

# HEAD CONTACT SANCTIONING FRAMEWORK (PROFESSIONAL SENIOR; ON-FIELD)

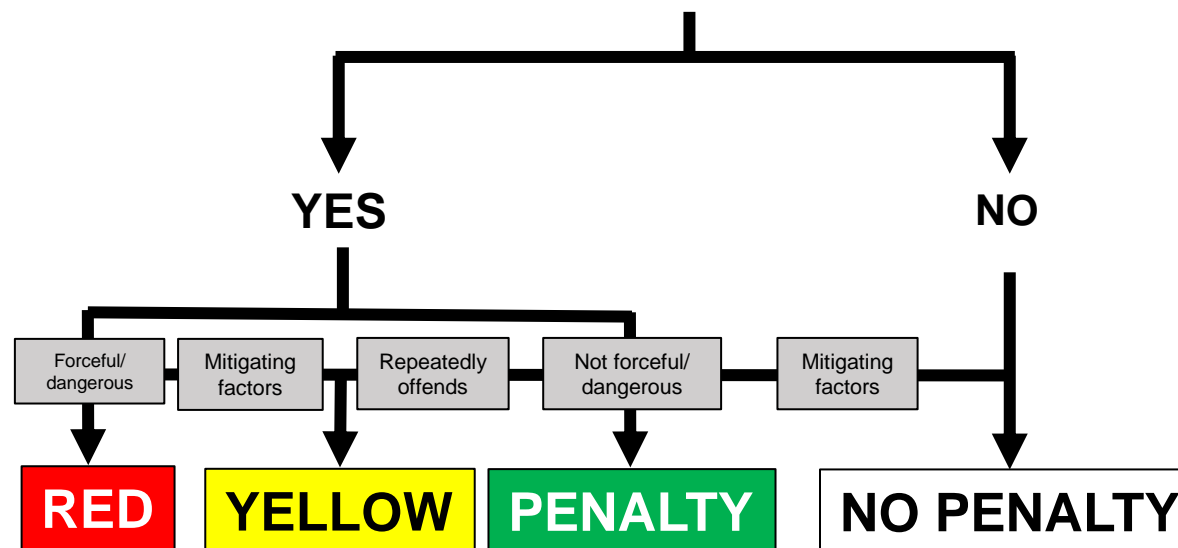
Contact to the ball-carrier's head/neck by the tackler on contact will be deemed a high tackle, unless any mitigating factors are evident.

Mitigating factors include:

1. Tackler clearly bent at the waist and/or knees to make contact with ball carrier legally and ball carrier unexpectedly and rapidly loses height/changes direction (where deliberate, penalty may be reversed), and tackler unable to adjust.
2. Tackler makes a definite attempt to change height in an effort to avoid the ball carrier's head.
3. Initial contact by the tackler is reactionary and tackler immediately releases ball carrier.
4. Head contact is indirect or secondary (initial contact to body, then minor contact to ball carrier's head).

If ball carrier intentionally contacts tackler's head using their head the penalty will be reversed.

**WAS CONTACT MADE WITH THE BALL CARRIER'S HEAD/NECK ON CONTACT BY THE TACKLER'S<sup>1</sup> UPPER OR LOWER LIMB, SHOULDER, HEAD OR OTHER BODY PART?**



<sup>1</sup>Tackler has duty of care to not make contact with the ball carrier's head

# TACKLE HEIGHT & HEAD CONTACT SANCTIONING FRAMEWORK

WAS CONTACT MADE WITH THE BALL CARRIER'S HEAD/NECK ON CONTACT BY THE TACKLERS<sup>1</sup> UPPER OR LOWER LIMB, SHOULDER, HEAD OR OTHER BODY PART?

