

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
DISCIPLINARY HEARING
BRISTOL FILTON HOLIDAY INN
MONDAY 7TH APRIL 2008

JUDGMENT

Player: Bradley Mockford

Club: Havant RFC

Panel: Christopher Quinlan (Chairman)
Mike Curling
John Doubleday

In Attendance:

Bruce Reece – Russel - Secretary

To Consider:

The citing of Bradley Mockford, Havant RFC for striking an opponent contrary to Law 10(4)(a) during the match Havant v Barking on the 1st March 2008.

The case was dealt with as a “conference call” hearing at the request of the Club. The player pleaded guilty to the offence.

Evidence as to Fact

The Panel considered :-

1. The citing report from Barking RFC dated the 12th March 2008.
2. Havant RFC Disciplinary Hearing dated the 20th March 2008.
3. DVD evidence.
4. Speaker phone conference call with Mick Chalk, Secretary

The Panel viewed the match video which showed that Havant RFC had won a lineout on or around the Barking 22m and the resultant lineout was moving forward as a maul. The player BM was part of that maul with his back towards the Barking line. A Barking player attempts legally to reach with his arms around BM. BM then hits out with his right elbow and catches his opponent with his elbow (point) at least twice in the head area.

It is accepted that no injury was caused.

The Panel then spoke to Mick Chalk, Havant RFC by speaker phone who explained the rationale behind the club's decision to suspend for 2 Saturdays.

Sanction

In line with paragraph 8.2.5 of the Disciplinary Regulations the Panel assessed the entry point as LE (2 weeks) In doing so they considered the actions of the player were not serious and in the game context innocuous.

Turning to mitigating factors whilst they acknowledged the guilty plea they gave no credit as the video evidence was absolutely clear that an offence had taken place.

The Panel then turned to aggravating features and determined that the player who had previous disciplinary history this season should receive an additional week and suspended him for 3 weeks.

Taking into account the club suspension of 10 days the player has 11 days to serve. He is suspended from the 8th to the 18th April 2008, allowing him to play again on the 19th April 2008.

Costs

Costs of £75.00 are awarded against the Player/Club.

Right of Appeal

There is a right of appeal against this decision which should be lodged with the RFU Disciplinary Department in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations.

Signed.....

Bruce Reece-Russel, Secretary

8th April 2008