

# RFU REGULATION 9 – PLAYER SAFETY

## General

- 9.1 Rugby is a physical contact sport. Like all sports, injuries may occur as a result of isolated incidents or through the continuous playing of the Game over an extended period of time. Safety is of paramount importance and it is therefore essential for those involved in the Game to consider their own safety and the safety of others at all times. They should familiarise themselves with any specific responsibilities that may be applicable to them, as set out in various documents issued by the RFU and/or World Rugby from time to time.
- 9.2 All those involved in the Game should consider their own fitness before participating in any rugby activity. The parents and guardians of players under the age of 18 should consider the fitness of those for whom they have responsibility. In particular, it is recommended to seek medical advice after injury and before recommencing any rugby activity.
- 9.3 All clubs and those involved in arranging any rugby activity must ensure that:
- there is an appropriate level of immediate care and/or first aid cover, and equipment provided for that rugby activity. These should be determined by a risk assessment and further guidance on the minimum requirement at each type of rugby activity is given in: [www.englandrugby.com/rugbysafe/education/first-aid/](http://www.englandrugby.com/rugbysafe/education/first-aid/)
  - there is access to a telephone to ensure that the emergency services can be contacted immediately when needed; and
  - there is clear vehicular access for an ambulance or other emergency vehicle.

## Head Injuries and Concussion

- 9.4 In specified adult competitions, participants who sustain a head injury or impact but show no signs or symptoms of concussion may be temporarily replaced for medical assessment and may only return to field of play if assessed and permitted in accordance with the protocols that apply to those competitions which are as follows:
- Premiership and A League Matches: the protocol set out in the Premiership and A League Regulations.
  - Championship Matches: the protocol set out in the Championship Regulations.
- 9.5 In respect of all other adult and age grade matches or training sessions, participants and all those involved (including coaches, players, parents and club officials) should refer to the RFU Headcase guidance set out in [www.englandrugby.com/headcase/](http://www.englandrugby.com/headcase/) for guidance on prevention,

recognition, management and returning to play. All (players, coaches, parents, match officials and club officials) should familiarise themselves with this RFU Headcase guidance.

- 9.6 Any individual who exhibits any of the signs or symptoms of concussion should be immediately and permanently removed safely from the field of play, should not return to play that day, and it is recommended that they are referred to a medical or healthcare professional for assessment and advice.

### Reporting Injuries

- 9.7 Club officials and those involved in arranging any rugby activity must ensure that any injury which results in an individual being admitted overnight to hospital (save those initially taken to an Accident & Emergency Department, but subsequently sent home after treatment) and any death occurring during rugby activity, or within 6 hours of the game or training ending, is reported to the RFU in accordance with the RFU's Injury Reporting System; details are at: [www.englandrugby.com/rugbysafe/injury-reporting](http://www.englandrugby.com/rugbysafe/injury-reporting)

*Note: For further information on how the RFU and/or the Injured Players Foundation may be able to assist a seriously/catastrophically injured player and their family, please see [www.rfuipf.org.uk](http://www.rfuipf.org.uk).*

### Health Care Workers

- 9.8 No person may directly or indirectly seek in any way to influence a medical professional or health care worker to breach their professional group's code of ethics, code of conduct or other such code. For avoidance of doubt, professional codes of ethics take precedence over any employer/employee contract or other service agreement.

### Additional Regulations

- 9.9 Additional medical and player safety regulations may be applicable in relation to certain competitions. Those teams involved in such competitions should check the specific competition regulations to ensure that these additional regulations are complied with.
- 9.10 There is further information regarding Age Grade Player safety in the Guidance to Regulation 15 which can be found at [www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/](http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/).