



**APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY
(REGULATION 17)**

Note: Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent’s head and/or the neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction¹

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
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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) ²	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) ³	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area ⁴	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,	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

¹ The note does not apply to:

- (i) Laws 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play.
- (ii) Where the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer having completed steps of Regulations 10.11 – 10.17 inclusive considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the offending player’s fault and the consequences thereof.

² The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

³ The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

⁴ The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

⁵ Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

elbow or shoulder				
Striking with head ⁵	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
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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.

Please see Appendix 1a for the Law Trial which will apply to all community games at age-grade (from U12) to Premiership (Women's and Girls) and Championship (Male) in the community game for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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- 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
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d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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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
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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
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9.28 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
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9.28 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
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9.28 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
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9.28 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
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In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant WRU Disciplinary Panel and Appeal Panel (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Discipline Regulations 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 WRU Disciplinary Panel and/or Appeal Panel may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life (as provided within the Disciplinary Regulation 10.19).