



# RUGBY SCIENCE A FRENCH PERSPECTIVE...



In 2009...

Romain 01/05/1999 (10)

Melvyn 30/06/1999 (10)

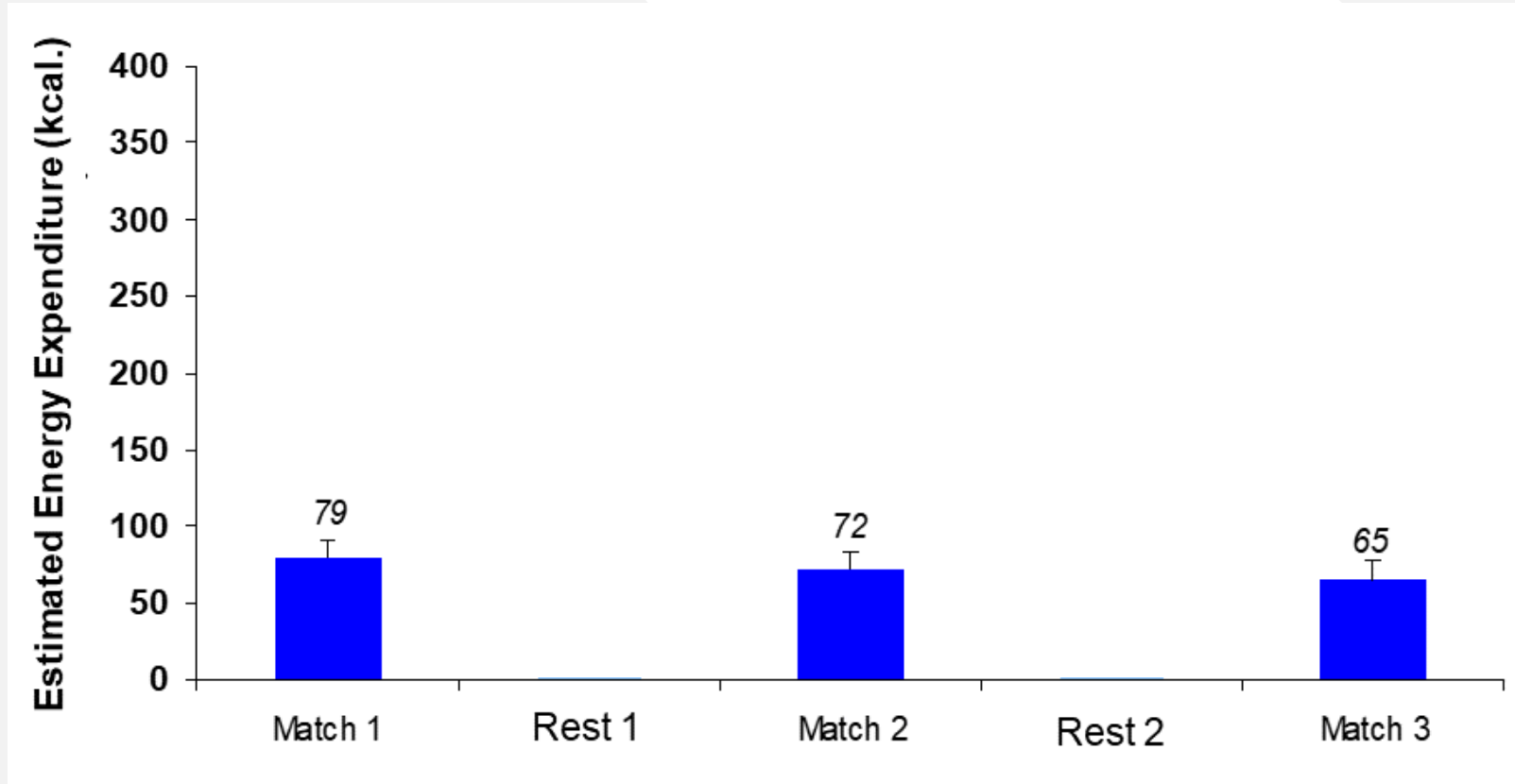
Antoine 15/11/1996 (13)

Cameron 07/11/1998 (11)



# « RUGBY SCHOOLS » (U6 – U14)

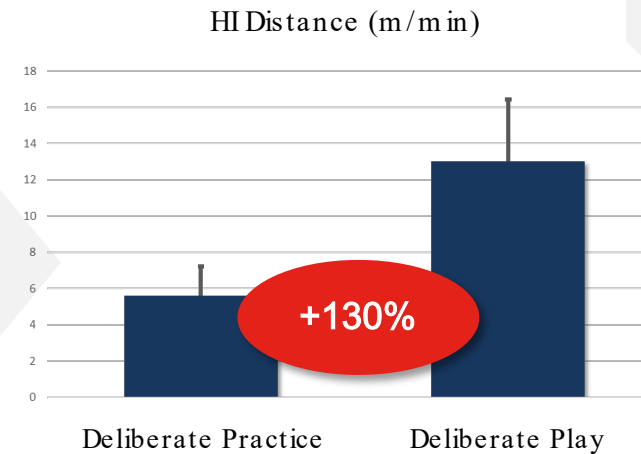
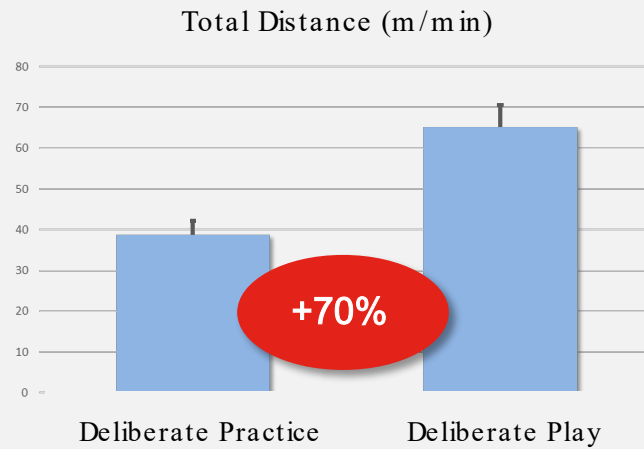
*New game laws from the 2009/2010 season !*



*“One of my first scientific interventions in 2008...”*

# « RUGBY SCHOOLS » (U6 – U14)

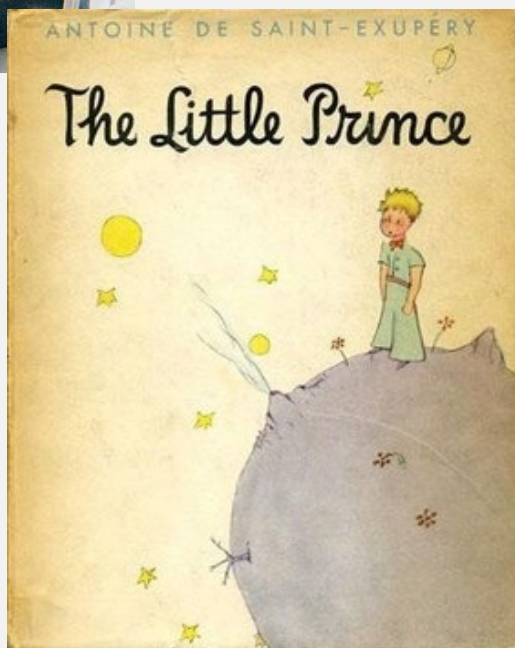
What does a young player actually do when he plays rugby ?



	Passes	Kicks	Rucks/Mauls
Deliberate Play VS Deliberate Practice (≈ match)	+ 40%	+ 120%	- 13%



## « RUGBY SCHOOLS » (U6 – U14)



“the future, you don't have to  
predict it, but allow it”

*A. DE SAINT EXUPÉRY*

# GAME SAFETY

2009/2010 Season : a “sad” record of catastrophic injuries in France

COMITE	DATE	POSTE	NIVEAU	ÂGE	CIRCONSTANCE
Lyonnais	16/09/2009	/	Ecole de Rugby	13 ans	Plaquage
Bourgogne	21/10/2009	talonneur	Entraînement	16 ans	Maul effondré
Ile de France	14/11/2009	3ème ligne	Rugby Entreprise	36 ans	Percussion
Midi Pyrénées	07/02/2010	talonneur	Séries Territoriales	24 ans	Mêlée
Armagnac Bigorre	03/04/2010	talonneur	Reichel	20 ans	Mêlée
Ile de France	30/05/2010	talonneur	Challenge Séries Territoriales	29 ans	Mêlée

+ 2 autres...

6 serious cervical  
spine injuries...  
**3 in scrum ...**

# GAME SAFETY

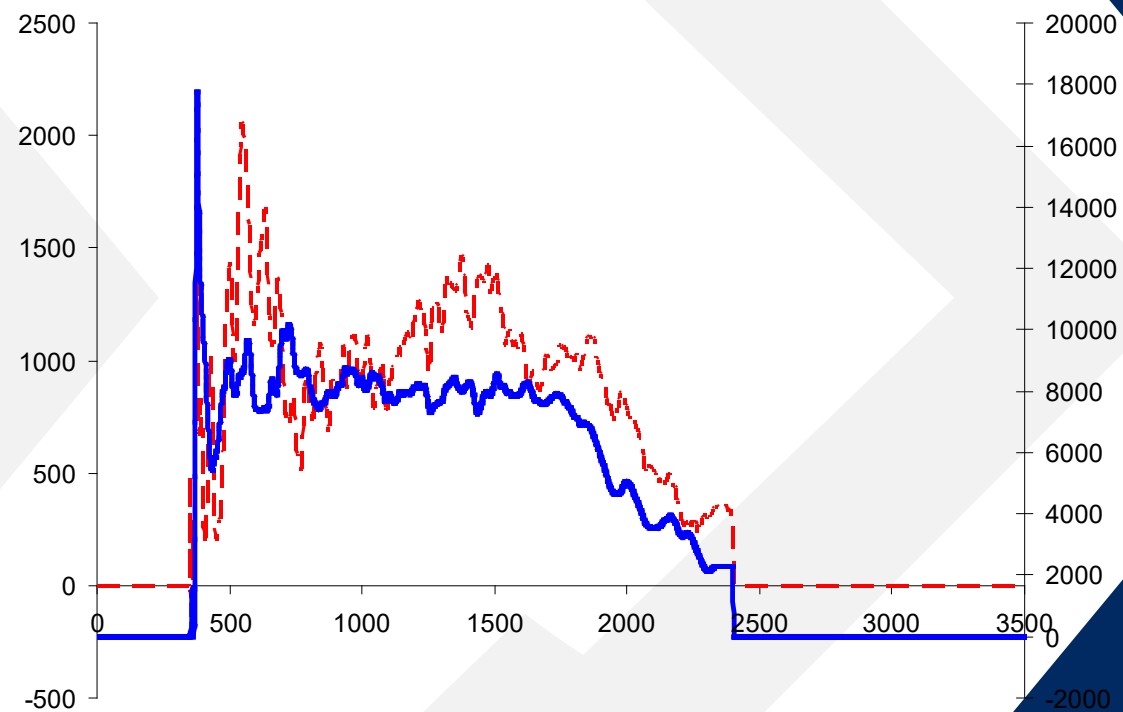
## Scrum Biomechanics



The Scrum Simulator by Thales Group (20 10)

