

EUROPEAN RUGBY CUP
DECISION OF JUDICIAL OFFICER
21st January 2011

IN RESPECT OF:-

Augustin Costa Repetto (“the Player”)

AND

his Ordering-Off following the issue of a second Yellow Card in the Amlin Challenge Cup match between Sale Sharks and Petrarca Rugby played at Sale on 14th July 2011

JUDICIAL OFFICER

Roger Morris (WRU)

DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL OFFICER:

- (i) The Judicial Officer considered the Player’s Ordering Off by referee Leighton Hodges in the match between Sale Sharks and Petrarca Rugby played on 14th January 2011 (“the Match”). He concluded that no additional sanction should be imposed and that the Player is immediately free to play.
- (ii) The Judicial Officer made no award of costs.

INTRODUCTION

This Judicial Officer was appointed by Professor Lorne D Crerar, the Chairman of the ERC Discipline Panel pursuant to the discipline regulations of ERC in respect of the Ordering Off of the Player during the Match. No hearing was convened because it appeared the matter was capable of determination on the basis of written submissions.

REPRESENTATIONS AND DECISION

The Judicial Officer indicated to both parties that he was content to deal with the matter on the basis of the Referee’s Report and written representations. Both parties agreed.

The Referee’s Report showed that the Player had first been issued with a Yellow Card after 3 minutes of the second half for the offence of making a deliberate knock on. A second Yellow Card (and therefore the Red Card) was issued after 32 minutes of the second half for an offence of “sealing off and slowing down the availability of the ball”.

The written representations of the parties were as follows:

- The ERC Discipline Officer, Mr Roger O'Connor, wrote:

“Following a review of the referee’s report it would appear that the red card was as a result of 2 yellow cards. Both of these were for two “technical” offences. I attach a copy of the decision in the Tagicakibau red card case from round 4. The facts of the case were very similar to this one.

Based on this analysis ERC would recommend that the appropriate sanction in this case is sending off sufficient i.e. that no further sanction should apply.”

- Cornado Cori, on behalf of the Player and Petrarca Rugby, wrote:

“Petrarca Rugby accepts the decision of the Referee and shares ERC’s opinion.”

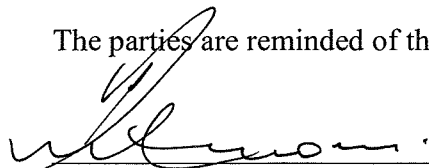
In cases where a red card is the consequence of two yellow cards a Judicial Officer has discretion under Rule 6.7.39 of the Disciplinary Rules applicable to the Amlin Challenge Cup for season 2010/2011 to impose further sanction.

The Judicial Officer noted that in this case, neither offence involved any foul play in the sense of a violent or physical act aimed at another player and that both Yellow Cards were issued for what , in the common usage of Rugby and as described by the referee, are called “technical offences”. Further, the two offences were not related either in time or substance and so, in the Judicial Officer’s view, there was no need to consider any cumulative effect.

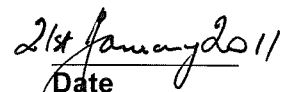
In the circumstances the Judicial Officer considered there to be no need for further sanction.

The issue of the Red Card was sufficient punishment in itself and the Player is immediately free to play. There is no order for costs.

The parties are reminded of their right to appeal this decision.



Roger Morris
Judicial Officer



Date