

WORLD CUP 2019 - STATISTICS - PAGE 1

SIN BINS & CITINGS

Offender	Team	Referee	Offence	Game	Cittings/Bans	RC	YC	Date	Game No.	
POOL PLAY-OFF ROUNDS										
Levani Botia	Fiji	Ben O'Keeffe	Repeated infringements	Australia vs Fiji			1		2	
Reece Hodge	Australia	Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Australia vs Fiji	3 Matches			21-Sep	2	
Matías Moroni	Argentina	Cited	Foul play (pulling hair)	France vs Argentina	Off field Yellow				3	
Tadhg Beirne	Ireland	Wayne Barnes	Professional foul	Ireland vs Scotland			1	22-Sep	6	
Jaba Bregvadze	Georgia	Luke Pearce	Professional foul	Wales vs Georgia			1	23-Sep	8	
Rey Lee-Lo (1)(2)	Samoa	Romain Poite +Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Russia vs Samoa	3 Matches		1		9	
Motu Matu'u (1)(2)	Samoa	Romain Poite +Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Russia vs Samoa	3 Matches		1	24-Sep		
Kirill Kushnarev	Russia	Romain Poite	Foul play (high tackle)	Russia vs Samoa			1			
Ed Fidow (1)	Samoa	Cited	Foul play (punching)	Russia vs Samoa	Off field Yellow					
Matt Heaton	Canada	Nigel Owens	Professional foul	Italy vs Canada			1		11	
John Quill (1)(2)	USA	Nic Berry +Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	England vs USA	3 Matches	1		26-Sep	12	
Piers Francis	England	Cited	Foul play (high tackle)	England vs USA	No action					
Adriaan Booysen	Namibia	Mathieu Raynal	Professional foul	South Africa vs Namibia			1		15	
Aranos Coetzee	Namibia	Mathieu Raynal	Foul play (shoulder charge)	South Africa vs Namibia			1	28-Sep	15	
Facundo Gattas (1)(2)	Uruguay	Wayne Barnes +C	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Georgia vs Uruguay	3 Matches	1		29-Sep	16	
Ed Fidow (2)	Samoa	Pascal Gaüzère	Professional foul	Scotland vs Samoa			1		18	
Ed Fidow (3)	Samoa	Pascal Gaüzère +C	Foul play (knee first tackle)	Scotland vs Samoa	No action	1	+	30-Sep		
Bogdan Fedotko	Russia	Jérôme Garcès	Repeated infringements	Ireland vs Russia			1		22	
Andrey Ostrikov	Russia	Jérôme Garcès	Foul play (forearm to head)	Ireland vs Russia			1	03-Oct	22	
Andrea Lovotti (1)(2)	Italy	Wayne Barnes +C	Foul play (duo spear-tackle)	South Africa vs Italy	3 Matches	1		04-Oct	23	
Nicola Quaglio	Italy	Cited	Foul play (duo spear-tackle)	South Africa vs Italy	3 Matches					
Adam Coleman	Australia	Mathieu Raynal	Foul play (high tackle)	Australia vs Uruguay			1		24	
Lukhan Salakaia-Loto	Australia	Mathieu Raynal	Foul play (high tackle)	Australia vs Uruguay			1	05-Oct		
Tomas Lavanini (1)(2)	Argentina	Nigel Owens +Cited	Foul play (high tackle)	England vs Argentina	4 Matches	1			25	
TJ Ioane (1)	Samoa	Jaco Peyper	Foul play (late shoulder ch)	Japan vs Samoa			1		26	
Nepe Laulala	New Zealand	Pascal Gaüzère	Foul play (high tackle)	New Zealand vs Namibia			1		27	
Ofa Tu'ungafasi	New Zealand	Pascal Gaüzère	Foul play (high tackle)	New Zealand vs Namibia			1	06-Oct		
Josh Larsen (1)(2)	Canada	Luke Pearce +Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	South Africa vs Canada	3 Matches	1		08-Oct	29	
Ken Owens	Wales	Jérôme Garcès	Foul play (tip tackle)	Wales vs Fiji			1		32	
Tevita Cavubati	Fiji	Jérôme Garcès	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Wales vs Fiji			1	09-Oct		
James Davies	Wales	Jérôme Garcès	Professional foul	Wales vs Fiji			1			
Semi Kunatani	Fiji	Jérôme Garcès	Repeated infringements	Wales vs Fiji			1			
Isi Naisarani	Australia	Pascal Gaüzère	Foul play (forearm to face)	Australia vs Georgia			1	11-Oct	33	
Seilala Lam	Samoa	Nic Berry	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Australia vs Georgia			1			
Bundee Aki (1)(2)	Ireland	Nic Berry +Cited	Foul play (shoulder charge)	Ireland vs Samoa	3 Matches	1		12-Oct	36	
TJ Ioane (2)	Samoa	Nic Berry	Repeated infringements	Ireland vs Samoa			1			
Paula Ngauamo	Tonga	Cited	Foul play (head kick)	USA vs Tonga	7 Matches				38	
Santiago Civetta	Uruguay	Angus Gardner	Repeated infringements	USA vs Tonga			1	13-Oct	39	
Guillermo Pujadas	Uruguay	Cited	Foul play (spitting on player)	Wales vs Uruguay	6 Matches					
QUARTER FINALS										
Matt Todd	New Zealand	Nigel Owens	Professional foul	New Zealand vs Ireland			1	19-Oct	42	
Ross Moriarty	Wales	Jaco Peyper	Foul play (high tackle)	New Zealand vs Ireland			1		43	
Sebastien Vahaamahina	France	Jaco Peyper +Cited	Foul play (elbow strike)	Wales vs France	6 Matches	1		20-Oct		
Tendai Mtawarira	South Africa	Wayne Barnes	Foul play (tip tackle)	Japan vs South Africa			1		44	
SEMI FINALS										
None	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
3rd PLACE PLAY-OFF										
None	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
FINAL										
None	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Total					15	8	28	51		
Average per game					1.13					

Players that escaped sightings or sanctions

(All these violations should have received at least red cards and probably bannings afterwards, but no actions were taken)

