

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

Venue: Holiday Inn, Junction 2, M6.

Date: 12th October 2010.

JUDGMENT

Player: Chris Yeoman

Club: Shelford RUFC

Match: Worthing v Shelford

Venue: Worthing

Match Date: 2nd October 2010

Panel: HHJ Sean Enright, Geoff Payne and John Brennan

Attending: Liam McTiernan, Secretary to Panel
HHJ Robert Blomfield, Observer

Considering: A charge against the Player, contrary to Law 10(4)(c), alleging that he kicked an opponent during (80th minute of the second half) the game played between Worthing and Shelford on 2nd October 2010.

Charge and Plea

1. The Player admitted the charge in advance of the hearing and did not attend.

Evidence as to Fact

2. The Panel considered the report of the referee, Mr. Liddell.
3. Mr Liddell's reports showed that: "This was a well-contested game with only a single other act of foul play in which a Shelford Player received a yellow card for use of the knee. After a tackle 5m from the Shelford try-line, a Worthing player was lying on the Shelford side of the breakdown, he was not causing any obstruction by being there and was having no effect on play. The ball was recycled quickly by Worthing who passed the ball away from the breakdown to support players arriving quickly. As the ball was passed, Mr. Yeoman kicked the Shelford player who was still on the floor and then moved away to

defend the attack by Worthing. The kick was made to the upper back of the Worthing player, with the toe of the boot by Yeoman.”

6. The Panel determined the level of seriousness as follows. The kick was intentional, not reckless. There was no provocation. There was no evidence that the victim player was injured and he was not removed from the game, which ended at that moment. The Player’s action did not impact on the game. The victim player was lying on the ground and therefore vulnerable. The offence was completed.
7. We identified the entry point as being at the low end, i.e. four weeks.
8. We considered 19.8.2.7 and found there to be no aggravating features.

Mitigation

9. The Panel considered 19.8.2.8 and found the following mitigation:
 - (a) a timely plea;
 - (b) previous good playing record;
 - (c) evidence of an expression of remorse.
10. In the circumstances, the Panel discounted the sanction by two weeks.

Sanction

11. The Panel has been told that he was banned by his club and did not play last week as a result. The Panel order, therefore, that he is banned from playing rugby in conjunction with his club ban, from Saturday 9th October until Friday 22nd October. He may play again from Saturday 23rd October.

Costs

12. The Panel make an award of £80 costs against the Club.

Right of Appeal

13. The Player is hereby advised of his right of appeal. Any such appeal must be lodged with the RFU Disciplinary Office not later than 1000hrs on the 14th day following receipt of this judgment.

Signed: SEAN ENRIGHT (Chairman)

Date: 12th October 2010