

## SAFETY POLICY

### BACKGROUND

Our vision is to **inspire all Australians** to enjoy our great **global game**. One of the four key pillars of our strategy is to make Rugby **a game for all**. To achieve this, Rugby must be as **safe, inclusive and fair** as possible. Rugby, like many other activities, involves an element of risk. This policy is aimed at ensuring that Rugby is as safe as it practically can be to make the game fun and fulfilling for all.

### POLICY

**The primary consideration in all participation decisions must be the safety of all participants as a requirement that overrides all others.**

### WHAT IS ‘SAFETY’?

Safety in its broadest sense is protection from any harm, danger or risk. The interplay between this policy and the Australian Rugby Participation Policy is intended to primarily deal with potential *physical* harm, danger or risk that may be associated with participating in Rugby.

This focus on *physical* harm, danger or risk is not intended at all to devalue or de-prioritise the significance of the social, cognitive, emotional and environmental safety and welfare aspects of participating in Rugby. It is incumbent on all participants to ensure that rugby is as safe, fair and inclusive as possible.

The Australian Rugby Member Protection Policy, inclusion policies published from time to time, various associated guidelines and educational resources found in the [Rugby Learning Centre](#) such as ‘Play By the Rules’, Child Protection and Harassment and Discrimination, provide requirements and guidance in this regard.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all participants associated with Rugby in all positions whether paid, unpaid / voluntary.

### EXCEPTIONS

None

### SANCTION(S)

It is an obligation under the Australian Rugby Code of Conduct for participants to comply with this Safety Policy and its related policies and guidelines. Intentional or reckless disregard for these **may result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Australian Rugby Code of Conduct**.

### RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Australian Rugby Code of Conduct and Australian Rugby Member Protection Policy  
 Australian Rugby Participation Policy (and associated dispensation procedures)