Game	Player	Country	Infringement	Referee	Comment
Japan vs Russia	James Moore 1st	Japan	Elbow to the chin of Vasily Dorofeev.	Nigel Owens	The ref, AR, TMO & comm. totally missed it.
New Zealand vs South Africa	Kieran Read 1st	New Zealand	Coathanger, high tackle on Pieter-Steph du Toit without ball.	Jérôme Garcès	Jérôme Garcès saw nothing, yet all these
New Zealand vs South Africa	Joe Moody 1st	New Zealand	Shoulder charge to the head of Malcolm Marx.	Jérôme Garcès	incidents received huge media outcries and
New Zealand vs South Africa	Joe Moody 2nd	New Zealand	2x Elbow punches on Duane Vermeulen.	Jérôme Garcès	coverage, but "shockingly obvious" no citing
New Zealand vs South Africa	Sam Cane	New Zealand	Numerous punches thrown at Frans Malherbe's head.	Jérôme Garcès	commissioner has seen anything either.
England vs USA	Piers Francis	England	High tackle on Will Hooley (similar to the Reece Hodge tackle).	Nic Berry	Penalty only. Was cited, but no sanction.
Scotland vs Samoa	Ed Fidow Sam	Samoa	Knee-first slide tackle on Sean Maitland preventing try.	Pascal Gaüzère	Penalty only. Was cited, but no sanction.
New Zealand vs Canada	Kieran Read 2nd	New Zealand	Shoulder charge to head of Lucas Rumball.	Romain Poite	Penalty only. Ref saw nothing, AR did.
Georgia vs Fiji	Josua Tuisova	Fiji	Forceful forearm charge to the chin of Alexander Todua.	Paul Williams	Penalty only.
Japan vs Samoa	James Moore 2nd	Japan	Shoulder charge to head of Tim Nana'i-Williams.	Jaco Peyper	Tim had to leave due to a head injury.
Wales vs Fiji	Ken Owens	Wales	Vicious (overhead throw) tip tackle on Bill Mata.	Jérôme Garcès	Yellow card, but should have been red+.
Japan vs Scotland	Jamie Ritchie	Scotland	Elbow punch to the face of William Tupou.	Ben O'Keeffe	The ref, AR, TMO & comm. totally missed it.

** The above incidents and opinions not only support my own views, but are also the views of various experts, on numerous rugby web-sites, who commented on these. **

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SUMMARY - TEAM & REFEREE PERFORMANCES

Teams - Citations & Sin Binnings					Referee Performance	Referees & Citations - Sin Binnings + Ratings						
Team (+ World Ranking)	Citings	Red	Yel	Total	Game Number - #Errors*	Referee	Country	RC	YC	Total	Rating ★/5	
Samoa (15)	3	1	6	10	—	Citations	RWC Officials	13	2	15	—	
Uruguay (18)	2	1	1	4	1-23, 2-25, 3-24,	Romain Poite	France	0	3	3	★	
Australia (6)	1	0	3	4	1-21, 2-24, 3-21, 4-25, 5-22, 6-19	Jérôme Garcès	France	0	6	6	★	
Argentina (10)	2	1	0	3	1-15, 2-21, 3-24,	Angus Gardner	Australia	0	1	1	★	
Italy (12)	2	1	0	3	1-20, 2-19, 3-18, 4-19,	Nic Berry	Australia	2	2	4	★	
Canada (22)	1	1	1	3	1-21, 2-16,	Mathieu Raynal	France	0	4	4	★	
Ireland (5)	1	1	1	3	1-10, 2-19, 3-20, 4-17,	Pascal Gauzère	France	1	4	5	★★	
Fiji (11)	0	0	3	3	1-17, 2-15, 3-15,	Paul Williams *	New Zealand	0	0	0	★★	
New Zealand (2)	0	0	3	3	1-09, 2-18, 3-19,	Ben O'Keefe	New Zealand	0	1	1	★★	
Russia (20)	0	0	3	3	1-12, 2-11,	Luke Pearce *	England	1	1	2	★★★	
Wales (4)	0	0	3	3	1-12, 2-11, 3-12, 4-09, 5-11, 6-12	Wayne Barnes	England	2	2	4	★★★	
France (7)	1	1	0	2	1-12, 2-11, 3-10,	Jaco Peyper *	South Africa	1	2	3	★★★	
USA (17)	1	1	0	2	1-05, 2-05, 3-04, 4-06, 5-05, 6-06,	Nigel Owens	Wales	1	2	3	★★★★	
Namibia (23)	0	0	2	2	*An "objective" number allocation for errors I observe throughout each game. Not only for missed calls, but also for improvised calls. The refs are supposed to blow only for what they see, but sometimes they guess and blow for things that simply did not happen.	*These 3 refs each missed a game due to cancellations.			21	30	51	Total
Tonga (13)	1	0	0	1		And (drumroll)			#Errors = Star Ratings			
Georgia (14)	0	0	1	1		"The Best Ref for Rugby World Cup 2019"			25+	1/2★		
South Africa (1)	0	0	1	1		Mr. Nigel Owens.			19-24	★		
England (3)	0	0	0	0		(Second Rugby World Cup competition in a row)			13-18	★★		
Japan (8)	0	0	0	0		There's perhaps only one piece of criticism against him.			7-12	★★★		
Scotland (9)	0	0	0	0		At 48 years of age, he's perhaps not as fast around the field anymore as he used to be.			3-6	★★★★		
Total	15	8	28	51					1-2	★★★★★		

MEDIA SNIPPETS - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Part 1

"Ref low five with Fiji player stokes criticism" - SuperSport.com, 23 September 2019

A congratulatory "low five" shared between referee Ben O'Keefe and a Fiji player, during the Pacific islanders' World Cup opener against the Wallabies, has been criticised by media and invited further scrutiny on officiating at the tournament.

After Fiji scored a try to move to a 21-12 lead, in the second half of the match at Sapporo, New Zealander O'Keefe extended his right hand as Fiji fullback Kini Murimurivalu jogged toward him. Murimurivalu then slapped O'Keefe's hand as he jogged past.

Australian broadcaster, Fox Sports, described the "low five" as: **"Regardless of his intentions or the motivations behind the gesture, it just shouldn't happen.**

It's a cardinal sin. There's simply no place, in top professional sport, for a referee to engage in any sort of celebratory actions with a player."

My comment to this: In the past I experienced disbelief when certain refs grinned ear-to-ear when their "apparent favourite team" scored. (Once Rasta seemed to make a "fist pump".)

"World Rugby admits they have refereeing problems" - Rugby365.com, 24 September 2019

World Rugby criticised refereeing standards at the World Cup on Tuesday after a number of controversies in the tournament's opening days.

The governing body said there had been "initial challenges" with the use of technology and communications between match officials at the tournament in Japan.

