Officer determined the appropriate entry point to be the mid-range entry point, which is a 4-week suspension.</p> <p>The Player got the benefit of a 50% reduction in the starting point due to mitigation as he admitted foul play, has a previously clean disciplinary record and conducted himself well in the abbreviated process.</p> <p>Should the player undertake a Coaching Intervention, this sanction will be reduced by 1 week.</p>

Proposed sanction	<p>A playing suspension of 2 weeks, based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a mid-range entry point of 4 weeks; and • a reduction of 2 weeks for mitigating factors. <p>This will be reduced by a further week if the Player undertakes a Coaching Intervention.</p>
Matches / dates covered	<p>Pau - 10/01/26 Northampton Saints - 18/01/26</p>

Signature (Judicial Officer)	Rose Alice Murphy	Date	5 January 2026
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