



## BLUE CARD – MATCH OFFICIAL KEY POINTS

### RELEVANT WORLD RUGBY LAWS

**Law 3.24** - If, at any point during a match, a player is concussed or has suspected concussion, that player must be immediately and permanently removed from the playing area. This process is known as “Recognize and Remove”.

**Law 3.22** - A player is deemed to be injured if:

- a. At national representative level, it is the opinion of a doctor that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue.
- b. In other matches, where a match organizer has given explicit permission, it is the opinion of a medically trained person that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue. If none is present, that player may be replaced if the referee agrees.
- c. The referee decides (with or without medical advice) that it would be inadvisable for the player to continue. The referee orders that player to leave the playing area.

### RELEVANT RUGBY CANADA AND RUGBY ONTARIO POLICIES

Please note it is requirement of all registered match officials that they complete the Rugby Canada Play Smart Program. This includes the completion of the World Rugby Ready, World Rugby Laws of the Game and Concussion Management for the General Public Online courses. The completion of these courses is designed to assist you in your application of Laws 3.24 and 3.22.

### BEFORE THE MATCH

- Advise both team captains that the Blue Card initiative is in place for this match.
- If a captain/player/coach indicates they are not aware of the Blue Card Initiative, the initiative remains in place, it is recommended you provide them with a copy of the “Blue Card Overview”.



## DURING THE MATCH

- When a player is removed from the field of play for a suspected concussion, the match official will issue that player with a “Blue Card”, in a similar manner to which a red or yellow card is issued.
- That player is required to leave the field of play immediately and cannot return and play in that match.
- Record the name, team and jersey number of any player to whom you issue a Blue Card. An assistant referee may not issue a Blue Card, but may consult with the match official to assist them in their decision as to whether to issue a Blue Card. The match official may also consult with any medical staff present in determining whether it would be inadvisable for the player to continue and a Blue Card issued.
- A player issued a Blue Card may be replaced. Furthermore, a tactically replaced player may return to play to replace a player who has been issued a Blue Card.

Note - As a match official, you are not required to do anything differently to the what you have done in the past in terms of the application of Laws 3.22 and Laws 3.24. The Blue Card Initiative has been introduced to enhance player safety and welfare by creating a formal process of reporting and tracking a player who is removed from the field of play for a suspected concussion. Player safety and welfare is the joint responsibility of everyone involved in the match - players, coaches, match officials and medical staff.

## AFTER THE MATCH

Record the issuing of the Blue Card when lodging your match report in SportLomo.

**For full information on Rugby Ontario’s Blue Card Initiative please go to [www.rugbyontario.com/bluecard](http://www.rugbyontario.com/bluecard)**