"Following the usual review of matches, the match officials team recognise that performances over the opening weekend of Rugby World Cup 2019 were not consistently of the standards set by World Rugby and themselves," a statement said.

"But World Rugby is confident of the highest standards of officiating moving forward." Several incidents have been missed by officials - and shared widely on social media - since the tournament kicked off on Friday. During the opening game, **James Moore from Japan, struck the Russian halfback, Vasily Dorofeev, with an elbow to the chin.** It was totally missed by all the officials, including the citing commissioner. **Louis Picamoles appeared clearly offside when he made a crucial interception in France's narrow 23-21 win over Argentina,** whose coach later slammed the officiating. **Reece Hodge's apparent high shot on Fiji's Peceli Yato went unpunished at the time.** The Australia wing was later cited (but only after a major media outcry) and he will face a disciplinary hearing on Wednesday. **Footage of All Blacks captain Kieran Read's head-high, off-the-ball tackle on South Africa's Pieter-Steph du Toit, and two head-high shoulder charges by prop Joe Moody, that went totally unnoticed by officials, has also drawn much comment online.**

"Elite match officials are required to make decisions in complex, high-pressure situations and there have been initial challenges with the use of technology and team communication, which have impacted decision-making," World Rugby said. **"These are already being addressed by the team of 23 match officials to enhance consistency. Given this proactive approach, a strong team ethic and a superb support structure, World Rugby has every confidence in the team."**

My comment to this: Somehow I don't have much trust in their statement which says: **"World Rugby has every confidence in the team."** Only a few hours after they admitted the inconsistencies, **the incompetent & hopelessly flawed Romain Poite showed just how useless he really is,** in Tuesday's match between Russia & Samoa. **Mr. Poite left me totally breathless.**

Remember, he was called: "The worst ref of RWC 2015". This is what the media said about him in 2015. **"It has become obviously clear to any level-minded observer that French referee Romain Poite does not belong on the international stage. Clueless is the most descriptive word."**

"Poite blunders make mockery of RWC statement" - Rugby365.com, 24 September 2019

French Romain Poite made a mockery of a statement that the "highest standards of officiating" will be maintained.

Refereeing standards at the World Cup were put under the microscope after World Rugby admitted that the inconsistencies of their match officials, across the opening weekend of the tournament, were "unacceptable". Just hours after the World Rugby statement, Poite's performance, in the encounter between Samoa and Russia, raised serious questions about the controlling body's ability to get the message through. For example: **"Two shoulder tackles to the head of Russian skipper Vasily Artemyev resulted in yellow cards for Samoa's Rey Lee-Lo and Motu Matu'u. But, on television replays it shows that both incidents merited red cards."**

My comment to this: Rugby World Cup only got what they deserve. **Why did they, once again, invite Mr. Poite to another World Cup? BUT HEY, DON'T SHOOT ME THOUGH - I'M ONLY THE MESSENGER IN THIS SAD UNFOLDING DRAMA.**

I monitor 10 different rugby web-sites daily and I can tell you this: There's a world wide outcry against the pathetic refereeing standards at this World Cup. The sad part of it all, is the fact that only 9 of the 48 games have been completed, at the time I wrote this. **How or where is this going to end up?**

"Expert Witnesses - Team of Week 1" - PlanetRugby.com, 26 September 2019

It has been a tough week to choose from and a few players have perhaps missed out - notably the outstanding Richie Mo'unga, Conor Murray, Kirill Gotovtsev and Jack Conan. It's great to see a number of Tier Two players featuring purely on merit. Here's the official team.

Team of the Week: 15 Beauden Barrett (NZ), 14 Kotaro Matsushima (Jap), 13 Manu Tuilagi (Eng), 12 Chris Farrell (Ire), 11 Cheslin Kolbe (RSA),

10 Felipe Berchesi (Uru), 9 Antoine Dupont (Fr), 8 Manuel Diana (Uru), 7 Peceli Yato (Fij), 6 Ardie Savea (NZ), 5 James Ryan (Ire), 4 Scott Barrett (NZ),

3 Tadhg Furlong (Ire), 2 Rory Best (Ire), 1 Joe Moody (NZ).

My comment to this: It's great to see Cheslin Kolbe got credit for his superb effort, but possibly Pieter-Steph du Toit also deserved a spot.

MEDIA SNIPPETS - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Part 2

"Japan 'recreate' the Miracle of Brighton" - RugbyPass.com, 28 September 2019

Japan shocked the globe for the second time in four years by stunning Ireland 19-12 to light a bomb under Pool A and a fire under their home World Cup.

The Brave Blossoms tore through Ireland time and time again in Shizuoka, triumphing through superior tenacity and supreme intensity.

The world's 10th-ranked team beat the second-best outfit, who entered this tournament ranked number one in the standings. Wing Kenki Fukuoka ran in the try that sealed Japan's famous victory, **immediately invoking memories of their breathless 34-32 win over South Africa in Brighton in 2015.**

If Japan could repeat this level of performance however, it could be the Brave Blossoms who top the pool, with the hosts having already bested Russia 30-10.

That would leave Ireland and Scotland scrapping it out for second place, and a possible quarter-final against back-to-back world champions New Zealand.

My comment to this: At least, South Africa isn't the only First Tier team any more who have the dissatisfying record of losing to Japan. We now share the shame with Ireland, who has joined the club. What a brilliant game by Japan's Brave Blossoms. They may still surprise some other teams as well.

"Time for World Rugby to make an example of a big name referee?" - RugbyPass.com, 29 September 2019

It now seems strange to recall rugby union without yellow and red cards, but until the late 1990's the referee was armed solely with a whistle and, in extremes, the option to send off a serious offender. But as World Rugby struggles to get its Japan 19 match officials to follow the pre-World Cup tackle directives, it seems apposite to question if referees view the red card in the same matter-of-fact way. However, **even with the assistance of the touch judges and a TMO armed with multiple camera angles and slo-mo devices, time and again the first dozen World Cup matches have seen errors made.**

Based on the most recent round of games, the "mea culpa" World Rugby issued a week into the tournament in respect of its officials' performance level has **not had the desired effect. Might more drastic action - for instance the de-selection of an established big-name official - therefore drive the required change?**

My comment to this: Yes, please. For too long these guys determined the outcome of far too many games. It is high time they feel how the other side of the "stick" feels.

