



WORLD
RUGBY



Mapping and Equivalence of Pitch-Side Medical Care Education Courses

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Foreword

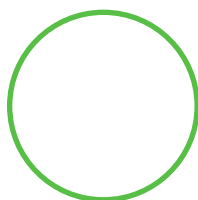
World Rugby is committed to player welfare – it is our number one priority. We strive to make the game as enjoyable, safe and beneficial as possible for all stakeholders. Following similar exercises in coaching and match officiating, we decided to explore and analyse pitch-side medical care education in rugby globally.

This comparative study, entitled *Mapping the Equivalence of Pitch-Side Medical Care Education Courses*, analysed medical care education courses and mapped them for equivalence against the World Rugby medical care education programme which is delivered in many of our 133 member Unions. This is the second edition of this Report, following the initial study and Report which was published in 2017.

The mapping project resulting in this Report was implemented by the European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE) as a trusted external organisation. EOSE is a European Network organisation, specialising in vocational education in the sport and physical activity sector. World Rugby would like to thank EOSE for their work in liaising with the World Rugby Medical Compliance Manager, medical care education providers and our member Union staff and volunteers to compile this Report.

This Report, including the Pitch Side Medical Care Education Equivalency Table, will aid Unions in the recognition of those holding first aid and immediate care accreditations.

World Rugby is pleased to provide this guidance document for use by member Unions and Regional Associations.



Jock Peggie

Head of Education,
Laws and Compliance
World Rugby

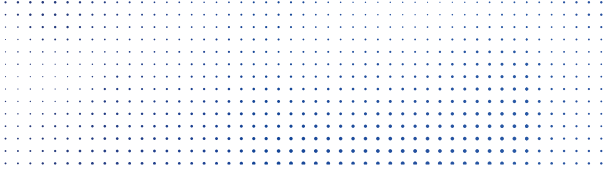
Acknowledgements

World Rugby and EOSE would like to thank the representatives of the member Unions who completed the online survey which was implemented as part of the study. They would also like to thank the representatives of the member Unions and other education providers who operate their own courses and were willing to positively engage with the project by submitting course materials for mapping and liaising with the lead researcher. The project would not have been possible without their support.





Executive Summary



Following a similar exercise in 2017, **World Rugby** decided in 2024 that a comparative study involving the mapping of courses against the World Rugby medical care education programme would be a useful and valuable piece of work. **The European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE)** were again commissioned by World Rugby to carry out the study.

The first activity of the project was to implement an online survey of member Unions, aimed at union personnel with responsibility for Medical Education. 71 individuals responded to the survey representing 59 member Unions. The survey confirmed that the majority of member Unions around the world deliver one or more of the World Rugby medical care education courses through the global network of World Rugby Licenced Trainers and Educators. The survey also gave an insight into other medical care education courses outside the World Rugby programme, some of these were then able to be considered for equivalence. **A summary of the survey results can be found in section 2.**

Based on knowledge of the global medical care education landscape in rugby, as well as feedback from the online survey, **World Rugby and EOSE** identified the providers and courses to be included in the mapping and equivalency project.

EOSE then embarked on a phase of data collection with the identified providers of medical care courses. Course materials and key information about each course were collected and mapped for equivalence against the **World Rugby** medical care education programme which is made up of courses across three levels.

Data collected for each course included the title, duration, instructor ratio, aims, content, and pre-requisites.

Following the period of data collection with course providers, the main outcome of the project was produced which is the **Global Medical Care Education Equivalency Table** (see page 27 and also included at the end of this summary) which shows the equivalent courses at each level when mapped against the **World Rugby** medical care education courses.

This report also includes a summary of the **World Rugby Medical Care Courses and Accreditations** which were used for mapping purposes when considering course information gathered from member Unions and other providers who operate their own medical care education at the national level – **see section 3.**

A section titled “Brief discussion of key themes” has been included in the Report which explores some of the key aspects of course design and delivery which were uncovered by the work to map and compare medical care education courses. This can be found in **section 5.**

The final part of this Report features a short summary of the medical care education courses confirmed for equivalency in the study – **see section 6.**

NB: Where courses have been deemed equivalent which are not rugby specific, it is recommended that practitioners gain reaccreditation in a rugby specific course if that is now the main sport they operate in.

Global Medical Care Education Equivalency Table

This table is based on the analysis of medical care education courses and mapping against the World Rugby courses and accreditations.

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (EFARU)
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS First Aid Level 1
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 1
The Football Association (The FA)	Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAIF)
Hong Kong China Rugby	First Aid in Sports
ITC First	ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid for Sport, Exercise and Fitness ITC Certificate in First Aid for Sport, Exercise & Fitness at SCQF Level 6

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS Level 2
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 2, Immediate Care in Rugby
The Football Association (The FA)	Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF)
SportPromote	SportPromote Course
Federazione Medico Sportiva Italiana - FMSI	FMSI Advanced PSSD* Awarded prior to end Oct.2025
Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 2 (identical to PHICIS Level 2)

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS Level 3
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 3, Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby
The Football Association (The FA)	Advanced Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF)
Rugby Football League (RFL)	Immediate Medical Management On the Field of Play Course (IMMOFP)
Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Singapore Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 3 (identical to PHICIS Level 3)



1

Introduction

1.1 • Rationale

World Rugby's number one priority is player welfare and it has developed a three-tiered medical education programme for the immediate management of rugby injuries, made up of:

Level 1 - First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)
Level 2 - Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)
Level 3 - Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

These courses are delivered across many member Unions around the world through a network of Licenced **World Rugby** Trainers and Educators.

Some member Unions have their own education programme; in some cases, these are identical or similar to the World Rugby courses. In addition, within sport globally, there are a range of medical and pitch-side education courses for dealing with injury in sport.

Following a similar exercise in 2017, **World Rugby** decided in 2024 that a mapping exercise against the World Rugby education programme, including some of the most prevalent medical and pitch-side courses taken by practitioners in rugby would be a useful and valuable exercise.

World Rugby felt that confirming the equivalence of education courses for first aid and pitch-side medical staff will greatly assist in the development of policy and in offering advice to member Unions.

1.2 • Approach/ Methodology

World Rugby approached the **European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE)** as a European Network organisation specialising in workforce development and vocational education in the sport sector to contact member Unions and other related training providers to deliver the mapping and equivalency project.

The project was implemented through the following stages.

Stage 1

Inception

The project began with an inception meeting between **World Rugby and EOSE** to agree the approach and methodology to be applied. A range of providers and courses to include in the study were identified, and planning took place for the online survey.

Stage 2

Survey Implementation and Data Collection

Implementing the survey involved survey design, translation, making it available online and promoting it to member Unions around the world. The survey asked which medical education courses are accepted for pitch side immediate care within member Unions.

The data collection phase involved contacting the organisations responsible for the training programmes which had been suggested for inclusion in the study across the three levels.

Information was requested from each provider on the following course elements:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ● Title | ● Pre-requisites |
| ● Course description | ● Content |
| ● Target group | ● Accreditation |
| ● Format/ duration | ● Length of validity |
| ● Instructor ratio | |
| ● Assessment | |

Training providers were requested to submit supporting documentation covering the course elements listed. Information provided was compared and mapped against the World Rugby course at the appropriate level.

This stage also involved the creation of a short summary of each course accepted for equivalency in the study.

Stage 3

Production of Global Medical Care Education Equivalency Table & final report

Using the detailed information which was provided by each education provider it was possible to create the Global Medical Care Education Equivalency Table which can be found on page 27. This was possible by analysing and comparing key aspects of medical care courses including content, assessment, duration, tutor ratio and pre-requisites. The World Rugby levels and competencies were used as a central benchmark to map other courses against. The evidence for equivalency from each included course was presented to World Rugby and signed off.

