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Participant Medical and Safety measures at SARU Tournaments

Medical and Safety Minimum Standards Guideline Document of 2026

The following document provides information on the stipulated minimum medical requirements that must be in place to ensure a safe tournament, and to minimise the medical, legal and reputational risk to SARU, the hosting Union and the player's representative Union. This document is also in keeping with the *SAFETY AT SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS ACT, 2010 (ACT NO. 2 OF 2010)*¹ and *SAFETY AT SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL EVENTS REGULATIONS, 2017*² where reference is made to "participant medical measures".

A player may only participate in a SARU tournament if the 'SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM' and the relevant support documentation stipulated within it, was uploaded onto Footprint prior to the Tournament.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) is ultimately responsible and accountable to ensure that all criteria regarding personnel and infrastructure are met according to the standards specified in this document.

¹ https://www.saps.gov.za/services/events_atc_gazetted.pdf

² https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201703/40661rg10696gon200.pdf

The document will address the following key areas, and provide guidance on what is required:

1. Medical Infrastructure and Medical Support Staff
2. Establishing and managing a safe playing environment
3. Access to specialised medical care and facilities
4. *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 Of 2010)*³ and *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Regulations, 2017*⁴
5. Anti-doping
6. General Medical Matters

1. MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEDICAL SUPPORT STAFF

- The minimum rugby safety guidelines, stipulated in the “[Safety in the Playing Environment](#)” document is available electronically at the following links (*click below OR cut and paste into Browser*):

<https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-medical-protocol-safety-in-the-playing-environment/> or

[https://my.boksmart.com/_content/SARugby.CDS/Documents/Regulation s/Important%20Regulations/Safety%20in%20the%20Playing%20Environment%20document.pdf](https://my.boksmart.com/_content/SARugby.CDS/Documents/Regulation%20Important%20Regulations/Safety%20in%20the%20Playing%20Environment%20document.pdf)

The following Medical Infrastructure needs to be in place at the match venues for the duration of all SARU tournaments:

- A medical treatment room or medical station (referred to as “medical room” from this point on) should be available at each ground and this room should not be used for *any* other purpose concurrently (i.e., it may not also be a storeroom or change-room at any time)
 - The medical room should be easily accessible from the playing field for all participants, medical personnel and equipment, ambulance for transportation and/or helicopter evacuation.
 - Accessibility needs to be considered for injured players with compromised mobility (for e.g., player on a trauma board or with an injured foot)
- If multiple fields are being used, the medical room at each venue should be easily accessible to all these fields and to emergency transport
- The layout of the medical room must cater for the following:
 - A patient waiting area
 - A triage area
 - A designated blood and suture area
 - A designated resuscitation area
- A medical room must have the following facilities available:
 - *Suitable electrical lighting*

³ https://www.saps.gov.za/services/events_atc_gazetted.pdf

⁴ https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201703/40661rg10696gon200.pdf

- Telephone access - A telephone should be available and working; if a fixed line is not available, the Tournament medical staff and Medical Liaison Officer (MLO) should have access to mobile communication
 - This is imperative to assess the environmental conditions prior to game commencement and to communicate with external medical support staff, ambulance staff and hospital emergency rooms.
 - In the participant Emergency Action Plan for a potentially catastrophic injury a telephone is required for communication with:
 - BOKSMART SPINELINE - TOLL FREE NUMBER: **0800678678**
 - Emergency Personnel
 - Emergency Services
 - Referral hospital
 - Family or friends as required
- Hot and Cold water - preferably access to running water
- Visible and available PARTICIPANT EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN ⁵ with contact details
- Multiple examination couches as per tournament volume demand
- Spinal Motion Restriction Equipment to cater for all eventualities
 - Trauma Board
 - Head Blocks
 - Cervical Collar
 - Spider Harness
- Medications/medical consumables including but not limited to:
 - Pain relief
 - Suture material
 - Respiratory / cardiac emergencies
 - Anti-convulsants
 - Resuscitation drugs
- Suturing equipment
- Protective clothing and equipment
- Sharps container
- Diagnostic equipment including but not limited to:
 - Blood pressure cuff
 - Stethoscope
 - Thermometer
 - Glucometer
 - ENT set
- Life support equipment, including medications and AED – (this can be supplied by the Emergency Medical Service Provider)
- Equipment for neurological examination e.g., penlight, reflex hammer
- Equipment for management of blood injuries and lacerations
- Splints (including traction splint where possible)
- Blankets / Space blankets
- Fridge / Freezer and ample available ice
- Medical equipment, consumables, and suitable medication to treat common musculoskeletal injuries

⁵ EAP Example found here: <https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-medical-protocol-serious-injury-protocol/>

The following Medical Personnel and Medical Support Staff are responsible for the management of the players only and are required to be in place for the duration of all SARU tournaments:

