CONSTITUENT BODY SHORT JUDGMENT FORM

Constituent Body	Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire		
Case Number	NLD26/27005	Select:	Red Card ✔ Citing ☐ Other ☐

Particulars of Offence

Player's Surname	Cole	Date of Birth	05/10/1999
Forename(s)	Harrison	RFU ID No.	1213432
Club Name	Bourne RFC	Date of Match	26/09/2026
Offence & Law charged	9.12 - Strike with head	Plea	Admitted ✔ Not Admitted ☐
Home Team	Lincoln RFC	Away Team	Bourne RFC
Home Team Level*	L7	Away Team Level	L7

*TEAM LEVEL REFERS TO 1ST XV, 2ND XV, COLTS, VETS, etc. NOT WHOLE CLUB LEVEL

Hearing Details

Hearing Date	06/10/26	Hearing Venue	Papers
Chairman	Tim Bembridge	Secretary	Andrew Statham
Panel Member 1	Ian Roe	Panel Member 2	Ben Clulee
Decision	Proven ✔ Not Proven ☐		

Case Summary & Sanction

NOTE: UNDER RFU REGULATION 19.5.2, PLAYERS ORDERED OFF ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING

Total Sanction	5 Matches	Entry Point	Mid range
Banned From	27/09/2026	Banned To	31/10/26
Ban Split From		Ban Split To	
Free To Play	1/11/26	Costs	£50-00

NOTE: FOR SENDING OFF SUFFICIENT STATE UNDER TOTAL SANCTION

Signature (Chair)	Tim Bembridge	Date	6/10/26
Signature (Secretary)		Date entered to GMS (mandatory)	

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Assessment of Offence (Regulation 19.11.8)					
PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX:	Intentional 19.11.8(a)	☐	Reckless 19.11.8(b)	✔	
Nature of actions 19.11.8(c)			Existence of provocation 19.11.8(d)		
Leads with his head and " pins " his opponent to the floor head-on. Benefit of the doubt given that this was reckless.			None mentioned		
Whether player retaliated 19.11.8(e)			Self-defence 19.11.8(f)		
No			No		
Effect on victim 19.11.8(g)			Effect on match 19.11.8(h)		
The victim retaliated resulting in a red card for a Lincoln player.			Incident resulted in a scuffle between a number of players on both sides Both sides completed the game 1 player short.		
Vulnerability of victim 19.11.8(i)			Level of participation/premeditation 19.11.8(j)		
Victim was on the floor so had a degree of vulnerability			A reckless act which should and could have been avoided		
Conduct completed/attempted 19.11.8(k)			Other features of player's conduct 19.11.8(l)		
Completed			Limited		
Entry point number					
Top End*	Mid-Range		Low End	6 Matches	

NOTE: STATE NUMBER OF WEEKS OR MATCHES ENTRY POINT FOR OFFENCE

*If top end, the Panel should identify an entry point between the top end and the maximum sanction (19.11.9) as set out in Appendix 2

In making the above assessment, the Panel should consider the RFU Practice Note as set out in Appendix 5 to Regulation 19. Significant weight should be given to RFU regulation 19.11.8(a), 19.11.8(h) and 19.11.8(i).

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Reasons for Entry Point
World Rugby / RFU regulations state: ANY ACT OF FOUL PLAY WHICH RESULTS IN CONTACT WITH THE HEAD AND/OR NECK SHALL RESULT IN AT LEAST A MID-RANGE ENTRY-POINT

Mitigating Factors (Regulation 19.11.10)	
Acknowledgement of guilt 19.11.11(a)	Player's disciplinary record/good character 19.11.11(b)
Limited, player left the field without apology and none afterwards. His post-match statement claimed he was clumsy and showed no remorse for his actions, failing to acknowledge what actually happened.	Of previous good record
Youth & inexperience of player 19.11.11(c)	Conduct prior to and at hearing 19.11.11(d)
27 YO no mention of playing experience	As to be expected
Remorse & timing of remorse 19.11.11(e)	Other off-field mitigation 19.11.11(f)
Noen until club hearing	Player is involved in running his club

Number of weeks deducted:	1

NOTE: SUBJECT TO REGULATION 19.11.13, A DISCIPLINARY PANEL CANNOT APPLY A GREATER REDUCTION THAN 50% OF THE RELEVANT ENTRY POINT SUSPENSION

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Aggravating Factors (Regulation 19.11.13)

Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the game 19.11.10(a)

None

Need for deterrent 19.11.10(b)

Not at this point

Any other off-field aggravating factors (including poor conduct prior to or at the hearing) 19.11.10 (c)

Not at this point

Number of weeks added on:	0

Any Other Information

All club fixtures should now be on the RFU website. These fixtures are taken from there. Should the club have other fixtures the are required to evidence them along with reasoning why the fixture is not on the RFU website to Andrew Statham NLD Discipline secretary and an amended return to play date MAY be considered.
Games to be missed as part of this sanction:
3/10 v Keyworth Away
10/10 v Spalding Away
17/10 v Southwell Home
24/10 v mansfield Away
31/10 v Syston 2nds Home

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Detailed report of the incident

Lincoln have a lineout inside the Bourne 22, 15m from the line. They set up a maul and the ball is played away shortly after. The next breakdown is formed infield. I then look up and see B21 headbutt a Lincoln player to the head who is lying on the floor. He then leads with his head and pins the Lincoln player's head on the floor. A fracas breaks out with players joining in from both sides. I run around so that I have my back to the near touchline, I then see L4 drop his knee onto the head of B21. After separating both teams, I issued a RCs to B21 and L4. I then ended the half.

B21 did not apologise to me post-match, and the only conversation post-match with a Bourne player was with the vice-captain upon leaving the pitch at full time to clarify the RCs. I obtained the name of the offending player from the Bourne disciplinary officer, whom I spoke to in the bar.

Name:	James Herbert		
Signature:	JH	Date:	26/9/26

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