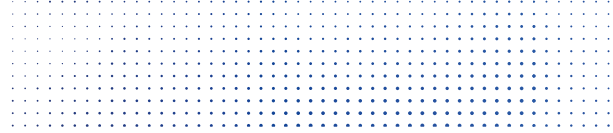
This Final Report was then produced which includes sections on the results of the survey, summary of World Rugby awards, equivalency table, brief discussion of themes, and short description of equivalent courses.





2

Summary of Online Survey of Member Unions

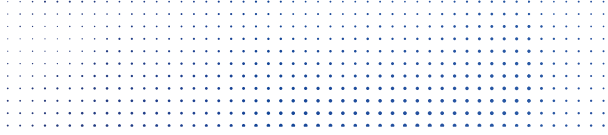


To support the mapping and equivalence of pitch-side medical care education courses, World Rugby and EOSE conducted an online survey of member Unions, aimed at union personnel with responsibility for Medical Education. The survey was requested to be filled by the Chief Medical Officer, Union Training and Education Manager or other appropriate officials. The survey was open during November and December 2024 and was available in English, French and Spanish.

The survey was distributed to all World Rugby member Unions. 71 individuals responded to the survey representing 59 member Unions. Gathering information from 59 countries in this way was a valuable part of the overall study.

Representatives in member Unions from the following countries responded to the survey:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 🇨🇦 Argentina | 🇮🇳 India | 🇸🇬 Singapore |
| 🇧🇧 Barbados | 🇮🇪 Ireland | 🇸🇮 Slovenia |
| 🇧🇪 Belgium | 🇯🇲 Jamaica | 🇸🇧 Solomon Islands |
| 🇧🇴 Bolivia | 🇯🇵 Japan | 🇪🇸 Spain |
| 🇧🇼 Botswana | 🇰🇪 Kenya | 🇱🇰 Sri Lanka |
| 🇧🇷 Brazil | 🇱🇻 Latvia | 🇸🇪 Sweden |
| 🇧🇫 Burkina Faso | 🇲🇩 Madagascar | 🇨🇭 Switzerland |
| 🇧🇮 Burundi | 🇲🇹 Malta | 🇹🇴 Tonga |
| 🇨🇦 Canada | 🇲🇺 Mauritius | 🇹🇹 Trinidad and Tobago |
| 🇨🇳 Chinese Taipei | 🇲🇽 Mexico | 🇹🇳 Tunisia |
| 🇨🇰 Cook Islands | 🇳🇿 New Zealand | 🇹🇨 Turks and Caicos Islands |
| 🇨🇷 Costa Rica | 🇳🇴 Norway | 🇺🇬 Uganda |
| 🇨🇷 Croatia | 🇵🇬 Papua New Guinea | 🇺🇾 Uruguay |
| 🇨🇾 Cyprus | 🇵🇷 Paraguay | 🇺🇸 USA |
| 🇩🇰 Denmark | 🇵🇭 Philippines | 🇻🇪 Venezuela |
| 🇪🇬 England | 🇵🇹 Portugal | 🇨🇾 Wales |
| 🇩🇪 Germany | 🇷🇴 Romania | 🇿🇲 Zambia |
| 🇬🇺 Guam | 🇸🇯 Saint Lucia | |
| 🇭🇰 Hong Kong / China | 🇸🇲 Samoa | |
| 🇭🇺 Hungary | 🇸🇳 Senegal | |
| 🇮🇹 Italy | 🇷🇸 Serbia | |



Of the 59 countries included in the study, 58 offer and deliver medical education courses and only 1 does not.

For those that do offer medical education courses, 47 offer the World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR) course, with 28 offering the World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR) course, and 4 offering the World Rugby Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR) course.

Countries who indicated they offer medical courses outside of the World Rugby education programme included England and other countries who offer the Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) courses, Ireland who have the SAFE awards, and Hong Kong China and Wales who have their own Level 1 First Aid courses.

Respondents were asked which other medical courses they accept for people giving pitch-side immediate care. In addition to World Rugby awards some mentioned acceptance of any course seen as equivalent to these awards by World Rugby.

At the higher levels some member Union representatives said they accept qualified physiotherapists, paramedics, and others with a medical qualification including doctors with a medical degree. Training to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT course) is accepted by some unions.

Some respondents from member Unions said they accept “any recognised first aid course” at the lower level for parents, coaches and administrators.

Shorter courses mentioned as being accepted in some countries included cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) courses, Basic Life Support and defibrillation (BLS courses) and concussion courses.

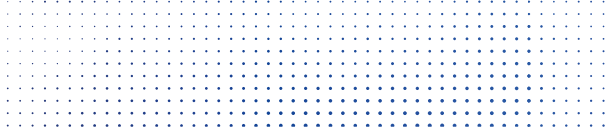
Respondents from 13 countries indicated they are aware of other courses that provide first aid or medical education to rugby practitioners in their country, and some provided the names of the courses which was valuable data for World Rugby to collect.

The final question of the survey was to invite respondents to share any comments or suggestions in support of the mapping of equivalence of pitch side medical care education courses. This resulted in a range of valuable views and suggestions which were forwarded for consideration to World Rugby.



3

World Rugby Medical Care Education Courses



World Rugby works in conjunction with its Regional Associations and member Unions to deliver a portfolio of accreditation courses related to pitch-side medical care. World Rugby's face-to-face courses and accreditations are delivered by a network of Licenced Trainers and Educators. This network delivers courses on behalf of, and with the approval of, both their member Unions and World Rugby. They are trained, quality assured, and licenced by World Rugby.

The three main World Rugby medical care courses are as follows:

World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

Training as a layperson responder in sports first aid

FAIR aims to equip coaches, teachers, parents, officials and interested others who may be asked to respond to an injured rugby player with rugby-specific first aid skills and is recommended for all stakeholders. The course is made up of two parts: an online module and a mandatory in-person attendance course.

Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)

Sports immediate care training for pitch side medical staff

ICIR is aimed at providing health care and allied health care professionals working in rugby the ability to assess, stabilise and package for removal to a safe area awaiting the arrival of advanced care provision. The course is made up of online learning and a mandatory in-person attendance course with knowledge and competency-based assessment.

Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

Advanced immediate care training for pitch side medical staff

AICIR is aimed at providing health care professionals; doctors, nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists, sports trainers, sports rehabilitationists and other registered health care and allied health care practitioners working in rugby, with the clinical skills to assess, diagnose and deliver advanced care while achieving stabilisation and packaging for removal to a safe area awaiting the arrival of further advanced care provision. The course is made up of online learning and a mandatory in-person attendance course with knowledge and competency-based assessment.

The content of the FAIR, ICIR and AICIR courses is endorsed by the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

Overview

Full-day, competency-based accreditation course which helps participants to deal with rugby-specific injuries in a practical-based environment.

Pre-requisites

Prospective candidates must be at least 16 years of age to attend the course.

