

The 2021 Canadian Concussion in Sport Symposium Changing the Game with Data



February 9th, 2021

What is the Blue Card?



The Blue Card is a process initiated by a coach, player or match official and delivered on field by the Match Official to identify a player who has been removed from the field of play due to a suspected concussion. The process then tracks the player through assessment and return to play.

Where did the Blue Card come from?



A rise in concussion related insurance claims



Data from NZRU Trial



<u>ALL ADULT RUGBY MATCHES</u>	<u>No:</u>	<u>ALL GRADES OF UNDER 19 RUGBY</u>	<u>No:</u>	<u>NATIONAL TOTAL</u>
No of matches Blue Card has applied	6930	No of matches Blue Card has applied	3559	10489
No of Blue Cards Issued	300	No of Blue Cards Issued	130	430
No of Blue Cards Rescinded	11	No of Blue Cards Rescinded	3	14
No of Players returning @ 21 days	166	No of Players returning @ 23 days	76	242
No of Players returning after more than 21 days	42	No of Players returning after more than 23 days	20	62
No of Players who have not resumed playing	81	No of Players who have not resumed playing	31	112

Data from NZRU Trial



Ratio of Blue Cards to Games Played 1:24

Blue Carded Players who have not resumed playing: 112/430 = 26%:

- 22 Issued near end of season – expected to return 2018
- 14 Did not return 2017 – expected to return 2018
- 2 Did not return 2017 - plans uncertain for 2018
- 4 Moved out of region/overseas
- 1 Switched to Rugby League
- 2 No contact/information since Blue Card issued
- 1 Unlikely to return to playing
- 6 Multiple concussions/head knocks/medical advice – will not return to playing (1 now coaching)
- 53 Following up for clarification/information



Research in Canada on the Blue Card

Initial research from last year's Blue Card Pilot in Ontario resulted in a recommendation to ensure Referees have practical training to prepare them for issuing Blue Cards and that this training be integrated into the Match Official Level 1 course so that all new referees in Canada are trained as soon as they come into the role.

Led by Dr. Lynda Mainwaring and Mike Jorgensen at the University of Toronto, this expanded research will focus on referee experiences in delivering the Blue Card process. The research will also look specifically at the experiences of female referees.

Blue Card Implementation in Canada



Currently in development based on Blue Card trials from other rugby unions:

- Blue Card eLearning – this will provide an overview of the process and the roles within
- Blue Card Role-Specific Training – Specific to referees, coaches and club administrators
- Blue Card Automated Tracking through our game management system SportLomo
- Mandatory criteria for provincial unions wanting to implement the Blue Card



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