- **Tournament Doctor**

- *This is ideally a World Rugby ICIR or AICIR Certified Sports Medicine trained doctor, or a World Rugby ICIR or AICIR Certified medical doctor experienced in treating sports injuries – preferably experienced in rugby*
- *Based on SARU's on-going annual Tournament Injury Surveillance Research Project findings, where more than one (1) match is being played at the same time during the tournament and the injury incidence data from these tournaments have shown that there are one (1) or more time loss injuries recorded per match, then an additional Medical Doctor is required on site to assist the Tournament Doctor(s).*
- *In circumstances where any of the SARU Youth week tournaments, on any day(s) regardless of the previous point, is played at two or more venues then a medical doctor is required on site at each venue.*
- *The Tournament Doctor's duties are to oversee all primary field-side care management where possible, manage the medical room, referral of sick or injured players to the appropriate medical facility, and to ensure that the minimum field-side personnel and emergency medical equipment are available on match days.*
- *The Tournament Doctor(s) must also be on standby after hours for any medical related queries and/or emergencies*
- *If a player has been removed from the field due to injury, the Tournament Doctor(s) is the sole decision maker when clearing or not clearing an injured player for return to the playing field during the tournament.*
- ***Regardless of external medical opinion***, the Tournament Doctor(s) will, in consultation with the relevant specialist or Team Doctor involved, make the final decision about the injured player.
- *The Tournament Doctor(s) and LOC Medical Portfolio member is responsible for notifying the identified and approved local Government and Private Medical facilities and hospitals of the upcoming tournament, and the dates, to place these facilities on standby.*
- *The Tournament Doctor(s) is also responsible to obtain the on-duty call lists for all the specialists at these approved facilities for the duration of the tournament.*
- *The following specialists and specialist services need to be accessible when required (both Private and Government Hospitals must be catered for, as not every player will have Medical Aid). Due to the challenges faced within the Government Health Sector a hybrid model may need to be established to address this requirement:*
 - *A fully equipped and functional Trauma Unit at an easily accessible Hospital*

- A fully equipped and functional Radiology Unit
- Radiologist
- Orthopaedic Surgeon(s)
- Physician
- Sports Medicine trained doctor, or a medical doctor experienced in treating sports injuries (preferable)
- Neurosurgeon
- Neurologist
- Cardiologist
- General Surgeon
- Ophthalmologist
- Dentist
- Maxillofacial Surgeon
- Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
- ENT Surgeon
- Emergency Services
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacy
- All Medical Records should be maintained on file for a period of at least five (5) years.
- By signing the 'SCHEDULE 1: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM' the player and their parents and/or legal guardian where applicable provide informed consent to access all relevant information and agree to release all injury or illness data obtained during the tournament to SARU, which may or may not be used for research purposes.
 - All analysed, researched, or published information, will remain anonymous, and will be treated and handled with the utmost confidentiality.
 - Medico-legally, this medical information will be kept on record at SARU for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Prior to commencement of the tournament, the Tournament Doctor(s) together with the head ALS paramedic for the tournament, shall meet with all appropriately declared Team Medical Support staff, to brief them all on the correct processes and management procedures for any potentially serious or catastrophic head, neck or spine injury that might occur.
 - Nursing sister(s)
 - A qualified and experienced nursing sister must be available in the medical room at the tournament venue on all match days to assist the Tournament Doctor(s)
 - Emergency Medical Personnel and Equipment
 - Three (3) Basic Life Support (BLS) medics per field
 - One (1) Intermediate Life Support (ILS) medic per field
 - One (1) Advanced Life Support Practitioner (ALS) per venue, as stipulated by SARU's General Manager: Medical

- Ambulance(s) equipped to Advanced Life Support (ALS) level with One (1) ALS practitioner and One (1) BLS practitioner as ambulance crew per venue
- One Ambulance (and crew as mentioned above) on stand-by to replace the field-side ambulance if it is required to leave the venue with a patient
- If required, emergency medical flight staff on standby
- Emergency Medical Services on standby for any after hour, training, or other emergencies
- All medical personnel to be currently registered with the Health Professions Council of Southern Africa (HPCSA) – Professional Board for Emergency Care Practitioners (PBECP)
- Ambulance crew identified as driver of the vehicle (normally the BLS) must be in the possession of a valid Public Drivers Permit (PDP)
- Medical Liaison Officer (MLO)
 - The Local Organising Committee (LOC) must appoint a **Medical Liaison Officer** or **MLO** with local knowledge of the venue and surrounding environment
 - The MLO is responsible for assisting the Tournament Doctor(s) and Nursing Sister for any emergencies and administrative issues that need to be addressed
 - If a fixed line is not available in the Medical Room, the Tournament medical staff and Medical Liaison Officer (MLO) must have access to mobile communication

The Tournament Doctor(s) must complete the following on-line World Rugby modules:

- Concussion Management for **non-HIA** approved tournaments:
<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/concussion-management-for-doctors-and-health-care-professionals/>
- Concussion Management for elite level **World Rugby-approved HIA** tournaments:
<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/concussion-management-for-match-day-medical-staff-using-the-hia-protocol/>
- Match Day Medical Staff:
<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/medical-protocols-for-match-day-medical-staff/>

ALL other Medical Support Staff used at these Tournaments must complete the on-line World Rugby Concussion Management Module:

<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/concussion-management-for-doctors-and-health-care-professionals/>

To access these online modules the applicable medical staff must go to the following link <https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/>, and complete the registration process to receive a World Rugby Passport. Once they are registered, they will be able to complete the required modules.