Online pre-requisites:

-  RugbyReady
-  First Aid in Rugby
-  Concussion Management for the General Public
-  Safeguarding Essentials

Assessment

Assessment on the course through practical scenarios

Target Group

Coaches, teachers, parents, officials and interested others who may be asked to respond to an injured rugby player

Educator/ participant ratio

1:8

Course duration

8-hour in-person course



Transcript of Competencies

Competency	Criteria / Standard
A. Empathy	1. Demonstrates good interactive skills (remembers names, makes eye contact, etc) 2. Demonstrates a confident, supportive and friendly manner
B. Introduction to MILS and SABCDE	3. Takes care to protect own safety and applies the 1-2-3 priority (e.g. you, the environment and then the player) 4. Undertakes systematic initial assessment of injured Rugby player – SABCDE 5. Perform MILS and explain its importance in the context of Rugby injuries 6. Prioritises open airway and normal breathing above all else once safety confirmed
C. Airway management	7. Recognises normal and abnormal airway sounds and why airways “obstruct” 8. Performs appropriate airway opening manoeuvres for snoring or gurgling
D. Breathing and choking	9. Recognises breathing as normal or abnormal in the context of an exercising Rugby player 10. Identifies suspicion of lung or chest wall injury and the need to get assistance 11. Recognises complete or partial airway obstruction in choking and initiate appropriate treatment (e.g. encourage coughing or perform backslaps / abdominal thrusts)
E. Circulation, bleeding and shock	12. Assesses for evidence of adequate circulation 13. Provides direct pressure to obvious bleeding and considers sites of hidden bleeding 14. Maintains safety in terms of blood exposure and waste disposal
F. CPR and AED	15. Confirms cardiac arrest as per local guidance 16. Requests help and an AED 17. Performs effective CPR with minimal interruptions and safe defibrillation
G. Head and spinal injury	18. Performs a HAINES emergency roll from face up (for vomit or blood in airway) 19. Performs a HAINES recovery position
H. Limb injury	20. Is not distracted from SABCDE by limb injuries 21. Uses PRICES principles in limb injury 22. Uses appropriate splints and slings correctly
I. Practical workshop scenarios	23. Takes control of bystanders and exercises leadership of the situation

Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)

Overview

A competency-based accreditation course which prepares Doctors, Healthcare and Allied Healthcare Professionals to provide optimal pitch-side immediate trauma and medical care for rugby players by standardising their approach, assessment and delivery of care.

Pre-requisites

- Be able to provide evidence of being a suitably qualified registered health care professional in the country in which they practice
- Have their union's support to take the course
- Carry sufficient indemnity to perform the skills delivered in the course as indemnity/liability insurance is not provided by World Rugby.

Online pre-requisites:

- Immediate Care in Rugby
- Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals
- Medical Protocols for Match Day Medical Staff
- Safeguarding Essentials

Assessment

Assessment through pre-course online assessment, formative continuous on-course assessment, summative written paper and simulation test.

Target Group

Doctors, Healthcare and Allied Healthcare Professionals.

Educator/ participant ratio

1:6

Course duration

10-hour in-person course



Transcript of Competencies

Competency	Criteria / Standard
A. Pre-requisite	1. Provides evidence of being a suitably qualified health care professional
B. Implements the safety and SABCDE approach	2. Identifies the importance of planning and the role of risk assessments for potential emergency situations at sports grounds 3. Takes care to protect own safety and applies the 1-2-3 priority, i.e. the care provider, the environment and then the player 4. Protects cervical spine injuries through a structured initial assessment and performs a rapid primary survey, i.e. ABCDE 5. Resuscitates and appropriately manages problems identified during the primary survey with re-evaluation, including early oxygen 6. Reassesses the situation following an intervention, deterioration or uncertainty 7. Transfers the player to the medical facility using adequate personnel and equipment 8. Once stabilised and with no delay to transfer, undertakes a secondary survey including a SAMPLE history and top-to-toe assessment 9. Provides an ATMIST handover to attending medical personnel 10. Describes the preparation of appropriate documentation
C. Manages airway condition	11. Recognises normal and abnormal airway sounds with appropriate assessment including suction under direction visualisation 12. Demonstrates the appropriate choice of airway manoeuvre for trauma (jaw thrust) and non-trauma settings (head tilt/chin lift) 13. Demonstrates correct insertion of appropriately sized nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal and supraglottic airways 14. Demonstrates ventilation using a pocket mask 15. Demonstrates two-person bag valve mask ventilation
D. Assesses breathing status	16. Recognises the normal breathing effort in an exercising Rugby player who suffers injury 17. Performs simple on-pitch examination of breathing in terms of effectiveness, approximate indication of rate, symmetry and chest wall tenderness and/or crepitus 18. Recognises chest wall / lung injury and the need for emergency help 19. Once in the medical room performs a more thorough breathing assessment on a player with breathing difficulty including rate, expansion, percussion and auscultation 20. Demonstrates knowledge and identification of immediate and potential life-threatening thoracic trauma

Competency	Criteria / Standard
E. Assesses circulation, bleeding and shock	21. Performs adequate assessment of circulation 22. Demonstrates an understanding of the management of circulatory collapse (haemorrhagic and non-haemorrhagic) 23. Considers possible sites for hidden blood loss and demonstrates identification through examination 24. Maintains safety in terms of blood exposure and waste disposal
F. Assesses possible neurological disability and concussion	25. Considers possibility of neck injury through MILS in the case of head injury 26. Performs adequate assessment of neurological status through ACVPU on the pitch and GCS with pupil examination in the medical room 27. Describes appropriate extrication from field of play of a head-injured player 28. Discusses the appropriate management of a player with concussion including both on- and off-field assessment and management
G. Implements BLS and AED	29. Demonstrates appropriate SAFE approach and assessment of a collapsed player 30. Requests help and an AED 31. Performs effective CPR with minimal interruptions 32. Demonstrates safe defibrillation technique 33. Recognizes complete or partial airway obstruction by foreign body and initiates appropriate treatment (encourages coughing for partial obstruction) 34. Performs effective choking management when ineffective cough 35. Performs recovery position for an unconscious, non-traumatised player
H. Assesses possible spinal injury	36. Describes the mechanism of injuries for a player sustaining a potential spinal injury 37. Demonstrates safe and effective assessment of a player with a spinal injury 38. Demonstrates safe and effective application of in-line immobilisation 39. Demonstrates sizing and application of a semi-rigid cervical collar 40. Demonstrates safe and effective log roll of a player with suspected spinal injury 41. Demonstrates safe and effective placement of a player suspected of a spinal injury on an extrication device, e.g., long board or scoop stretcher with application of headblocks and tapes 42. Demonstrates safe and effective lift and carry of a player on a spinal extrication device

Competency	Criteria / Standard
I. Manages possible limb injury	43. Demonstrates compliance with the SABCDE approach without distraction created by limb injuries 44. Demonstrates recognition of life and limb threatening injuries 45. Demonstrates systematic assessment, management and preparation for transfer of simulated patients with musculoskeletal trauma 46. Describes and demonstrates the indications, application and complications of the various splints available 47. Discusses the process of realignment of misaligned limb injuries ensuring neurovascular checks throughout.
J. Recognizes and manages medical problems	48. Describes and demonstrates the recognition and management of immediate medical emergencies through simulation practice 49. Demonstrates initial assessment and management of the medical emergencies found
K. Equipment and oxygen	50. Discusses the use, complications and contraindications of medical trauma equipment 51. Discusses the storage, transportation, use, complications and contraindications of oxygen

Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

Overview

Competency-based accreditation course for Doctors, Healthcare and Allied Healthcare Professionals which further develops ability to provide optimal pitch side immediate trauma and medical care for rugby players by standardising their approach, assessment, diagnosis and delivery of advanced care.

Pre-requisites

- Be able to provide evidence of being a suitably qualified registered health care professional in the country in which they practice
- Have their union's support to take the course
- Carry sufficient indemnity to perform the skills delivered in the course as indemnity/liability insurance is not provided by World Rugby.

Online pre-requisites:

- Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby
- Concussion Management for Doctors and Healthcare Professionals
- Medical Protocols for Match Day Medical Staff
- Safeguarding Essentials

Assessment

Assessment through pre-course online assessment, continuous on-course assessment, written paper and simulation test.

Target Group

Doctors, Healthcare and Allied Healthcare Professionals.