"Piers Francis cleared to play" - PlanetRugby.com, 29 September 2019

England centre Piers Francis has been cleared to play following his citing for a dangerous tackle in his side's win over the USA in Kobe on Thursday. Francis was cited for a hit on USA full-back Will Hooley but the offence was not reviewed by the referee Nic Berry.

"**The player admitted that he had committed an act of foul play**, that it was a high tackle which made contact with the head of the opposition ball carrier, and he also accepted that a high degree of danger was present." **But a judiciary panel determined that the act ought to have resulted in a yellow card on-field.** Since the threshold for upholding a citing is a "red card", the Committee did not uphold the citing and the player is free to play again immediately.

My comment to this: This reeks of double standards. Why? So far 4 players from Japan, New Zealand & England escaped definite sanctions. The host nations' James Moore, for an elbow charge to the chin of Russia's Vasily Dorofeev. New Zealand's Kieran Read, for his "coathanger" high tackle on Pieter-Steph du Toit while Peter-Steph did not even have the ball. New Zealand's Joe Moody, for a shoulder charge on Malcolm Marx and 2x elbow punches on Duane Vermeulen. And now England's Piers Francis, who's high tackle on USA's Will Hooley was in exactly the same category as that of Reece Hodge's high tackle on Fiji's Peceli Yato.

The only difference is that Piers Francis at least was cited while the other three offenders totally escaped that. **It is completely impossible for citing commissioners or for RWC officials to claim they accidentally missed it as these incidents of foul play were repeatedly shown and discussed in the world wide media.**

"Georgia gets apology for Russian music gaffe" - Rugby365.com, 30 September 2019

World Rugby organisers have apologised to Georgia after head coach Milton Haig slammed them for playing a Russian song after his side's 33-7 victory over Uruguay.

"We want to make it clear that Russia is not Georgia," the New Zealander fumed after Sunday's Pool D game in Kumagaya.

"They were playing a Russian song, sung by a Georgian singer - but it's a Russian song." The gaffe was particularly embarrassing given the tense relations between the two countries. "Georgia has a different language, different culture, different everything," added Haig.

My comment to this: At least it wasn't their national anthem that got messed up, like the time in 2009 when the "Rastaman" stuffed up ours, before a test in France.

"Wallaby's bizarre threat after loss to Wales" - Rugby365.com, 30 September 2019

Hard-hitting Wallabies centre Samu Kerevi has threatened to switch to Rugby league after being penalised (by Mr. Romain Poite) for a stray elbow in Australia's 25-29 World Cup defeat by Wales. **Wales were awarded a penalty after Kerevi caught flyhalf Rhys Patchell with a forearm under the chin** as he drove forward during the first half of Sunday's blockbuster Group D clash in Tokyo. The decision proved pivotal as it halted Australia's momentum and led to Wales reeling off 10 unanswered points - **it also left Wallabies coach Michael Cheika seething** and prompted Kerevi to float the idea of switching codes.

My comment to this: They're rightly upset about this farcical penalty, but remember when Bismarck du Plessis got a red card, by the same Mr. Poite, against New Zealand, for legally bumping off Dan Carter with an elbow to his breast. The red card was later erased as a judicial hearing found: "The decision by Mr. Poite was wrong, as Bismarck was within the laws of the game." The difference is, Bismarck couldn't play for 40 minutes.

"Expert Witnesses - Team of Week 2" - PlanetRugby.com, 30 September 2019

With the dust having settled on the second round of the Rugby World Cup, we have gone through the action and picked the standout players. Scotland made a late push for inclusions and have two players named but it is Japan, Wales and England that's dominating our line-up this week.

Team of the Week: 15 Stuart Hogg (Scotland), 14 Sean Maitland (Scotland), 13 Jonathan Davies (Wales), 12 Samu Kerevi (Australia), 11 Joe Cokanasiga (England), 10 George Ford (England), 9 Gareth Davies (Wales), 8 Kazuki Himeno (Japan), 7 Jake Polledri (Italy), 6 Michael Leitch (Japan), 5 Lood de Jager (South Africa), 4 Alun Wyn Jones (Wales), 3 Levan Chilachava (Georgia), 2 Shota Horie (Japan), 1 Keita Inagaki (Japan).

My comment to this: Congratulations to Lood de Jager. His tireless man-of-the-match performance certainly paved his way right into this list.

"A special atmosphere - a RWC like no other" - RugbyWorldCup.com, 1 October 2019

Ten days and 18 games into the tournament, it is safe to say that **the first Rugby World Cup to be staged in Asia has already been a big success**, and we are not even halfway through the Pool stage. The host nation's stunning victory over Ireland has raised interest by several more notches, **not only around Japan but globally.**

The on-field action is only part of the story, though. The success of the opening two weeks can be measured off the pitch as well as on it, away from the stadiums as well as inside them. More than 630,000 spectators have watched the 18 matches to date, as far apart as the Sapporo Dome - closer to Vladivostok, in Russia, than Tokyo - and hot and humid Fukuoka, even further away from Japan's capital on the island of Kyushu.

In all 12 stadiums at RWC 2019 two things have been consistent: the warmth of the welcome and the appreciation by travelling fans for the show being put on in Japan. **So, Japan has literally been opening its arms to the rugby world.**

My comment to this: There is more to the tournament than winning. It's about being able to experience & enjoy a culture, a language & a way of life.

"Ireland incorrectly penalised against Japan" - SARugbyMag.co.za, 1 October 2019

Ireland coach Joe Schmidt says World Rugby has confirmed that there were three incorrect offside calls in their shock loss to Japan. The game was refereed by **Angus Gardner**, who was assisted by **Jérôme Garcès** and **Matthew Carley**.

After submitting his referee review to World Rugby, in the aftermath of that result, Schmidt was told, in the feedback from the governing body, that his side was incorrectly penalised on three occasions.

Schmidt was quoted saying: "It's pretty hard to keep getting off the line and on to the front foot when you are getting those calls. Two of them were from an assistant referee who is going to be refereeing us on Thursday [**Jérôme Garcès**], so we know we're going to have to be on our best behaviour."

My comment to this: No surprise there. That's what you get when "three blind mice" is in control of activities. It is exactly the reason why I ticked off 21 errors against Mr. Angus Gardner, for that game. Take note, the three penalty errors Joe Schmidt refers to are not the only errors that was made. Remember the rules stated in the above table

for "Referee Performance". That is why I allocate the number of errors made: "Not only for missed calls, but also for improvised calls. The refs are supposed to blow only for what they see, but sometimes they guess and blow for things that simply did not happen." Guesswork is dangerous for referees; in fact, guessing and getting it wrong is worse than "missing" an infringement. In summary, all I can say to Joe Schmidt for their next game, when Jérôme Garcès takes the whistle is:

"Good luck to you and your team, because you are going to need it!"

