



# 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

- It is requirement of all registered Match Officials that they complete the Rugby Canada Play Smart Program including the completion of World Rugby’s:
  - Laws of the Game,
  - Rugby Ready and
  - Concussion Management for the General Public.
- Match Officials are required to read and sign the Concussion Code of Conduct and review Ontario’s Concussion Awareness Resources in compliance with Rowan’s Law.

## BEFORE THE MATCH

- Advise both team captains and coaches 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 direct them to the Rugby Ontario Blue Card Website.



## 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, if appropriate.
- 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. Anybody involved in the game can recognize signs and symptoms of a suspected concussion and the athlete must be removed from play. As the match official you should be made aware of a suspected concussion to ensure the appropriate process is put in place post-match.
- 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)**