



Rugby AUstralia

Serious Injury

Management Protocol

& Action Plan



2. Rugby AU Protocol for Serious Injury

In the event of a serious injury to a player's head or neck (i.e.: suspected spinal injury) or fatality, the following protocol is to be followed:

1. Provide immediate on-field medical care and arrange suitable transportation (i.e. ambulance) to the hospital for the injured player.
2. Club/school representative to phone the Rugby AU Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM) on the **Rugby AU Hotline 1800 036 156** in the event of a serious injury (i.e.: suspected spinal injury or fatality). This number is a call back service and your details will be passed on to the SICM who will call you back ASAP. Please have all details of the incident ready to pass on to the SICM.
3. SICM to establish initial contact with designated hotline caller to ascertain current status.
4. SICM notifies Rugby AU General Manager (GM) of Community Rugby or designate of situation.
5. SICM or GM notifies designated representative responsible for zone/region/state Union (e.g.: New South Wales Country Rugby – Executive Officer).
6. Designated representative responsible for zone/region/state is to establish one point of contact with the club/school/zone to coordinate situation (e.g.: President/Executive Officer).
7. GM or Rugby AU designate to notify Rugby AU General Manager Corporate Affairs for communication/media advice.
8. SICM, GM and representative responsible for the zone/region/state to establish a process of support as required.

Rugby AU Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM)

Rugby Australia has appointed a SICM to assist in managing traumatic injuries. The SICM is your first point of contact in the event of a serious injury to a player's head or neck (i.e.: suspected spinal injury) or fatality and will provide a link between the club/school and the Rugby AU.

Club/School Responsibilities

1. Provide immediate on-field medical care and arrange suitable transportation (i.e. ambulance) to the hospital for the injured player.
2. Phone SICM on the **Rugby AU Hotline 1800 036 156** in the event of a serious injury (i.e.: suspected spinal injury or fatality), who in turn notifies Rugby AU nominee.
3. Phone zone/regional/governing affiliate administration.
4. Accurately record any details and persons associated with the injury.
5. Notify next of kin in the case of a serious injury to a player's head or neck.
6. In the case of a fatality, the Police will notify the next of kin.
7. Monitor players/match officials (referees, touch judges)/club officials (coaches, managers, runners, trainers, physiotherapists etc.) for team debrief and/or personal counselling.
8. Complete the **Serious Injury Report** (www.rugbyaustralia.com.au/runningrugby/Insurance/SeriousInjuryProtocol.aspx) within 48 hours of the injury occurring.
9. Complete the Rugby AU Sports Injury Claim Form for all insurance claims. For more information please contact Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers (1800 811 371) or visit www.rugbyaustralia.com.au/runningrugby/Insurance.aspx

Member Union Responsibilities

1. Follow up counselling requirements for the injured player, club/school personnel, referee and assistant referee in conjunction with SICM and GM.
2. In conjunction with club/school officials, zone/regional/governing affiliate administration and Rugby AU, handle all media contact. There should be one point of contact for media releases.
3. Member Union representative to attend any inquest/event.
4. Assist club/school with fundraising activities as required.

Rugby AU Responsibilities

1. Provide support – (logistical and human) to the injured player, family, club/school, match officials and member union as required.
2. Monitor current and ongoing status of the injured player.
3. Open and manage a Serious Injury Case on the Rugby AU Serious Incident Management System.

3. **Rugby AU Serious Injury Case Manager – Mr Barry Porter**



The Rugby Australia (Rugby AU) has appointed a Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM) to assist in managing traumatic injuries. The SICM is your first point of contact in the event of a serious injury to a player's head or neck (i.e.: suspected spinal injury) or fatality and will provide a link between the club/school and the Rugby AU.

The SICM is on call (via mobile phone) during the rugby season (February – September), and will contact local personnel upon notification of a serious injury through the Hotline and determine the nature and seriousness of the injury.