"All Blacks star gets away with another ugly hit" - AdelaideNow.com.au, 4 October 2019

1. RSA vs NZ: All Blacks skipper, **Kieran Read**, can count himself lucky to escape further sanction for a **high and off-the ball foul on Pieter-Steph du Toit**, during the Rugby World Cup opener, between the All Blacks and the Springboks. The All Black skipper wasn't cited or punished for the incident.

2. NZ vs Canada: Once again World Rugby has failed to take any disciplinary action against the All Blacks skipper, **Kieran Read**, in what can be described as: a **cheap, try-stopping, reckless, off-the-ball, no-arms, shoulder tackle to the head of the Canadian flanker, Lucas Rumball**. Read was penalised, but the match official (**who else but Mr. Romain Poite**) took no further action and neither has the citing commissioner lifted a finger. All Blacks coach, Steve Hansen, confirmed he had seen the video, but he said that: "The game needs to have faith in the disciplinary programmes and rugby's established protocols surrounding illegal play."

BUT, as one critic puts it: "Calm down everyone, no one is going to cite the Canadian for head butting the All Black captain's shoulder."

My comment to this: Easy for you to say Mr. Steve Hansen. When you know your team gets away with "murder", time-and-time again, why would you be worried at all.

"Is there anything All Blacks can do to get punished?" - WalesOnline.co.uk, 4 October 2019

"They could throw a brick at the referee and he would thank them." Among the amazing stats churned out by the All Blacks during their reign over the global game is having just four players sent off in their 116-year history. And two of those have come in the last couple of seasons with lock Scott Barrett red-carded in their Bledisloe Cup defeat to Australia this summer alongside Sonny Bill Williams' dismissal in the second Test of the 2017 Lions tour.

Critics cite the back-to-back world champions playing under a cloak of invisibility meaning **they are treated more leniently than others by referees and citing commissioners**. They had 36 hours to take action against **Kieran Read**, but that time has since elapsed meaning Read can continue to play in their outstanding games.

My comment to this: No need to carry-on "ad infinitum". The facts have been stated, the evidence submitted, and the case is made. **GUILTY!**

"Springboks give update on Cheslin Kolbe" - Rugby365.com, 05 October 2019

South Africa reported no major injury concerns following their decisive 49-3 Pool B victory over Italy at the Shizuoka Stadium ECOPA on Friday.

Only wing Cheslin Kolbe is not absolutely certain to be available for selection for the final pool match against Canada on Tuesday.

Kolbe twisted his left ankle in the final minutes of the match and was withdrawn as a precaution.

The player was x-rayed following the match - which proved to be clear - and was walking normally on Saturday.

My comment to this: Great news. We will surely need him, especially when we move into the Quarter Finals and hopefully beyond.

MEDIA SNIPPETS - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Part 3

"Nigel Owens receives staunch defence of red card incident" - WalesOnline.co.uk, 06 October 2019

Nigel Owens has been told his decision to brandish a red card to Argentina's Tomas Lavanini for a high tackle on Owen Farrell was a textbook example of how a team of referees should be working together at the World Cup. England World Cup winning coach Sir Clive Woodward criticised Owens on ITV for missing the incident in the first place. But South African referee **Jonathan Kaplan**, formerly one of the world's greatest officials himself,

offered a better insight as to exactly why he feels Owens' handling of the game was excellent.

Kaplan explained how it can be hard to see how dangerous an incident is in real time. Rugby is played at such a breakneck speed these days, a referee is dependant at times upon his touch judges and the TMO. Kaplan went into detail about how Owens came to the correct decision, pointing out the red card was "the perfect example of how the rapport between a referee and TMO should work". Owens had to assess whether there was any mitigation, did Farrell duck or slip,

for example, but that did not happen. That meant a red card.

Kaplan said: "I liked the way Owens discussed what he was seeing with Jonker. The language used was crisp and precise, as were the words Owens used when selling his decision to the Argentina players and the watching public. Owens had a strong performance." Kaplan dismissed talk on social media, and from pundits.

Nigel Owens and England's Wayne Barnes, according to Kaplan, are amongst the leading referees at the tournament.

My comment to this: I rest my case with what I said in last weekends e-mail. It's a real pleasure to watch a game when Nigel Owens officiates.

"Expert Witnesses - Team of Week 3" - PlanetRugby.com, 07 October 2019

The dust settled on the 3rd round. Following dominant performances, New Zealand, South Africa and England are all well-represented with three players apiece.

Team of the Week: 15 Elliot Daly (**Eng**), 14 Cheslin Kolbe (**RSA**), 13 Tevita Kuridrani (**Aus**), 12 Sonny Bill Williams (**NZ**), 11 Semi Radradra (**Fij**), 10 George Ford (**Eng**), 9 **Faf de Klerk** (**RSA**), 8 Kazuki Himeno (**Jap**), 7 Sam Underhill (**Eng**), 6 Charles Ollivon (**Fra**), 5 **Lood de Jager** (**RSA**), 4 Scott Barrett (**NZ**), 3 Angus Ta'avao (**NZ**), 2 Camille Chat (**Fra**), 1 Siegfried Fisi'ihoi (**Tong**).

My comment to this: Wow, who would have thought that? Three Boks in the team: **Cheslin Kolbe, Faf de Klerk & Lood de Jager**. Well done guys.

"Kolbe magic defies laws of physics" - SARugbyMag.co.za, 07 October 2019

Cheslin Kolbe has received due praise for his attacking X factor, but it's his defence and aerial skills that have elevated the wing to new heights. In South Africa's opening RWC clash with the All Blacks, the diminutive Kolbe stood head and shoulders above any other Springbok. Two weeks later, he turned the magic on once again, scoring two tries against Italy. In the aftermath of that performance, praise and plaudits poured in from around the rugby globe. Bok coach Rassie Erasmus enthused: "Cheslin must be among the best players in the world." Nick Mallett added to the chorus of praise: "He is really the heartbeat of this Springbok side."

My comment to this: Yes, he truly deserves the nick name of "Pocket Rocket". He's got a full "box-of-tricks" in his "pocket" and on the run he is a blazing "rocket".