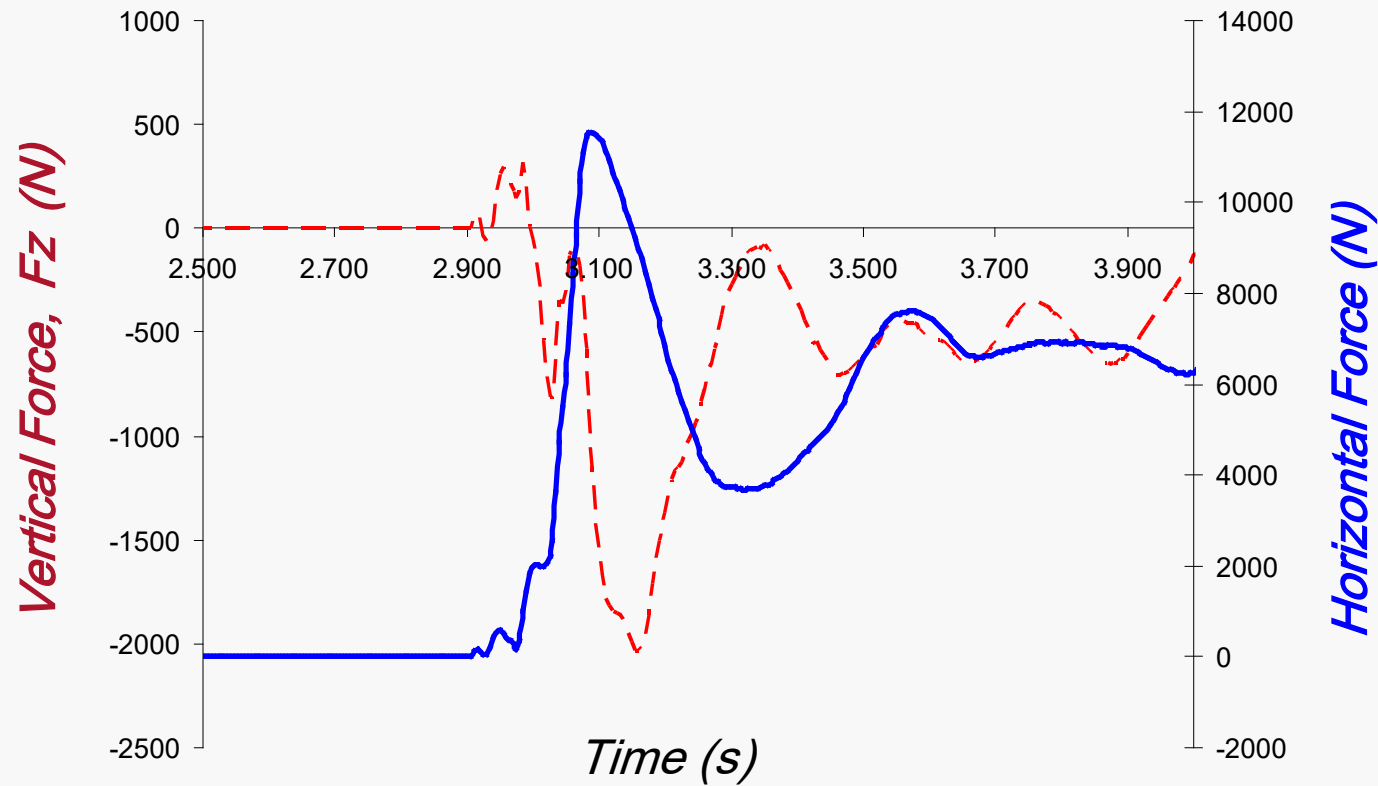
# GAME SAFETY

## Scrum Biomechanics



# GAME SAFETY

## Scrum Biomechanics

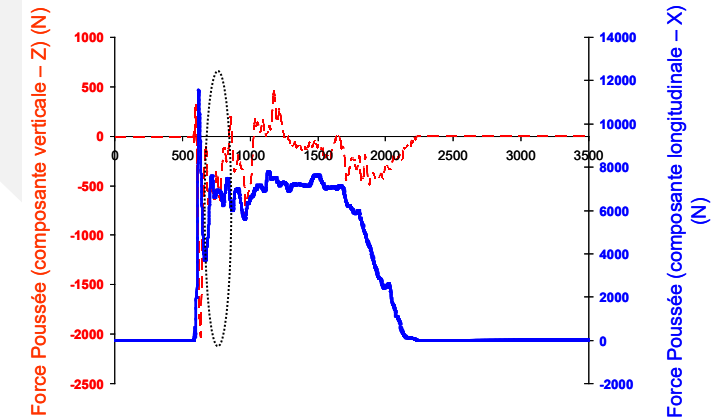
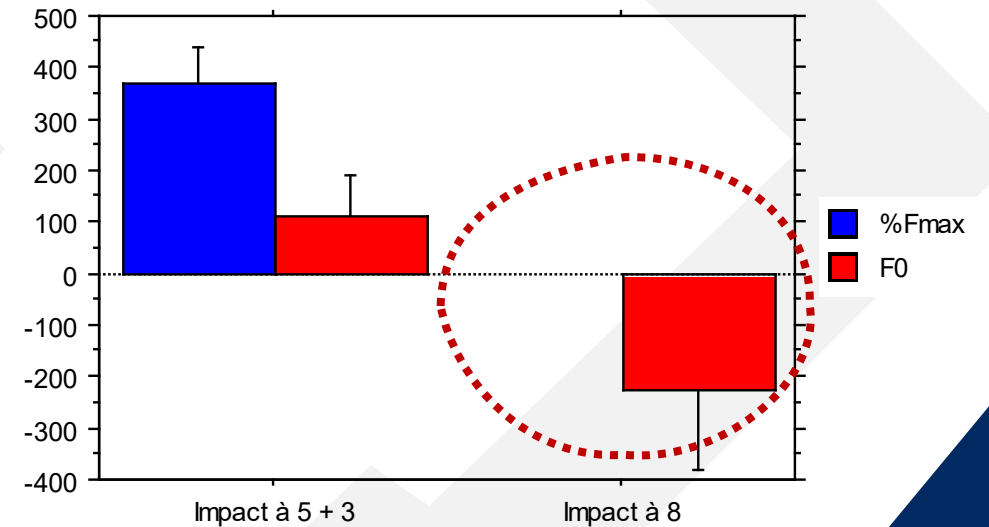
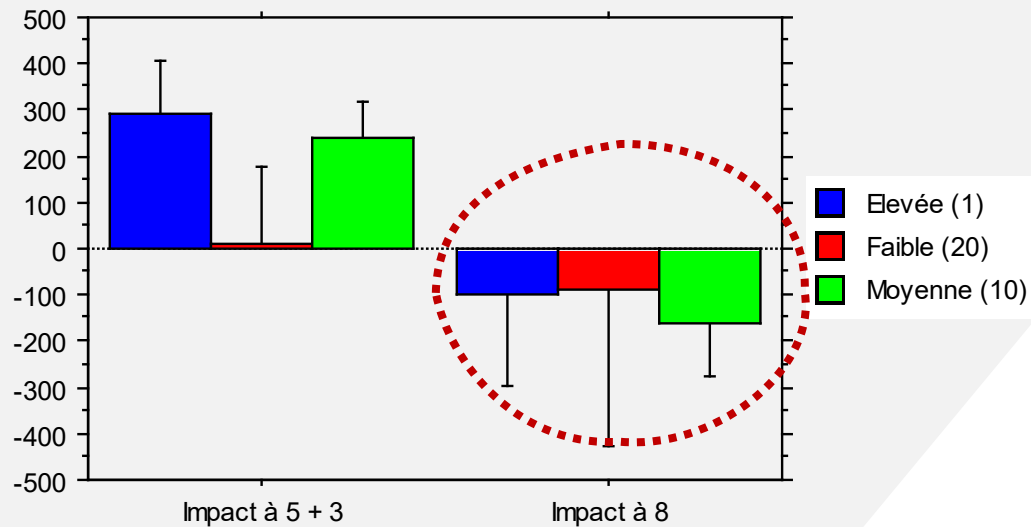




# GAME SAFETY

## Scrum Biomechanics

200ms Post Impact Force (N)  
(vertical Force  $F_z$ )



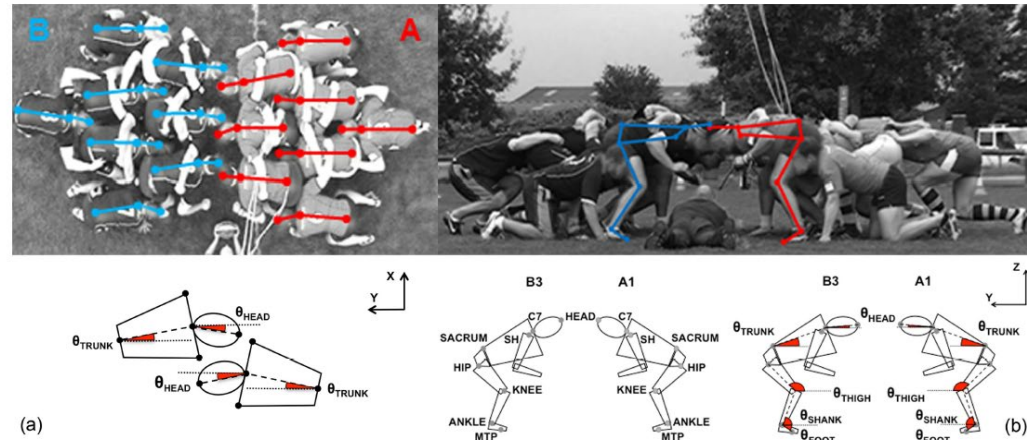
« Type of engagement » Effect  
(8 vs 5+3 vs Placement (No Impact) →  $p < 0.01$   
Vertical Instability Effect →  $p = 0.77$   
Horizontal Force Effect →  $p = 0.11$

# GAME SAFETY

## Scrum Biomechanics

A modified prebind engagement process reduces biomechanical loading on front row players during scrummaging: a cross-sectional study of 11 elite teams

Dario Cazzola,<sup>1</sup> Ezio Preatoni,<sup>1</sup> Keith A Stokes,<sup>1</sup> Michael E England,<sup>1,2</sup> Grant Trewartha<sup>1</sup>



Engagement techniques and playing level impact the biomechanical demands on rugby forwards during machine-based scrummaging

Ezio Preatoni,<sup>1</sup> Keith A Stokes,<sup>1</sup> Michael E England,<sup>1,2</sup> Grant Trewartha<sup>1</sup>

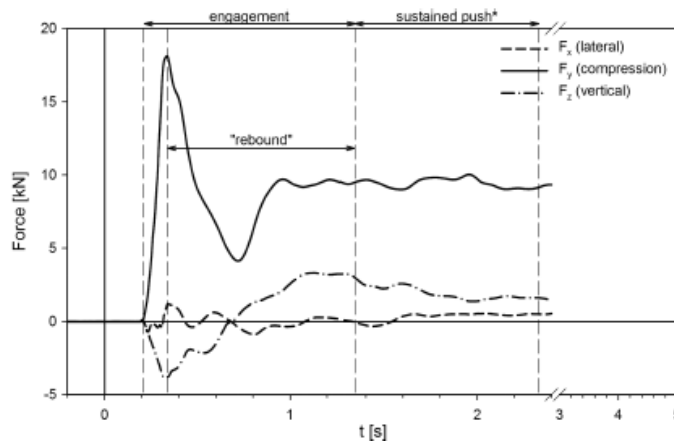


Figure 2 Characteristic force traces typical of those obtained from studies involving one forward pack scrummaging against an instrumented scrum machine, adapted from Preatoni *et al.*<sup>15</sup>

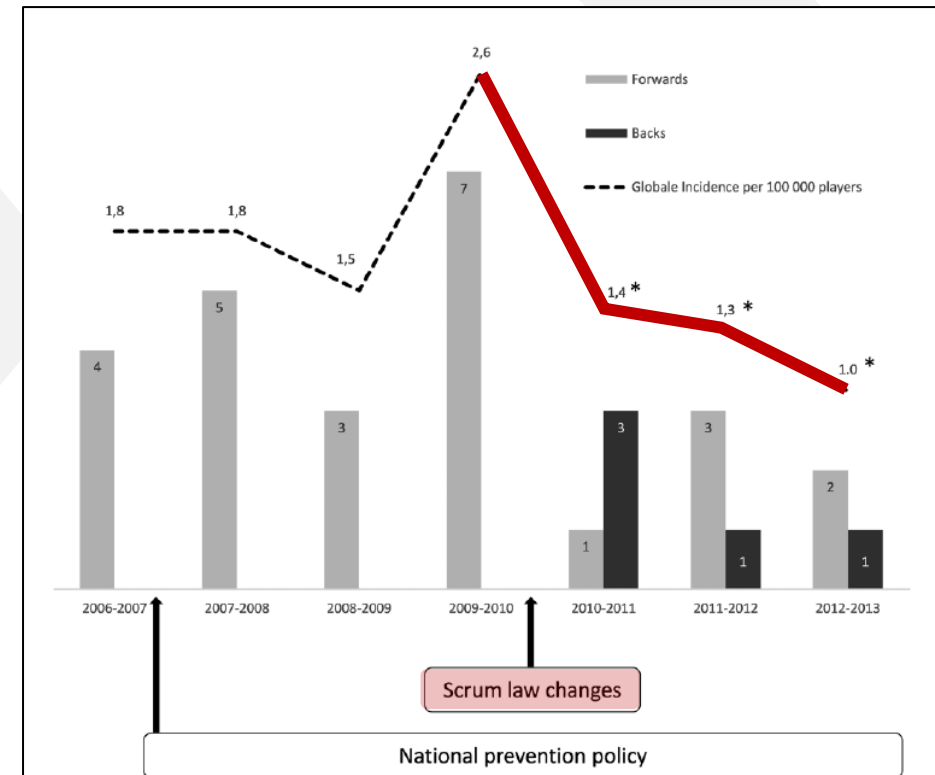
# GAME SAFETY

## Effect of variation of scrum laws in amateur community rugby union (No Impact Engagement, No Scrum resetting)

### Original article

Impact of the national prevention policy and scrum law changes on the incidence of rugby-related catastrophic cervical spine injuries in French Rugby Union

E Reboursiere,<sup>1,2</sup> Y Bohu,<sup>2,3</sup> D Retière,<sup>2</sup> B Sesboüé,<sup>1</sup> V Pineau,<sup>1,4</sup> J P Colonna,<sup>5</sup>  
J P Hager,<sup>2,6</sup> J C Peyrin,<sup>2</sup> J Piscione<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 1** Progression of the number of catastrophic cervical spine injuries among forwards and backs and global incidence of catastrophic cervical spine injuries per 100 000 players from 2006 to 2013.

