



# Player expelled from Helsinki World Championships

Press Release Number 6

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A Russian National team player, has been expelled from the CMAS Underwater Rugby World Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

**The Tournament Jury investigated two incidents related to the expulsion of Nikita Sukharev from a game on 17 August 2011.**

On 17 August 2011, during the first round of Group Play between Russia and Germany Sukharev was expelled from the game for unsporting/violent behavior. After a request by the German National Underwater Rugby, a subsequent investigation, including a film review, revealed an additional separate incident of similar character that had not been called by the referee at the time.

The Jury, composed of the Chief Referee, an International Referee and two Team Captains, were unanimous in their finding. The sanction – expulsion from the Championships – was communicated to the offending player and his Team Captain shortly after the Jury meeting.

The Russian Underwater Federation may impose further sanctions on Sukharev, according to a representative of the CMAS Underwater Rugby Commission.

General Secretary of the World Championships Hannu Ahonen (Finland) said that such incidents were unacceptable to the competition. “Intentional violence has no place at the World Championships or in our sport in general,” he added.

The Rules:

3.1.6.c A player may be expelled for incidents occurring at any time during the tournament.

Any severe unsporting at any time during a tournament may cause the player to be expelled from games (or the tournament). Unsporting behaviour reported to the jury may cause the jury to be summoned, to hear the case, and possibly to expel the player for one or more matches, or for the remainder of the tournament.



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