YES

This is the **HEAD CONTACT SANCTIONING FRAMEWORK**, consistent across all levels of rugby league. Mitigation factors will be clearly identified. The language in the framework should be consistent across all stakeholders. This framework will be used for on-field and off-field sanctioning

Forceful dangerous

Mitigating factors

Repeatedly offends

Not forceful/dangerous

Mitigating factors

**RED**

**YELLOW**

**PENALTY**

**NO PENALTY**

NO

This is the **TACKLE HEIGHT FRAMEWORK**, for use when there is a lower legal height of the tackle. Mitigation factors will be clearly identified. The language in the framework should be consistent across all stakeholders.

WAS CONTACT MADE ABOVE THE BALL CARRIER'S ARMPIT AT INITIAL CONTACT DURING THE TACKLE?

YES

NO

Repeatedly offends

Mitigating factors / on-field policy

**YELLOW**

**PENALTY**

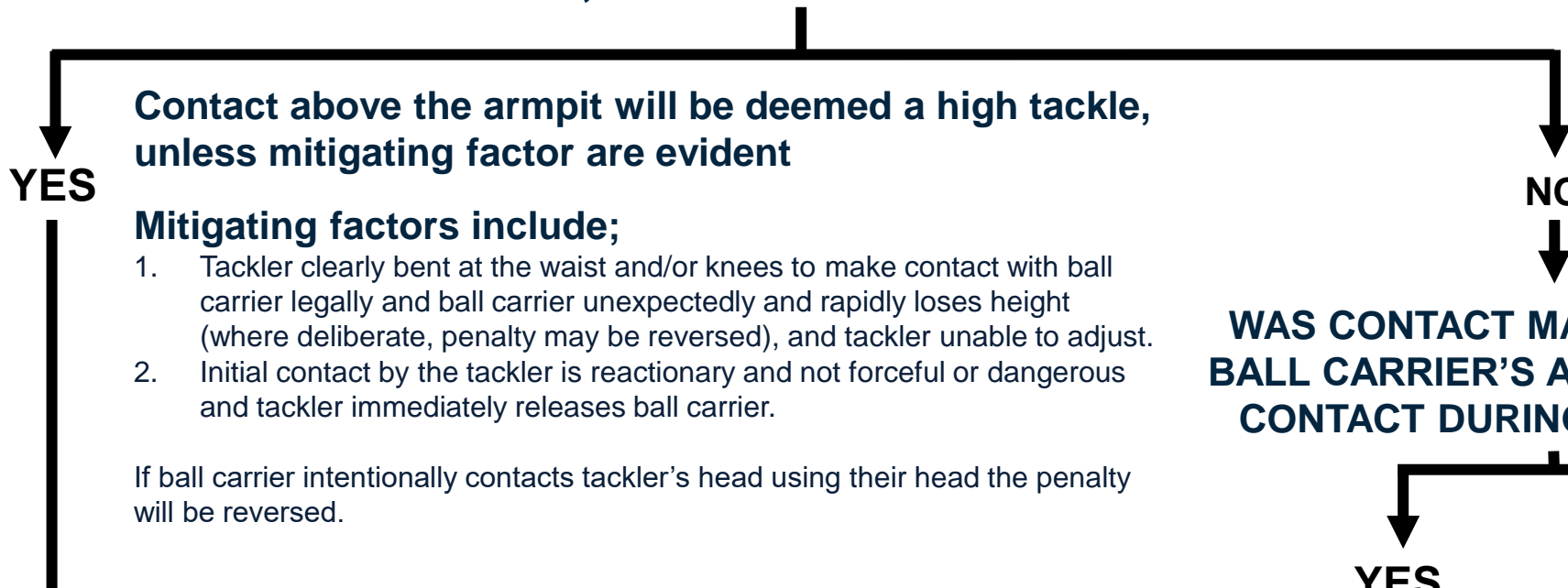
**NO PENALTY**

<sup>2</sup>Any contact to the ball carriers head by the tacklers shoulder or head will be deemed dangerous

<sup>1</sup>Tackler has duty of care to not make contact with the ball carrier's head