"Cobus Reinach clocks fastest ever RWC hat-trick" - RugbyPass.com, 08 October 2019

Cobus Reinach helped himself to a hat-trick in the opening 21 minutes of the Pool B match between South Africa and Canada. Reinach's hat-trick was the earliest ever in Rugby World Cup history, beating the previous earliest by Australia's Chris Latham who bagged a hat-trick in 25 minutes against Namibia in 2003. Reinach claimed his first after nine minutes as he gathered his own kick to cross and grabbed another following more powerful running by RG Snyman. He then sprinted half the length of the field to claim his third. South Africa must now wait until Sunday to see which side from Pool A - Japan, Ireland or Scotland - they face next.

My comment to this: Kudos, **Cobus** was absolutely sublime. During the first half South Africa knocked the "oomph" right out of the poor Canucks.

"Refs let All Blacks cheat" - Rugby365.com, 09 October 2019

New Zealand have been labeled as 'cynical cheats' while their captain **Kieran Read** enjoys 'diplomatic immunity' at this year's World Cup.

According to former Ireland No.8, Neil Francis, who has played 36 tests for Ireland between 1987 and 1996, the All Blacks "**cheat with impunity and such breathtaking cynicism while referees allow them do it**".

In writing about the All Blacks' 63-0 win over Canada, Francis, said: "At one point New Zealand gave away 20 penalties, of which only one was actually awarded".

Francis also claims that All Blacks skipper **Kieran Read** should have been sent off by referee **Romain Poite** while **Beauden Barrett** and **Sonny Bill Williams** escaped yellow cards. There was a comic moment involving Sonny Bill Williams. The All Black centre jumped offside at the ruck, but put his hands in the air.

This very act automatically absolves you from wrongdoing. The referee cannot penalise you if you are an All Black who jumps offside but puts his hands up. It is in the rule book - the offside law article 5 paragraph 3. (Of course Francis is being sarcastic.) **New Zealand are difficult enough to beat at the best of times, but because they cheat, and they cheat, and they cheat! they are even more difficult to overcome. They always get away with it, time-after-time, again-and-again!**

My comment to this: Some of us have been saying this for years, but then we get branded as "cry babies". However, slowly but surely the worlds eyes are opening as well.

"Two RWC matches cancelled due to typhoon Hagibis" - PlanetRugby.com, 10 October 2019

World Rugby and the Japan Rugby 2019 Organising Committee have announced the cancellation of two RWC matches on safety grounds due to Typhoon Hagibis. Saturday's Pool C decider between **England and France** in Yokohama as well as the Pool B fixture between **New Zealand and Italy** in the City of Toyota have been called off.

In a statement, World Rugby and the Japan Rugby 2019 Organising Committee said: "Based on the latest detailed information from the tournament's independent weather experts, Hagibis is predicted to be the biggest typhoon of the 2019 season and is highly likely to cause considerable disruption in the Tokyo, Yokohama and City of Toyota areas throughout Saturday, including likely public transport shutdown or disruption."

"The impacted teams have been informed and are understanding.

For matches that do not go ahead as scheduled, it counts as a 0-0 draw, but two points will be awarded to each team in line with tournament rules."

My comment to this: It's a pity for this to happen, but obviously they cannot control the weather. A correct call was made, being rather save than sorry.

"If New Zealand needed points there would be no cancellation" - Rugby365.com, 10 October 2019

Italy captain Sergio Parisse made no secret of his utter disappointment at the cancellation of their final Pool B match due to Typhoon Hagibis.

Thursday's announcement ended Italy's slim hopes of reaching the last eight and it deprives Italy of a chance to play a match against one of the great teams.

According to Parisse: **"If New Zealand needed four or five points against us it would not have been cancelled."**

He added: "It's ridiculous that there is no Plan B, because it isn't news that typhoons hit Japan. When you organise a World Cup you should have a Plan B in place." Italy coach Conor O'Shea was left lamenting a "horrible" end to the Azzurri's World Cup campaign. "For the World Cup not to finish in front of the fans on the pitch, and in front of the fans watching on TV in Italy, it is a hard day for all of us and difficult to put into words," he said.

My comment to this: Yes indeed, it makes one wonders what would have happened if such a NZ scenario was present, as Sergio expressed here.

"Jérôme Garcès, that is Monty Python madness" - SARugbyMag.co.za, 10 October 2019

English pundit Stuart Barnes has labelled **Jérôme Garcès'** decision to not award a red card, during Wednesday's Wales-Fiji match, as **the worst decision of the tournament**. (But again, the citing commissioner didn't do anything either.) The outcome of the game might have been different had the French referee ejected **Ken Owens** in the eighth minute, **instead of only showing him a yellow card**. TV footage shows that Owens was fortunate to escape further sanction after lifting **Viliame Mata** through the horizontal and throwing Mata over his head, then dropping the Fijian on his back.

Barnes said: **"The throw is such an aggressive one that the guy is hurtled beyond 180 degrees and the only reason he is not given a red card is because he landed on his back and not his head. I'm sorry, that is Monty Python madness. Viliame Mata was thrown dangerously, without care, and landed by pure luck on his back and not his head. Had he landed on his head and been severely injured do you think the colour of card would remain the same?"**

My comment to this: I also thought that Mata would be seriously injured, but fortunately, he was lucky to fall in such a way that he wasn't injured.

"Has the World Cup become a big disappointment" - SARugbyMag.co.za, 11 October 2019

Up until typhoon Hagibis arrived Rugby World Cup 2019 was deemed to be a huge success, but since then it seems like World Rugby's decision to host the showpiece in Japan has backfired. There are things more important than rugby when such natural disasters occur and safety is paramount, but proper provisions weren't put in place. World Rugby insisted that 'robust contingency plans' were in the pipeline, but that doesn't appear to be the case. Needless to say, typhoons aren't your average localised flooding scenarios; these are huge storms which cover vast areas, and **ultimately World Rugby deserve a lot of the criticism they are receiving**.

My comment to this: I think it's been an awesome world Cup so far, however the cancellations did put a bit of a damper on it. After all, who controls the weather?

"Typhoon Hagibis claims first life" - Rugby365.com, 12 October 2019

Powerful Typhoon Hagibis on Saturday claimed its first victim and left at least three missing, even before making landfall. Potentially record-breaking rains and high winds sparked evacuation orders for more than 1.6 million people. Rated **"large and very strong"**, the storm has forced the cancellation of two Rugby World Cup matches, disrupted the Japanese Grand Prix and grounded more than 1,600 domestic flights and some 260 international flights on Saturday.