In the event of a serious injury, the SICM will:

- Coordinate the communication network between all parties, including Rugby AU and Member Union personnel, local clubs, family, media and medical persons, insuring all are briefed on the situation.
- Coordinate the offer and delivery of trauma care and management as required for all parties involved.
- Liaise with the injured players family members on behalf of both the Rugby AU and Member Union at all stages of rehabilitation for a period of up to two years from the incident.
- Link Rugby AU technical staff into circumstances relating to the incident and submit a report to both the Rugby AU and Member Union involved, relating to the nature and cause of the incident and any possible recommendations that may be adopted to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident in the future.
- Coordinate the preparation and distribution of reports relating to the incident.
- Liaise with Insurance company (via Ruby AU Community Rugby), social workers from hospital or other health services support systems, local club representatives, whilst keeping all parties informed of the situation.
- Maintain communication lines with the family, and other support services by establishing contact list timelines and appropriate action throughout the rehabilitation process for a period of up to two years from the incident.
- Coordinate with Rugby AU Community Rugby to arrange all travel and accommodation requests.
- Liaise with Member Unions when visiting injured players or counselling related parties.
- Coordinate immediate requests for assistance for player/family with the Australian Rugby Foundation - Player Welfare Fund (via General Manager – Community Rugby).
- Linkages with relevant government agencies in relation to financial assistance (Member Union).

Priority services will be provided to new cases as they arise during the rugby season. Ongoing cases will continue to be serviced during the off -season for up to two years of rehabilitation.

Contact details:

Mr. Barry Porter
Serious Injury Case Manager - Rugby Australia
M. 0429 553 301
E. Barry.porter@rugby.com.au



4. Rugby AU Serious Injury Peer Support Officer – Mr Rocky Mileto

The Rugby AU Serious Injury Peer Support Officer provides mentoring, support and assistance for individuals and their families following a spinal cord injury.

Peer Support services are tailored to the individuals needs following discharge from hospital/ rehabilitation spinal unit, and focus on addressing the challenges of major life changes, rehabilitation into home environment and establishing a fulfilling life within the community, including:

- Reassurance about how lifestyles can be reshaped after injury
- Shared experiences and challenges as a person living with a spinal cord injury
- Information to support individuals and families as they experience rehabilitation
- Guidance on the issues arising when returning to the community
- Identifying supportive links and networks in your local community
- Sharing information and experiences on how to deal with life's barriers and identify appropriate solutions

In addition, the Peer Support Officer also provides:

- Assistance with financial considerations for individuals and their families
- Suggestions for providing additional support for injured players and families
- Shared experiences on education possibilities and opportunities
- Ideas/suggestions on improving the network for seriously injured players
- Coordination of Test Match tickets and accompanying events for seriously injured players

The Rugby AU Peer Support Officer will liaise through the Rugby AU SICM to determine the most appropriate entry, timing and necessity for the introduction of Peer Support services based on an individual's needs and readiness to accept support.

Contact details:

Mr. Rocky Mileto
Peer Support Officer - Rugby Australia
M. 0428 014 728
E. Rocky.Mileto@rugby.com.au

5. Rugby AU Head of Rugby Services – Mr Lachlan Clark

The Rugby AU Head of Rugby Services in conjunction with the Rugby AU National Program Manager – Safety, Welfare and Integrity will coordinate a collaborative support response between the Rugby Club/School, State/Territory Union and Rugby AU for the Player & Family following a serious incident.

The Rugby AU Head of Rugby Services will coordinate the collaborative support response, including -

- Liaise with Rugby AU SICM, designated Rugby Club/School and Member Union contacts to clarify initial support response with respect of Player and Family (immediately following SICM follow-up).
- Liaise with Rugby AU Media Manager, Member Union and Rugby Club/School document a serious injury media strategy – sample below.
- Chair a meeting with Rugby Club/School, Member Union and Rugby AU support services to coordinate a serious injury management plan (in first 7-14 days after injury).
- Provide updates to Rugby AU Management as required.

