



**TO:** Provincial Unions and Referee Societies

**FROM:** Nathan Abdelnour – Manager, Match Official Development

**DATE:** Thursday, 18 July 2019

**SUBJECT: Rugby Canada Player Welfare and Law Update Memo**

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Dear Provincial Unions and Referee Societies,

As part of Rugby Canada’s continued commitment to player welfare and establishing a safe playing environment for all participants of the game, we are updating you with some relevant information from World Rugby. All of the Law amendments and updates listed below are for immediate implementation.

### **Law Amendment – Law 19: Scrum**

World Rugby has amended Law 19.10 (b), which now reads: “The front-rows crouch with their heads to the left of their immediate opponents’, so that no player’s head is touching the neck or shoulders of an opponent.” This amendment has been made in an effort to alleviate axial loading, or rotational load, on front-row player on engagement.

It is imperative that match officials ensure a space between opposing front-row players prior to calling “set” and focus on seeing them ear-to-ear or temple-to-temple. The sanction for non-compliance is a free kick, and is to be implemented immediately across the game.

Please see the World Rugby release here: <https://www.world.rugby/news/435760>

### **High Tackle Framework**

World Rugby has removed the wording regarding *direct* and *indirect* contact to the head from the High Tackle Framework. This means that the sole question a match official needs to ask following the identification of whether there is a shoulder charge or a high tackle is whether there was *any* contact with the head. The rest of the Framework is to be applied as it is written.

Please see the World Rugby High Tackle information here:  
<https://laws.worldrugby.org/?domain=9>

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## Reminders

### Concussion Management for the General Public: Recognize and Remove

A reminder that World Rugby's Recognize and Remove protocol is the ***ONLY*** process to be used at ALL levels of the game in Canada when a potential head injury is identified. There is to be ***absolutely no use of the HIA protocol*** in any form of the domestic game.

For more information, please see the World Rugby Concussion Management for the General Public protocol here:

<https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/?documentid=module&module=21>

### World Rugby Goggles

A reminder that the ***only*** sports goggles eligible to be used by players at all levels of the game are those approved by World Rugby. They are only available at the following site: <https://playerwelfare.worldrugby.org/goggles>

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nathan Abdelnour ([nabdelnour@rugby.ca](mailto:nabdelnour@rugby.ca)).

Sincerely,

**Nathan Abdelnour**  
**RUGBY CANADA**