



## **APPENDIX 1 - WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY**

*Note: Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent's head and/or neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction.*

*Note: Where a Player receives a mid-range or top end sanction, a Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer/Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may, at its discretion, agree that one week of the sanction may be replaced by a "Coaching Intervention" that complies with the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme.*

- 9.11** Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches

Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.12** A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches

Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches

Max: 208 weeks/matches

Intentional Contact with Eye(s)

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches

Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches



Max: 208 weeks/matches

Reckless Contact with Eye(s)

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches

Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches

Max: 208 weeks/matches

Contact with Eye Area

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches

Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

Punching or striking with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches

Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

Striking with head (10)

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches

Top-end: 16+ weeks/matches

Max: 104 weeks/matches

Striking with knee

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches

Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches



#### Stamping or Trampling

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches

Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

#### Tripping

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches

Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

#### Kicking

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches

Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.12** A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches

Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.13** A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches



Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.14** A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.15** Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.16** A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.17** A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches



Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.18** A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

Low-end: 6 matches/matches

Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches

Top-end: 14+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.19** Dangerous play in a scrum.

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches

Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.20** Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.

- a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches



Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
- c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches

Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- d. A player may remove the jackler from the tackle area by pushing/driving them backwards (including by grabbing the knee/leg), but must not roll, pull or twist an opponent.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches

Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- e. A player must not drop their weight onto an opponent or target the lower limbs.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches

Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches

Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.25** A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches



Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

**9.27** A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

Spitting at anyone

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches  
Max: 208 weeks/matches

Other

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

**9.28** A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.



Low-end: 2 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.29** A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.30** A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches  
Max: 52 weeks/matches

- 9.31** A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches  
Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches  
Max: 260 weeks/matches

- 9.32** A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Low-end: 24 weeks/matches  
Mid-range: 48 weeks/matches



Top-end: 96+ weeks/matches

Max: Life

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulation 17.17 TO 17.21 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.