The Rugby AU National Program Manager – Safety, Welfare and Integrity will coordinate the collaborative support response, including –

- Liaise with Rugby Club/School, Member Union and Rugby AU Peer Support Officer to identify initial financial support options including Donations, Fundraising & "Player" Trust Fund.
- Liaise with SICM, Hospital Social Worker, Player/Family, and Rugby Club/School to identify priority needs and prepare emergency funding request to Trustees of Australian Rugby Foundation - Player Welfare Fund.
- Liaise with Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers and Rugby Club/School to ensure completion of Claim Form (and Physicians Statement with Hospital) and up-to-date claims information.
- Provide regular updates to the designated Rugby Club/School, State Union and provide updates on the coordinated management plan.

Contact details:

Mr. Lachlan Clark
Head of Rugby Services - Rugby Australia
W. 02 8005 5591
M. 0419 259 712
E. Lachlan.clark@rugby.com.au

Miss Laura Giblett
National Program Manager – Safety, Welfare and Integrity – Rugby Australia
W. 02 8005 5592
M. 0423 173 838
E. laura.giblett@rugby.com.au

6. Serious Incident Management System

Rugby Australia have a private, secure online serious incident management system that is run through Salesforce. The system allows each incident to be managed appropriately on a secure platform with a designated person from each state having access.

The below is the list of people who have access by state:

ACT – Matthew Vowles

VIC – Chris Evans

SA – Rose Jackson

NSW – Kerry Brady

QLD – Nico Andrade

WA – Justin Shakeshaft

NT – Mark Heath

TAS – Mark Oakford

Any information relating to the incident can be stored securely in the system. This includes but is not limited to the serious injury report, follow up emails or notes, minutes from meetings, medical reports and statements from the incident.

7. Serious Injury Media Strategy

Player:

Age:

Club/Grade/Position:

Date of Injury:

SAMPLE

BACKGROUND (For internal information only re injury)

Player was injured MECHANSIM OF INJURY for RC in a match against RC, at XYZ on DATE. He was kept stable until an ambulance arrived. Player was transported to XYZ Hospital where he was treated for a serious spinal cord injury... Latest reports are that Player has BRIEF UPDATE ON STATUS etc. No firm prognosis will be known for some time until swelling subsides.

PROTOCOL (For internal information only)

Rugby Australia Serious Injury protocols were followed with the player stabilized at the ground by first aid personnel and transported to hospital by ambulance. Contact was made, as per protocols, with Rugby Australia Serious Injury Case Manager Barry Porter who advised the Rugby AU General Manager – Rugby Participation and Rugby AU Media Manager. Respective State/Territory Union General Manager - Community Rugby was contacted in due course. At all times Rugby Australia’s Serious Injury Protocols were followed to ensure the player received the best possible care following what is a very unfortunate accident. Since the injury was sustained RC, State Union and Rugby Australia have worked closely to ensure the Player and his family is provided with the support and care they require. As with any contact sport there is always a chance of sustaining an injury, however it is important to understand that the rate of occurrence of this type of Serious Spinal Injury is extremely low.

COMMUNICATION

The RC, State Union and Rugby Australia have each established a sole spokesperson as their point of contact on the issue. XYZ, President RC will handle enquiries to club, General Manager - Community Rugby will be the State Union spokesperson. Rugby AU Media Manager will field enquiries to Rugby Australia. Three points of contact are advisable from a media perspective to avoid any perception of “buck passing”. However, it is imperative only ONE message is delivered, and it remains consistent. To that end, the following is the response to media enquiries:

“A RC grade player was seriously injured during a match against XYZ at VENUE on DATE

“The player involved does have a spinal injury.

“The full extent of the injury is still being determined.

“Serious Injury Protocol guidelines were followed after the incident.

“The player was stabilized at the ground and taken by ambulance to XYZ Hospital. Relevant authorities were contacted.”