Medical staff at the tournaments must have their “*certificates of proof of completion*” for each applicable module with them when working at the tournament.

2. ESTABLISHING AND MANAGING A SAFE PLAYING ENVIRONMENT

2.1 Staffing and monitoring of the playing environment:

- The LOC are responsible for appointing a *Medical Safety Control Officer (MSCO)*, whose primary job is to ensure that the minimum medical safety requirements and documentation for the relevant tournament, as stipulated in this section below, have been met
- The MSCO:

BOKSMART CERTIFICATION (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- *Must ensure, prior to the commencement of the tournament, that all referees, assistant referees, coaches, and assistant coaches participating in the tournament are actively BokSmart Certified.*
- *Must keep on file proof that this information was reviewed and this proof must be always readily available at the tournament for any queries.*
 - *Coaches and Referees can provide a digital copy of their BokSmart Licence Card, which indicates their Active status, Certification date, and Expiry date*
 - *An official Proof of Certification can be retrieved and presented by the coach or referee via the MyBokSmart App (<https://my.boksmart.com>)*
 - *The MSCO can confirm Certification status using the BokSmart Certification Checker App (<https://check.boksmart.com>)*

- Must control that no coach or referee is allowed to participate in the tournament if they have not been BokSmart certified or have not provided proof of their active certification status as per the above and as per the SARU Regulations on BokSmart Rugby Safety Workshops (click on the link or cut and paste Link into Browser):
<https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-legislation/>

AGE-BANDING CONTROLS (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Must ensure that all players participating in the tournament abide by the SARU School Age-Banding Regulations (click on the link or cut and paste Link into Browser):
<https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-legislation/>
- Must see to it that any participating players who require Age-banding exemption, provide Certified copies of their official signed-off clearance documentation or system-generated Copies of their Age-banding Clearance Certificates downloaded from the Provincial Rugby Union BokSmart Integration System (PRUBIS):
 - Copies of the signed off documentation needs to be provided via the Team Managers to the MSCO before commencement of the tournament
 - Should this documentation, where applicable, not be available, the player will not be allowed to participate in the tournament, until such time as the official copies are received and have been controlled for accuracy by the MSCO
 - The MSCO can confirm age-banding exemptions using the [Age-banding Checker](https://agebanding.boksmart.com/) App (<https://agebanding.boksmart.com/>) freely available on MyBokSmart

PARTICIPATION CONSENT (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Must confirm with **SARU's Footprint Administrative Team**, prior to the commencement of the tournament, that all documentation enclosed in the 'SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM' was submitted and uploaded by all Teams

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Must confirm with **SARU's Footprint Administrative Team**, prior to commencement of the tournament, and during Team registration, that all declarations and documented proof of Medical qualifications, for any dedicated and registered medical Doctors, and documented proof of Professional and current active First Aid qualifications for Physiotherapists or Biokineticists, travelling with the Teams have been submitted and uploaded onto Footprint.

PLAYING ENCLOSURE (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Must ensure that the playing enclosure(s) for all match venues at the tournament meet World Rugby stipulations as indicated within this document:
 - The playing enclosure shall be monitored every day before commencement of matches, and regularly during the day to ensure continued compliance to the safety standards as stipulated in the **Field Safety Standards Document**: <https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-medical-protocol-safety-in-the-playing-environment/>
 - A record should be kept indicating the times at which the control checks were performed, and this should be dated and signed by the MSCO. A field-safety checklist template can be found here: <https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-legislation/>
 - Any changes that are made to conform to the expected safety standards for the playing enclosure should be documented on the relevant control check sheet (this includes any branding, equipment, advertising hoardings, poles, pylons, barriers, and padded protection)

PRE-MATCH CONTROLS (MSCO – RESPONSIBILITIES)

- Must perform pre-match control checks of all coaches and medical staff of both participating teams
 - Control and check that the coaches are the said coaches nominated in the match programmes, and that their details correspond to their provided BokSmart Certification documentation
 - Control and check that only qualified medical personnel as per World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone protocol (i.e., a registered medical Doctor, and/or a registered Physiotherapist with a

