

Bakkies cleared, Nel suspended

By [Marcello-Calvin Adams](#)

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Following the lengthy disciplinary hearing Bakkies Botha of the Vodacom Bulls was cleared by the Super 14 board. Unfortunately JP Nel was not so lucky, seeing as the Bulls face the Crusaders in the semi-final this Saturday. This might turn the odds in the Crusaders favour and see them knock the last South African Super 14 team out.

Gerri Swart, represents Botha and the case was heard by Sanzar Judicial Officer Attorney Dekker Govender. Swart argued that Botha pushed Kankowski instead of deliberately trying to strike him. Judicial Office Govender viewed the video evidence and took into consideration the position of the referee at the time. He ruled that Botha tried to release himself from the Sharks player's grasp and had no intent of striking him. The case against Botha was not upheld so we are more than likely to see the Bull's lock in the semi-final.

Nel's case was also heard by Dekker Govender. The video evidence showed Nel dangerously tackling Sharks centre Stefan Terblanche. After repeated views Govender came to the conclusion that it was a dangerous tackle. This sees Nel suspended for four weeks of all types of rugby up until and including 13 June 2009. Nel however has the right to appeal the decision however if it gets overturned it will not be in time for the match against the Crusaders.

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