

Oct-25



Scientific Committee

2025 Application Cycle
Funding Call Programme 2.0

Scientific Committee

Members

Preston Wiley, Chair (University of Calgary)

Araba 'Roo' Chintoh (University of Calgary)

Colin Fuller (Consultant)

Karen Jones (RFU)

Stephen Mellalieu (Cardiff Metropolitan University)

Ross Tucker (Science and Research Consultant, World Rugby)

Ex-Officio members (World Rugby)

Éanna Falvey

Mike Hislop

Lindsay Starling

Mark Harrington

Responsibilities

Reviews Internal Research Projects

Sets Research Priorities for externally applied grants

Sets policies and processes for external grant application process

Reviews external grant applications (seeks external reviewers as appropriate)

Makes recommendations to Chief Player Welfare and Rugby Services Officer



Annual funding call – funding awards 2021-26

Over £1 million awarded through the funding call between 2021-26



Active projects

Commencement Year	Title	Applicant Organisation	Status
<u>2023</u>	<u>Breast injuries and protection in women's rugby union</u>	<u>University of Wollongong</u>	<u>Complete</u>
2021	Kumanu Tāngata - The Aftermatch Project	New Zealand Rugby	Ongoing
2022	<i>Developing Data-Derived Head Impact Reduction Protocols for Women's Rugby Union</i>	<i>Swansea University</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
2022	<i>No time to waste: moving towards a necessary health support system for retired national level rugby players</i>	<i>Amsterdam University Medical Centers</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
2022	<i>Efficacy of the World Rugby Activate injury prevention programme in the female setting: a multi-centre home nations approach</i>	<i>University of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
2022	<i>Injury prevention in female youth rugby union: a multi-site international study</i>	<i>University of Calgary</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
2023	WISGYR - Welsh Injury Surveillance in Girls' Youth Rugby	Bangor University	Ongoing
2024	Classifying painkiller use behaviours in professional rugby union players	Loughborough University	Ongoing
2024	<i>Former Rugby Players Brain Health Research Program</i>	<i>The University of Sydney</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
2025	Developing evidence-based guidelines for breast injuries and breast protective garments in women's rugby union	University of Wollongong	Ongoing

2025 Application Cycle

Proposals received - 48



Proposals rejected before review - 10

- 2025 start date, Standalone pilot studies, Equipment development



Proposals reviewed by Sci Comm – 38



Project Plans Requested – 4

- Anti-doping, Women's Health, Injury

Funding Call 2.0

Application – Assessment Process



Funding Priority Topics

- Anti-doping
- Concussion
- Injury surveillance and prevention at all levels of the game
- Long-term health consequences of rugby participation
- Mental health and substance abuse
- Player welfare research in women's rugby
- Transgender participation

- Targeted Research Questions

Expression of Interest

Concise, more specific, and more targeted

- Research team details, budget, key dates
- Constrained sections addressing key aims, method, and outcomes

One sentence summary for each:

- What is already known about this topic?
- What will this project add to the topic area?
- How will the findings influence player welfare practice or policy in rugby union?

Expression of Interest – Submission Checklist

✓	✗
First-hand data collection, analyses and evaluation to demonstrate original research	Secondary research designs, or retrospective study designs featuring analysis of previously collected data.
Sampling from both male and female populations or solely from female populations.	Laboratory-based
Specific to the sport of Rugby Union	Standalone pilot study
	Primary aim to determine the psychometric properties of a tool or assessment measure
	Developing intellectual property for private or commercial benefit
	Reliance on data derived from player monitoring devices (unless the applicant can demonstrate the validity and reliability of the data)
	Altering or deviating from current medical protocols and standards adopted by World Rugby
	Reliance on assessment modalities with speculative or untested applications to rugby union
	New equipment development
	Animal testing

Detailed Proposal

- A budget specifying in detail the breakdown of, and justification for, the funding request from World Rugby
- A timeline for the project, indicating the time for key project stages
- Project background
- Project methods
- Expected outcomes arising from the project
- Project Management
- Appendices (not included in word count)
 - Evidence that the proposed study sample size will yield a sufficient volume of data to attain clear, actionable findings.
 - Data collection documentation, such as copies of survey questionnaires, interview guides, report forms.
 - Letters of support from Organisations with which the research team proposes to collaborate.

Timeline