\*Significant difference.

## Effect of variation of scrum laws in amateur community rugby union (No Impact Engagement, No Scrum Reset)

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Impact of the national prevention policy and scrum law changes on the incidence of rugby-related catastrophic cervical spine injuries in French Rugby Union

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J P Hager,<sup>2,6</sup> J C Peyrin,<sup>2</sup> J Piscione<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2** Comparison of number of catastrophic cervical spine injuries from 2006 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2013 according to playing position, playing activities and age

	2006–2010	2010–2013	Total	p Value*
Backs	0 (0%)	5 (100%)	5†	0.003
Forwards	19 (76%)	6 (24%)	25†	
Scrum	11 (92%)	1 (8%)	12	0.020
Other playing activities	9 (47%)	10 (53%)	19	
Seniors	17 (71%)	7 (29%)	24	0.210
Juniors	3 (43%)	4 (57%)	7	

\*Fisher's exact test on the interaction effect.

†One missing injury for playing position.

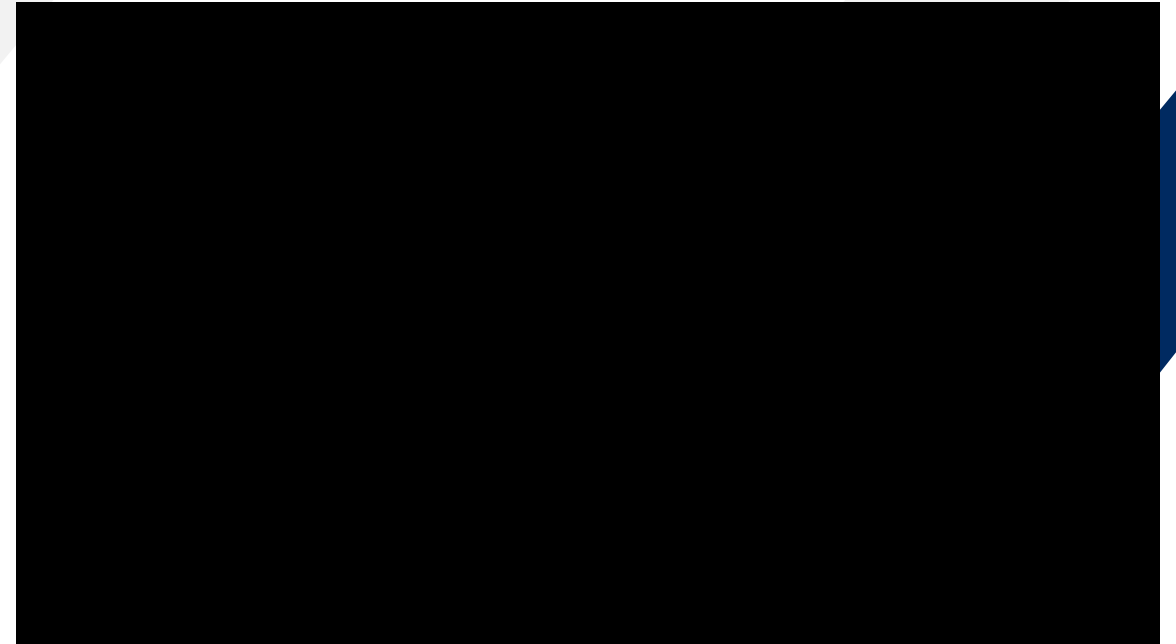


# « XV DE FRANCE » – MEN & WOMEN

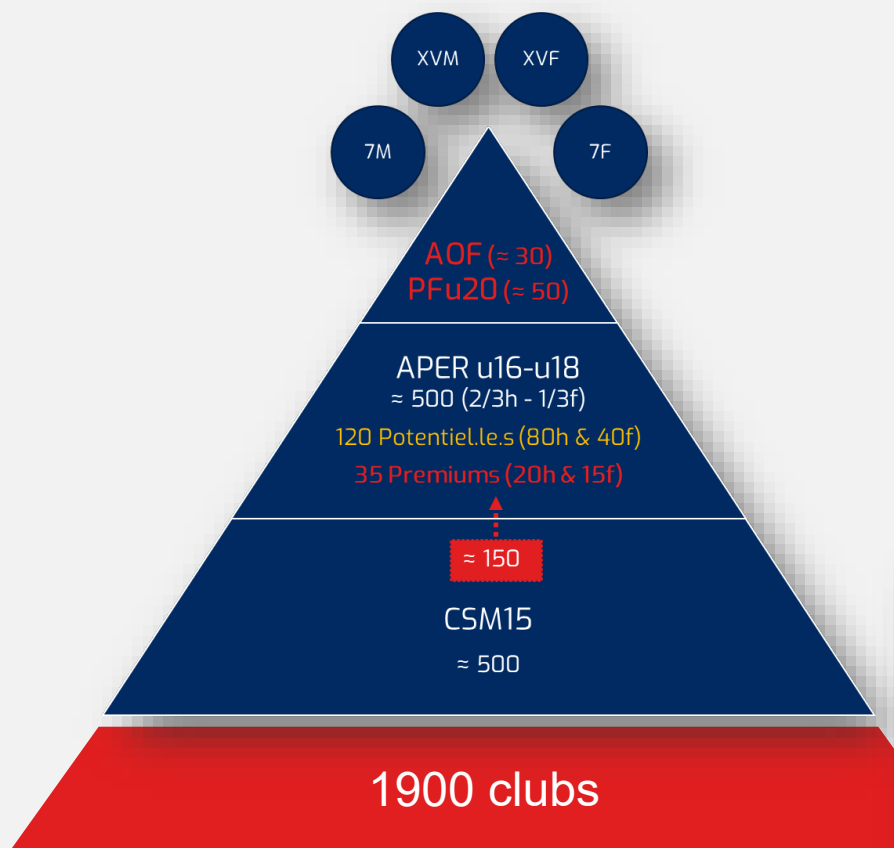




# OLYMPIC RUGBY SEVENS



# YOUTH NATIONAL TEAMS



*14 national youth teams or  
academies*





# SPORT SCIENCE & PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT

## THE REARBASE OF THE NATIONAL TEAMS

1

Support for all national team performance projects:

- **Human Resource provision** (S&C coaches, Perf. Analysts , Sport Scientists, Nutritionnists , Psychologists , Data Scientists, etc.),
- **Access to facilities , equipment , tools & methods ,**
- **Consulting.**

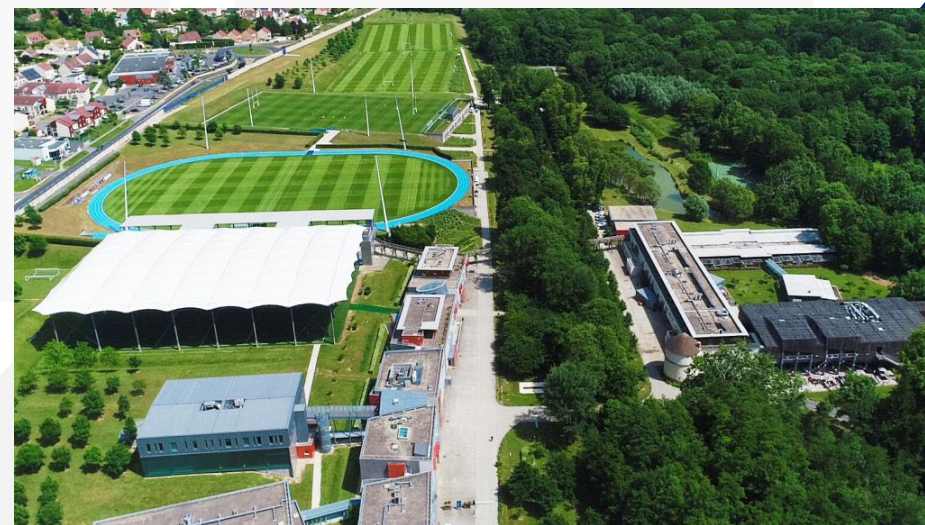
2

Carry out **Research and Development** programs to offer a competitive advantage to national teams or increase in player safety and welfare

3

Ensure **scientific and technological dissemination** as well as skills transfer to elite rugby and participate in the implementation of **professional education** .

National Rugby Centre  
(Marcoussis, 24km from Paris)



# SPORT SCIENCE & PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT

## THE REARBASE OF THE NATIONAL TEAMS



### VIDEO Unit

O.Nouailles



### PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

V.Krischer Responsable Analyse Performance  
 N.Buffa / E.Urdampilleta / Q.Labit (XV France)  
 V.Péducasse (XV Féminin)  
 JB.Pascal (France 7)  
 (Germain Igarza) Entraîneur National Adjoint 7F /  
 B.Dedenis (France 7 Féminin)

+ 6 -7 External Experts



### STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

T.Giroud / N.Jeanjean / E.Plaza / Q.Bernard (XV France)  
 A.Saboua / T. Debon (XV Féminin)  
 G.Boissard (France U20)  
 R.Ladauge (France U18 & APER)  
 J.Robineau (France 7)  
 M.Brick / A.Saboua (France 7 Féminin)

+ 4-5 External Experts



### NUTRITION & RECOVERY Unit

E.Tiollier (INSEP)  
 F.Mullie (PhD student)  
 M.Fabre  
 A.Aloulou

### SPORT SCIENCE & PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT



### TRAINING & EDUCATION Department

S&C

Perf Analysis  
 Psychology support for Coaching



### PSYCHOLOGY & STAFF SUPPORT

JM Bederede  
 M.Campo (Burgundy University)  
 Roberta Antonini Philippe

+ 3-4 External Experts



### SPORT SCIENCE R&D

O.Chaplain (Chef de Projet R&D)  
 Q.Rinaldi (XV France)  
 B.Mathieu (France U20)  
 A.Peeters (France U18 & APER)  
 N.Lopez (France 7)

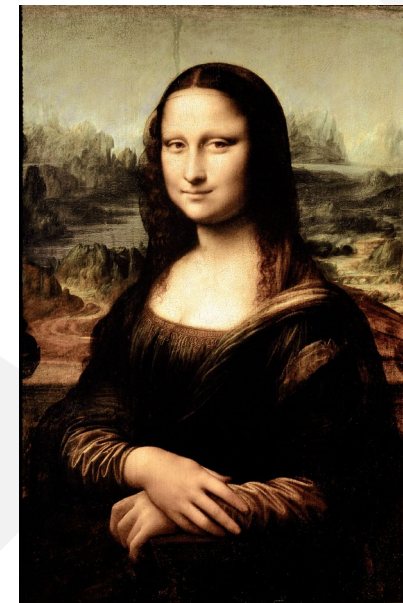
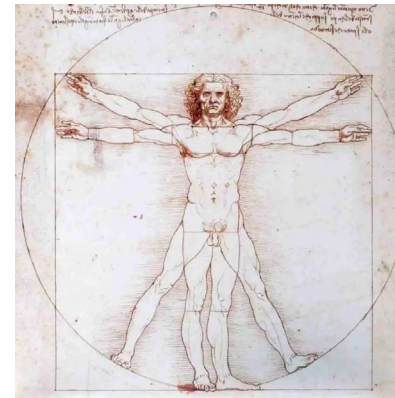
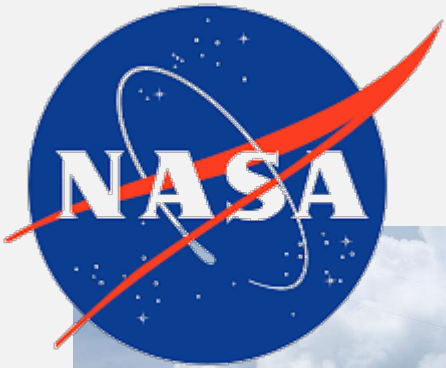
+ 5-6 External Experts



### DATA Unit

J.Cheradame  
 N.Pinczon Du Sel (PhD Student)

# A SPORT PERFORMANCE: A WORK OF ART





# HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT : ARTISANAL KNOW-HOW

..SKILLED ARTISANS WHO THINK THROUGH AND WITH THEIR “MATERIALS”...



# HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT : ARTISANAL KNOW-HOW

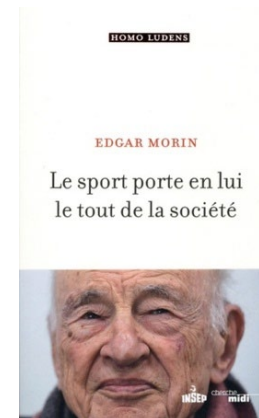
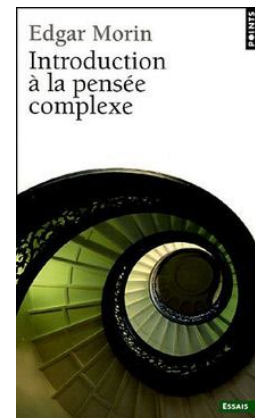
..SKILLED ARTISANS WHO THINK THROUGH AND WITH THEIR “MATERIALS”...

“

La vie est une navigation  
dans un océan d'incertitudes  
à travers des archipels de  
certitudes. ”

*Sport Performance*

*“~~life~~ is a navigation on a  
sea of **uncertainties**  
dotted with **islands of**  
**certainties** ”*





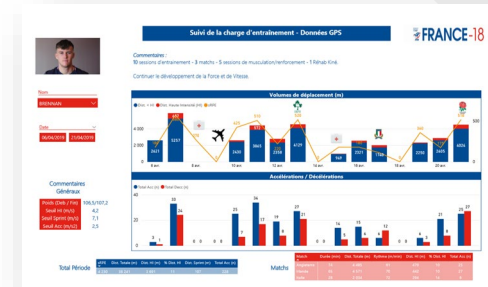
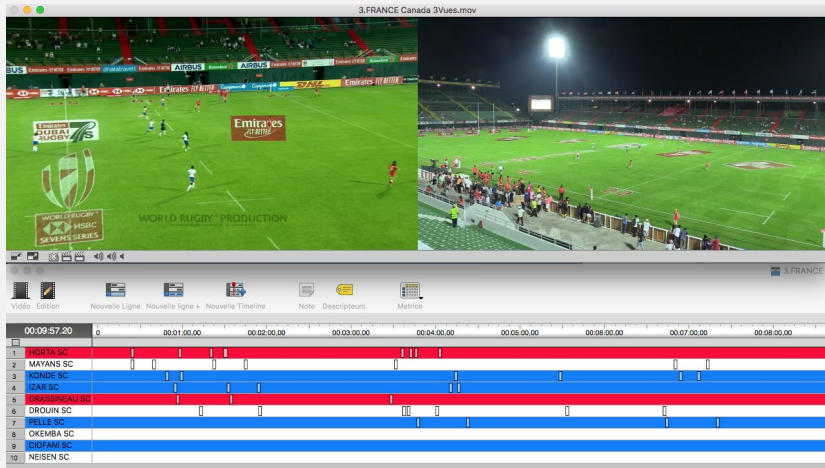
# HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT : ARTISANAL KNOW-HOW

..SKILLED ARTISANS WHO THINK THROUGH AND WITH THEIR “MATERIALS”...



# HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT : ARTISANAL KNOW-HOW

..SKILLED ARTISANS WHO THINK THROUGH AND WITH THEIR “MATERIALS”...



Sports Data Providers



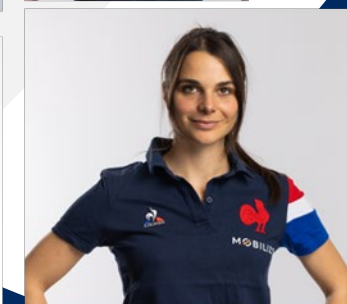
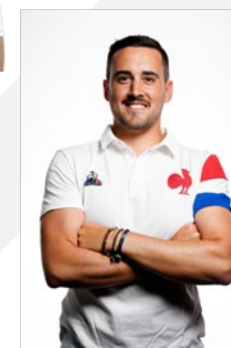
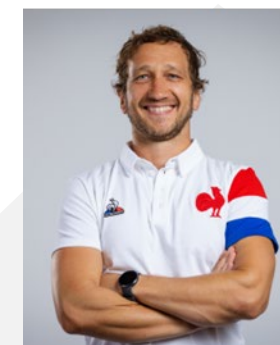
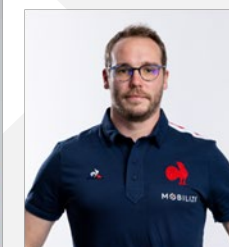
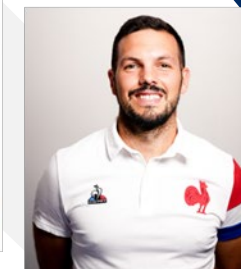
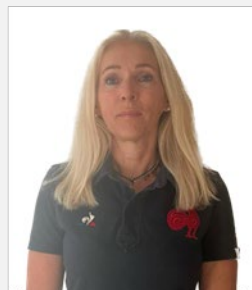


# EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE...OUR DNA

Researchers, PhD, PhD Students, Engineer



*XV de France*



*Other National Teams*



# CONTACT LOAD IN ELITE RUGBY

## HEAD ACCELERATION EVENT (HAE)



“Extreme” thresholds (99<sup>th</sup> Percentile)

PLA > 44g

PAA > 3500 radian/s<sup>2</sup>

PLV > 2,5 m/s

PAV 22 radian/s

7



Variable	Value
Peak Linear Acceleration	52 g
Peak Angular Acceleration	4700 rad/s <sup>2</sup>
Peak Linear Velocity	1,8 m/s
Peak Angular Velocity	13,7 rad/s



7



Variable	Value
Peak Linear Acceleration	21 g
Peak Angular Acceleration	3800 rad/s <sup>2</sup>
Peak Linear Velocity	0,6 m/s
Peak Angular Velocity	23,2 rad/s

8



Variable	Value
Peak Linear Acceleration	83 g
Peak Angular Acceleration	5300 rad/s <sup>2</sup>
Peak Linear Velocity	3,1 m/s
Peak Angular Velocity	38,6 rad/s



21



Variable	Value
Peak Linear Acceleration	89 g
Peak Angular Acceleration	6400 rad/s <sup>2</sup>
Peak Linear Velocity	4,4 m/s
Peak Angular Velocity	37,2 rad/s

# CONTACT LOAD IN ELITE RUGBY

## HEAD ACCELERATION EVENT (HAE)

### Critical Thresholds

PLA > 44 g  
PAA > 3500 radian/s<sup>2</sup>  
PLV > 2,5 m/s  
PAV > 22 radian/s

Equipe

U20

Saison

Tout

Periode

T6N

### Critical HAE

Nom	Date	Local Time	PLA	PAA	PLV	PAV
B	28/01/2023	15:10:31	52,7	2679	3,5	10,9
B	28/01/2023	15:10:32	69,9	3862	2,5	14,0
B	28/01/2023	15:19:22	13,0	1269	1,3	27,5
C	03/02/2023	21:06:31	49,3	2140	3,1	8,7
C	27/01/2023	17:38:55	35,9	5301	1,9	20,8
C	28/01/2023	16:05:43	37,0	1697	2,8	13,2
C	03/02/2023	21:15:52	48,0	1158	2,6	15,6
C	20/02/2023	17:06:08	21,4	1400	2,3	22,0
C	20/02/2023	17:18:29	22,7	3674	1,4	19,4
C	20/02/2023	17:26:22	47,1	2291	3,1	21,1
C	03/02/2023	21:17:50	27,4	1402	2,7	7,9
C	03/02/2023	21:23:20	36,1	2736	2,8	12,4
C	20/02/2023	17:10:43	45,2	3229	2,3	11,8
C	20/02/2023	17:15:05	49,0	2223	3,4	9,7
D	28/01/2023	15:04:00	29,7	3560	1,5	13,4
D	28/01/2023	15:06:21	22,9	2533	2,1	28,5
F	28/01/2023	14:59:10	12,2	555	1,4	22,2
F	28/01/2023	14:59:29	16,7	1488	1,9	38,0
G	30/01/2023	16:45:21	50,4	2552	1,7	14,1
G	31/01/2023	12:22:45	40,0	1716	2,9	15,2
G	06/02/2023	11:23:38	38,7	1421	2,6	4,8
J	28/01/2023	15:13:05	40,2	679	2,8	7,7
J	28/01/2023	15:45:50	21,7	3503	0,7	7,1
J	03/02/2023	20:12:37	47,3	2077	2,6	8,3
L	06/02/2023	11:05:22	45,3	3534	1,4	7,9
L	06/02/2023	11:40:57	46,4	3774	1,6	13,1
M	03/02/2023	21:08:01	43,7	4127	1,0	14,8

# CONTACT LOAD IN ELITE RUGBY

## HEAD ACCELERATION EVENT (HAE)

### CRITICAL VS NON CRITICAL HAE

Situation	Non Critical HAE	Critical HAE
Tackler	34 %	52,5 %
Carrier	13 %	25 %
Maul	23 %	12,5 %
Ruck	27 %	7,5 %
Collision (without ballon)	1 %	2,5 %
Line out	1 %	0 %
Scrum	1 %	0 %
Total	100 %	100%

Studied on Critical HAE in T6N23 matches, and on a sample of Non -Critical control HAE with the same Forwards/Backs distribution.

# NECK INJURY & CONCUSSION PREVENTION

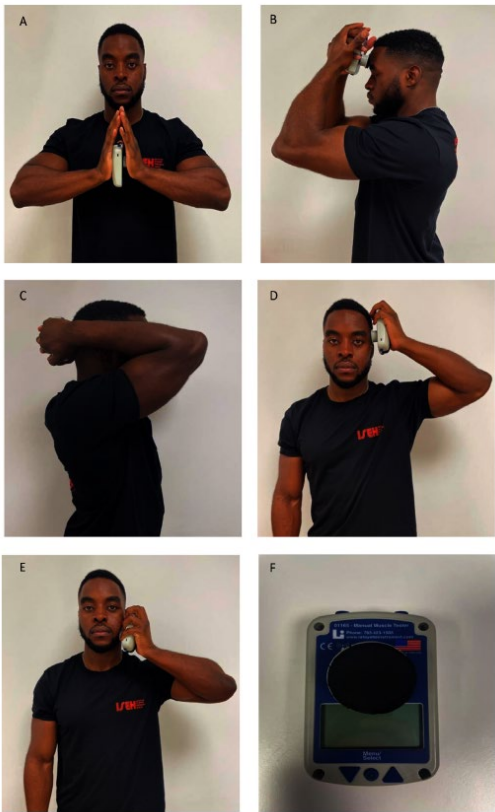


Figure 1 Test positions: HADD test (A), forward flexion (B), extension (C), side flexion (D), rotation (E) and handheld dynamometer (F). HADD, horizontal adduction.

## Poor isometric neck extension strength as a risk factor for concussion in male professional Rugby Union players

Theo Farley<sup>1,2</sup>, Ed Barry,<sup>3</sup> Richard Sylvester,<sup>2,4</sup> Akbar De Medici,<sup>2</sup> Mathew G Wilson<sup>1,2</sup>

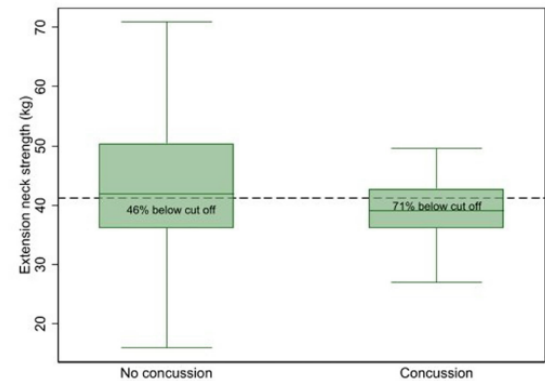


Figure 2 Box plot for neck strength—extension (kgf): Dashed line shows optimal cut-off point for concussion discrimination.

