



SAFETY INITIATIVES – RUGBY AUSTRALIA

PURPOSE

To provide an overview of the Safety Initiatives undertaken by Rugby Australia over recent years.

SAFETY INITIATIVES

- **Smart Rugby:** Introduced in 2005 as a compulsory education for all coaches and match officials to be undertaken every two years
- **Annual Game Management Guidelines:** annual education for match officials, coaches and officials on the law focus for the current year
- **Concussion Management Guidelines:** Adoption of World Rugby concussion management procedure which included a Graduated Return to Play process from 2008
- **Rugby Learning Centre establishment:** Online learning platform that manages face- to-face education and online modules linking accreditation for coaches, match officials, administrators and medical staff back to the competition management practices and processes
- **Match Day Checklist and App:** Process for Clubs and Schools to ensure the ground is safe and appropriately set up both annually and on a week by basis
- **Lineout Review project:** 2016 with changes introduced in 2017 for U16 and above, videoed matches and trailed in school competitions in Sydney and Brisbane before law change in 2017
- **National Safety Committee:** established in 2017 reviewing safety and research initiatives with school and Club representatives, Medical experts (CMO) and University research experts
- **Safety and Participation Policy:** from 2017 defines safe, inclusive and fair participation including
 - a. **Age Grade Dispensation Procedure** – introduction of National ‘play down’ introduced
 - b. **Mixed Gender Dispensation Procedure** – defining how girls play safely with boys aged 12 to 15
 - c. **Senior Rugby Dispensation Procedure** – process for confirming Age Grade player to safely participate in senior rugby
 - d. **‘Size for Age’ Guidelines** – introduced in 2018 with mandatory assessment required for players outside height and weight parameters by age
 - e. **Assessing Coach Module** – education requirement for all coaches undertaking assessments for any of the above
- **National Disciplinary Rules:** 2017 and 2018 a nationally consistent framework to ensure foul and dangerous play in Rugby is appropriately managed through disciplinary panels
- **World Rugby tackle law changes:** delivered to all referee associations as part of pre-season roll out (tip tackles in 2017, high tackles and severity, 2018)
- **Code of Conduct update:** Safety number one responsibility for every participant no matter what your role is in the game and introduced in 2017
- **Registration and Competition Management system:** records, tracks and manages injury and incident cases
- **Blue Card:** pilot 2017 and national introduction in 2018 all Rugby competitions U13 and above
- **Adolescent Scrum review project:** 2016 and 2017 – reviewed video of over 5,000 scrums for collapse, resets and penalties
- **Online Serious Injury Reporting;** 2016 and 2017 moving online and integrating with Serious Incident Case Management system
- **Concussion and Serious Injury module:** introduced in 2017 as a new stand-alone module and available for team managers, administrators and first aid staff plus embedded into coach, match official accreditation

