

AMLIN CHALLENGE CUP
DECISION OF JUDICIAL OFFICER

4th May 2011

IN RESPECT OF:-

Nick Easter ("the Player")

AND

The Ordering-Off of the Player in the Amlin Cup match between Munster and Harlequins ("the Match") played at Thomond Park, Limerick on the 30th April 2011 following the issue to him of two Yellow Cards in the Match

JUDICIAL OFFICER

Roger Morris (WRU)

DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL OFFICER

- (i) The Judicial Officer considered the Player's Ordering Off in the Match and concluded that no additional sanction should be imposed upon the Player and so he 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. The Player had first been issued with a Yellow Card in the 47th minute of the Match for being involved in a scuffle with

an opponent and subsequently, in the 70th minute of the Match , was given a second Yellow Card (and therefore a Red Card) for entering a ruck from an offside position and was ordered off the field. It was intimated by the parties that they were content for the Judicial Officer to deal with the matter on the basis of written and video evidence as well as the parties' representations. Having reviewed the evidence and the written representations the Judicial Officer was also content to deal with the matter without the need for convening a formal hearing.

JUDICIAL OFFICER'S DETERMINATIONS

In respect of the first Yellow Card, the referee had sent the Player and an opponent to the "sin bin" after one of the assistant referees had intervened and alerted the referee to a scuffle between the two protagonists. There were no punches thrown, no injury and the referee made it clear the Yellow Cards were issued to impose discipline on the two teams. The video evidence supported what the referee had written.

Despite the fact that this was not a merely "technical offence" the Judicial Officer considered the Yellow Card issued by the referee to have been a proportionate and proper sanction for the offence.

The second Yellow Card (and, therefore, the Red Card) was issued for a so called "technical" offence or "professional foul" namely entering a ruck from an offside position . This was a deliberate act designed to prevent the opposition from scoring a try.

In the Judicial Officer's estimation the two offences were different in character and both properly and sufficiently dealt with by the referee on the field..

The Judicial Officer noted that the Player accepted that both Yellow Cards were correctly issued and so accepted the Red Card was correctly issued too.

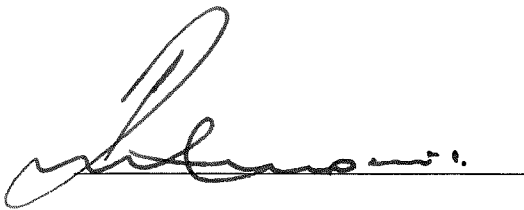
The Judicial Officer also noted that ERC considered the Red Card and the ordering off of the Player to be sufficient sanction in itself.

The Judicial Officer agreed with ERC that the Red Card issued to the Player and his consequent ordering off was sufficient sanction in itself and no additional sanction would be imposed.

The Player is immediately free to play

There is no order for costs.

The parties are reminded of their right to appeal the Judicial Officer's decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Morris', is written over a horizontal line.

Roger Morris
Judicial Officer

5th May 2011