This is the only information to be disseminated for the moment. If media are persistent or want to discuss on a broader scale, direct to **Mick Earsman, Rugby AU Head of Communications M 0438 350 580**. Do not comment further than the statement above. Ensure your organization is clear on the one- spokesperson agreement. Also ensure all parties are aware of what the media process and protocols are if there is a media enquiry. In the case of a fatality either Rugby Australia or Member Union will send a spokesperson to assist with the media and communication on the day. It is recommended this person attend the site where possible.

8. Serious Injury Management Plan Meeting - with Club/School, Union & Rugby AU

The Rugby Australia Head of Rugby Services will coordinate a meeting between the rugby club/school, State Union and Rugby Australia personnel within **7-14 days** to coordinate support and ensure clear communications in providing assistance for the injured Player and their family.

MEETING AGENDA

Date:

Time: (1 hour)

Venue: Teleconference - as per meeting invitation.

Attendees: Rugby Club/School - President & Secretary
State Union - GM Community Rugby
Rugby Australia General Manager, Community Rugby
Rugby Australia General Manager, Corporate Affairs
Rugby Australia Head of Rugby Services
Rugby Australia National Program Manager – Safety, Welfare and Integrity
Rugby Australia Serious Injury Case Manager
Australian Rugby Foundation – Director
Insurance Broker Representative (Gow Gates)

Apologies:

Agenda Serious Injury Management – Player, Rugby Club/School

Welcome & Introductions – Rugby Australia GM, Community Rugby

- 1 Update on Player's progress - Rugby Club/School
- 2 Serious Injury Management Protocols - Rugby Australia Head of Rugby Services
- 3 Key Contacts / Media Liaison: RC, Union, Rugby Australia GM, Corporate Affairs
- 4 Insurance Update – Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers.
- 5 Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM) – Ongoing Role & Update on Plan
- 6 Donations, Fundraising & "Player" Trust Fund - ARF
- 7 Club / Competition Issues – State Union, GM Community Rugby
- 8 Other Business
- 9 Next Meeting

9. Financial Support - Donations, Fundraising & "Player" Trust Fund

The following items need to be considered in providing initial financial support for a seriously injured player and their family. The Rugby Australia Head of Rugby Services and Rugby Australia Peer Support Officer will liaise with the Rugby Club/School and State/Territory Union to identify initial financial support options including Donations, Fundraising and Injured Player "Beneficiary" Trust Fund.

(i) **Donations – Dedicated Bank Account & Dedicated Online Presence**

The first **PRIORITY** is to establish a dedicated bank account and online presence (i.e. web, social media eg Facebook) to receive donations and promote the cause for the injured player and/or their family.

The Rugby Club/School should contact their preferred banking institution and discuss the establishment of a 'Community Account' on behalf of the injured player. Your banking institution will be able to provide the specifics as to what is required to open an account, however generally the bank will require formal authorisation from the club (ie board minutes, formal request on rugby club/school letterhead, etc).

It is also important to discuss with your banking institution how best to make withdrawals/transfers from this account (from time to time) to the injured player. For example, can this account be linked to your rugby club/school account, and make withdrawals/transfers using a similar approvals process. The Board/Committee should be clear of the approval process to transfer to make withdrawals/transfers, as requested by the injured player (and/or their family).

Once a dedicated bank account is established on behalf of the injured player, the rugby club/school should ensure these details are communicated to their rugby club/school members, and promoted more broadly within the community via a dedicated online presence (i.e. web, social media etc).

Below are some examples of promotions for donations/fundraising and dedicated online presences.

www.setitafua.com.au/

www.rockymileto.com.au/

www.richardallen.com.au

www.newportrugby.com.au/Index.asp?pagename=Moape+Ravuvu&site=1&siteid=6561

Further information, contact

Mr. Rocky Mileto
Peer Support Officer – Rugby Australia
M. 0428 014 728
E. Rocky.Mileto@rugby.com.au

(ii) Fundraising

The second **PRIORITY** following the establishment of a dedicated bank account is to begin preparations for a significant fundraising event to garnish the support of members of the Rugby Club /School and broader community in providing financial support for the injured player and their family.