Players most at risk  
Extension Force  $\leq$  41 Kg

Table 3 Geometric mean baseline neck strength by concussion				
Range	Players without concussion N=196	Players with concussion N=29	IRR* (95% CI) univariate	IRR† (95% CI) adjusted
Right rotation	24.6 (1.3)	24.7 (1.3)	1.00 (0.87 to 1.14) p=0.997	1.02 (0.87 to 1.20) p=0.77
Left rotation	25.2 (1.3)	25.0 (1.3)	1.01 (0.89 to 1.15) p=0.89	1.03 (0.94 to 1.12) p=0.55
Extension	42.5 (1.3)	38.2 (1.2)	0.87 (0.75 to 1.00) p=0.044	0.87 (0.78 to 0.98) p=0.019
Flexion	21.5 (1.3)	20.6 (1.3)	0.92 (0.79 to 1.06) p=0.23	0.94 (0.77 to 1.14) p=0.53
Right flexion	24.6 (1.3)	23.0 (1.2)	0.90 (0.78 to 1.04) p=0.14	0.91 (0.79 to 1.05) p=0.22
Left flexion	25.0 (1.3)	23.5 (1.2)	0.90 (0.78 to 1.04) p=0.16	0.92 (0.77 to 1.10) p=0.37
Total	174.7 (1.2)	166.0 (1.2)	0.92 (0.79 to 1.08) p=0.32	0.94 (0.80 to 1.12) p=0.50
Flexion:extension	0.74 (1.2)	0.78 (1.2)	1.13 (0.93 to 1.38) p=0.23	1.13 (0.97 to 1.33) p=0.13

\*Incidence rate ratio for a 10% increase in each variable.

†Adjusted for age, club, BMI.

BMI, body mass index.

13% lower risk of sustaining a  
concussion for every 10%  
increase in cervical extension  
force



# NECK INJURY & CONCUSSION PREVENTION



# NECK INJURY & CONCUSSION PREVENTION



Handheld dynamometer made available to all Elite clubs

### PROTOCOLE D'ÉVALUATION CERVICALE

Michel MAERTEN, Romain FAURE, Lionel LABADIE, Cédric CASSOU, Fabien SIMON, Jacques GIRARDIN et Julien PISCIONE.

#### ECHAUFFEMENT

- Mouvement de tête en flexion/extension : 10 fois
- Mouvement de tête inclinaison droite puis gauche : 10 fois
- Mouvement de rotation de tête à droite puis gauche : 10 fois
- Contraction isométrique en flexion, extension, inclinaison droite puis gauche : 3 tours à 50, 75 et 90% de la force max.

#### PROCÉDURE

- Joueur assis sur un support stable
- La tête et le dos bien droits
- La sangle passe juste sous les aisselles
- Les pieds sont au sol
- Les mains sur les cuisses sans y prendre appui
- 3 contractions maximales tenues pendant 3 secondes
- 30 secondes de repos entre chaque contraction
- 1 minute de repos entre chaque mouvement testé

#### PROTOCOLE 1



#### QUELQUES RÈGLES :

- Le dos et la tête doivent rester alignés durant le test
- Bien surveiller les compensations (mains, pieds...)
- La sangle doit toujours être à la même hauteur
- Seule la meilleure valeur des 3 mesures est retenue



## « Acceptable » Performance U22 Men

	Front Row	Other Forwards	Backs
Extension (kgf)	45	40	35
Flexion (kgf)	30	26	23

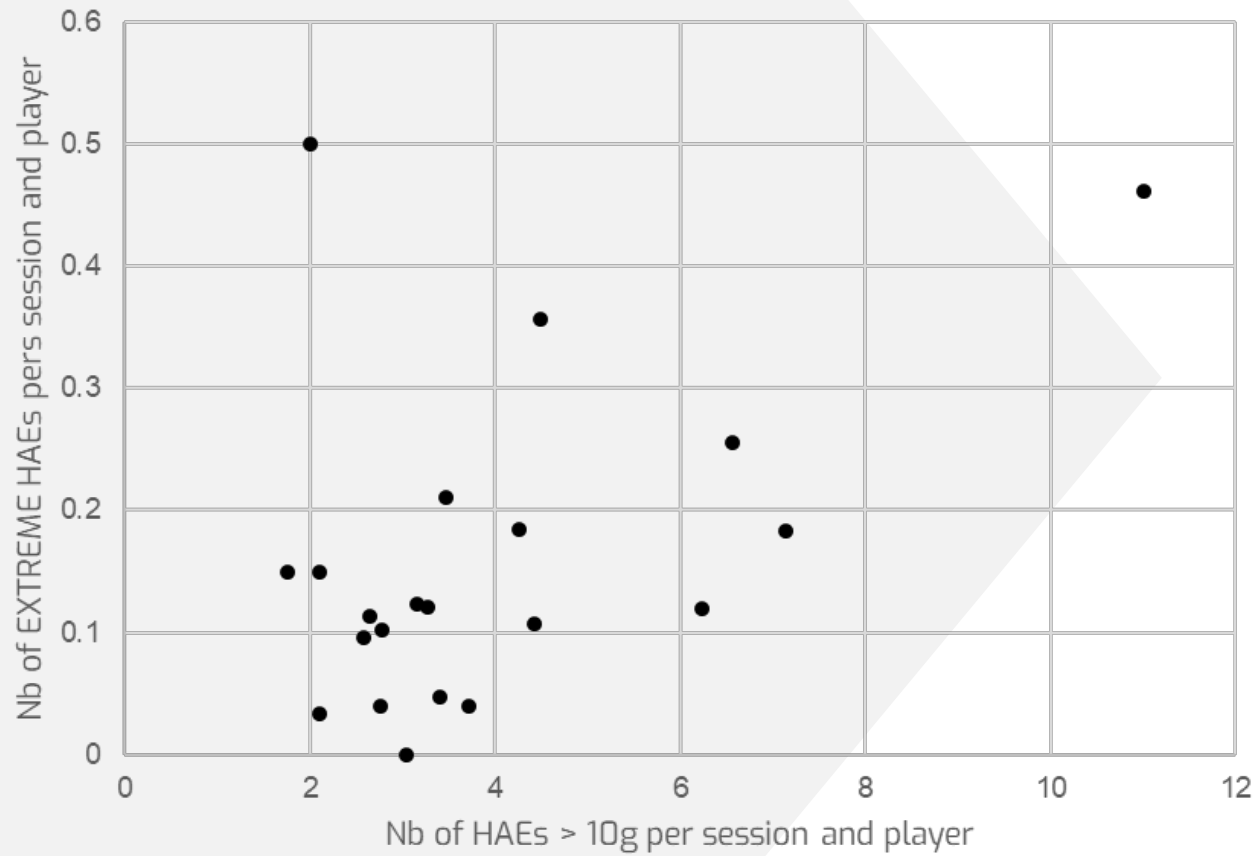
## « Acceptable » Performance U18 Men

	1 <sup>ère</sup> Ligne	AVT	TQ
Extension (kgf)	38	34	30
Flexion (kgf)	24	21	19

## « Acceptable » Performance U18 Women

	1 <sup>ère</sup> Ligne	AVT	TQ
Extension (kgf)	30	26	23
Flexion (kgf)	20	17	15

# INTERNATIONAL FEMALE PLAYERS HAE EXPOSURE

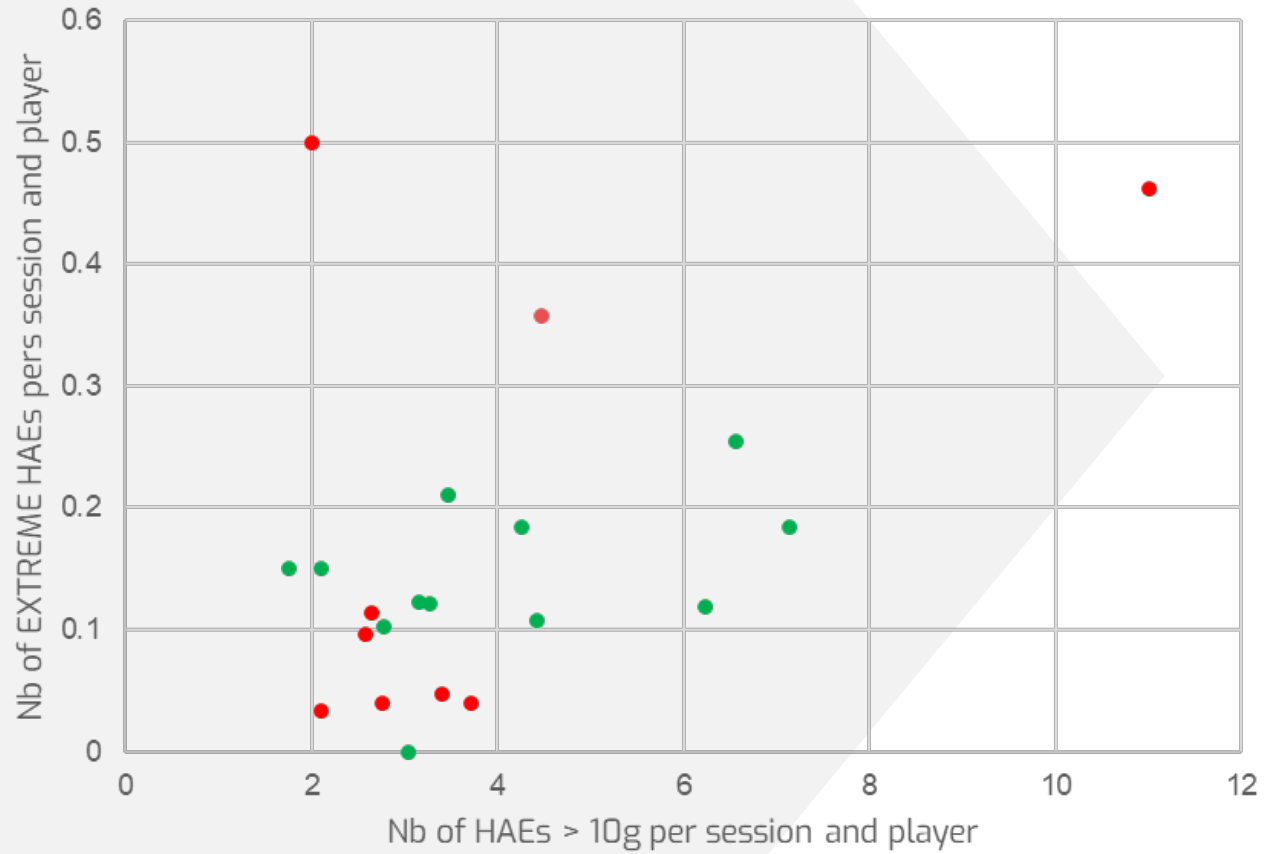


A HAE is labelled « EXTREME » if:

- PLA > 44 g, or
- PAA > 3500 rad/s<sup>2</sup>, or
- PLV > 2,2 m/s, or
- PAV > 25 rad/s



# INTERNATIONAL FEMALE PLAYERS HAE EXPOSURE



## Legend

Player is plotted red if tested below one of these thresholds (1st quartile)

	FLEX	EXT
Forward	14,4 kg	21,3 kg
Back	10,9 kg	17,1 kg

# PLAYER LOAD GUIDELINES

## LIMITATION TO 30 MATCHES / SEASON ?

Original research

The influence of match exposure on injury risk in elite men's rugby union

Sean Williams<sup>a,\*</sup>, Ella Kay<sup>a</sup>, Richard Bryan<sup>b</sup>, Mark Lambert<sup>b</sup>, Matthew Cross<sup>c</sup>, Stephen W. West<sup>d,e</sup>, Simon Kemp<sup>f,g</sup>, Keith A. Stokes<sup>a,f</sup>

