

Putting Players First IRB Medical Conference – November 2009 Twickenham Stadium

KEY OUTCOMES

Putting Players First: Player Welfare paramount and all stakeholders have a collective responsibility to ensure the best possible education for playing, coaching, officiating and administering the Game.

New Management Process: Cross-Union approach involving expert groups to develop appropriate player welfare and medical policies in accordance with the IRB's Medical Strategic Plan. Key policy focus areas including global injury data collation, sudden cardiac death prevention and infectious diseases to be presented to the IRB Council for consideration prior to global web-based training and education materials roll out.

Concussion: The Zurich Consensus statement should underpin all decisions relating to Regulation 10 and provide the basis of any recommendations for Regulation alteration. If a player is removed from the field of play with a diagnosis of concussion they should not be allowed to return to play that day.

Physicality of the Game: IRB to prioritise Law enforcement at the tackle and ruck and to establish a working party to focus global study on physicality of the Game and influence best possible education for players, coaches and match officials.

Local Anaesthetics: Divided opinion whether the current rules on the administration of anaesthetic is enforceable. Some Unions would like the Regulation amended and it was left to individual Unions to make their recommendations to the IRB Council for consideration.

Catastrophic Injuries: Establish Consensus Working group to produce definitions acceptable to and useable by the Member Unions in order that the IRB can collect data and information on Cervical Spinal Cord injuries. This will enable the causes to be identified and appropriate action taken. Additionally training for pitch side attention will be produced for all Unions.

Injury Surveillance: Continuation of Injury surveillance at IRB tournaments and other Union competitions where there is capability to utilise the IRB Injury Definition Consensus Document to ensure cross-Union data comparison.

Education: Rugby Ready, Rugby Smart and Smart Rugby programmes proven globally successful in promotion of best-practice playing and coaching technique, leading to reduction in injuries. IRB Rugby Ready to be further developed used as the vehicle for global best practice techniques for playing, coaching, officiating and administering the Game, with increased focus on correct tackling techniques and scrummaging techniques.

Anti-Doping and Illicit Drugs Policy: IRB to take a leading role in promoting education on illicit drugs through its Keep Rugby Clean platforms, including the new Anti-Doping website, working with Member Unions.