Past experience has shown that a significant fundraising event should be held within the **first 3 months following the injury**, as this ensures the greatest opportunity to maximise the support (financial and otherwise) for the injured player, provide an opportunity for rugby club/school members to be involved in contributing to organising the fundraising and ensures the rugby club/school is being proactive in supporting the injured player and/or their family.

Where to begin

First and foremost, the Rugby Club/School must discuss with the injured player and their family the desire to conduct a fundraising to support the future of the injured player and family. There may be some reluctance to injured player and their family, however it is important to maximise the financial support to assist with future expenses, which may include modifications to house and car, mobility aids (ie wheelchairs, etc), technological solutions and other items not covered by government programs - all of which are very expensive and many of which will need to be update regularly.

The Rugby Australia Peer Support Officer is available to assist the Rugby Club/School in the planning and organising of a fundraising event, if desired. Fundamentally, the Rugby Club/School (with the assistance of local Union) will lead, drive and organise all facets of a localised fundraising event.

The Rugby Australia Peer Support Officer can lend expertise to maximise the financial benefit from the event, assist with identifying fundraising opportunities and guest speakers, and promote fundraising more broadly through injured player support networks.

Initial Meeting

The Rugby Australia Peer Support Officer will offer coordinate an initial meeting with representatives from the rugby club/school, local Union and Rugby AU to discuss planning for a significant fundraising event.

Most important first steps are deciding

1. Fundraising Committee – A small group (4-6 approx.) of volunteers with any expertise, knowledge and/or enthusiasm for community events, attracting sponsors (big & small), and sales (corporates and community). The Club President should coordinate & liaise with the Fundraising Committee, but should delegate the responsibility for the organisation and conduct of the event to this Committee, and assist where requested. There are many other responsibilities/duties the Club President has to do, and these responsibilities/duties often overshadow the need to be focused solely in driving the fundraising event.
2. Object of Fundraising Event – Be clear, the **SOLE** objective is to raise maximum funds for injured player, and this should drive ALL decisions when organisation the event!

3. Date – In deciding possible date(s) consideration should be given to the here and now i.e. no later than next 2-3 months. Ensure that dates do not clash with other events (Rugby, Sporting and Otherwise) both locally and elsewhere, which may impact on availability of attendees, dignitaries and guest speakers alike. Also ensure there is sufficient lead time to plan the event, invitee guest and dignitaries, attract sponsors contributions and prizes and most sell tables/tickets.
4. Venue – Once date(s) has been decided consider venue/locations, considerations should include
 - * local versus centralised venue, especially given SOLE objective of the Fundraiser is to raise maximum funds.... Remember it is not just your Rugby Club, School or Community that should be considered as attendees, as other Rugby Clubs, Schools or Corporates can be valuable contributors to such an important Fundraiser.
 - * compare a number of venues for packages, and cost. Remember – SOLE objective is to raise maximum funds for injured player.
5. Regular Meetings – The Fundraising Committee should meet weekly (30mins – hour), and Minutes/Notes must be documented and circulated for each meeting, and must include a list of follow-up Actions, who/m is responsible and due date. The start of a subsequent meeting, shall being with a review and update on these Actions items.

ACTION ITEMS

Action	Who is Responsible	When Due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and documented Auction Items available from each organization, including description of item, dates/times, est. reserve price, and identify who will provide/contact. 	RUGBY AU State Union Club/School	Wed 18 Sept
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		

NEXT MEETING - 11 AM Wednesday 18 September.

6. Guest Speakers and Dignitaries – Rugby Australia and State Union can assist in accessing guest speakers and dignitaries, however EARLY notification is the best way to secure their availability.

Further information, contact

Mr. Rocky Mileto
Peer Support Officer – Rugby Australia
M. 0428 014 728
E. Rocky.Mileto@rugby.com.au

(iii) Injured Player 'Beneficiary' Trust Fund

Rugby Australia has worked with Campbell Paton and Taylor Solicitors to prepare relevant information, documents and templates necessary in establishing individual trust for players injured while playing Rugby Union.