Educator/ participant ratio

1:3

Course duration

20-hour in-person course

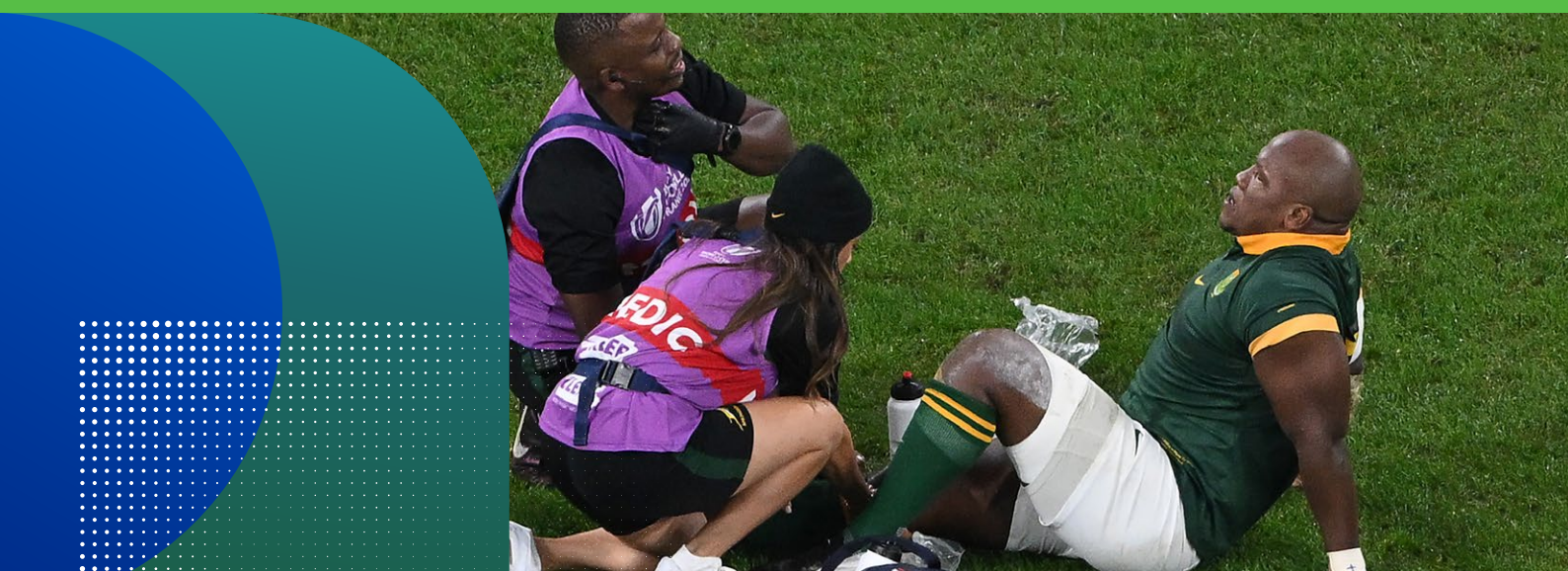
Transcript of Competencies

Competency	Criteria / Standard
A. Pre-requisite	1. Provides evidence of being a suitably qualified health care professional
B. Implements the safety and SABCDE approach	2. Identifies the importance of planning and the role of risk assessments for potential emergency situations at sports grounds 3. Takes care to protect own safety and applies the 1-2-3 priority, i.e. the care provider, the environment and then the player 4. Protects cervical spine injuries through a structured initial assessment and performs a rapid primary survey, i.e. ABCDE 5. Resuscitates and appropriately manages problems identified during the primary survey with re-evaluation, including early oxygen 6. Reassesses the situation following an intervention, deterioration or uncertainty 7. Transfers the player to the medical facility using adequate personnel and equipment 8. Once stabilised and with no delay to transfer, undertakes a secondary survey including a SAMPLE history and top-to-toe assessment 9. Provides an ATMIST handover to attending medical personnel 10. Describes the preparation of appropriate documentation 11. Demonstrates ability to lead and direct a team
C. Manages airway condition	12. Recognises normal and abnormal airway sounds with appropriate assessment including suction under direction visualisation 13. Demonstrates the appropriate choice of airway manoeuvre for trauma (jaw thrust) and non-trauma settings (head tilt/chin lift) 14. Demonstrates correct insertion of appropriately sized nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal and supraglottic airways 15. Demonstrates ventilation using a pocket mask 16. Demonstrates two-person bag valve mask ventilation 17. Describes the indications for needle and/or surgical cricothyroidotomies 18. Demonstrates needle cricothyroidotomy and surgical cricothyroidotomies on prepared animal specimens or models 19. Discusses the complications of needle and/or surgical cricothyroidotomies

Competency	Criteria / Standard
D. Assesses breathing status	20. Recognises the normal breathing effort in an exercising rugby player who suffers injury 21. Performs simple on-pitch examination of breathing in terms of effectiveness, approximate indication of rate, symmetry and chest wall tenderness and/or crepitus 22. Recognises chest wall / lung injury and the need for emergency help 23. Once in the medical room performs a more thorough breathing assessment on a player with breathing difficulty including rate, expansion, percussion and auscultation 24. Demonstrates knowledge and identification of immediate and potential life-threatening thoracic trauma 25. Discuss the identification, indications and complications of chest decompression 26. Demonstrates the technique for needle thoracocentesis on prepared animal specimens or models 27. Discusses the identification and management of massive haemothorax, open pneumothorax, flail chest and cardiac contusion
E. Assesses circulation, bleeding and shock	28. Performs adequate assessment of circulation 29. Demonstrates an understanding of the management of circulatory collapse (haemorrhagic and non-haemorrhagic) 30. Demonstrates the assessment and management in simulated clinical situations of patients with thoracic, abdominal, pelvic or long bone trauma resulting in circulation compromise 31. Demonstrates understanding of balanced fluid resuscitation 32. Demonstrates the techniques of intravenous cannulation of a peripheral vein and attach an appropriately checked and assembled intravenous infusion 33. Demonstrates the techniques of intraosseous cannulation and attach an appropriately checked and assembled intravenous infusion 34. Demonstrates the indications and safe application of pelvic binders for a player with potential pelvic fracture 35. Demonstrates the indications and safe application of a traction splint for a player with potential femoral fracture
F. Assesses possible neurological disability and concussion	36. Considers possibility of neck injury through MILS in the case of head injury 37. Performs adequate assessment of neurological status through ACVPU on the pitch and GCS with pupil examination in the medical room 38. Describes appropriate extrication from field of play of a head-injured player 39. Discusses the appropriate management of a player with concussion including both on- and off-field assessment and management 40. Discusses the assessment and management of facial, ophthalmic and dental injuries

Competency	Criteria / Standard
G. Implements BLS and ALS	41. Demonstrates appropriate SAFE approach and assessment of a collapsed player 42. Demonstrates expertise and knowledge in the recognition and treatment of the critically ill patient 'at risk' of cardiac arrest and arrested player 43. Requests assistance and equipment appropriately 44. Performs effective CPR with minimal interruptions 45. Demonstrates application of the Advanced Life Support algorithm with AED or/and manual defibrillator assessment 46. Demonstrates safe defibrillation technique 47. Demonstrates how to override a suitably equipped AED to manual setting to allow shocking of pulseless ventricular tachycardia 48. Discusses the recognition and management of the reversible causes of cardiac arrest 49. Demonstrates the correct and timely delivery of resuscitation drugs 50. Recognizes complete or partial airway obstruction by foreign body and initiates appropriate treatment (encourages coughing for partial obstruction) 51. Performs effective choking management when ineffective cough 52. Performs recovery position for an unconscious, non-traumatised player
H. Assesses possible spinal injury	53. Describes the mechanism of injuries for a player sustaining a potential spinal injury 54. Demonstrates safe and effective assessment of a player with a spinal injury 55. Describes the criteria for clearing a player with a potential spinal injury 56. Demonstrates safe and effective application of in-line immobilisation 57. Demonstrates sizing and application of a semi-rigid cervical collar 58. Demonstrates safe and effective log roll of a player with suspected spinal injury 59. Demonstrates safe and effective placement of a player suspected of a spinal injury on an extrication device, e.g., long board or scoop stretcher with application of head blocks and tapes 60. Demonstrates safe and effective lift and carry of a player on a spinal extrication device 61. Demonstrates the management of players with suspected spinal injury in the prone, kneeling and standing positions

