



DELIVERING SAFE RUGBY

1. RUGBY LAW, RULES, CODES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Safety Policy

The safety of all participants must be the primary consideration in all participation decisions, overriding all other considerations.

Participation Policy

Rugby should be safe, inclusive and fair. Every effort must be made for rugby participants with broadly compatible physical development in conjunction with ability and/or experience to play with and against each other.

Mixed Gender Dispensation

Boys and girls can play rugby together up to and including the year they turn 12. After this, girls can participate if dispensed up to age 15 if it considered safe to do so.

Age Grade Dispensation

A player may play in the age group they are turning in the relevant calendar year and one year above with no dispensation. Dispensation can be sought by a player to move up two age grades or down one based on an assessment. There are mandatory assessments for participants in U10-U15s if they fall outside the Size for Age Guidelines.

Code of Conduct

Provides a set of standards that are different for each role in rugby. There is a Code of Conduct which applies to players, match officials, coaches, administrators and spectators.

Reporting

Rugby Australia have introduced a national online incident form to better manage complaints in rugby. We have a duty to protect those involved in the game; it is important to report someone who has acted against one or more of our policies.

Inclusion Policy

Everyone involved in rugby has the right and freedom to participate regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race or religion and without fear of exclusion. A breach of this policy would warrant a sanction under Rugby Australia's Member Protection Policy.

2. FIRST AID AND MEDICAL

First Aid Requirements

Clubs/Schools must have accredited First Aid Personnel at all games. For first aid personnel attending U12 and below matches a First Aid Attendant Kids Rugby Accreditation must be completed. For U13 matches and above this becomes a First Aid Attendant Level 1 Accreditation. These can be completed in the Rugby Learning Centre.

Medical and First Aid Guidelines

The following must be available and suitably maintained at each venue — First Aid Kit, Ice, Stretcher (preferably scoop), Telephone and Emergency Vehicle Access.

Concussion Management and Procedure (Blue Card)

All players who show signs and/or symptoms of suspected concussion must be removed from the field (Recognise and Remove). In age groups U13 and above, such a player will be shown a Blue Card. This player must undergo an off-field process (Record and Refer). The minimum period before return to play is 12 days for adults and 19 days for children (Rest and Recover). A Referral and Return Form must be completed before the player can return to contact training and match play (Record and Return).

Mayday Procedure

Coaches, players and match officials must also be aware of the Mayday Call Procedure Flowchart, this enables players to take prompt action to relieve the pressure if a situation occurs in a scrum.

Ambulance and Helicopter Guidelines

The Rugby Australia Serious Injury Protocol has information on what to consider when dialing an ambulance or calling for a helicopter.

3. FACILITIES, GROUND SET-UP AND MATCH DAY

Match Day Inspection Checklist

A risk management tool that should be completed prior to each match day with amateur sports volunteers in mind. The checklist is made in conjunction with rugby's insurance brokers Gow-Gates.

Serious Injury Protocol / Report

A serious injury is defined as any head or neck injury that results in a player being treated at an emergency department, hospital or after hours medical centre. A serious injury report must then be completed within 48 hours of the injury. The serious injury protocol must be followed in the event of a serious injury or fatality.

Annual Safety Audit

Designed for community rugby bodies to assist identify risks and encourage committees to be proactive in reducing risk and prevent injuries. Designed to be completed at the start of each season allowing enough time for changes to be made or risks rectified.

4. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

Smart Rugby

Is the minimum requirement for every coach, referee and referee coach participating in rugby where there is a tackling component (U8s and above). Smart Rugby requires re-accreditation every two years.

Accreditations in the Rugby Learning Centre

All personnel involved in the delivery of Safe Rugby are required to have undergone education and training. This content is reviewed annually to ensure it is up to date with the standards of best practice. Some of the roles requiring education are team managers, ground marshals, registrars, first aid attendants and competition managers.

5. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Competition Management System

Rugby Xplorer has a direct interface with the Rugby Learning Centre allowing clubs, schools and competition managers to effectively manage participants education and training as well as track and manage injuries, incidents and player profiles.