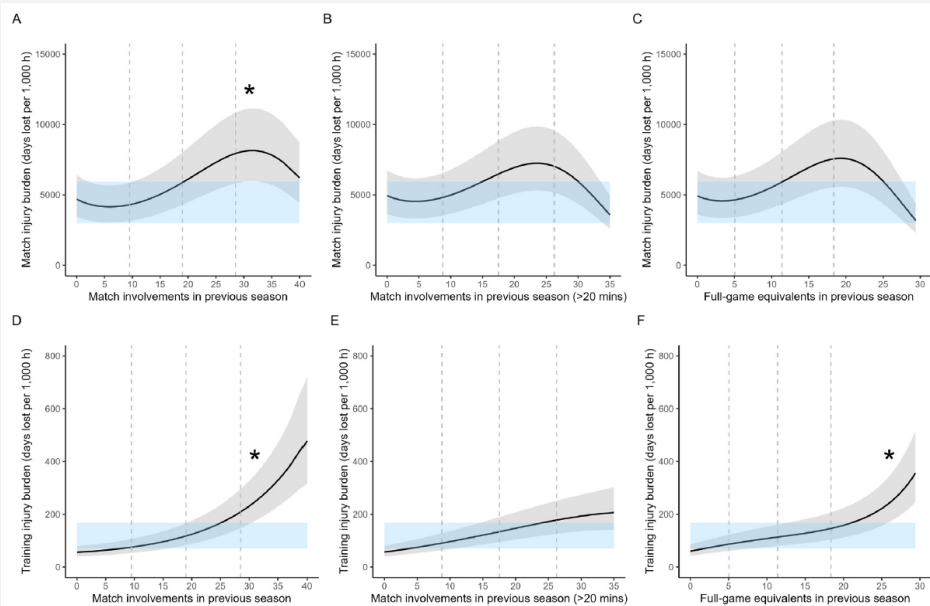
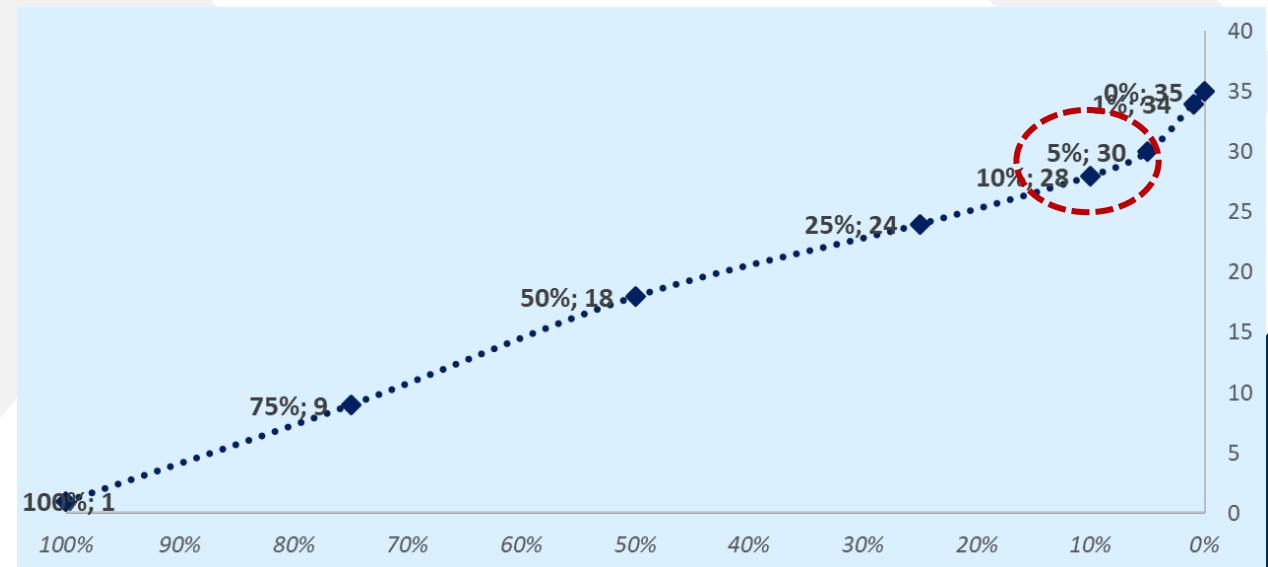


Fig. 3. Influence of match loads undertaken in the previous season upon match (A-C) and training (D-F) injury burden rates in the current season. The blue and grey shaded regions show the 95% confidence limits for the baseline injury risk and effect estimate, respectively. The dashed vertical lines represent the lower, median, and upper quartiles for each match load measure. \* indicates a meaningful difference in injury risk.

### Total Matches played by Top14 Players



Top 14 Player Proportion

# PLAYER LOAD GUIDELINES

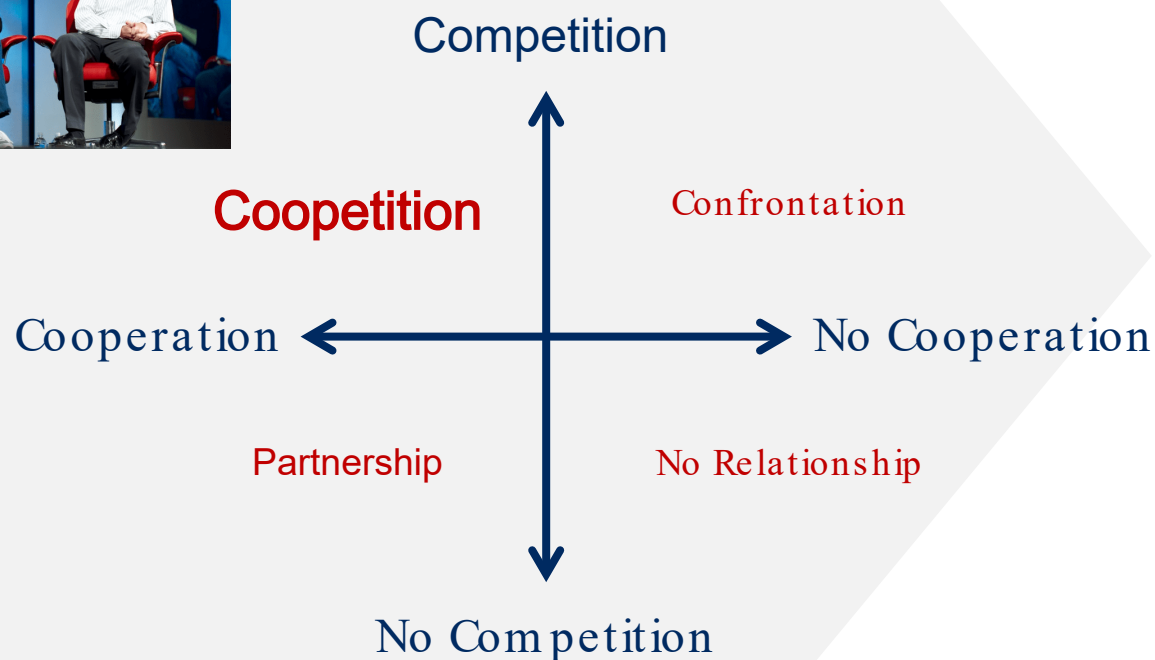
DO WE NEED “STRICT” OR “SMART” MATCH NUMBER REGULATION ?



Full Name	Position	Team(s)	Tot Minute	Tot Games Playe	Total Contacts
Brian Alainu'uese	Lock	RC Toulon	2304	35	980
Alexandre Roumat	Flanker	Stade Toulousain	2162	35	926
Finn Russell	Outside Half	Racing 92	2388	35	473
Gregory Alldritt	Number 8	Stade Rochelais	2314	34	1300
Richie Arnold	Lock	Stade Toulousain	1943	34	997
Dany Priso	Prop	RC Toulon	1455	34	638
Uini Atonio	Prop	Stade Rochelais	1589	34	634
Antoine Gibert	Outside Half	Racing 92	1280	34	213
Reda Wardi	Prop	Stade Rochelais	1492	33	835
Peato Mauvaka	Hooker	Stade Toulousain	1367	33	674
Ultan Dillane	Lock	Stade Rochelais	1545	33	635
Jiuta Wainiqolo	Right Wing	RC Toulon	2417	33	576
Setariki Tuicuvu	Full Back	CA Brive	2431	33	575
Anthony Belleau	Outside Half	ASM Clermont Auvergne	1528	33	339
Will Skelton	Lock	Stade Rochelais	2004	32	1131
Romain Sazy	Lock	Stade Rochelais	1383	32	802
Dorian Aldegheri	Prop	Stade Toulousain	1654	32	763
Janick Tarrit	Hooker	Racing 92	1374	32	744
Quentin Lespiaucq	Hooker	Stade Rochelais	1210	32	672
Ulupano Seuteni	Left Centre	Stade Rochelais	2235	32	543
Julien Marchand	Hooker	Stade Toulousain	1581	31	1067
Emmanuel Meafou	Lock	Stade Toulousain	1939	31	872
Beka Gigashvili	Prop	RC Toulon	1569	31	786
Maxime Lamothe	Hooker	Union Bordeaux-Begles	1519	31	770
Yoram Moefana	Left Centre	Union Bordeaux-Begles	2145	31	658
Baptiste Chouzenoux	Flanker	Racing 92	1833	31	648
Antoine Dupont	Scrum Half	Stade Toulousain	2206	31	545
Matthis Lebel	Left Wing	Stade Toulousain	2323	31	455
Antoine Hastoy	Outside Half	Stade Rochelais	2157	31	323
Leo Barre	Left Centre	Stade Francais Paris	1694	31	292
Ihaia West	Outside Half	RC Toulon	1805	31	265
Sebastien Bezy	Scrum Half	ASM Clermont Auvergne	1496	31	261



# SHARED (UNION - CLUBS) MONITORING SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONAL RUGBY PLAYERS



**Coopetition: cooperation among competitors to enhance applied research and drive innovation in elite sport**

Carlos Ramírez-López <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Kevin Till, <sup>1,4</sup> Andy Boyd, <sup>5</sup> Mark Bennet, <sup>6,7</sup> Julien Piscione, <sup>8</sup> Sam Bradley, <sup>9,10</sup> Pierosario Giuliano, <sup>11</sup> Cedric Leduc, <sup>1</sup> Ben Jones <sup>1,2,4,12,13</sup>

“Within coopetition, organisations can **compete** due to conflicting interests, and at the same time, **cooperate** due to a common interest in developing specific knowledge”

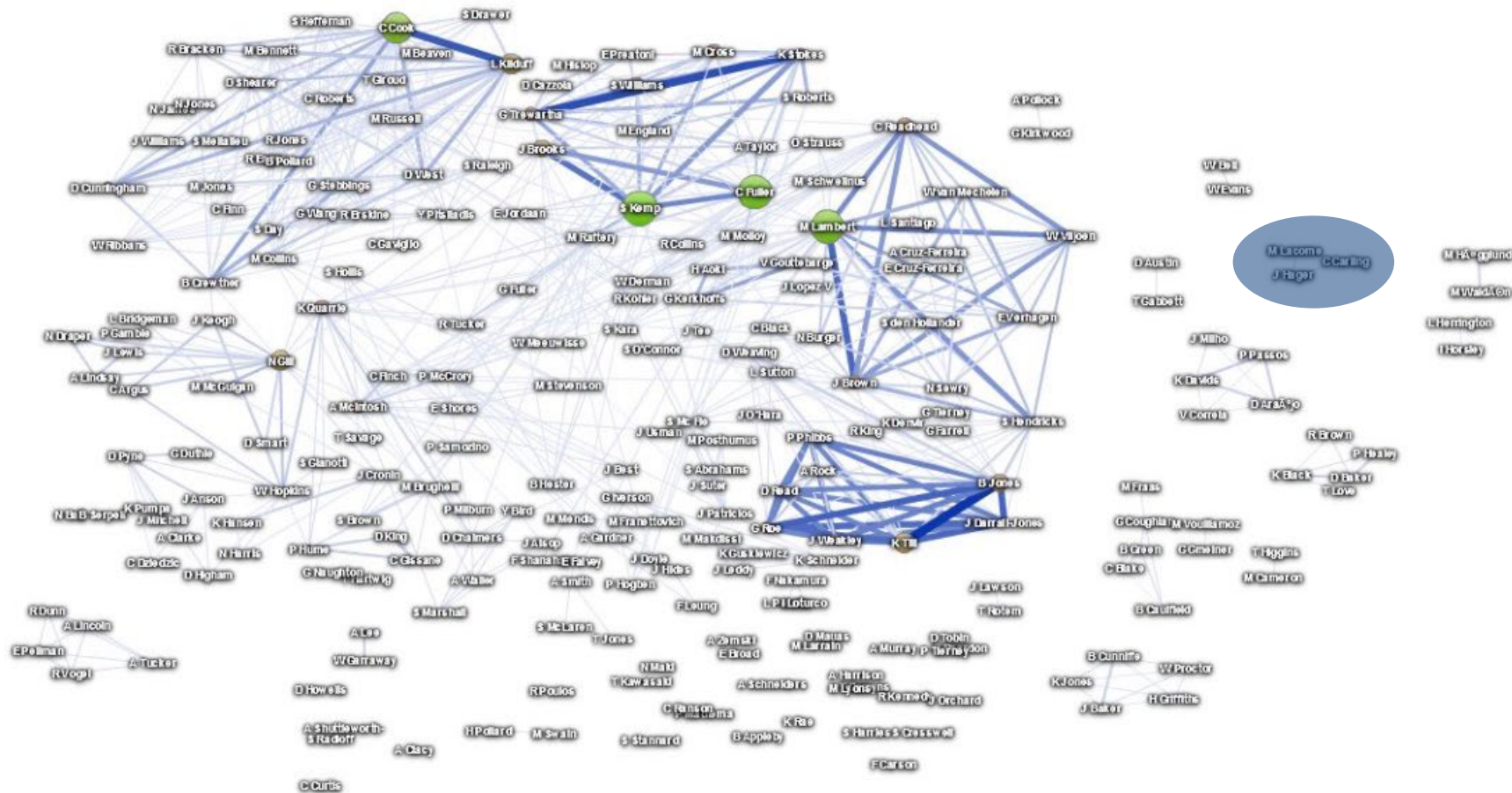
# SHARED (UNION - CLUBS) MONITORING SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONAL RUGBY PLAYERS