Competency	Criteria / Standard
I. Manages possible limb injury	62. Demonstrates compliance with the SABCDE approach without distraction created by limb injuries 63. Demonstrates recognition of life and limb threatening injuries 64. Demonstrates systematic assessment, management and preparation for transfer of simulated patients with musculoskeletal trauma 65. Describes and demonstrates the indications, application and complications of the various splints available 66. Discusses the process of reduction of joint dislocations relating to assessment, provision of analgesia, the timing of reduction, reduction techniques, post-reduction management and possible complications
J. Recognizes and manages medical problems	67. Describes and demonstrates the recognition and management of immediate medical emergencies through simulation practice 68. Demonstrates initial assessment and management of the medical emergencies found
K. Wound care	69. Discusses the assessment, immediate and after care of wounds in rugby 70. Discusses thorough cleaning, use of local anaesthetic, choice of materials and closure techniques in wound care 71. Discusses wound follow-up assessment, management and the appropriate use of antibiotics 72. Discusses safe practice with sharps
L. Equipment and medical gases	73. Discusses the use, complications and contraindications of medical trauma equipment 74. Discusses the use of medications in the trauma patient with emphasis on analgesia 75. Discusses the storage, transportation, use, complications and contraindications of oxygen and other medical gases





4

Global Medical Care Education Equivalency Table

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (EFARU)
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS First Aid Level 1
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 1
The Football Association (The FA)	Emergency First Aid in Football (EFAIF)
Hong Kong China Rugby	First Aid in Sports
ITC First	ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid for Sport, Exercise and Fitness ITC Certificate in First Aid for Sport, Exercise & Fitness at SCQF Level 6

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS Level 2
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 2, Immediate Care in Rugby
The Football Association (The FA)	Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football (ITMMiF)
SportPromote	SportPromote Course
Federazione Medico Sportiva Italiana - FMSI	FMSI Advanced PSSD* Awarded prior to end Oct.2025
Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 2 (identical to PHICIS Level 2)

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

Awarding Union/Organisation	Course Title
England Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Scottish Rugby	SCRUMCAPS Level 3
Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU)	SAFE Rugby Level 3, Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby
The Football Association (The FA)	Advanced Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF)
Rugby Football League (RFL)	Immediate Medical Management On the Field of Play Course (IMMOFP)
Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Singapore Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 3 (identical to PHICIS Level 3)



5

Brief Discussion of Key Themes

Level 1: World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

Target Group

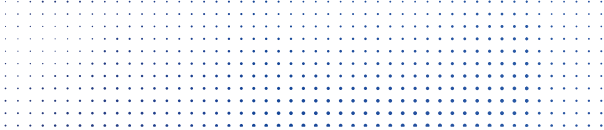
The **World Rugby** FAIR course aims to equip coaches, teachers, parents, officials and interested others who may be asked to respond to an injured rugby player with rugby-specific first aid skills. While all of the courses recognised as equivalent in this study have the same target group - laypersons who wish to be able to act as responder in sports first aid - the minimum age to be eligible to enter such courses can differ between providers; several mirror the minimum age which applies to World Rugby FAIR course of 16, two of the equivalent courses, **Hong Kong China Rugby** and **Scottish Rugby**, permit 14 year olds to access the course while one course, **England Rugby**, has minimum age of 18.

Content

The **World Rugby** transcript of competencies was used as the central benchmark for the mapping of the content of other courses – covering main themes such as airway management, breathing and choking, bleeding, CPR/AED, head and spinal injury, limb injury. The courses included in this study covered all the main themes of the competencies in sufficient depth to be seen as equivalent. The courses were however all different and had a different emphasis for each provider resulting in unique course offerings. As the mapping project was designed to be supportive and collegiate, where relevant, comments regarding content were passed from **World Rugby** to providers if there was a view that content could be updated to reflect current best practice. One example being a suggestion to move from the acronym DRABC to the newer SABCDE for the initial assessment of the injured player.

Duration and format

The overall **World Rugby** FAIR course employs a blended learning approach which includes online prerequisites plus a full-day in-person training course. A similar approach is taken by all providers at this level; The Football Association, **Irish Rugby Football Union**, **England Rugby**, and **Hong Kong China Rugby** are all one-day courses with pre-course online learning required. **Scottish Rugby** has a blended approach with 2.5 hours of in-person education and a minimum of 7.5 hours of online activities.



Assessment

A similar approach to assessment is taken by most of the equivalent courses in this study, with practical skills-based assessment being the norm. Some courses such as from **Hong Kong China Rugby** also have a post-course theory test.

Educator/ participant ratio

World Rugby applies a minimum ration of 1:8 for the FAIR course and see this as best practice, this is not however the case in all of the equivalent courses, some United Kingdom based courses such as the **England Rugby, Football Association and ITC First** have a maximum ration of 1:12 and **Hong Kong China Rugby** of 1:10. World Rugby would like to see more courses over time be more in line with their 1:8 maximum ratio.

Length of validity

All of the courses included in this mapping study have a length of validity of two or three years.

Accreditation

Two of the courses identified as equivalent sit on the National Qualifications Frameworks in the United Kingdom, regulated by nationally approved awarding organisations (**England Rugby, ITC First**). **The Irish Rugby Football Union** course has accreditation for some components from American Heart Association / Irish Heart Foundation.

Level 2: World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby (ICIR)

Target Group

The target group for **World Rugby** ICIR course is Doctors, Healthcare and Allied Healthcare Professionals and this is the same for the other courses deemed equivalent in this study. Some of the courses list potential candidates as doctors, nurses, paramedics and physiotherapists. Some courses also list sports therapy or sports rehabilitation specialists as being eligible.

Content

The ICIR transcript of competencies formed the basis of the mapping exercise for this equivalency study. The competencies cover major themes such as SABCDE primary approach, airway management, breathing, circulation and bleeding, concussion, BLS/AED, spinal injury, limb injury, medical problems, and equipment and oxygen. These main topic areas can be seen in all of the courses which have been confirmed as equivalent courses in this study, as can be seen in the section for “key course components” in the course descriptions below. As part of the supportive nature of this study, comments were passed to some providers where World Rugby felt aspects of content could be reviewed or brought up to date.

Duration and format

ICIR is made up of four online pre-requisite modules plus a 10-hour in-person training course. The **England Rugby** PHICIS course (and other countries who use the same course) has the same pre-requisites and course length and structure. The other equivalent courses also involve online activities plus either a one-day (**Scottish Rugby, FMSI, Irish Rugby Football Union**) or two-day (**The Football Association, Sport Promote**) training course.

Assessment

Assessment for ICIR is based on pre-course online assessment, formative continuous on-course assessment, summative written paper and simulation test. On-course practical assessment is a feature of all courses at this level with the utilisation of skill stations and rapid practice scenarios to assess the competency of participants. All courses also have an element of written/ theory assessment, in most cases through an exam with multiple-choice and/or Single best answer and/or extended matching questions.