- current and active First Aid qualification), have been allocated the “Medical” identification bib.*
- *Biokineticists may not receive or wear the “Medical” identification bib.*
- *Only these qualified medical personnel (i.e., a registered medical Doctor, and Physiotherapist with a current and active First Aid qualification), who have been allocated the “Medical” identification bib, may, according to World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone protocol, roam the touchlines and move outside of the World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone*
- *All Biokineticists, Conditioning staff or substitute players, who are water carriers must wear the “Water” identification bibs*
- *These water carriers, including the Biokineticist or Conditioning staff, are not allowed to roam the touchlines, and are always confined to the World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone as per World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone Protocol, except for when water breaks or stoppages in play, allow them to move onto the field in accordance with the Law.*
- *The MSCO must inform and reinforce to the head coach and management of both participating teams that only qualified medical personnel (stipulated in previous bullet points) may roam the touchlines during matches, as stipulated by World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone protocol*
- *Must cross-check that all minimum required emergency side-line equipment and independent side-line emergency medical service personnel are appropriately stationed, and visible before kick-off and during the match:*

EQUIPMENT

- *First aid bag*
 - *First aid kit which typically includes: - scissors (blunt ended) - surgical gloves - gauze swabs - nasal pack - towel - compression bandages (5cm, 7.5cm, 10cm) - sterile gauze bandage - adhesive skin closures, (e.g. Band Aid) - elastic adhesive bandages (2.5cm, 5cm) - petroleum jelly - tincture of benzoin - irrigation solution (sterile eyewash) - eyewash bottle, antiseptic ointment / spray (e.g. Betadine, Savlon) - Melolin - triangular bandages - skin care pad (e.g. Second Skin) - ice pack - water bottle - adhesive dressings (e.g. Opsite) - adhesive tape - ice*

- *Field-side Equipment*
 - *Motion Restriction Equipment:*
Spinal Board, Spider Harness, Cervical Collars & Head Blocks
 - *Splint Set*
 - *Minimum 2 BLS Jump Bags*
 - *Oxygen*
 - *Suction Unit*
 - *AED*
 - *Blanket*

PERSONNEL

- *Required number of Basic Life Support (BLS) medics:*
 - *Current Professional Board for Emergency Care Practitioners (PBECPP) Registration*
 - *Appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)*
 - *Gloves (new pair per patient)*
 - *Eye protection*
 - *Appropriate dress*
 - *If driving ambulance conveying patient, they require a PDP*
- *Required number of Intermediate Life Support (ILS) medics along with appropriate Intermediate Life Support Equipment and Drugs:*
 - *Current Professional Board for Emergency Care Practitioners (PBECPP) Registration*
 - *Appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)*
 - *Gloves (new pair per patient)*
 - *Eye protection*
 - *Appropriate dress*
 - *If driving ambulance conveying patient, they require a PDP*
- *Required number of Advanced Life Support (ALS) paramedics along with appropriate Advanced Life Support Equipment and Drugs*
 - *Current Professional Board for Emergency Care Practitioners (PBECPP) Registration*
 - *ALS Jump Bag*
 - *Airway management*
 - *ALS Drug Bag (stocked as per protocol) – including, but not limited to:*
 - *Pain management drugs*
 - *Cardiac drugs*
 - *Respiratory drugs*
 - *Diabetic drugs*
 - *Sedation drugs*
 - *Anti-convulsants*
 - *Muscle relaxants*

- Rhythm Stabilising drugs
 - Resuscitation drugs
- Electric Suction Unit
- Cardiac Monitor & Defibrillator

AMBULANCE

- Registered Ambulance
- Full set of spinal equipment (to swap out with field staff, where needed)
- Equipped to ALS standards
 - Bandages & Dressings
 - Intravenous therapy
 - ALS Drug bag including, but not limited to
 - Asthma
 - Dextrose
 - Oxygen
 - Suction Unit
 - Cardiac monitor & Defibrillator

2.2 The playing enclosure:

- It must be made poignantly clear that all venues must meet World Rugby minimum field safety requirements, and this includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - The Playing Enclosure is comprised of the standard field (“playing area”) and a surrounding space of not less than 5 metres (“perimeter area”) around it, where practicable
 - All structures and equipment including, but not limited to, advertising hoardings, poles, pylons, barriers, and scrum-machines being at least 5 meters away from the touchlines and dead ball lines, where practicable
 - If one or more of the abovementioned obstacles cannot be removed, they must be suitably covered to provide maximum protection to the players
 - If areas of the playing surface are comprised of an asphalt/tartan track, it should be suitably covered
 - The playing surface should be:
 - Grass, artificial grass (conforming to WORLD RUGBY regulation 22), sand or clay
 - Be firm and free of hazards including stones and glass
 - Free from ground ice in cold environments

- *Free from water of a level that is sufficient to realistically raise the risk of drowning. The decision to start a game where ground water is present is at the sole discretion of the referee and common sense should prevail*
- The LOC has primary responsibility to ensure that the selected match venues meet World Rugby stipulated requirements.