 ASM CLERMONT AUVERGNE	 AVIRON BAYONNAIS RUGBY PRO	 CLUB ATHLÉTIQUE BRIVE CORRÈZE LIMOUSIN	 CASTRES OLYMPIQUE	 LYON OLYMPIQUE UNIVERSITAIRE RUGBY	 ASSOCIATION SPORTIVE BÉZIERS HÉRAULT	 BIARRITZ OLYMPIQUE PAYS BASQUE	 US COLONNIERS RUGBY PRO	 F.C. GRENoble RUGBY	 OYONNAX RUGBY
 MONTPELLIER HÉRAULT RUGBY	 RACING 92	 RUGBY CLUB TOULONNAIS	 SECTION PALOISE BÉARN PYRÉNÉES	 STADE FRANÇAIS PARIS	 PROVENCE RUGBY SASP	 RUGBY CLUB VANNES	 ROUEN NORMANDIE RUGBY	 SA XV CHARENTE RUGBY	 STADE AURILLACOIS CANTAL AUVERGNE
 STADE ROCHELAIS	 STADE TOULOUSAIN RUGBY	 SPORTING UNION AGEN LOT-ET- GARONNE	 UNION BORDEAUX- BÈGLES	 STADE MONTOIS RUGBY	 UNION SPORTIVE CARCASSONNAISE	 UNION SPORTIVE MONTALBANAISE	 UNION SPORTIVE ARLEQUINS PERPIGNAN	 SASP USON RUGBY PLUS	 VALENCE ROMANS DRÔME RUGBY

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY

PubMed Rugby Union publication networks 1990 -2018 – pubs  $\geq 3$ , co-pubs  $\geq 2$



# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY




La Fédération Compétitions Billetterie Boutique Entraîneurs Côté dirigeants France 2023 Les ligues **XV DE FRANCE MASCULIN** Destins Mêlés – Saison 5 : Le Tournoi des Six Nations 2023 Connexion / inscription

Actualités FFR Équipes de France Jouer au rugby Être acteur Événements FFR TV Contact

ACCUEIL > ACTUALITES > AU COEUR DU JEU > CELLULE D'ACCOMPAGNEMENT DE LA PERFORMANCE : TROIS DOCTEURS EN MARCHÉ !

**AU COEUR DU JEU** 01/02/2023

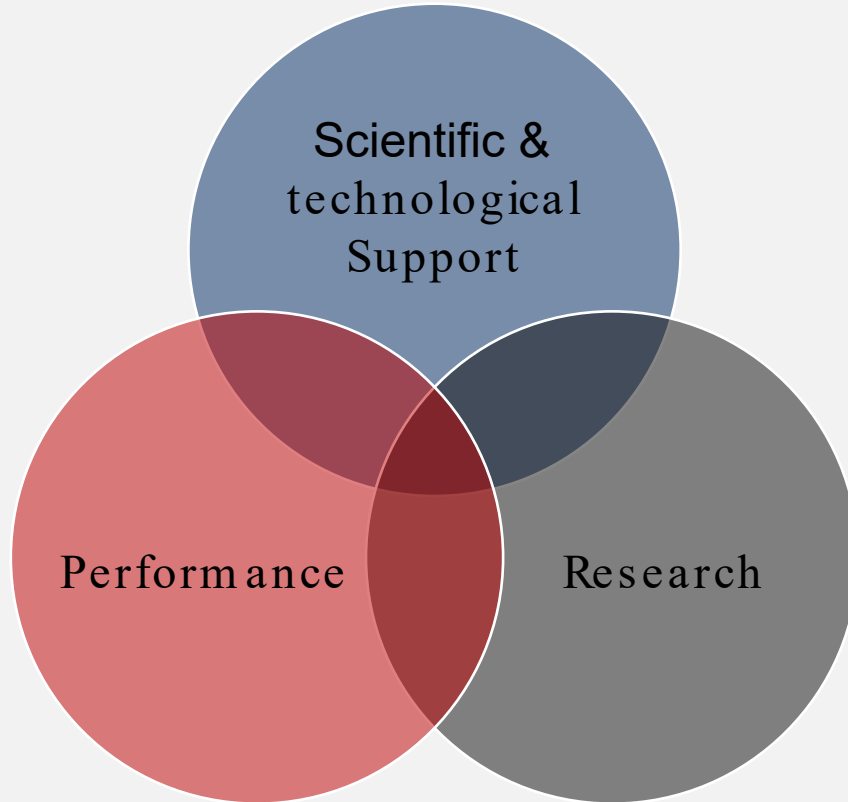
## Three new PhDs in 2023 for France Rugby !



De gauche à droite, Bertrand Mathieu, Alexis Peeters et Jérémy Cheradame



# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY



PhD or PhD student  
at France Rugby  
 $\approx$  R&D Engineer

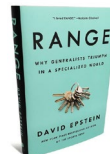
## Industrial Research Training Contract

(created to promote integration of PhDs into private sector)  
Contract between a company (employer), a PhD student (employee) & a laboratory

Public funding  $\rightarrow$  Net Cost for employer  
 $\approx$  10 k€ / year

## Research Tax Credit

**30%** tax credit for any research expense  
**40%** tax credit for any public research institute  
**200%** tax credit for the first employment contract  
(of indefinite duration) of a PhD



POLYMATH

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY

60+ PUBLICATIONS



## Incidence and Risk Factors in Concussion Events

### A 5-Season Study in the French Top 14 Rugby Union Championship

Jérémy Chéradame,<sup>\*,†</sup> MS, Julien Piscione,<sup>†</sup> PhD, Christopher Carling,<sup>†</sup> PhD, Jean-Pierre Guinoiseau,<sup>†</sup> MD, Bernard Dufour,<sup>§</sup> MD, Hélène Jacqmin-Gadda,<sup>||</sup> PhD,

French Rugby Federation, Marcoussis, France

Impact of the national prevention policy and scrum law changes on the incidence of rugby-related catastrophic cervical spine injuries in French Rugby Union

E Reboursiere,<sup>1,2</sup> Y Bohu,<sup>2,3</sup> D Retière,<sup>2</sup> B Sesboué,<sup>1</sup> V Pineau,<sup>1,4</sup> J P Colonna,<sup>5</sup> J P Hager,<sup>2,6</sup> J C Peyrin,<sup>2</sup> J Piscione<sup>2</sup>

Inconsistent anticipatory postural adjustments (APAs) in rugby players: a source of injuries?

Sports related injuries in female rugby athletes: An epidemiological study of the French Rugby Union

A. Calcar,<sup>¶</sup> J.-P. Hager,<sup>¶</sup> R. Delaitre,<sup>¶</sup> J. Deloire,<sup>¶</sup> R. Loursac,<sup>¶</sup>

## What Is the Impact of Physical Effort on the Diagnosis of Concussion?

Xavier Dechambre, MD,\* Christopher Carling, PhD,† Ségolène Mrozek, MD, PhD,‡ Fabien Pillard, MD, PhD,§ Philippe Decq, MD, PhD,¶ Julien Piscione, PhD,|| Antoine Yrondi, MD, PhD,\*\* and David Brauge, MD††

## Rugby Injury & Prevention

## Physical & Technical Demands (U18, U20, Sevens, Women)

### Workload, Fatigue, and Muscle Damage in an Under-20 Rugby Union Team Over an Intensified International Tournament

Mathieu Lacome, Christopher Carling, Jean-Philippe Hager, Gerard Dine, and Julien P

Evolution of the physical characteristics of the French women's rugby players: A 10-year longitudinal analysis by position and team

Sébastien Imbert<sup>†</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>†</sup>, Anthony Couderc<sup>†</sup>, Hélène Jonchery<sup>†</sup> and Frédéric N. Daussin<sup>†</sup>

## Recovery & Nutrition

## Training - S&C



nutrients



Article

Effects of Native Whey Protein and Carbohydrate Supplement on Physical Performance and Plasma Markers of Muscle Damage and Inflammation during a Simulated Rugby Sevens Tournament: A Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Study

Marina Fabre <sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Bertrand Mathieu <sup>1,2</sup>, Julien Robineau <sup>2</sup>, Julien Amandine Ligneul <sup>6</sup> and

## Effect of an Innovative Mattress and Cryotherapy on Sleep after an Elite Rugby Match

ANIS ALOULOU<sup>1</sup>, CÉDRIC LEDUC<sup>2</sup>, FRANÇOIS DUFOREZ<sup>2,3</sup>, JULIEN PISCIONE<sup>5</sup>, JEREMY CHERADAME<sup>5</sup>, FRANÇOIS BIEUZEN<sup>6</sup>, CLAIRE THOMAS<sup>1,7</sup>, MOUNIR CHENNAOUI<sup>4,8</sup>, PASCAL VAN BEERS<sup>4,8</sup>, and MATHIEU NEDELEC<sup>1</sup>

### A comparison of running and contact loads in U18 and U20 international rugby union competition

AUTHORS: Alexis Peeters<sup>1,2</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>2,3</sup>, Mathieu Lacome<sup>4,5</sup>, Christopher Carling<sup>6</sup>, Nicolas Babault<sup>1,7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INSERM UMR1093-CAPS, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté, UFR des Sciences du Sport, F-21000, Dijon  
<sup>2</sup> Performance Department, Fédération Française de Rugby (FFR), Marcoussis, France  
<sup>3</sup> University of Evry, University of Paris Saclay, Evry, France  
<sup>4</sup> Performance and Analytics Department, Parma Calcio 1913, Parma, Italy

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Exposure time, running and skill-related performance in international u20 rugby union players during an intensified tournament

Christopher J. Carling<sup>1,2</sup>, Mathieu Lacome<sup>2,\*</sup>, Eamon Flanagan<sup>3</sup>, Pearse O'Doherty<sup>4</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Institute of Coaching and Performance, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom,  
<sup>2</sup> Research Department, French Rugby Union, Marcoussis, France, <sup>3</sup> Irish Rugby Football Union, Fitness Department, Dublin, Ireland, <sup>4</sup> Statsports Technologies™, Newry, Northern Ireland

\* mathiolacome@gmail.com

### Movement Patterns and Metabolic Responses During an International Rugby Sevens Tournament

Anthony Couderc, Claire Thomas, Mathieu Lacome, Julien Piscione, Julien Robineau, Rémi Delfour-Peyrethron, Rachel Borne, and Christine Hanon

### “Road to Rio”: A Case Study of Workload Periodization Strategy in Rugby-7s During an Olympic Season

Julien Robineau<sup>†\*</sup>, Bruno Marrier<sup>2</sup>, Yann Le Meur<sup>2</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>1</sup>, Alexis Peeters<sup>1</sup> and Mathieu Lacome<sup>2</sup>

### Integrating Strength and Power Development in the Long-Term Athletic Development of Young Rugby Union Players: Methodological and Practical Applications

Alexandre Dupontier, PhD,<sup>1,2</sup> Julien Piscione, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Bertrand Mathieu, MSc,<sup>1</sup> and Mathieu Lacome, PhD,<sup>1,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> Performance Department, French Rugby Federation, Marcoussis, France, <sup>2</sup> French Cycling Federation, Montigny Bretonneux, France, and <sup>3</sup> Performance Department, Paris Saint-Germain Football Club, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France