Educator/ participant ratio

Given the advanced nature of the course World Rugby implement a 1:6 maximum Educator/ participant ratio. This is the same for the equivalent PHICIS course. The 1:6 ration is also seen in other courses such as those from **Scottish Rugby, The Football Association, and FMSI, with Sport Promote** having a 1:3 ratio.

Length of validity

All courses listed in this study have a length of validity of two or three years, with some providers implementing a refresher course.

Accreditation

Formal accreditation is provided for some of the courses at this level (**England Rugby, Football Association, Scottish Rugby**) by the Faculty of Pre-hospital Care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. This confirms a degree of rigour and quality through a respected external medical body and detailed accreditation process. Course endorsement by key sporting organisations is also a feature of some of the courses included in the study.

Level 3: World Rugby Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (AICIR)

Target Group

The target group for AICIR and equivalent courses is also medical practitioners, with some providers making this more advanced level course a pre-requisite for working with teams at the highest level of elite competition. For example, the **England Rugby** PHICIS course is for health care professionals working within professional rugby, including the Premiership, the Championship and with national teams.

Content

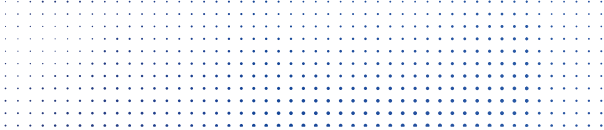
The major content areas for AICIR courses and equivalent are similar to those for ICIR and equivalent courses, going more in-depth on those core topics. Some new topics are introduced at this more advanced level including the use of medical gases.

Duration and format

The more in-depth nature of courses at this level normally require a longer training course and AICIR is a 20-hour in-person course with online pre-requisites also required. The Rugby Football League , **Football Association and England Rugby** (plus other countries who use this course) PHICIS courses are also two-day in-person courses.

Assessment

As with ICIR, at this advanced level the methods of assessment include formative continuous on-course assessment and summative written and simulation tests. Pass marks are set at around 75% for theory elements, and practical assessments can include CPR/ AED and trauma scenario (**Rugby Football League and The Football Association**).



Educator/ participant ratio

World Rugby applies a 1:3 ratio and this is also seen on the **PHICIS** course, and the courses delivered by **Rugby Football League and the Football Association**.

Length of validity

Length of validity is normally two or three years at this level, for some equivalent courses there is a refresher or recertification course to be taken at specified intervals.

Accreditation

Formal accreditation is provided for some of the courses at this level (**England Rugby, The Football Association, Rugby Football League, Scottish Rugby**) by the Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. This confirms a degree of rigour and quality through a respected external medical body and detailed accreditation process.



Summary of Medical Care Education Courses

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby First Aid in Rugby (FAIR)

England Rugby

Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (EFARU)

The Emergency First Aid in Rugby Union (EFARU) course is a rugby specific first aid course. It provides learners with the skills, knowledge and understanding required to give care, manage life-threatening conditions, minor injuries and illness, specifically focusing on those occurring in a rugby environment. Learners will be able to assess an incident, recognise the signs and symptoms of the injury or illness, and, in a safe and effective manner, assist a casualty who is suffering from injury or illness.

Key course components:

- Primary survey
- Basic life support skills
- Injury reporting
- Concussion and head injuries
- Minor injuries
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- External bleeding
- Shock
- Spinal injuries

Minimum learner age: 18.

Target group: Coaches and other volunteers designated as a first aider and responsible for providing pitch-side cover at both training and matches.

Format/ duration: Two formats offered: 7-hour course or delivered in two blocks of 3 hours, with compulsory e-learning modules to be completed prior to the course (approx. 2 hours).

Assessment: Practical and theory assessment set by awarding body.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:12.

Length of validity: Three years.

Accreditation: The EFARU course sits on the national qualification framework for England and Wales (RQF) and is recognised as an equivalent to the Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) qualification. The awarding body for the award is Qalsafe.

Scottish Rugby has created the SCRUMCAPS First Aid course to help deliver more Level 1 courses across the country as part of their commitment to improving Player Welfare. The course is suitable for anyone who is undertaking the role of first aider for a team and requires no previous healthcare or first aid knowledge.

Key course components:

- Planning and risk assessment for potential emergency situations at sports grounds
- Safety hazards for a first aider
- Protect the neck and assessment of airway, breathing and circulation
- The difficulties in telling major and minor injury apart in the early stages – particularly head injuries
- Recognising cardiac arrest and performing effective basic life support and safe defibrillation
- Initially managing a potentially spinally injured player safely in an emergency situation
- The role of the first aider in the chain of survival
- Common limb injuries including sprains, strains and fractures
- Activating appropriate help

Minimum learner age: 14.

Target group: Coaches, match officials, players, volunteers.

Format/ duration: 10 hours of blended learning, online learning with 2.5 hours in-person.

Assessment: Continual assessment/ observation.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:8.

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: n/a.

The SAFE Rugby, “Standard Approach to Field Emergencies” programme has been designed to provide a standardised method of assessment and management of the initial stages of injuries occurring in rugby. The SAFE Rugby Level 1 course is an interactive hands-on course that teaches participants practical new skills vital to first aid and on-field emergency response. The step by step, practical approach ensures that participants are confident and competent in looking after all eventualities until professional help arrives.

Key course components:

- Irish Heart Foundation Basic Life Support / AED Training
- Dealing with the unconscious player
- Head and neck injuries
- Concussion
- Fractures and joint injuries
- Common medical emergencies
- Match day preparedness

Minimum learner age: 16.

Target group: Club and school coaches, referees, officials, players and parents

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites to be completed and one-day in-person course (7 hours) of presentation and skills-based training.

Assessment: Summative assessment throughout the course.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:8 (normally 1:6).

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: American Heart Association / Irish Heart Foundation for BLS/AED.

EFAiF is a first aid course which concentrates on life and limb threatening injuries that occur in Football. The course provides knowledge, practical skills and confidence to attend a conscious or unconscious player and ensure appropriate care is provided until emergency medical services arrive and take over, or until an alternate healthcare professional assumes responsibility for the player. The aim of the course is to raise the standard of first aid provision within football. There are two versions of the course, one for professional game coaches and one for the grassroots level.

Key course components:

- The role of the first aider in football
- The jaw thrust as an airway opening technique for a contact sport such as football
- The A-E approach of the injured footballer (inclusive of the unconscious footballer)
- Emergency Action planning for football
- Preparation for action for sudden cardiac arrest in the young
- Recognition, BLS with AED
- The FA Concussion guidelines and concussion management
- The football specific first aid kit and record keeping
- Duty of care in football
- Medical emergencies in football
- Focusing on those illnesses that can lead to life threatening injuries in football
- Limb threatening injuries in football
- Wounds and bleeding/Fracture management for football
- Acute soft tissue injury management in football
- Spinal injuries in football, manual in line stabilisation and assisting the ambulance crew with a log roll
- Paediatric elements to all of the above

Minimum learner age: 16.

Target group: Coaches, team managers, parents, teachers, volunteers and carers who are or may be the designated first aid providers within their club/team environment.

Format/ duration: One day course plus e-learning modules.

Assessment: Competency assessment on the course.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:12.

Length of validity: Three years.

Accreditation: n/a

Hong Kong China Rugby First Aid in Sport (FIS) teaches how to administer basic first aid to sick and injured athletes as well as ways to prevent illnesses and injuries from occurring. The aims of the course are to provide participants with the fundamental principles of sports first aid; to develop the ability to assess and respond effectively to common sports injuries and medical emergencies; and to ensure participants can administer immediate care while awaiting professional medical assistance.

