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EASTERN RAPTORS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

HEAD GEAR, PLAYER SAFETY AND CONCUSSION POLICY

Version History

Version	Date	Authors	Summary of Changes
1.0	16/3/14	S Lindberg, C Thick, R Sharp,	Document Initialisation

Acceptance

Position	Approval Date	Version	Name	Next Review
President	27/3/14	1.0	R. Sharp	9/2014
Secretary	27/3/14	1.0	R. Marnock	

1. Introduction

Eastern Raptors Rugby League Club (Inc) Registration No 00056201U (the Association.)

2. Inconsistency with the Constitution

If there is any inconsistency between the terms of this Policy and the Constitution, then (to the extent permitted by law) the Constitution will override this policy, and will apply, to the extent of that inconsistency.

3. Purpose of Our Policy

The main objective of the Head Gear, Player Safety and Concussion Policy (policy) is to set parameters on when a player must wear headgear and when a player is deemed safe to return to the field of play. This is done in the interest of player safety and risk minimisation.

4. Who Our Policy Applies To

This policy applies to every player in the Association at all age group levels.

5. Extent of Our Policy

This policy covers age groups in the mini, mod and international age group competitions. It covers both training, gala days, competition games and away/interstate games.

6. Association Responsibilities

The Association will:

- Implement and comply with this policy,
- Promote this policy to everyone involved in the Association,
- Promote and model appropriate standards on player safety at all times,



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- Respond to breaches or complaints made under this policy, promptly, fairly and as confidentially as possible within the framework specified in Part 3 Division 2, Disciplinary Action and Division 3 Grievance Procedure of the Constitution,
- Take specific actions mentioned at the note to Rule 19 of the Constitution,
- Review this policy every 12 months.

7. Individual Responsibilities

As a condition of membership, everyone involved with this Association must:

- Comply with the standards and responsibilities outlined in this policy,
- Always place the safety and welfare of players above all other considerations,
- Be responsible and accountable for their safety equipment.

7.1 Mouth guards

It is compulsory for all players to wear mouth guards during training, gala days, competition games and away/interstate games. This is 100% applicable to all players. It is the players and/or parent's responsibility to purchase and maintain mouthguards and ensure it is available at all times. In the event that a player does not bring a mouthguard they will not be able to train or be available for selection.

7.2 Headgear

All players in the mini and mod grades (i.e. U6-U12's) must wear headgear during training, gala days, competition games and away/interstate games. This is to remove the potential for low-level impact injuries primarily to lessen the effects of superficial bumps, contusions and abrasions bumps and grazes that may cause low level pain or discomfort.

All players in the international grades (i.e. U13 and above) are strongly and highly advised to wear headgear during training, gala days, competition games and away/interstate games.

The Association, in two scenarios, will enforce compulsory application of headgear:

1. Player/s training or playing in a higher team than their normal team (i.e. U9 playing in the U10 age group.
2. All players returning from a head injury/concussion (after clearance has been given by a doctor.)

It will be the Head Trainers responsibility to clear the player for the removal of headgear. The Head Trainers instruction is to be followed by the player, parents and all parties involved. It will be up to the Head Trainer to clear a player to return to games (and/or training) to help prevent "Second Concussion Syndrome" or "Second Impact Syndrome SIS."



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7.3 Concussion

In the event that a player suffers or is suspected to suffer a concussion, it is the players' responsibility to seek medical clearance from their family doctor or hospital doctor. Any player diagnosed with or suspected to suffer from a concussion cannot return to play/training without medical clearance in the form of a SCAT 3 evaluation/clearance by their doctor.**

Upon positive or suspected diagnosis by the Head Trainer or Level 1 Trainer(s), the player and parents must:

1. Visit their doctor and obtain a diagnosis and direction.
2. Attain clearance in the form of a letter from the doctor if diagnosis is negative for a concussion.
3. If player is diagnosed with a concussion, the player must follow up with their doctor till they are cleared of any concussion symptoms, by a pass of the SCAT 3 concussion assessment tool.
4. Present the doctors clearance to play letter to the Head Trainer for clearance to return to active training, including SCAT 3 clearance results if the player was diagnosed with a concussion.
5. Wear headgear for training and games until the head trainer is satisfied the risk has been minimized (minimum 2 weeks).

All players, parents, volunteers (i.e. coaches, team managers etc) and members must follow the instruction of the Head Trainer and his/her team of trainers at all times. This is not negotiable.

All ERRLC officials directly involved in the games should carry with them a copy of the "Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool" at all training and game events.***

** http://sma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/2013_Sports_Concussion_Assessment_Tool_3_SCAT3_1.pdf

*** <http://www.nrl.com/portals/nrl/RadEditor/Documents/ConcussionReconitionTool.pdf>