It is forecasted to crash into land in central-eastern Japan early Saturday evening, packing maximum **gusts of 216 km/h**. But hours before the worst of the storm arrived, its outer bands claimed the first casualty in Chiba, east of Tokyo, which was also badly hit by a powerful typhoon last month. **A 49-year-old man was found in a toppled mini truck. He was sent to hospital but confirmed dead.**

Hagibis is an unusually large storm, expected to bring **"brutal winds, high tides and violent seas, landslides, and serious flooding"** to large swathes of the country, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. The storm is also causing transport chaos over a long weekend in Japan. Many bullet train lines from the capital are suspended, along with both overground and some subway lines serving the Tokyo area. With the centre of the storm still hundreds of kilometres away in the Pacific, torrential rain was falling and tornado-like gusts of wind ripped into Chiba. The JMA has forecasted **half a metre of rain** for the Tokyo area in the 24 hours to midday on Sunday, **with more** for the central Tokai region.

My comment to this: Some serious concerns there, not only for the local population, but also for all the Rugby and Grand Prix tourists in the area.

"Typhoon claims another match" - Rugby365.com, 13 October 2019

World Cup organisers announced the cancellation of the match between Namibia and Canada due to Typhoon Hagibis. "We were left with no option but to cancel the match on safety grounds," said tournament director Alan Gilpin, who had already been forced to cancel two other matches as Hagibis approached.

Cancellation is a blow for the northern town of Kamaishi, whose hosting of World Cup games was a potent symbol of recovery from a 2011 tsunami disaster when it was nearly wiped off the map.

It also robs Namibia of a chance to grab their first World Cup win and end their record run of 22 games at the tournament without a victory.

Canada is without a win in their last 10 World Cup matches.

The fall-out from Typhoon Hagibis, which swept through Japan causing widespread flooding, so far have left at least 11 people dead.

My comment to this: The 3x games that were cancelled compares nothing against so many people that lost their lives in this devastating typhoon.

MEDIA SNIPPETS - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Part 4

"Typhoon Hagibis: Death toll rises" - TheNewYorkTimes.com, 13 October 2019

Japan woke on Sunday morning to flooded rivers and burst levees, as emergency workers used helicopters and boats to rescue stranded residents from their homes in the wake of Typhoon Hagibis, the largest storm to hit the country in more than 50 years. Rain began falling on Saturday and continued through Sunday morning, testing dams, pulling down hillsides, destroying roads and bridges, and driving rivers over their banks.

At least 74 people were killed, with 14 people still reported missing and more than 220 injured, according to the public broadcaster. Deaths were expected to mount as swollen rivers rushed through flooded neighborhoods. More than 370,000 households were without power, and at least 15,000 homes were without water.

To add to all this mayhem, a 5.7-magnitude earthquake shook Chiba, east of Tokyo, on Saturday evening just before the storm hit.

My comment to this: Tragic circumstances. It underlines the stupidity of the Scots to sue World Rugby if the Japan v Scotland game was cancelled.

"Expert Witnesses - Team of Week 4" - PlanetRugby.com, 14 October 2019

With the dust settled (and the floods dissipating) on the 4th round, Ireland lead the way with five representatives in our side while Japan are next best with four.

Team of the Week: 15 Jordan Larmour (Ire), 14 Semi Radradra (Fij), 13 Jonathan Davies (Wal), 12 Ryoto Nakamura (Jap), 11 Kenki Fukuoka (Jap),

10 Johnny Sexton (Ire), 9 Yutaka Nagare (Jap), 8 CJ Stander (Ire), 7 Jamie Ritchie (Scot), 6 Aaron Shingler (Wal), 5 James Ryan (Ire),

4 RG Snyman (RSA), 3 Tadhg Furlong (Ire), 2 German Kessler (Uru), 1 Keita Inagaki (Jap).

My comment to this: Congratulations to **RG Snyman**, but I am utterly surprised that **Cobus Reinach** is not in the team, especially after his record breaking 3 try blitz.

"Confirmed: Scotland charged with misconduct" - AgenceFrance-Presse.com, 15 October 2019

World Cup organisers filed misconduct charges against Scotland on Tuesday over comments made about Typhoon Hagibis. **This follows after the Scots threatened legal action if their final pool game was cancelled.** But now Scotland could face sanction for their conduct in the days leading up to that clash. Tournament director Alan Gilpin announced the move to reporters, saying that: "Under our tournament rules, we are very careful that people behave appropriately."

World Rugby Chief Executive Brett Gosper said: "We were ready for typhoons. **There is nothing exceptional about typhoons in this country. But this was an exceptional typhoon that we haven't had the likes of since the fifties. We made a call based on the volume of what was in front of us.**"

My comment to this: Yes, personally I feel that the Scots were out of place and somewhat disrespectful. In the end they probably deserved the hiding they got. There's an old saying: "If a kid keeps on begging for a sweet, then give him a sweet." **Unfortunately for the Scots, this was one of those "sour candy sweets".**

"Underfire Angus Gardner switched out of ref duty" - RugbyPass.com, 16 October 2019

Referee **Angus Gardner** was switched out of the England vs Argentina game. Instead the game was given to **Nigel Owens**. Gardner was posted to AR duty for Japan versus Samoa. Both **Angus Gardner** and **Ben O'Keefe** has come in for criticism during the Pool stages.

Gardner is understood to have come in for internal admonition following his officiating of the France vs Argentina pool game.

My comment to this: I rest my case. Although this is 2 weeks old history it only came to my attention now. This gives credibility to my scoring system which has **Mr. Gardner** as a 1 star ref. Remember, this is the clown that said there was nothing wrong with Owen Farrell's dangerous shoulder charge on André Esterhuizen during a Test at Twickenham, in 2018.

"Planet Rugby awards: Rugby World Cup pool stages" - PlanetRugby.com, 18 October 2019

With the Rugby World Cup pool stage having drawn to a dramatic close, we have sat down to select our unique awards for players, teams and more.

Best game - Wales v Australia, **Best player** - **Cheslin Kolbe**, **Biggest shock** - Uruguay's win over Fiji, **Best tackle** - Semi Radradra on Liam Williams, **Funniest moment** - Schalk Brits shirt swap, **Best pass** - Brad Weber to TJ Perenara, **Best referee** - Nigel Owens, **Biggest character** - Vasily Artemyev (Russia's captain), **Best social media post** - Alun Wyn Jones doing the Lion King things.