Key course components:

- Initial Assessment SABCDE
- Airway & Breathing
- Circulation, Bleeding & Shock
- Head Injury & Concussion
- Spinal Injury
- CPR & AED, Choking
- Limb Injury
- Medical Problems
- Skill Drills
- Emergency Action Plan & Injury Reports

Minimum learner age: 14.

Target group: Coaches, referees, managers, players and parents.

Format/ duration: Learning time 13hrs (4.5hrs on-line/self-study, 7.5 hours classroom)

Assessment: Skills assessment on the course and post-course theory test.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:10.

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: n/a

ITC First

- ITC Level 3 Award in First Aid for Sport, Exercise and Fitness
- ITC Certificate in First Aid for Sport, Exercise & Fitness at SCQF Level 6

Following successful completion of the qualification (similar versions applying respectively to England/ Wales and Scotland) an individual can undertake the role of Emergency First Aider in a Sport or Leisure setting. The qualification will benefit all who need to be introduced to emergency first aid in the sport and leisure setting. It covers various aspects of first aid in a sport or activity environment:

Key course components:

- Duty of care requirements
- Basic Life Support
- Injury assessment to make cease/return to play activity decisions
- Sudden occurrences/conditions requiring first aid
- Primary survey
- Safe Airway Position/ Recovery Position
- CPR & AED
- Choking
- SALTAPS (See, Ask, Look, Touch, Active movement, Passive movement, and Strength)
- Progressive Function Test
- Assisted move
- Limb support
- Head immobilisation
- Bleeding

Minimum learner age: 16.

Target group: Sports coaches, parents, volunteers and those involved with activity.

Format/ duration: Minimum of 7 hours tutor contact time.

Assessment: Demonstration of practical performance to produce evidence against assessment criteria.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:12.

Length of validity: Three years.

Accreditation: Ofqual (England & Wales), SQA Accreditation (Scotland).

Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Immediate Care in Rugby (Level 2)

England Rugby

Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2

The course provides health care professionals with the clinical skills to assess, diagnose and deliver care while achieving stabilisation and packaging for removal to a safe area awaiting the arrival of further advanced care provision. The PHICIS Level 2 course is aimed at those health care professionals (HCPs) and Allied HCPs working in the community game and is specifically designed to address the needs of those working within rugby union. The course draws on existing hospital emergency care courses, i.e. ALS, ATLS, and pre-hospital immediate care courses, i.e. PHEC, but has additional rugby/collision sport specific modules such as the on-field assessment of concussion, wound care and wound closure.

Key course components:

- SABCDE approach
- Airway management
- Breathing status
- Circulation, bleeding, shock
- Neurological disability and concussion
- BLS & AED
- Spinal injury
- Limb injury
- Medical problems
- Equipment and oxygen

Target group: Health care professionals; doctors, nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists, sports trainers, sports rehabilitationists and other registered health care professionals (HCPs) and allied health care practitioners working in rugby.

Format/ duration: 10-hour in-person course plus online pre-requisites.

Assessment: Assessment through pre-course online assessment, continuous on-course assessment, written paper and simulation test.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:6.

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital Care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The following courses are identical to the England Rugby PHICIS Level 2 and are therefore also included in the equivalency table:

Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 2
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 2 (identical to PHICIS Level 2)

Scottish Rugby Medical Cardiac & Pitch Side Skills course (SCRUMCAPS) aims to teach a systematic approach to assessment, initial management and subsequent interventions for medical and traumatic emergencies in the sporting environment. By the end of the SCRUMCAPS Level 2 course, candidates will be able to:

- Demonstrate a safe approach and a systematic initial assessment
- Understand the limitations of working in the pre-hospital space, the need to focus on doing the simple things well and seeking further assistance
- Identify the key life-threatening injuries and appropriate interventions
- Define the SAMPLE history and deliver an ATMIST style handover.

Key course components:

- Initial assessment
- Life threatening injury
- Airway management
- Breathing and ventilation
- Circulation and shock
- Orthopaedic trauma
- Spinal trauma
- BLS & AED
- Medical emergencies

Target group: Clinicians working at any level of the game in Scotland.

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites to be completed and one-day in-person course.

Assessment: Formative and summative, with a final written test and simulation assessment.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:6.

Length of validity: Candidates complete a main Level 3 SCRUMCAPS course every second year, with a one-day Refresher course between.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The SAFE Rugby, “Standard Approach to Field Emergencies” programme has been designed to provide a standardised method of assessment and management of the initial stages of injuries occurring in rugby. The SAFE Rugby Level 2 course is an immediate care in sports course that equips health professionals with the skills and knowledge to assess and manage the first minutes of serious injury or illness in any sports setting.

Key course components:

- Airway management
- C Collars
- Concussion
- Fracture management
- Head & Spinal injuries
- Heartcode BLS
- Initial approach
- Log roll – moving the injured player
- Orthopaedic injuries
- Spinal devices

Target group: Medical practitioners, chartered physiotherapists, nurses, physical therapists and other health professionals.

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites to be completed and one-day in-person course (10 hours) of presentation and skills-based training.

Assessment: Summative over the course of the skill stations and rapid practice scenarios.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:8 (normally 1:6).

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: American Heart Association / Irish Heart Foundation for BLS/AED.

The course builds on immediate care skills and provides experience that support practitioners to act as the primary care provider in the sports, pre-hospital environment of football. It supports practitioners to better deal with life and limb threatening injuries on the field of play.

Key course components:

- Medico-legal issues and duty of care in football
- Emergency action planning for football
- Primary A-E approach of the injured player
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest in football
- Basic Life Support (BLS) with use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)
- Airway management and oxygen therapy
- Limb threatening fractures/ dislocations and their emergency management
- Head injuries and The FA concussion guidelines
- Spinal injury and management (inclusive of extrication)
- Medical emergencies in football

Target group: Healthcare professionals responsible for the immediate care and management of footballers.

Format/ duration: Online pre-course activities (16+ hours) plus two-day in-person course.

Assessment: Pre-course online assessment with pass mark of 80% required to enter the course. On-course competency assessment using practical skill stations. Two practical summative assessments (trauma & CPR).

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:6.

Length of validity: Three years.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

SportPromote

SportPromote Course

The course is an advanced pitch-side emergency care course. It focuses on providing the knowledge and skills required to manage the acutely injured or unwell athlete. The course covers a wide range of conditions including the management of spinal and head injury, as well as cardiac arrest and collapse.

Key course components:

- Cardiac arrest on the field of play
- Structured assessment of collapsed athlete
- Structured assessment of athlete suffering trauma
- Management of life-threatening injuries and illnesses
- Ability to apply cervical collar
- Ability to manage an airway (including airway adjuncts to LMA)
- Ability to apply pelvic binder safely
- Ability to apply limb splints safely
- Ability to set up and safely extricate a player
- Knowledge of concussion assessment
- Knowledge of wounds management on and off the field of play

Target group: Any healthcare professional who is required to care for an athlete or team of athletes. The course is only for qualified clinicians - medical, physiotherapy and sports therapy at university degree level.

Format/ duration: Pre-course activities plus two-day in-person course.

Assessment: Continuous assessment, MCQ (pass 80%) BLS/AED assessment and trauma scenario assessment.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:3.

Length of validity: Three years.

Accreditation: Endorsed by FIFA and UEFA.

The objective of the PSS-D FMSI training course is to prepare health professionals, present on the field, to handle any type of emergency, traumatic or otherwise, based on the specific risks of each sport. The course focuses on evaluating the specific risks related to different sports and on competent intervention. The training course – designed in line with the latest guidelines of the American Heart Association (AHA) and the European Resuscitation Council (ERC), and aligned with the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) – includes an initial general introduction to the subject and a framework for emergency prevention in the facility where the sporting event takes place (MOGESS – Organisational Model for the Management of Health Emergencies in Sport), teaching basic CPR and early defibrillation, as well as immobilisation and pick-up techniques (objective of PSS/PSS-D).

