

PITCHSIDE FIRST AID & IMMEDIATE CARE PROVISION FOR TRAINING & MATCHES 2023-24

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FIRST AID / IMMEDIATE CARE PROVISION: GUIDELINE PRINCIPLES

- > A risk assessment must be completed for all rugby activity.
- > The FA/IC standards are the MINIMUM levels of cover that must be provided by clubs and CBs. They may wish to put in place greater cover.
- > The FA/IC standards are highly recommended for all other providers of rugby activity (schools, colleges, universities, armed forces, commercial providers) who may have their own regulations, which they must comply with if the level of provision is higher than that specified in this guide.
- > The FA/IC standards set out the minimum recommended FA/IC provision. CBs, clubs and all other activity organisers should consider how best to deliver the other elements of medical care and player welfare for participants.

There may be added value to having an Immediate Care Practitioner (ICP) and/or other Health Care Practitioner (HCP) who can provide both the first aid and immediate care and the other elements of medical care and player welfare, for example providing prehabilitation and rehabilitation, strapping and soft tissue massage.

AGE GRADE RUGBY

Schools and colleges may be subject to different provision requirements as set out by their own governing body regulations, which they must comply with if the level of provision is higher than that specified in this guide.

For festivals and other multi-match events, please refer to the Tournaments & Festivals section.

MINIMUM STANDARD

TRAINING SESSIONS

- > 1 x Emergency First Aider per age-group is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx.40 players.
- > For larger groups additional Emergency First Aider (s) may be required and should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.
- > For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than one age group e.g. one Emergency First Aider covering U9 and U10 training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer children across both age-groups. This should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.

MATCHES

- > U7 – U8: 1 x Emergency First Aider per age group
- > U9 – U18: 1 x Emergency First Aider per match

BEST PRACTICE

One Emergency First Aider per team will provide a safer experience for the players, and reduces the risk of stoppages in play and disruptions that may occur where there is only one first aider per match.

When the provision is a first aider per match, the home club/team is responsible for organising/providing the Emergency First Aid cover. Communication between both clubs/teams is encouraged to ensure cover is in place.

If the minimum standards are not in place, the club/those involved in arranging rugby activity must complete a live first aid risk assessment* to be satisfied that it is safe/appropriate for the rugby activity to go ahead.

* A 'live risk assessment' is the practice of observing, assessing, identifying and (where removing/reducing risk in the current environment (e.g. playing area, number of people, facilities, provision etc.).

AGE GRADE RUGBY PITCHSIDE FIRST AID PROVISION OVERVIEW

For training sessions, 1 EFA per age-group is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx.40 players. For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than one age group e.g. one Emergency First Aider covering U9 and U10 training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer children across both age-groups.

	MINIMUM STANDARD		BEST PRACTICE
	TRAINING	MATCHES	MATCHES
U7	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match
U8	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match
U9	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U10	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U11	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U12	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U13	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U14	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U15	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U16	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U17	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
U18	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team

ADULT RUGBY

The Armed Forces and Universities may be subject to different provision requirements as set out by their own governing body regulations, which they must comply with if the level of provision is higher than that specified in this guide. For tournaments and other multi-match events, please refer to the Tournaments, Festivals and Multi-match events section.

MINIMUM GUIDELINES

TRAINING SESSIONS

- > 1 x Emergency First Aider per training group is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx.40 players.
- > For larger groups additional Emergency First Aider (s) may be required and should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.
- > For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than training group e.g. One Emergency First Aider covering two adult team/s training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer players training. This should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.

MATCHES – ADULT MEN

- > National Leagues: 1 x Immediate Care Practitioner per team**
- > Regional & County Leagues and Lower XVs: 1 x Emergency First Aider per match.

** The standards including Immediate Care Practitioner provision and medical equipment requirements are set by the **National Rugby League**.

MATCHES – ADULT WOMEN

- > Championship and below: 1 x Emergency First Aider per match.

BEST PRACTICE

One first aider per team provides a safer experience for the players, and reduces the risk of stoppages in play and disruptions due to having one first aider per match.

When the provision is a first aider per match, the home club/team is responsible for providing the Emergency First Aid Cover. Communication between clubs/teams is encouraged to ensure cover is in place.

If the minimum guidelines are not in place, those involved in arranging the activity must complete a live first aid risk assessment and be satisfied that it is safe for the activity to go ahead.

* A 'live risk assessment' is the practice of observing, assessing, identifying and (where removing/reducing risk in the current environment (e.g. playing area, number of people, facilities, provision etc.).

ADULT RUGBY PITCHSIDE FIRST AID PROVISION OVERVIEW

For training sessions, 1 EFA per team is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx.40 players. For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than training group e.g. One Emergency First Aider covering two adult team/s training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer players training.

	MINIMUM STANDARD		BEST PRACTICE
MEN	TRAINING	MATCHES	MATCHES
NATIONAL LEAGUES	1 Emergency First Aider per team	Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per team	
REGIONAL LEAGUES	1 Emergency First Aider per team/training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
COUNTIES LEAGUES	1 Emergency First Aider per team/training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
LOWER XV'S	1 Emergency First Aider per team/training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
WOMEN	TRAINING	MATCHES	MATCHES
CHAMPIONSHIP & NATIONAL CHALLENGE LEAGUES	1 Emergency First Aider per team/training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
LOWER XV'S	1 Emergency First Aider per team/training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team

ERDPP AND CB REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY

MINIMUM STANDARD

TRAINING SESSIONS

- > 1 x Emergency First Aider per training group is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx.40 players.
- > For larger groups additional Emergency First Aider(s) may be required and should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.
- > For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than one age group e.g. one Emergency First Aider covering U15 and U16 training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer children across both age-groups. This should be considered as part of the first aid risk assessment.

