DISCIPLINARY DECISION

Match	[Semifinal 2 – Zimbabwe vs Kenya]		
Competition	[Africa Cup 2025]		
Date of match	[July 13, 2025]	Match venue	[Venue: Nelson Mandela National Stadium, Kampala, Uganda]
Rules to apply	Regulation 9.13		

[insert logo e.g.]

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname	Chao	Date of birth	21st Dec. 1999
Forename(s)	GRIFFIN Mwalukware		
Player's Union	Kenya		
Citing Commissioner Name	Shaun Veldsman	Plea	X Admitted ☐ Not admitted
Offence	Breach of Regulation 9.13	SELECT: Red card Citing ☐ X Other ☐ If "Other" selected, please specify: Citing Commissioner's report.	
Summary of Sanction	3 weeks ban (3 games, as relevant).		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date	[18th July 2025]	Hearing venue	[Online]
Chairman/JO	[Jeroline Akubu]		
Other Members of Disciplinary Committee	Maria Mokhoaetsi Michael Wandera		
Appearance Player	YES ☐x NO ☐	Appearance Union	YES ☐x NO ☐
Player's Representative(s)	Jimmy Mnene, Team Manager	Disciplinary Officer and/or other Attendees	John Bosco Muamba, TD
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing	Citing Officer's Allegation Medical Report (Opposing Player) Match Official's (Referee) Report. 2 video footages 2 match official reports		

SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING/REFEREE'S REPORT/INCIDENT FOOTAGE

Dangerous Tackling contrary to R.9.13

Griffin Chao chased a high ball and tackled Zimbabwean winger Matthew McNab with significant force, making direct contact above the shoulders. The citing commissioner determined that the tackle met the red card threshold and should have

resulted in a dismissal.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

Attached.

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S/COACH'S EVIDENCE

Player admitted the offence, though he submitted that in his view, the foul play did not merit a red card**.**

According to Mr. Chao, he had his eyes on the ball, when he realized that the Zimbabwean player would beat him to the ball, he committed and tackled him. The opposing player was in an upright position and Mr. Chao had launched for the tackle, just before contact was made, the Zimbabwean player changed his height before contact and Mr. Chao hit him above the line of the shoulders. The tackle was the unintended consequence of two players going for the ball and the Zimbabwean layer dipping/ changing height. The accused player submitted that after the game, the two players shook hands. At the hotel, he looked up the Zimbabwean player and they spoke, he apologised for the tackle.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Kenyan player (Number 11) tackled the Zimbabwea player above the should line, contrary to R.9.13.

DECISION

Breach admitted ☐x	Proven ☐ Not proven ☐ Other disposal (please state) ☐

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS

Assessment of Intent – R 17.18.1(a)-(b) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Intentional ☐ Reckless ☐X
State Reasons
Player didn't exercise caution in execution of the tackle.
Nature of actions – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

As set out above.
Existence of provocation – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No
Whether player retaliated – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No
Self-defence – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
No
Effect on victim – – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Victim continued with play.
Effect on match – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
None
Vulnerability of victim – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Present from the nature of foul play.
Level of participation/premeditation – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Full participation of accused player.
Conduct completed/attempted – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Yes
Other features of player's conduct – – R 9.13 (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED

Entry point					
Top end*	Weeks/Matches	Mid-range	Weeks/Matches	Low-end	Weeks/Matches
☐		X		☐	

*****If Top End, the JO or Panel should identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top End and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for selecting this entry point, below.

In making this assessment, the JO/Committee should consider World Rugby Regulations 17.18.1(a), 17.18.1(g), and 17.18.1(h) or the equivalent provisions within the Tournament Rules referred to above.

Reasons for selecting Entry Point above Top End

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS

Acknowledgement of commission of foul play – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Player's disciplinary record – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Admitted.	Not provided.
Youth and/or inexperience of player – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Conduct prior to and at hearing – – R 9.13)) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
Relatively inexperienced with playing at international level. The game in question was 4th Cap for the player. Player plays in an amateur setup in Kenya, he isn't professional.	Accused player sought out and apologised to the victim player after the game and again at the player's hotel. Player was respectful during the hearing.
Remorse and timing of remorse – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)	Other off-field mitigation – R 9.18) or equivalent Tournament rule)
Immediate and after game.	

Number of weeks/matches deducted: 3 weeks

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:
3 weeks reduced on account of mitigation.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Need for deterrence – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A
Any other off-field aggravating factors – R 9.13) (or equivalent Tournament rule)
N/A

Number of additional weeks/matches: N/A

SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THE CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING – R 17.12.5(f) / 17.13.7 (or equivalent Tournament rule)

Total sanction	Entry point: Mid-range (6 weeks) Mitigation: 3 weeks Aggravating factors: 0 weeks Total sanction: 3 weeks/ 3 games ban.	Sending off sufficient ☐N/A
Sanction commences	Immediate. Player will not participate in: 1. Game 11 of the Rugby Africa Cup 2025 on July 19, 2025 (3rd Place game) Algeria v Kenya. 2. Driftwood 7s, July 26, 2025. (Kenya) 3. Prinsloo 7s, August 3rd, 2025. (Kenya)	
Sanction concludes	August 3, 2025. Sanction to be shared with the player's Union for further enforcement.	
Matches/tournaments included in sanction	Rugby Africa Cup 2025 Game 11 and Kenya Rugby Union sanctioned games.	

Costs	

Signature (JO or Chairman)		Date	July 18, 2025

NOTE: YOU HAVE 48 HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN/JO TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR – R 17.24.2(a) (or equivalent Tournament rule)

[Standard Appeal Directions to appear on following page]

Player informed of the right to appeal. He submitted that he will not appeal.