The process for establishing each individual trust

Rugby AU has established the following documentation to assist Rugby Clubs/Schools and injured player/family in establishing an injured players trust, gift fund and subsequent ATO endorsement as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR).

The following documentation is available on request:

1. Memorandum of Information - Establishment and function of injured player's trust fund.
2. Letter to the injured player's local Rugby Union club/school;
3. Letter to injured player and/or family;
4. Template Trust Deed (to be completed and executed);

Obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status

To enable each individual injured players' trust fund to be eligible to receive income tax deductible gifts and deductible contributions, that is become a deductible gift recipient (DGR), each of the established trusts must be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

The requirements for becoming an endorsed DGR with the ATO are outlined below:

1. The trust must fall within one of the general DRG categories & for the injured players trusts will in most instances be Item 4.1.3: Public fund for persons in necessitous circumstances.
2. The trust must have an Australian Business number (ABN);
3. The trust must have appropriate dissolution/revocation of endorsement clause/s;
4. The trust must maintain a gift fund;
5. The trust must be in Australia*

**Trust funds established for foreign players who are injured whilst playing Rugby Union in Australia will not be eligible for DGR status if they returned to their country of origin.*

Legal services and advice in establishing an individual trust and DGR status for injured player

Campbell Paton and Taylor Solicitors can provide legal services and advice in the preparation of document for the establishment of individual trust deeds, Deductible Gift Recipient status and establishment of a gift fund. The estimated costs of these services are approximately **\$2,575**.

A formal request to the ARF Player Welfare Fund can be made by the Rugby Club/School on behalf of the injured player to contribute to such legal services in the preparation of the individual trust deed.

Further information, contact

Mr. Rocky Mileto
Peer Support Officer - Rugby Australia
M. 0428 014 728
E. Rocky.Mileto@rugby.com.au

10. Rugby Australia National Insurance Programme (Summary Only)

The Rugby Australia National Insurance Plan has been arranged by the Rugby Australia on behalf of all Insured Persons. This includes any person who is a registered player, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, voluntary worker, selector, referee, touch judge or ball boy of a club that is part of the Rugby Australia Limited who has been injured whilst playing or engaging in Rugby Union, training for, or travelling to and from a club match or administrative or social activity.

The Sports Personal Injury policy has three main sections:

(i) Capital Benefits

Payment of a lump sum benefit that is provided in the event of Death and Permanent Disability, and benefits are payable based on a table of events payable including –

Paraplegia and Quadriplegia \$750,000
Death \$100,000 (\$20,000 under 18 years)
Other Permanent Disability (as per table of Events) up to \$300,000
Funeral benefit to maximum of \$5,000.

(ii) Weekly Loss of Income Benefit

Weekly Benefits are payable as below whilst you are temporarily totally disabled and wholly and continuously prevented from engaging in any occupation and/or attending school and/or studies.

Income Earners - 100% of gross income Maximum Weekly benefit: \$300 per week	Excess: 28 Days Maximum Benefit Period: 52 Weeks
Non-Income Earners - 100% of authorised domestic help Maximum Weekly benefit: \$300 per week	Excess: 14 Days Maximum Benefit Period: 52 Weeks
Full Time Students - 100% of authorised tutorial costs Maximum Weekly benefit: \$300 per week	Excess: 14 Days Maximum Benefit Period: 52 Weeks

(ii) Non-Medicare Medical benefits

Payment of 100% of Non-Medicare Medical Expenses after any reimbursement from your Private Health fund. A \$100 excess applies to each and every claim and maximum benefit is \$3,000.

The National Health Insurance Act 1953 does not permit the Insurer to contribute to any Medical Expenses covered (whether fully or partly) by Medicare (“the Medicare Gap”). Examples of expenses that are generally claimable under this section are - Private hospital accommodation, physiotherapy and chiropractic treatment, pharmacy, ambulance, dental, etc.