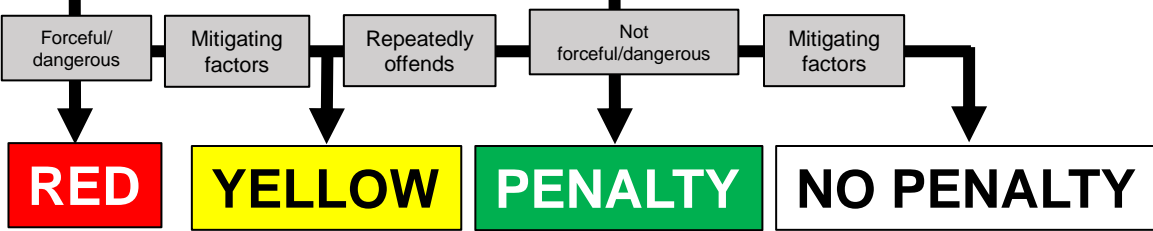
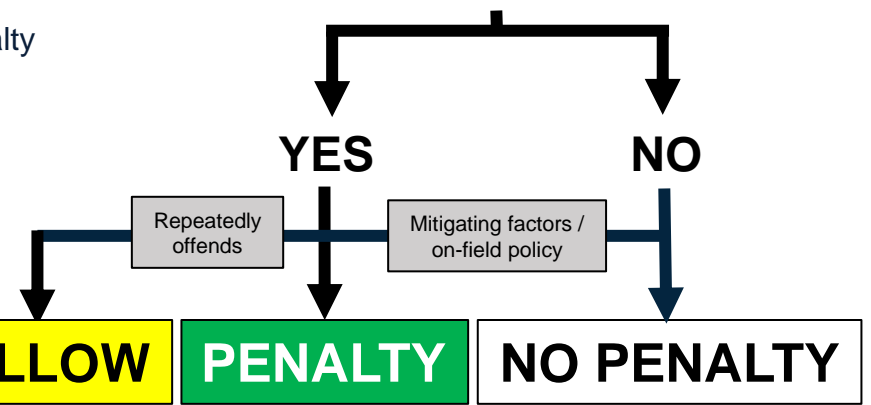
# TACKLE HEIGHT & HEAD CONTACT SANCTIONING FRAMEWORK (COMMUNITY AND AGE GRADE)

**WAS CONTACT MADE WITH THE BALL CARRIER'S HEAD/NECK ON CONTACT BY THE TACKLERS<sup>1</sup> UPPER OR LOWER LIMB, SHOULDER, HEAD OR OTHER BODY PART?**



ON-FIELD POLICY	
The referee may apply discretion when sanctioning initial contact above armpit if:	
Ball carrier surrenders immediately into the tackle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retrieving ball from in-goal' area in an attempt to get back into the field of play</li> <li>To avoid being tackled into touch</li> <li>Surrender tackle when in close proximity to potential obstruction</li> <li>Diving on a loose ball and not regaining feet</li> </ul>
Attempting to score a try	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dummy half attempts to score from 'close range'.</li> <li>Within close proximity of try line when ball carrier attempting to lose height.</li> </ul>

**WAS CONTACT MADE ABOVE THE BALL CARRIER'S ARMPIT AT INITIAL CONTACT DURING THE TACKLE?**



<sup>2</sup>Any contact to the ball carriers head by the tacklers shoulder or head will be deemed dangerous

<sup>1</sup>Tackler has duty of care to not make contact with the ball carrier's head



