



DORSET AND WILTSHIRE RFU

RUGBYSAFE INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019

The aim of this newsletter is to provide all Club RugbySafe Leads with an update on a variety of topics which fall under the auspice of Rugby Safe. Further newsletters will be issued during the season.

RugbySafe web pages

The new England Rugby website is up and running and whilst there are RugbySafe web pages on it, the Keep Your Boots On (KYBO) website (<https://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugbysafe/>) remains available as a comprehensive hub for everything RugbySafe.

RugbySafe Twitter, Facebook and Comms

The RugbySafe Twitter page has been relaunched at the beginning of this month along with a new RugbySafe Facebook group. If you are on either of these platforms please follow or join the group to keep up to date on everything RugbySafe. The link to the RugbySafe Twitter page is- [@RugbySafe](https://twitter.com/RugbySafe), with the Facebook page being [RugbySafe](https://www.facebook.com/RugbySafe)

Regular RugbySafe updates will also be going out via the KYBO newsletter, this will also help to keep you in the loop on a variety of topics. Please sign up via this link - <https://keepyourbootson.co.uk/rugbysafe/>

We are RUGBYSAFE

If you are running or become aware of any initiatives within your club or wish to share a model of good practice linked to player welfare and RugbySafe please get in touch with me and I will forward this information to the RFU RugbySafe Team. The WE ARE RUGBYSAFE stories will be released on a monthly basis in 2019-2020 as part of the Touchline Magazine .

GMS pages

The new RugbySafe & Player Welfare page on GMS is now live, this has been communicated via the Community Game Update. If you have not already done so the completion of this page will really help us understand current provision levels and what needs to be focussed on not only at the CB level but for the RFU staff to target areas where they need to provide CBs and Clubs with additional support and resources. It will also enable me to contact club RugbySafe Leads. This page can be found under the Organisation Profile Dashboard on GMS, as shown below.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL gms.rfu.com/GMS/. The page is titled 'Rugby Football Union Welfare Data' and features a dark header with the RFU logo and a 'Save' button. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- RUGBYSAFE LEAD:** A text input field.
- Risk Assessment:** Includes 'ANNUAL FIRST AID RISK ASSESSMENT' (dropdown menu) and 'DATE OF COMPLETION' (calendar icon).
- Medical Emergency Action Plan:** Includes 'MEDICAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN' (dropdown menu) and 'DATE OF COMPLETION' (calendar icon).
- Facilities & Equipment:** Includes 'AMBULANCE ACCESS CLEARLY MARKED' (dropdown menu), 'MAINTENANCE PROCESS ALL FIRST AID SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT' (dropdown menu), and 'EXCLUSIVE USE MEDICAL ROOM' (checkbox).
- Data & Monitoring:** Includes 'INCIDENT AND INJURY FORMS' (dropdown menu), 'PLAYER MEDICAL HISTORY' (dropdown menu), and 'EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS' (text input field).
- Personnel:** Includes 'APPOINTED CLUB DOCTOR' (search box), 'APPOINTED CLUB PHYSIO' (search box), and 'OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS' (text input field).

RugbySafe Web pages

Please remember that there is a vast amount of information relating to Player Welfare available via the RugbySafe pages on the RFU website

<https://www.englandrugby.com/participation/playing/player-welfare-rugby-safe>

Sports Goggles

Some clubs have recently contacted me regarding the correct procedures relating to young players wearing Sports Goggles. Below is the advice issued by Richard Nunn who is the RFU lead on this subject.

There is no specific model of goggles that the RFU has “approved”; for use in rugby, but instead directs players to their opticians. The optician needs to confirm that the goggles they prescribe meet the terms of the trial (the following):

The goggles are required to correct the vision of the player or are required to protect the player’s eyes due to a medical or optical condition, to enable the playing of Rugby Union; and

The goggles do not substantially restrict any normal field of vision and are suitable for use in evasion contact sports; and

The goggles do not constitute a physical danger to the player or other players; and

The player is not capable of wearing contact lenses and why this is the case.

The Raleri goggles are a bit of a complication here, because they are the one approved model by World Rugby. However, after taking advice from ABDO (Association of British Dispensing Opticians), the RFU has taken a different approach, which means players

are not restricted to this particular model. Instead the professional opinion of the optician can be relied upon to prescribe the most appropriate goggles for each individual.

If an optician is unsure they should contact ABDO for further guidance.

Below is a short explanatory document on Sports Goggles issued by the RFU



GOGGLES UPDATE

Background

The RFU is conducting a trial in England to enable the wearing of certain sport goggles by players playing contact rugby if certain conditions were satisfied. This trial is a variation of the RFU's current regulations which prohibits all types of goggles to be worn in contact rugby. Goggles are permitted in non-contact rugby.

The trial has been ongoing for a few seasons and will continue for the 2018-2019 season. The conditions of the trial are set out below.

Please note that this trial is different from the World Rugby trial.

Under 13s and Below

The trial permits players playing contact rugby at the Under 13 age grade and below to wear specially designed and manufactured sports goggles subject to the following conditions (all of which must be met):

- (a) The sports goggles must be dispensed by a registered dispensing optician who is a member of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians ("ABDO") or an optician registered with the General Optical Council ("GOC"). If an optician is registered with the Association of British Dispensing Opticians, the optician will be listed on the General Optical Council's list of registered members which is available at <http://www.optical.org/>. Please check the list by inserting the name of the individual optician or opticians practice;

And

- (b) The player must have written confirmation from the ABDO or GOC optician that:

- i. The goggles are required to correct the vision of the player or are required to protect the player's eyes due to a medical or optical condition, to enable the playing of Rugby Union; and
 - ii. The goggles do not substantially restrict any normal field of vision and are suitable for use in evasion contact sports; and
 - iii. The goggles do not constitute a physical danger to the player or other players; and
 - iv. The player is not capable of wearing contact lenses and why this is the case.
- (c) The match referee is entitled to object to the player wearing the sports goggles if the referee reasonably believes that they are unsafe; and
- (d) Clubs/schools must notify the RFU Legal Officer of all players participating in the trial by emailing RichardNunn@rfu.com; and
- (e) Clubs/schools must report any injuries caused as a result of the sports goggles to the RFU Community Medical Team by emailing sportsinjuriesadmin@therfu.com and the player's parents must report the injury to the ABDO dispensing optician who prescribed the goggles.

Under 14s and Above

The above trial is currently limited to U13s and below. We recognise that this means that players at U14s and above are not able to play contact rugby using goggles but may require goggles for medical reasons.

To enable these players to continue to be included in rugby, it has been agreed that the RFU Governance Standing Committee may, in exceptional and limited circumstances, grant dispensations for goggles to be worn by players over the age of 13 in limited cases provided:

- (a) all of the above conditions are satisfied; and
- (b) All relevant supporting documentation being provided to the RFU, including medical or optical confirmation as to why goggles are required; and
- (c) Approval of the RFU Governance Standing Committee is obtained.

Should a club, school or player wish to apply for a dispensation, please contact RichardNunn@rfu.com

Queries

Should you have any queries or require further clarification and guidance in relation to the proposed trial, please contact your local Constituent Body.