For further information refer to the SARU Field Safety Standards Document: <https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-medical-protocol-safety-in-the-playing-environment/> or on MyBokSmart at: <https://my.boksmart.com/Documents/BokSmart#ImportantRegulations>

2.3 Emergency Action Plan for the participants at SARU Tournaments – Participants EAP:

- The appointed Tournament Doctor(s) will be responsible for coordinating and compiling a complete participant **Emergency Action Plan (EAP)** for the tournament, as stipulated in the “*Safety in the Playing Environment*” document
 - *This participant EAP should be completed and signed off by the Tournament Doctor(s) and the LOC Chair prior to the tournament commencing, and must be kept on file and be available for review upon request.*
 - *Three (3) hard copies should be made: one for the Chair of the LOC and one for the Tournament Doctor(s), and one for display in the Medical Room for the duration of the tournament, should it be required.*
 - *Both parties should keep the filed documentation on record for at least five (5) years post the event*
 - *In line with best practice, all involved parties should be briefed on the participant EAP, at least one week before the tournament commences*
 - *A final debrief should also be performed with the relevant parties at the tournament*
 - *A copy of the Participant EAP will be provided to the event coordinator to be part of the Tournament event EAP*

- The provided Participant EAP document should be easily accessible to all emergency personnel and team management involved on match day, and should contain the following:

Facility Details:

- This should include the Directions to the match venue - GPS coordinates, if known, would be beneficial to the emergency personnel.
- This should include details regarding access and access control procedures, gates, egress routes, ramps, location of medical rooms, ambulance parking area for emergencies being evacuated from medical rooms

Facility layout including access points to fields and emergency vehicles:

- This should also include the position of keys and other security measures that may hinder quick access of emergency personnel

Emergency Equipment:

- A detailed list should be readily available and visible, detailing all equipment and emergency medication available. Its whereabouts should also be clearly defined

Personnel:

- Both host school, club, or union personnel as well as emergency support personnel contracted for the event should have clearly defined roles and responsibilities delineated in the participant [emergency action plan](#)

Communications:

- Clear communication is the key to effective management of an injured player. Communication with regards to the role of each member of the medical team as well as communication between the internal; external and emergency unit personnel is imperative to ensure not only the optimal care of the player, but also to ensure the players' management and family are fully informed as to their situation

Follow up:

- A designated person, in this case the Tournament Doctor(s), should be nominated to ensure all parties are kept informed as to the condition of the injured player until that time he or she is returned to the safekeeping of his or her nearest kin or designated team management member, whichever may be applicable at the time

2.4 On-field Medical protocols

- The Medical management of an injured player at the tournament shall be the primary responsibility of the tournament Medical personnel, namely the Tournament Doctor(s) and Emergency Medical Service personnel i.e. paramedical staff
- The Tournament Emergency Medical staff can operate from the side-line in accordance with [SARU General Competition Rules](https://www.springboks.rugby/general/governance-and-documents/) (*click the link or cut and paste link into Browser*)
<https://www.springboks.rugby/general/governance-and-documents/>
- All on-field injuries, which require medical attention and possible removal from the field of play, are to be dealt with by the contracted tournament medical support personnel
- The Tournament Doctor(s) has the authority to remove any player(s) at any time from the field of play with a blood injury, concussion, suspected concussion and/or suspected head, neck or spine injury, or any other injury deemed to be detrimental to the players continued health, safety, and well-being
- Where there is a query regarding the legitimacy of an injury, the Tournament Doctor(s) has the sole authority to judge whether the injury is of such a nature that the player should be or should have been removed from the playing field (*applicable at SARU Youth Weeks only*)
- Teams, who have a dedicated and registered medical Doctor, or a registered Physiotherapist or registered Biokineticist with a current and active First Aid qualification, travelling with them, need to declare this information to the tournament LOC and the MSCO prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- Team Managers must upload proof of their Team Medical Staff's Medical Professional qualifications First Aid qualifications where applicable, onto the *Footprint* registration system, for record purposes.

- Team Medical Staff, who are either the *Team Medical Doctor* and/or *Team Physiotherapist*, must note the requirements to be met to be granted permission to roam the touchline during a match that their team participates in.
- These requirements are the following and the certificates need to be uploaded onto their personal profiles on *Footprint*.
 - All team medical staff must complete the following World Rugby [On-Line education](https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/concussion-management-for-doctors-and-health-care-professionals/) modules:
 - Concussion Management for Doctors and Health Care Workers (<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/concussion-management-for-doctors-and-health-care-professionals/>),
 - First Aid In Rugby (<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/first-aid-in-rugby/>)
 - Match Day Medical Staff (<https://passport.world.rugby/player-welfare-medical/medical-protocols-for-match-day-medical-staff/>)
 - Copy of their Health Professions Council Registration card and number
 - A team *physiotherapist* must have an *active First Aid qualification* from a South African training provider
- *As per World Rugby and SA Rugby Tournament Rules, only a registered medical Doctor, or a Physiotherapist with a current and active First Aid qualification, and who have been verified by the Host Union LOC/MSCO may roam the touchlines according to World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone protocols, and assist with injured players during a match.*
- These declared medical personnel, as specified in the previous bullet point, will be identified by their allocated “Medical” identification bib on match days
 - Only a declared *and* appropriately qualified and attired (i.e., wearing a “Medical” bib) medical Doctor, or Physiotherapist (*with active First Aid qualification*) may assist the Tournament Doctor(s) and paramedical staff in the on-field medical management of an injured player

