

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Concussion can affect athletes at all levels of sport from the part-time recreational athlete to the full-time professional. There has been growing concern in Australia and Internationally about the incidence of sport-related concussion and potential health ramifications for athletes.

Player Safety and Welfare is of paramount importance in our game. Therefore, the primary consideration in all participation decisions must be the safety of all participants as a requirement that overrides all others.

At all times, players, parents, team officials, match officials, first aid attendants and medical staff need to act in the best interest of player safety and welfare by;

- i. taking responsibility for the recognition, removal and referral of players to a medical doctor
- ii. ensuring concussion is appropriately managed as per Rugby Australia's Concussion Procedure.

COMMUNITY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Concussion management procedure remains the same with Blue Card as it was last year
- The decision to remove a player should be a collaboration between referee and medical/first aid attendant
- The Referee does have the final say
- Be aware not every head knock is a concussion (especially in juniors) – look for signs and symptoms (e.g. dazed or disoriented)
- A tactically replaced player can return to the field to replace a player who has been shown a Blue Card
- All participants have a 'collective responsibility' to identify signs and symptoms of concussion

ROLE OF THE REFEREES/MATCH OFFICIALS:

- Referees should be co-operative and professional with the medical/first aid attendant
- If referees have clearly seen signs and symptoms, inform the medical/first aid attendant at the earliest convenience
- Other Match Officials (Asst Referees) may assist in RECOGNISING players who may have a concussion or suspected concussion

ROLE OF THE & MEDICAL/FIRST AID ATTENDANTS:

- Medical/first aid attendants should be co-operative and professional with the referee
- If medical/first aid attendants have clearly seen signs and symptoms, inform the referee at the earliest convenience
- Do not argue with the referee over what the referee indicates they have seen

ROLE OF THE COACH:

- RECOGNISE and REMOVE players with concussion or suspected concussion
- Support Referee decisions
- Ensure the player and/or parent understand the importance of the RECOGNISE & REMOVE concussion procedure to the player's welfare

ROLE OF THE TEAM MANAGER/OFFICIALS:

- RECOGNISE and REMOVE players with concussion or suspected concussion
- Support Referee decisions
- Ensure the player and/or parent understands the RECOGNISE & REMOVE, RECORD & REFER and then REST, RECORD, RECOVER & RETURN stages of Rugby Australia's Concussion Guidance (General Public)

**As of 31 January 2018*