The maximum total benefit payable including (i) Capital Benefit, (ii) Weekly Loss of Income Benefit, and (iii) Non-Medicare Medical Benefits is \$750,000.

A detailed list of the benefits is contained in the policy at www.gowgatessport.com.au/rugby.

Contact details:

Mr. Will MacArthur
Account Broker – Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers
T: 02 8267 9952
E. wmacarthur@gowgates.com.au

11. Australian Rugby Foundation - Player Welfare Fund

The Player Welfare Fund is an independent Trust, separate to the Rugby Australia, established to provide financial and other assistance to persons who have been involved in the game of Rugby and are in necessitous circumstances. Three (3) independent Trustees consider applications and determine the extent of any such funding or assistance.

Beneficiaries of the Fund

Beneficiaries of the fund are persons, residing in Australia, and who are players or former players (or their dependents) or other participants in the game of Rugby Union played under the jurisdiction of the Rugby Australia or one of its affiliated bodies.

Participants include a player, referee, touch judge, coach, trainer, selector or other individual involved in the organisation, administration, promotion or in any other capacity associated with the game of Rugby Union.

Purpose of the Fund

The purpose of the fund is to provide assistance to Rugby participants in need by reason of injury, accident, ill health, disability or other misfortune. Such assistance may be way of funding or contribution to education, medical equipment, advancement in life, assistance with mobility, legal advice or contribution to another fund established to support the applicant beneficiary.

In a case of costs associated with an injury from Rugby, consideration will be given only to costs not recoverable under existing RUGBY AU or other insurance schemes.

Application Process to the Fund

The following are to be supplied: -

- A letter of support from an official of the State or Territory Union, if possible confirming the details of the application.
- A letter from the players club or other participants association with brief details of playing career or other involvement.
- Documentation regarding any injury, setting out:
 - The nature and circumstances of the injury
 - Date of when the injury occurred
 - Location of where the injury occurred
 - Any known details of subsequent progress, including a statement from a Medical Officer or Health Care Institution indicating the present condition and possible future problems.
- A concise statement of the support being sought and how any funds will be used. If support for courses or purchase of equipment is being requested, details of estimated costs or quotes obtained should be supplied.
- For situations that are not the result of a Rugby injury, three eminent Rugby persons on behalf of the proposed beneficiary may make applications.

Applications with supporting documentation marked **CONFIDENTIAL** and mailed, e-mailed to:

General Manager – Community Rugby
Rugby Australia
PO Box 800
Surry Hills NSW 2010
E-mail – Andrew.Larratt@rugby.com.au;

12. Hearts in Union - “Helping rugby help its own”

Hearts in Union Rugby Foundation (“Hearts”) is a charity that is all about assisting those players who have suffered severe spinal injury during a rugby game. Rugby is a wonderful game played by people who enjoy the spirit of “mateship” and “fair play”. Unfortunately, some players through a freak accident have their lives changed forever. Spinal injuries place a physical, emotional and financial strain on the player for the rest of their lives.

Hearts in Union Rugby Foundation aims to ensure those severely injured players who are suffering financial hardship receive the best possible support throughout their lives, specifically those injured players who are suffering financial hardship around 5 years after the injury.

Hearts in Union Foundation was founded by Rocky Mileto in 2007 to engage the Rugby and business community to assist in providing financial assistance for Rugby players with spinal cord injuries. Rocky suffered a severe spinal injury during a rugby game in 1996 and has subsequently rebuilt his life and been an inspiration to many other injured rugby players.

Rocky Mileto joined the Rugby Australia Serious Injury Team as Peer Support Officer providing mentoring, support and assistance for individuals and their families following a spinal cord injury.

For more information on the Hearts in Union Foundation visit www.heartsinunion.com.au

13. Appendices

1. Rugby Australia Ambulance and Helicopter Serious Incident Fact Sheet