- A Biokineticist, who is wearing the water bib and who has a current and active First Aid qualification, which has been verified by the tournament LOC/MSCO, can only enter the field of play from the World Rugby and SARU Technical Zone in accordance with Law, and can assist the dedicated medical staff upon their request only, in the management of these injured players
- Only the declared and approved medical personnel as stipulated above may wear the dedicated “Medical” bib and may roam the touchlines
- In the event of a player suffering a potentially serious concussion, head, neck or cervical spine injury, and the team only having a *Physiotherapist with a current and active First Aid qualification* in support, the Emergency Service Personnel together with the Tournament Doctor(s) shall take complete charge of managing the injured player’s situation
 - In these instances, the team “Medical” personnel as specified above may only assist in the on-field management of such player
 - However, where the team has a qualified and registered Medical Doctor in support, the Doctor may manage the situation accordingly with the contracted Emergency Service Personnel in assistance

At no time, may any coaches, or assistant coaches or team managers enter the field of play to assist and/or remove any injured player from the field. Failure to comply with this directive can lead to a disciplinary hearing and potential removal from the tournament. Any interference with the medical staff and their management processes will not be tolerated.

2.5 Off-field Medical protocols

- The off-field Medical management of any injured player, who has been removed from the field of play due to injury or as an injury substitution, or who has a suspected concussion, head, neck or spine injury shall ultimately be the responsibility of the Tournament Doctor(s), regardless of a dedicated and registered medical Doctor, or a *Physiotherapist or Biokineticist with a current and active First Aid qualification*, travelling with a team.

- These injured players must be reported to the Tournament Doctor(s) *immediately*, once the player has been removed from the field
- Team Managers need to ensure that there are to be no exceptions to this rule, and it is *not* the responsibility of the Tournament Doctor(s) to track down any injured players, regardless of the severity of the injury.
- All medical attention injuries that require a player to be clinically assessed or removed from the field of play, or at any time after a match, must be reported to and independently assessed by the Tournament Doctor(s), even if the player has been assessed and managed by a team's Medical Doctor
- With regards to specific medical clearance required for return to play during the tournament, the Tournament Doctor(s) must sign off on all cases, to ensure that the tournament and WORLD RUGBY medical protocols have been followed.
 - This is especially relevant to suspected concussions or those concussions that have been diagnosed, and need to be medically assessed and managed according to World Rugby Return-to-play Concussion protocols

3. ACCESS TO SPECIALISED MEDICAL CARE AND FACILITIES

- Based on previous SARU tournament experiences, it is vital that at all injured players requiring specialised medical care have expedited access to both Government and Private Medical Facilities that are fully capacitated, fully functional, and fully equipped to deal with all the expectations illustrated above
- It is *ideal* to have functioning diagnostic equipment, specialists that are not too far away from the facility if they are required, and technicians who are on-site or readily available
- This becomes even more important in the case of a severe or potentially catastrophic rugby injury incurred at a SARU tournament
- It is *ideal* that the Private and Government facilities *both* meet these expectations, as many of the players who participate at the SARU tournaments do not have Medical Aid, and one cannot afford not being able to cater appropriately for these individuals. *It is imperative though that at least one of the facilities meets these expectations.*
- It is the responsibility of the tournament LOC/MSCO and Tournament Doctor(s) to physically inspect the proposed Medical Facilities at least 2 months before

commencement of the tournament and to confirm and document this in writing for record purposes. It should furthermore be specified exactly how far from the tournament venues both Government and Private facilities are located. The hospital inspections and locations in respect to the tournament need to be recorded and documented by the LOC/MSCO and Tournament Doctor(s).

