



Irish Rugby Football Union  
P. R. Browne  
Chief Executive

Thursday, October 30, 2015

Dear Honorary Club Secretary,

In September we communicated the protocols for the management of concussion. Subsequent to this communication, there has been a small number of instances in which concussion management protocols were not fully complied with or understood. Due to importance of these protocols to the welfare of players, the IRFU will be implementing a monitoring and review process to ensure compliance with all guidelines and protocols. With immediate effect, it is requested that the following protocols be re-circulated to the various sections of your club and specifically team management (i.e. Coach, Manager and Medical personnel):

- There is **no Head Injury Assessment (HIA)**, pitch side concussion assessment (PSCA) or concussion bin in the amateur game in Ireland.
- Players with suspected concussion **cannot be temporarily** replaced by a substitute and **may not return** to the playing area.
- Under Law 3.9, if the **referee decides**, with or without the advice of a doctor or other medically qualified person, that a player should stop playing, the referee may order that player to leave the playing area. **The referee may also order an injured player to leave the field in order to be medically examined.**
- Any player with suspected or confirmed concussion, **MUST be removed immediately from training/play and not return.** They should be medically assessed and MUST not be left alone or MUST not drive a vehicle. They are required to follow the IRFU Graduated Return to Play protocol, which is a minimum of 23 days for U20-U6 players and a minimum of 21 days for adult players. All concussions must be reported on the IRFU Serious Injury and Concussion Report form and sent to the respective Branch office. The form is available on [http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/links\\_and\\_documents](http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/links_and_documents)

Please ensure everyone in your club including your coaches, referees, family members, junior and senior players watch the IRFU concussion education videos and view our concussion guidelines on [www.irishrugby.ie/concussion](http://www.irishrugby.ie/concussion) and for all your coaches to attend a SAFE Rugby course [http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/safe\\_rugby.php](http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/safe_rugby.php)

Yours in Sport,

Scott Walker  
IRFU Director of Rugby Development