Key course components:

- Classification of sports risk
- Management of health emergencies in sport
- Medical emergencies
- Traumatic emergencies
- PSS D
- The defibrillator
- Major trauma, spinal trauma
- Cerebral concussion
- CPR / AED

Target group: Medical practitioners.

Format/ duration: Minimum of 12-hours course, theoretical part and practical exercises.

Assessment: Written and practical evaluation of participants.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:6.

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: Supported by CONI. Note: equivalence only applies to accreditations awarded prior to end Oct.2025.



Courses deemed equivalent to World Rugby Advanced Immediate Care in Rugby (Level 3)

England Rugby

Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3

These courses are aimed at providing health care professionals; doctors, nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists, sports trainers, sports rehabilitationists and other registered health care professionals (HCPs) and allied health care practitioners working in rugby, with the clinical skills to assess, diagnose and deliver advanced care while achieving stabilisation and packaging for removal to a safe area awaiting the arrival of further advanced care provision.

The PHICIS Level 3 course is a requirement for those Health Care Professionals (HCPs) and Allied HCPs working within professional rugby, including the Premiership, the Championship and with national teams.

Key course components:

- SABCDE approach
- Airway management
- Breathing status
- Circulation, bleeding, shock
- Neurological disability and concussion
- BLS & AED
- Spinal injury
- Limb injury
- Medical problems
- Wound care
- Equipment and medical gases

Target group: Suitably qualified registered health care professional.

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites plus 20-hour in-person course.

Assessment: Assessment through pre-course online assessment, continuous on-course assessment, written paper and simulation test.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:3.

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital Care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

The following courses are identical to the England Rugby PHICIS Level 3 and are therefore also included in the equivalency table:

Hong Kong China Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Japan Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Rugby Australia	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Singapore Rugby	Pre-Hospital Immediate Care in Sport (PHICIS) Level 3
Welsh Rugby Union (WRU)	ICIR Level 3 (identical to PHICIS Level 3)

Scottish Rugby Medical Cardiac & Pitch Side Skills course (SCRUMCAPS) aims to teach a systematic approach to assessment, initial management and subsequent interventions for medical and traumatic emergencies in the sporting environment. The level 3 course is for clinicians working in the professional, elite and higher league areas of Scottish Rugby. By the end of the course, the candidates will be able to:

- Demonstrate a safe approach and a systematic initial assessment
- Understand the limitations of working in the pre-hospital space, the need to focus on doing the simple things well and seeking further assistance
- Identify the key life-threatening injuries and appropriate interventions
- Define the SAMPLE history and deliver an ATMIST style handover.

Key course components:

- Initial assessment
- Life threatening injury
- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation and shock
- Orthopaedic trauma
- Spinal trauma
- BLS & AED
- Facial injuries
- Concussion
- Extrication / vacuum matt demonstration
- Emergency action plans in sport
- Medical emergencies

Target group: Medical staff (doctors, dentists and physiotherapists) working in the professional, elite and higher league areas of Scottish Rugby.

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites to be completed and one-day in-person course.

Assessment: Formative and summative, with a final written test and simulation assessment.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:6.

Length of validity: Candidates complete a main Level 3 SCRUMCAPS course every second year, with a one-day Refresher course between.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The SAFE Rugby, “Standard Approach to Field Emergencies” programme has been designed to provide a standardised method of assessment and management of the initial stages of injuries occurring in rugby. The SAFE Rugby Level 3 course is an advanced immediate care in sports course with a target group restricted to health professionals working in professional rugby in Ireland. It is a two-day (16-hour) course built around presentation and skills-based training.

Key course components:

- Fracture management
- Airway management
- C Collars
- Cardiac arrest management
- Chest and neck ALS
- Concussion
- Head and spinal injuries
- Heartcode BLS
- Initial approach
- Log roll – moving the injured player
- Orthopaedic injuries
- Primary survey
- Spinal devices

Target group: Restricted to health professional working in professional rugby in Ireland.

Format/ duration: Online pre-requisites to be completed and two-day in-person course (16 hours) of presentation and skills-based training.

Assessment: Summative over the course of the skill stations. Individual assessment during scenarios and rapid practice scenarios. End of Course MCQ.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:8 (normally 1:6).

Length of validity: Two years.

Accreditation: American Heart Association / Irish Heart Foundation for BLS/AED

Advanced Trauma Medical Management in Football (ATMMiF) is a sports trauma course and is the highest medical qualification provided by the FA, designed specifically for doctors, physiotherapists or therapists responsible for the pre-hospital management of footballers. The course supports health professionals to better deal with life and limb threatening injuries on the field of play. It builds on the learning from the Intermediate Trauma Medical Management in Football by adding further advanced immediate care and team leadership skills. The course is a comprehensive pre-hospital sports trauma course that is pertinent to football but has skills and competencies that are usable in other sports.

Key course components:

- Medico legal aspects and duty of care of working in football
- Emergency action planning for football
- Structured A-E approach of the injured player
- Sudden cardiac arrest in football
- Basic and Advanced Life Support (BLS and ALS)
- Use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)
- Advanced airway management and oxygen therapy
- Management of the critically ill player (inclusive of invasive techniques)
- Fractures and Dislocations in football and pain management
- Spinal injury and management in football (inclusive of extrication)
- Head injury management and the FA Concussion guidelines
- Maxillo-facial injury in football
- Medical emergencies in football

Target group: Healthcare professionals responsible for the immediate care and management of footballers; holding a medical degree or practicing physiotherapist/paramedic, nurse, sports therapist, sports rehabilitator.

Format/ duration: Pre-course online activities (21+ hours) plus two-day in-person course delivered through a range of practical and theory workshops, with supporting demonstrations and question and answer sessions.

Assessment: Pre-course, open book assessment plus on-course continual assessment via skill stations and summative assessment of written paper, plus two practical assessments of CPR/AED and trauma scenario. Overall pass mark is 75%.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:3.

Length of validity: Three Years. The FA recommend one-day reaccreditation course to be taken annually.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Rugby Football League (RFL)

Immediate Medical Management On the Field of Play Course (IMMOFP)

IMMOFP is a high-level medical qualification which is designed specifically for the pre-hospital management of players. It aims to create a centrally delivered course which is 'fit for purpose' for those charged with the direct responsibility for managing critically injured/ill players in a pre-hospital environment in the collision sport of rugby league. It also provides a forum for sports medicine practitioners where knowledge, best practice and continued professional development (CPD) can be promoted.

Key course components:

- Emergency Action Plans
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Airway Management and Manoeuvres
- Circulation
- Spinal and Head Injuries
- Bleeding
- Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Other Medical Emergencies

Target group: Medical staff working (or volunteering) at clubs, e.g. doctor, physiotherapist, paramedic, sports therapist, sports rehabilitator.

Format/ duration: Pre-course online activities (21 hours) plus two-day in-person course delivered through a range of practical and theory workshops, with supporting demonstrations and question and answer sessions.

Assessment: Pre-course, open book assessment plus on-course continual assessment via skill stations and summative assessment of written paper, plus two practical assessments of CPR/AED and trauma scenario. Overall pass mark is 75%.

Maximum tutor/ participant ratio: 1:3.

Length of validity: The qualification must be reaccredited with recertification over a four-year cycle.

Accreditation: Faculty of Pre-hospital care - Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh





WORLD
RUGBY



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