



## ERSTE LIGA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### Decision

**Corona Brasov**

Evan Wardley

057/2025/2026

7 April 2026 Budapest

**Time of Incident:** 50:00, EL 185, Corona Brasov - Budapest Jégkorong Akadémia HC - SF game 7

**Players Involved:** BRA #32 Evan Wardley  
BJA #97 Schlekman Márk

**Call on the Ice:** There was no call on the play.

The Head of the Erste Liga Referee Working Group initiated disciplinary proceedings pursuant to Section 12 (1) a) of the Erste Liga Sports Disciplinary Regulations due to the incident. The records have not shown an injury.

#### **RULE 61 SLASHING**

Slashing is the act of a Player swinging their stick at an opponent, whether contact is made or not. "Non-aggressive" stick contact to the pant or front of the shin pads, should not be penalized as slashing.

Any forceful or powerful chop with the stick on an opponent's body, the opponent's stick, or on or near the opponent's hands that, in the judgment of the Referee, is not an attempt to play the puck, shall be penalized as slashing.

#### **61.2. MINOR PENALTY**

The Referee shall, at their discretion, assess a minor penalty, based on the degree of force and violence, to a Player guilty of "slashing" an opponent.

#### **61.3. MAJOR PENALTY AND GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTY**

The Referee, at their discretion, may assess a major penalty and an automatic game misconduct penalty if, in their judgment, the Player recklessly endangers their opponent by "slashing" and the Player would not be sufficiently sanctioned by imposing a minor penalty. Such assessment of reckless endangerment shall be based on the severity of the infraction, severity of the contact, the degree of violence and the general reprehensibility involved.

#### **Review of Incident:**

At 50:00, the puck is being carried into the BRA zone near center ice, with two BJA players attempting to stay onside. One BJA skater is positioned to the left of the puck carrier, while the other, #97 Schlekman Márk, is on the right. Schlekman is being defended by BRA #32 Evan Wardley. As they approach the blue line, BRA #32 Wardley ends up trailing the BJA Schlekman who is extending his left leg backwards in an



effort to maintain contact with the blue line and remain onside. At this moment, Wardley raises his stick and makes contact with the Schlekman's groin area, causing him to go down in visible discomfort.

**The Committee Ruling:**

- Players do sometimes place their sticks between an opponent's legs, but doing so always carries the risk of a penalty for tripping or slashing, depending on the outcome.
  - o In this case the action was classified as a reckless endangerment of the opponent due to:
  - o Wardley was not trying to brace for contact or make a play on the puck.
  - o He made a deliberate stick movement between an opponent's legs when the opponent was not in possession or control of the puck or in the process of being passed the puck.
- Schlekman had his back to Wardley when the contact was made, not he was not trying to engage with Wardley and was simply trying to stay on side.
- Therefore, the Committee ruled there was no legal way for Wardley to check Schlekman at this time, especially by placing a stick between his legs and contacting him in the groin area.
- To make this play legal, Wardley could only position himself in a way that if the puck did come to them, he could then play him with a legal body check or a stick-on-stick play.

As a result, the slash was categorized as Careless (0-3) and **Evan Wardley will be suspended for 1 game** and according the Erste Liga Competition Rules 73. § (1) the sanction imposed an automatic fine on the Corona Brasov. The organization must pay a fine of EUR 150.

*Erste Liga Disciplinary Committee*