### Concurrent Validity and Reliability of Sprinting Force-Velocity Profile Assessed With GPS Devices in Elite Athletes

Pauline Clavel,<sup>1,2</sup> Cedric Leduc,<sup>3,4</sup> Jean-Benoit Morin,<sup>5</sup> Cameron Owen,<sup>3,6</sup> Pierre Samozino,<sup>7</sup> Alexis Peeters,<sup>8</sup> Martin Buchheit,<sup>2,9,10,11</sup> and Mathieu Lacome<sup>2,12</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Performance Department, Paris Saint-Germain FC, Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France; <sup>2</sup>French Institute of Sport (INSEP), Laboratory of Sport, EA 7370, Paris, France; <sup>3</sup>Carnegie Applied Rugby Research Centre, Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure, Carnegie School, Beckett University, Leeds, United Kingdom; <sup>4</sup>Sport Science and Medicine Department, Crystal Palace Football Club, Beckenham, United Kingdom; <sup>5</sup>Interuniversity of Biology of the Motricité, EA 7424, Université Lyon, UMR-Saint-Etienne, Saint-Etienne, France; <sup>6</sup>Leeds Rhinos Football Club, Leeds, UK; <sup>7</sup>Laboratoire Interuniversitaire de Biologie de la Motricité, EA 7424, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, Chambéry, France; <sup>8</sup>Research Department, F. Federation, Marcoussis, France; <sup>9</sup>HIT Science, Revelstoke, BC, Canada; <sup>10</sup>Institute for Health and Sport, Victoria University, Melbourne, VIC, Australia; <sup>11</sup>Performance Research Intelligence Initiative, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>12</sup>Performance and Analytics Department, Parma Calcio 1913, Parma, Italy

### Supercompensation Kinetics of Physical Qualities During a Taper in Team-Sport Athletes

Bruno Marrier, Julien Robineau, Julien Piscione, Mathieu Lacome, Alexis Peeters, Christophe Hausswirth, Jean-Benoit Morin, and Yann Le Meur

### Hematological Adaptations Following a Training Camp in Hot and/or Hypoxic Conditions in Elite Rugby Union Players

Julien D. Périard,<sup>1,2</sup> Olivier Girard,<sup>2,3</sup> Nathan Towns,<sup>4</sup> Mohammed Ihsan,<sup>2</sup> Mathieu Lacome,<sup>2,5</sup> David Nichol,<sup>6</sup> Julien Piscione,<sup>7</sup> and Seb

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Sport and Exercise, University of Canberra, Canberra, ACT, Australia; <sup>2</sup>Sports Medicine Hospital, Doha, Qatar; <sup>3</sup>School of Human Sciences (Exercise and Sport), College of Health and Life Sciences, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Doha, Qatar; <sup>4</sup>Department of Health, Behavior and Society, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>5</sup>Research Institute for Sport, Expertise and Performance, French Institute of Sports (INSEP), Paris, France; <sup>6</sup>Doha Space Medicine Team, European Astronaut Center, Köln, Germany; <sup>7</sup>Institute of Sport,

### Concurrent Training Programming: The Acute Effects of Sprint Interval Exercise on the Subsequent Strength Training

Bertrand Mathieu <sup>1,2</sup>, Julien Robineau <sup>1</sup>, Julien Piscione <sup>1</sup> and Nicolas Babault <sup>2,\*</sup>

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY

60+ PUBLICATIONS

Psychology

frontiers  
in Psychology

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 20 September 2019  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01959

Check for updates

**Emotional Intelligence (EI) Training Adapted to the International Preparation Constraints in Rugby: Influence of EI Trainer Status on EI Training Effectiveness**

Mickaël Campo<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Sylvain Laborde<sup>3,4</sup>, Guillaume Martinet<sup>5</sup>, Benoît Louvet<sup>6</sup> and Michel Nicolas<sup>1</sup>

Psychology of Sport & Exercise

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/psychsport](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/psychsport)

Dimensions of social identification with the team as predictors of the coach-created training climate in rugby: A group-actor partner interdependence modelling perspective

Mickaël Campo<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Benoît Louvet<sup>c</sup>, Sofiene Harabi<sup>d</sup>

*"Rugby is Medicine"*

Sociology

International Review for the  
Sociology of Sport  
1–16  
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DOI: 10.1177/1012690213517108  
[irs.sagepub.com](http://irs.sagepub.com)

**Identity socialization and construction within the French national rugby union women's team**

Helene Joncheray, Marie Level and Remi Richard  
Université Paris Descartes, Sorbonne Paris Cité, France

SAGE

*High-Level Women's Rugby: a Dangerous Activity?*  
Joueuse de rugby de première division : une activité dangereuse ?

Hélène JONCHERAY  
Haifa TLILI

GEPECS, Groupe d'Étude pour l'Europe de la Culture et de la Solidarité  
EA 3625, Université Paris-Descartes  
Sorbonne, 45 rue des Saints Pères  
F-75270 Paris cedex 06

HÉLÈNE JONCHERAY • HAÏFA TLILI

Loisir et Société / Society and Leisure

ISSN: 0705-3436 (Print) 1705-0154 (Online) Journal homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/lsoc20>

Les processus d'engagement et de désengagement dans la pratique du rugby à XV. Effets de l'expérience rugbystique chez des joueurs adolescents

Hélène Joncheray, Ren

Youth

**A Comparison of an Alternative Weight-Grading Model Against Chronological Age Group Model for the Grouping of Schoolboy Male Rugby Players**

Grégory Lentin<sup>1\*</sup>, Sean Cumming<sup>2</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>3</sup>, Patrick Pezery<sup>1</sup>, Moez Bouchoicha<sup>4</sup>, José Gadea<sup>5</sup>, Jean-Jacques Raymond<sup>1,6</sup>, Pascale Duché<sup>7</sup> and

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

**A Cross-Sectional Study Assessing the Contributions of Body Fat Mass and Fat-Free Mass to Body Mass Index Scores in Male Youth Rugby Players**

Olivier Gavarry<sup>1</sup>, Grégory Lentin<sup>2</sup>, Patrick Pezery<sup>1</sup>, Anne Delestrat<sup>3</sup>, Guillaume Chaumet<sup>4</sup>, Alain Boussuges<sup>2</sup> and Julien Piscione<sup>5</sup>

**Effect of "Touch Rugby" Training on the Cardiovascular Autonomic Control In Sedentary Subjects**

Authors: C. Filliau<sup>1</sup>, M. Younes<sup>1</sup>, A.-L. Blanchard<sup>1</sup>, J. Piscione<sup>1</sup>, A. Van de Louw<sup>1</sup>, C. Seguret<sup>1</sup>, J. Israël<sup>1</sup>, F. Cottin<sup>1,2</sup>

Affiliations: Affiliation addresses are listed at the end of the article

Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology (2022) 148:425–439  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00432-021-03621-7>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE – CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

Check for updates

**Evaluation of the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on the quality of life of patients monitored for cancer who practice an adapted physical activity: rugby for health**

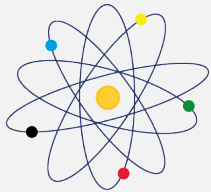
Stéphanie Motton<sup>1</sup>, Kelig Vergriete<sup>1</sup>, Luc Nguyen VanPhi<sup>1</sup>, Eric Lambaudie<sup>2</sup>, Audrey Berthoumieu<sup>3</sup>, Jean Pous<sup>4</sup>, Martine Delannes<sup>5</sup>, Julien Piscione<sup>5</sup>, Caroline Cornou<sup>6</sup>, Benoît Bataille<sup>7</sup>, Diane Saxod<sup>1</sup>, Fabien Pillard<sup>8</sup>



# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY

## NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

# Olympic Research Program « Performance 2024 »



**TEAM** SPORTS  
SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR PERFORMANCE



« MANAGE THE SENSE OF  
US-NESS»  
TEAM DYNAMICS AS A KEY  
FACTOR FOR COLLECTIVE  
PERFORMANCE



**ADRESSE**  
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**CONTACT**  
fulgur@linceo.it

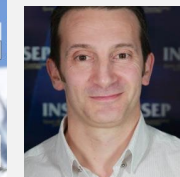
**CRÉDIT**

Le projet FLUGUR (Équipe : 30 chercheurs, subvention : 1,9 M€) est financé par l'Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) dans la perspective des Jeux Olympiques et Paralympiques Paris 2024 en collaboration avec les fédérations françaises d'athlétisme, de rugby et des sports de glace, les universités Nantes, Cortes d'Azur, Savoie Mont Blanc, Jean Monnet Saclay, le Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique (CEA), le Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Natixis et Super Sonic Imagine.

### 3 OBJECTIFS SCIENTIFIQUES

- Prévenir le risque de blessure par une approche individualisée
- Optimiser la propulsion en sprint
- Étudier l'impact de la charge d'entraînement sur les contraintes imposées aux ischio-jambiers

## 13 PARTENAIRES





# FRENCH RUGBY SCIENCE NETWORK

## Professional Clubs and Province Rugby Unions



### Strategic Support

(Scientific project, Funding, Student recruitment, etc.)

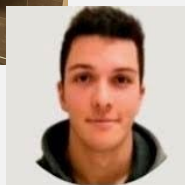
### Clubs / Research Organisations Connections

### Communication

("Sciences & Rugby" Days, Webinars, Master Class, etc.)

# RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN FRENCH RUGBY

PhD Project: Promotion of well being and positive youth development through the practice of rugby



## Two main projects

### WB & PYD IN RUGBY SCHOOLS (PREPAR)



Young players (aged 10 to 15 years)



Training coaches to foster an environnement conducive to PYD and WB

Identifying crucial coaches skills

Implementing the program



Designing a training program

Testing the effects of the program

### WB & PYD IN RUGBY ACADEMIES (PEHM)



Young elite players (aged 16 to 18 years)



Assessing the extent to which psychosocial skills developed through mental training in Academies contribute to WB and PYD

Comparing the amount of mental training received and the improvement of players WB and PYD



Identifying appropriate measurement tools to assess mental training



# ANNUAL SCIENCE & RUGBY SEMINARS/ WEBINARS

## *My Rugby PhD in 7'*

FFR - Webinaire **Sciences** et **Rugby**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7elcs8qj-IU>

## *Nutritional Support for Elite Rugby Players*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqKrsuSDYSo>



## TACKLE LAW TRIAL

Following the **World Rugby Symposium** in March 2019, the French Rugby Union presented a proposal to test new tackle laws adopted by World Rugby.

- 1. Below the waist**
- 2. Ball carrier not allowed to dip into contact**
- 3. No double tackles allowed**

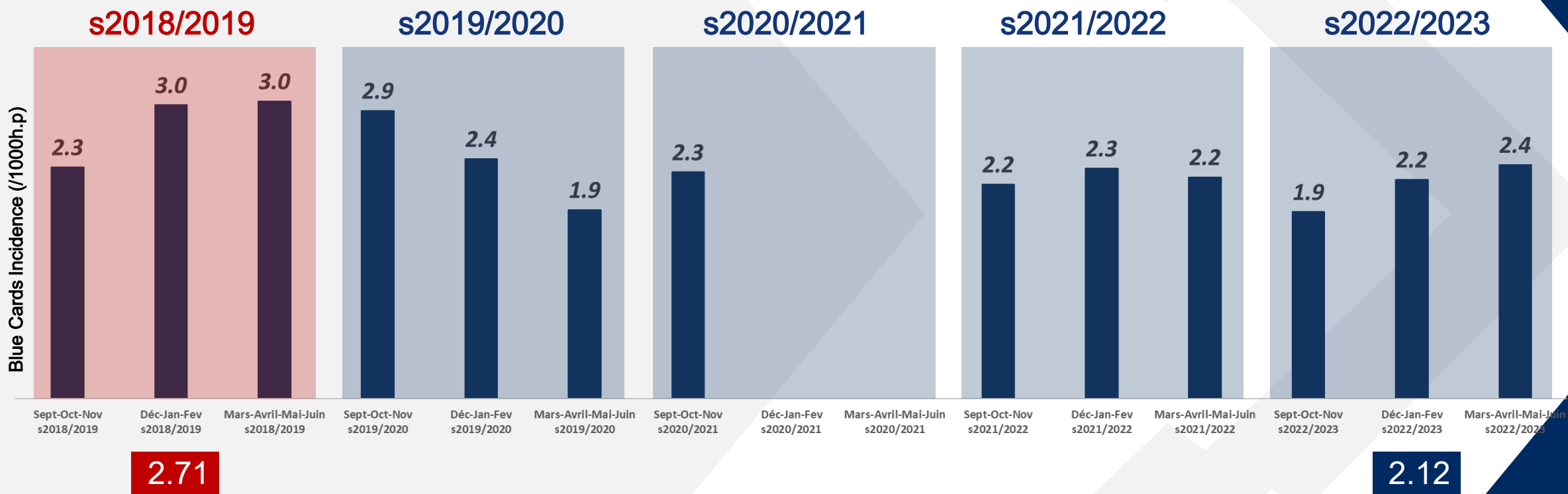




# TACKLE TRIAL & BLUE CARDS (SUSPECTED CONCUSSION)



Blue Cards Incidence (nb/1000h.p)  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> amateur divisions



# THE FRENCH PERSPECTIVE OF RUGBY SCIENCE !

?

*« Allégorie des trois  
tailleurs de pierre »*

*“Allegory of the three  
stonemasons”*



Saint André Cathedral (Bordeaux)