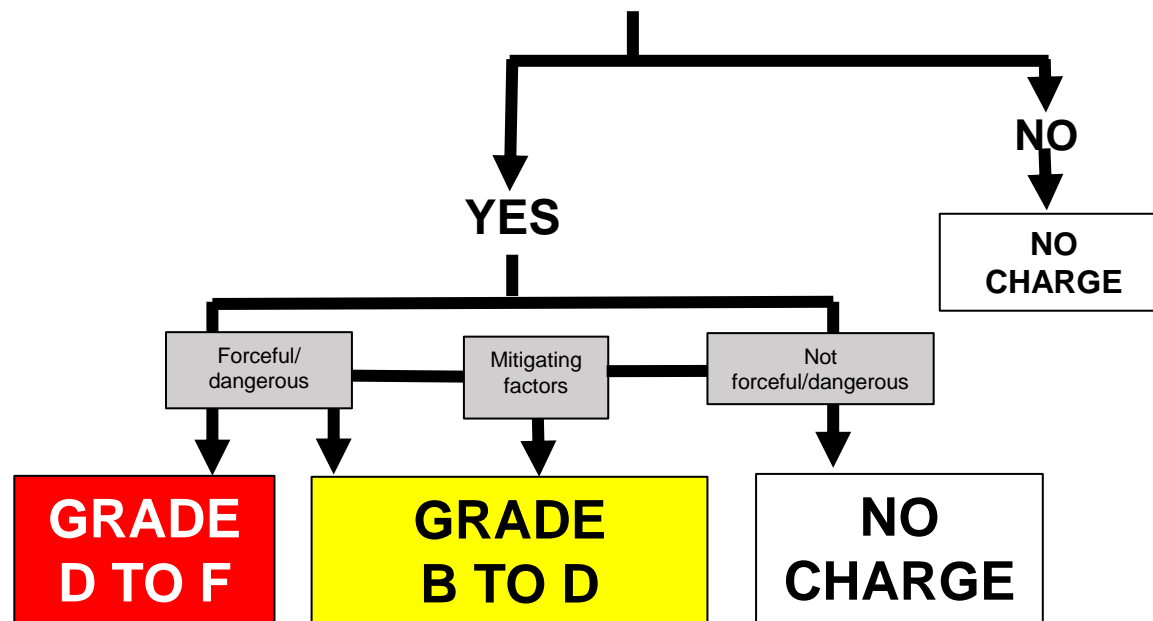
# HEAD CONTACT SANCTIONING FRAMEWORK

(PROFESSIONAL SENIOR; HEAD CONTACT PROCESS (HCP) 2024 – MATCH REVIEW PANEL & OPERATIONAL RULES TRIBUNAL)

Contact to the ball-carrier's head/neck by the tackler on contact will be deemed a high tackle, unless any mitigating factors are evident.

HIGH LEVEL OF FORCE/DANGER	LOW LEVEL OF FORCE/DANGER
Examples include but are not limited to: - Contact is made to ball carrier's head by head or shoulder of tackler - Stiff-arm tackle with no legitimate attempt to tackle	Examples include but are not limited to: - Contact is made to ball carrier's head by hand or arm of tackler.
<b>GRADE RANGE – D TO F</b> *unless mitigating factors present	<b>GRADE RANGE – B TO D</b> *unless mitigating factors present
MITIGATING FACTORS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tackler clearly bent at the waist and/or knees to make contact with ball carrier legally and ball carrier unexpectedly and rapidly loses height/changes direction (where deliberate, penalty may be reversed), and tackler unable to adjust.</li> <li>2. Tackler makes a definite attempt to change height in an effort to avoid the ball carrier's head.</li> <li>3. Initial contact by the tackler is reactionary and tackler immediately releases ball carrier.</li> <li>4. Head contact is indirect or secondary (initial contact to body, then minor contact to ball carrier's head).</li> </ol>	
AGGRAVATING FACTORS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Player is removed from field of play for HIA and does not return.</li> <li>2. Tackler makes no definite attempt to change height in an effort to avoid the ball carrier's head.</li> <li>3. Ball carrier is off their feet when tackler contacts ball carrier's head</li> <li>4. Tackler is off their feet when contact is made to ball carrier's head</li> <li>5. Tackler approaches contact at high-speed and is out of control</li> <li>6. Trajectory of tackler's head, arm or shoulder always going towards ball carrier's head</li> </ol>	
*There may be several aggravating factors listed above involved within a charge and these will contribute to the final grade.	

**WAS CONTACT MADE WITH THE BALL CARRIER'S HEAD/NECK ON CONTACT BY THE TACKLER'S<sup>1</sup> UPPER OR LOWER LIMB, SHOULDER, HEAD OR OTHER BODY PART?**



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