- An *ideal* specialist medical care and medical facilities, should include, but are not limited to the following:
 - A fully equipped and functional Trauma Unit
 - A fully equipped and functional Radiology Unit
 - X-ray
 - MRI
 - CT-Scan
 - Radiologist
 - Orthopaedic Surgeon(s)
 - Physician
 - Neurosurgeon
 - Neurologist
 - Cardiologist
 - General Surgeon
 - Ophthalmologist
 - Dentist
 - Maxillofacial Surgeon
 - Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon
 - ENT Surgeon
 - Emergency Services
 - Pharmacist
 - Pharmacy

4. *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 Of 2010)*⁶ and *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Regulations, 2017*⁷

- The LOC is responsible to ensure that the tournament complies completely with the *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act No. 2 Of 2010)* and *Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Regulations, 2017* requirements regarding event safety
 - This SARU document does not address the complete needs and requirements of the Act, as the Act addresses a range of issues in addition to Medical-related issues, such as spectator safety.

⁶ https://www.saps.gov.za/services/events_atc_gazetted.pdf

⁷ https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201703/40661rg10696gon200.pdf

- Medical issues are but a small part of the Act, and this document only addresses the ***participant related*** medical measures and protocols that should be in place
- For more information on the Act visit the following Link:
https://www.saps.gov.za/services/events_atc_gazetted.pdf

5. ANTI-DOPING PROCESSES

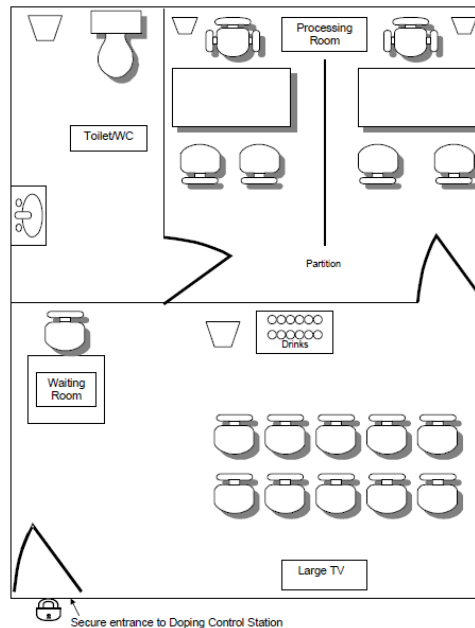
- Drug testing, for prohibited substances and methods, will be conducted at all SARU tournaments, but especially at the U18 Craven Week and Gold Cup tournaments
- The testing will be performed independently by the South African Institute for Drug-free Sport (SAIDS).
- All players nominated to participate in a SARU Youth Week tournament, are required to complete, sign and comply with the '***SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM***'.
 - ***No exceptions will be made***
- Where players are younger than the statutory adult age of eighteen (18) years old, the players' parent(s) or legal guardian(s), not the team coach, must complete and sign the '***SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM***' which permits SAIDS to perform the anti-doping tests.
- Failure to comply with this procedure, involves immediate exclusion from the tournament
- The '***SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM***' document can be found in the SARU Tournament Participation Agreement
- SARU Anti-doping regulations can be found here: <https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-legislation/>

Education sessions on Drugs in Sport, which must be presented SAIDS, must be organised by the Provincial Union and completed before attending the SA Rugby Youth Week tournament.

Players are encouraged to complete the World Rugby Anti-Doping education online(<https://passport.world.rugby/login?returnUrl=%2fprotect-the-game%2fkeep-rugby-clean%2f>) and familiarise themselves with the World Rugby Anti-Doping Handbook(<https://www.world.rugby/keep-rugby-clean/educator-resources/content-and-downloads/handbook>)

Testing Facility layout

- The following diagram, as supplied by World Rugby, provides guidance on the layout of an ideal Doping Room to ensure that Doping tests are performed effectively and legally.



- The following minimum requirements need to be in place to ensure an acceptable Doping Room setup:
 - The chosen room must have a door that can be locked
 - Only the Doping Control Officer may have access to this room for the duration of the tournament
 - When not in use, the room must always be locked
 - The room must be divided into two (2) distinct 'rooms':
 - Waiting room
 - Processing room
 - Where the nominated Doping Room does not have two distinct rooms, the room must be divided into two separate compartments by means of a room divider, screen or equivalent
 - Chairs need to be provided for players to sit on in the waiting room
 - A table and a minimum of three (3) chairs must be provided for in each processing room
 - A bin must be available in each processing room and the waiting area
 - Sealed water must be made available in the waiting area; the hosting LOC are responsible for supplying the water
 - Ideally a toilet should be available in the Doping Room
 - If a toilet is not available in the Doping Room, the toilet must be in close proximity to the Doping Room

- If a public toilet facility is to be used, the Doping Control Officer and player are to be given preference in the case of a test being performed

6. GENERAL MEDICAL MATTERS:

6.1 Blood

- Blood injuries will be managed by medical personnel according to World Rugby Laws.