MATCHES – AGE GRADE

- > U14 – U18 Matches: 1 x Emergency First Aider per team
- > U14 – U18 Festivals: 1 x Emergency First Aider per match + 1 x Immediate Care Practitioner per venue

MATCHES – ADULT

- > 1 x Emergency First Aider per team
- > Festivals 1 x Emergency First Aider per match + 1 x Immediate Care Practitioner per venue

BEST PRACTICE

One first aider per team will provide a safer experience for the players, and reduces the risk of stoppages in play and disruptions due to having one first aider per match.

If the minimum standards are not in place, the club/those involved in arranging rugby activity must complete a live first aid risk assessment* to be satisfied that it is safe/ appropriate for the rugby activity to go ahead.

* A 'live risk assessment' is the practice of observing, assessing, identifying and (where removing/reducing risk in the current environment (e.g. playing area, number of people, facilities, provision etc.).

ERDPP AND CB REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY PITCHSIDE FIRST AID PROVISION OVERVIEW

1 x Emergency First Aider per training group is based on a ratio of 1 first aider to approx. 40 players.

For smaller groups it may be appropriate for one Emergency First Aider to cover more than one age group e.g. one Emergency First Aider covering U16 and U18 training session where there is a total of 40 or fewer children across both age-groups.

	MINIMUM STANDARD		BEST PRACTICE
	TRAINING	MATCHES	MATCHES
ERDPP	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per team	1 Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per match
CB U16 - U18	1 Emergency First Aider per age group	1 Emergency First Aider per team	1 Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per team
CB U20	1 Emergency First Aider per team/ training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per team	1 Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per team
CB MEN	1 Emergency First Aider per team/ training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per team	1 Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per team
CB WOMEN	1 Emergency First Aider per team/ training squad	1 Emergency First Aider per team	1 Level 2 Immediate Care Practitioner per team

TOURNAMENTS AND FESTIVALS

Where there are multiple teams playing at the same time (e.g. festivals and tournaments) a first aid risk assessment is required to determine the number and type of provision. The organiser should consider the levels of potential additional medical cover that may be required depending on the size of the event e.g. Ambulance/ Paramedic and/or Advanced Immediate Care Practitioner (Doctor) on site.

The organiser is responsible for determining and organising appropriate venue Emergency First Aider provision as part of the event first aid risk assessment (e.g. requiring that every team brings a first aider and/or organising for specific event first aid/immediate care provision). A designated central first aid tent/area should be considered as part of the event first aid risk assessment.

Please note that these standards do not account for any medical provision for crowds and spectators at an event or festival, this medical provision should be considered separately to the FA cover provision above.

MINIMUM GUIDELINES

NON-CONTACT

- > U7 – U8 Tag Rugby Boys & Girls: Emergency First Aider per 2 matches or 1 full size pitch + 1 Emergency First Aider per venue
- > Non-Contact Formats e.g. Touch/Tag events (including: Adult, Mixed and Age Grade): Emergency First Aider per 2 matches or 1 full size pitch + 1 Emergency First Aider per venue

CONTACT RUGBY (E.G. 15 A SIDE, 10S, 7S AND XRUGBY)

- > U9 – U13 Boys & Girls 1 x Emergency First Aider per Match + 1 x Emergency First Aider per venue
- > U14 – U19 Boys & Girls 1 x Emergency First Aider per Match + 1 x Emergency First Aider per venue
- > Adult Men & Women 1x Emergency First Aider per Match + 1 x Emergency First Aider per venue

BEST PRACTICE

One first aider per team and an immediate care practitioner will provide a safer experience and reduce the risk of stoppages in play. The event organiser is responsible for first aid provision and ensuring there is allocated cover for each match.

If the minimum guidelines are not in place, the hose involved in arranging the activity must complete a live first aid risk assessment* and be satisfied that it is safe for the rugby activity to go ahead.

* A 'live risk assessment' is the practice of observing, assessing, identifying and (where removing/reducing risk in the current environment (e.g. playing area, number of people, facilities, provision etc.).

TOURNAMENTS AND FESTIVALS PITCHSIDE FIRST AID PROVISION OVERVIEW

Organisers of tournaments and festivals are responsible for undertaking a risk assessment to determine the level of provision.

	MINIMUM GUIDELINES	BEST PRACTICE
AGE GRADE		
TAG, TOUCH & NON CONTACT	1 Emergency First Aider per 2 matches / 1 full pitch	1 Emergency First Aider per team
CONTACT	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team
ADULT		
TAG, TOUCH & NON CONTACT	1 Emergency First Aider per 2 matches / 1 full pitch	1 Emergency First Aider per team
	MINIMUM GUIDELINES	BEST PRACTICE
CONTACT	1 Emergency First Aider per match	1 Emergency First Aider per team





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