My comment to this: Who will be the player of the 2019 tournament? It seems like the electric winger, **Cheslin Kolbe**, and Fiji's **Semi Radradra** are the two top contenders.

"Japan: From whipping boys to giant slayers" - Rugby365.com, 18 October 2019

That Japan are preparing for the biggest match in their history, a World Cup quarter-final showdown against South Africa on Sunday, is a testament of their rapid improvement over the past five years. Despite appearing at every tournament since 1987, until four years ago Japan had just a single World Cup victory under their belts, a 52-8 win over Zimbabwe in 1991. Routinely whipping boys, **Japan were best-known for conceding the largest number of points in a single World Cup match when they were annihilated 145-17 by New Zealand in 1995.**

However, **in 2015 Japan produced the greatest upset in World Cup history, beating twice-winners South Africa 34-32 in their opening pool match.** The victory put Japan on the rugby map and brought a wave of public support for a sport usually relegated below baseball, soccer and sumo wrestling back home. Many Japan players believe their current success stems from the confidence gained in 2015. The players routinely point to two major factors for their success - preparation and the influence of head coach Jamie Joseph who played for Japan in the 1999 World Cup. **Joseph has had the luxury of nine months with his players, having run a training camp since January** after Japan's Top League sides shortened their domestic season.

"It was very clear our players just weren't ready to play test match rugby against tier-one teams," Joseph said, in the build-up to the World Cup when reflecting on his time in charge. He went on saying: "In terms of our fitness and our ability to play at that level of rugby week in and week out, we just weren't fit or strong enough." That has certainly changed and captain Michael Leitch has also spoken about the impact of the players' exposure to the world's elite, both at international level and for the Sunwolves in Super Rugby. "The last four games, we are getting better each time, and the confidence is growing," said Leitch after the win over Scotland.

My comment to this: Unfortunately, that nine months spend preparing the World Cup team was probably done at the cost of the Sunwolves, being dropped out of Super Rugby.

MEDIA SNIPPETS - Rugby World Cup 2019 - Part 5

"Ref's thoughtless pose triggers anger" - AgenceFrance-Presse.com, 21 October 2019

South African referee Jaco Peyper has sparked anger, after posing for a photo with Wales fans in which he appeared to mimic the elbow that led to Sebastien Vahaamahina's quarterfinal red card. Peyper dismissed the hulking lock in Oita on Sunday, after he smashed his elbow into the face of Welsh flanker Aaron Wainwright early in the second half, with France leading by nine points.

But France fans reacted with astonishment after Peyper was seen smiling for the camera alongside beer-drinking Wales fans with his right elbow raised to the chin of one of them, seeming to poke fun at the sickening incident on Sunday night. There were howls of protests from fans slamming Peyper's judgement, with several calling it "shameful", "disturbing" or "stupid". **World Rugby is investigating the circumstances around the photo of referee Jaco Peyper.**

My comment to this: Seems like sometimes people just cannot think straight to recognise when they are **scating on thin ice** while entering controversial territory.

"Expert Witnesses - Team of Quarter-Finals Week" - PlanetRugby.com, 21 October 2019

England lead with five representatives, while there are three apiece from New Zealand and South Africa, two from France and two from Wales.

Team of the Week: 15 Beauden Barrett (NZ), 14 Anthony Watson (Eng), 13 Virimi Vakatawa (Fra), 12 Gael Fickou (Fra), 11 Makazole Mapimpi (RSA), 10 Owen Farrell (Eng), 9 Aaron Smith (NZ), 8 Kieran Read (NZ), 7 Justin Tipuric (Wal), 6 Tom Curry (Eng), 5 Alun Wyn Jones (Wal), 4 Lood de Jager (RSA), 3 Kyle Sinckler (Eng), 2 Malcolm Marx (RSA), 1 Mako Vunipola (Eng).

My comment to this: Congratulations to **Makazole Mapimpi, Lood de Jager and Malcolm Marx.** I'm just surprised that no player from Ireland or Japan made it into the team.

"Referees announced and South Africans won't be happy" - RugbyPass.com, 22 October 2019

World Rugby has announced the match officials for the Rugby World Cup 2019 semi-finals at International Stadium Yokohama, Kanagawa, this weekend.

Nigel Owens (Wales) will take charge of **England vs New Zealand** and **Jérôme Garcès** (France), will referee **Wales vs South Africa**. The selection is based on merit after a review of performances by World Rugby's match officials selection committee. World Rugby Chairman, Sir Bill Beaumont said: "**These are the best of the best.**" The only problem with this is that they are effectively saying Jerome Garcès is a better referee than Wayne Barnes! Now that's just pure crazy talk! Mzwandile Stick "diplomatically" said: "**He is one of the best refs in the world.** We respect him as a ref, and we will try to make sure we are on his good side, and let him do his job."

My comment to this: How can BB say: "**These are the best of the best?**" All indications are that Garcès is the 2nd worst ref of the competition? Reviews from pundits, commentators and the world media are clear on this. France got 4 "poor" refs in the World Cup squad. Is it perhaps because World Rugby's Refs are managed by an Irish-Frenchman?

"Peyper pays the piper for 'inappropriate' photo" - RugbyPass.com, 22 October 2019

South African referee **Jaco Peyper** has apologised but paid a price after a photograph emerged of him posing with Wales fans mimicking a key red-card incident from Sunday's World Cup quarter-final against France. "Peyper recognises that a picture of him with Wales fans, which appeared on social media after Sunday's Wales versus France quarter-final, was inappropriate and he has apologised," said the governing body in a statement on Tuesday.

But the apology was not enough as World Rugby confirmed that the South African official was not considered for this weekend's semifinals in Yokohama.

My comment to this: Although World Rugby has overreacted with this kneejerk, it was clear right from the start that Jaco was going to be treated harshly. After all, it is a Frenchman that was mocked and Allain Roland wouldn't take that. It really is a storm in a teacup, but World Rugby has got to maintain their so-called "political correct" image.

"Boks get Jérôme Garcès again" - SARugbyMag.co.za, 22 October 2019

Garcès was in charge of the Springboks' World Cup opener against New Zealand, and came under fire after the match, with many believing the Frenchman had missed a number of infringements at the breakdown and scrum in particular. Example: **Kieran Read's** clothes line on Pieter-Stef du Toit, **Joe Moody's** 2x elbow strikes