6.2 Concussion

- Players who sustain a concussion or suspected concussion will be managed according to the international best practice principles as outlined in the SARU and WORLD RUGBY Concussion Regulations and protocols.
- Concussion documents can be accessed via the following links:
www.boksmart.com/concussion or
<https://my.boksmart.com/Documents/BokSmart#ConcussionManagement>
- The SARU Concussion Regulations can also be accessed via the following links:
<https://www.springboks.rugby/general/boksmart-legislation/> or
<https://my.boksmart.com/Documents/BokSmart#ImportantRegulations>
- World Rugby Concussion Regulation and Concussion management can also be accessed via the following links:
 - Concussion Regulations:
<https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-10>
 - Concussion Management:
<https://www.world.rugby//the-game/player-welfare/medical/concussion/concussion-guidelines>

6.3 Mouth guards

- It is advisable for all players to wear a mouth guard when practising and when participating in matches at all SARU tournaments

6.4 Costs

- All injuries sustained at the tournament, and which can be managed at the match venue, will be dealt with by the contracted Medical Staff, at no cost to the injured player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents
- Prior to the tournament it is advisable that all players, their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), whichever may be applicable, confirm with the Union or Club that they represent, what exactly the Union or Club's policy is regarding payments for additional medical management of injuries and illnesses sustained during the tournament that might be required
- SARU does not provide medical insurance for any player that sustains an illness or injury at these tournaments, and will not cover any medical costs other than those dealt with by the contracted Medical Staff at the tournament venue
- An injured player will be stabilised and assessed at the match venue to the best of the abilities of the contracted Medical Staff at no cost to the injured player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents
- If the player requires additional referral or specialist medical intervention, based on judgement by the contracted Medical Staff of the tournament, the costs of ambulance transportation, admission to hospital, and the additional assessment or intervention costs, will be for the account of the injured player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents
- After hour medical services are for the account of the injured/ill player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents
- Players *with Medical Aid*, who require hospitalisation, will be transported, and admitted to the nearest and most appropriate Private Medical facility or hospital
 - Any costs over and above those covered by the players Medical Aid plan, are for the account of the injured/ill player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents
- Players *without Medical Aid*, who require hospitalisation, will be transported, and admitted to the nearest and most appropriate Government or Private Medical facility or hospital, depending on their individual preference and circumstance
 - All costs incurred, are for the account of the injured/ill player, their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or the Union that the player represents

6.5 Administration

- Team Managers must be in the possession of a copy of the Medical Aid membership card for all players that are on a Medical Aid plan, and relevant contact details of the players' parent(s) or legal guardian(s)
- For players who do not have a Medical Aid plan, the Team Manager must ensure that they have relevant contact details of the players' parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for admission purposes to either the relevant Government or Private medical facility or hospital, depending on their individual preferences and circumstances
- The Team Manager must always be able to access copies of all players' signed 'SCHEDULE I: SA RUGBY PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM'

6.6 Player welfare

- The Team Manager of any player that presents with illness or injury, and can no longer participate in training sessions and/or match play, should notify the Tournament Doctor(s) of the player's status (if the player has not already been reported or assessed by the Tournament Doctor(s)). The Tournament Doctor(s) must be allowed to clinically assess him further if so required
- The Team Manager should cater for all ill or injured players that remain off-site at the Team accommodation venues during match or training days
 - This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Arrange meals for the players
 - Frequently check in on the players to monitor their status
 - Make sure that there is a responsible adult who looks after the said players while off-site
- All teams must provide their own strapping, and basic medical consumables such as plasters, bandages, antiseptic solutions, cotton wool etc.

6.7 Services

- A Tournament Doctor(s), Nursing Sister and Emergency Medical Staff will be available at all matches played at SARU Tournaments
- All Teams are responsible to strap their own players; the Tournament Doctor(s) and assistants are not to be used for this service

6.8 Catering and access to facilities

- The hosting LOC will provide all the contracted Medical Staff and Emergency Medical Staff with “All access” accreditation for the tournament
- The hosting LOC will provide all the contracted Medical Staff and Emergency Medical Staff with meals and drinks for the duration of the tournament
- The hosting LOC will provide all the contracted Medical Staff and Emergency Medical Staff with dedicated parking on-site for the duration of the tournament

6.9 SA Rugby Injury and Illness Surveillance and Prevention Project (SARIISP),

- SARU is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of rugby’s greatest assets, which are the players
- To do this effectively, SARU has committed itself to monitor injury patterns and trends at official SARU flagship tournaments
- The Tournament Doctor(s) must record ALL medical attention injuries on the standardised injury data-capture sheet or App (where applicable) according to the precise definitions described in the World Rugby and IOC consensus statements.
- This data contributes to an on-going longitudinal research project investigating the safety, health, and well-being of rugby players.
- SARU where possible, will provide a dedicated BokSmart Researcher who will assist the Tournament Doctor(s) in capturing all medical attention injury data, and will also perform telephonic follow-ups with the injured players

SARU GENERAL MANAGER: MEDICAL, CLINT READHEAD

Email: Clintr@sarugby.co.za; **Mobile:** +27(0)716044641; **Office:** +27(0)21 928 7111