

Why has the blue card been introduced?

It's a visual awareness tool to reinforce to everyone that the player is leaving the field due to suspected concussion. Only 57% of players and parents were aware of Rugby AU's Concussion Management guidance in the 2017 national survey.

Issuing a Blue Card triggers an off-field process where the player must be cleared to return to play by a doctor (having followed Rugby AU's concussion process).

How do I know a player is concussed? I'm not a medical doctor.

You don't know they're concussed. But, if anyone at the field observes the signs or symptoms of concussion they have a collective responsibility to remove that player from the field. A player with suspected concussion is deemed to be injured. This is not a medical diagnosis. This collective responsibility extends to the player themselves, other players, coaches, trainers, assistant referees and spectators. This has not changed from 2017.

You should work collaboratively with the medical/first aid attendant. If you have seen signs & symptoms of concussion – tell them that & advise you will issue a Blue Card. If you have not, then ask if they suspect concussion. The referee still has the final say.

What happens after a match in which I have shown a Blue Card?

In exactly the same way as you check red and yellow cards have been correctly recorded on the team sheet / RugbyLink app / other competition management system app, you will check that team managers have recorded any Blue Cards correctly. If they did not provide the app or team sheet for you to check, you should notify your competition manager of this (likely through your association), along with any information identifying the player (e.g. team name and jersey number).

The team manager should provide the player with a Concussion Referral & Return Form. If they are unsure of the mechanism of injury, or signs and symptoms observed, they should check with you.

What should I do if I believe someone is not following their responsibilities under the Rugby AU Concussion Procedure?

For example, if you know a player was shown a blue card on Sat and they are back playing or training the next day (which is impossible under the procedure). You may wish to bring this to the coach, manager's or parent's attention, as they not may be aware that the player was shown a Blue Card. If they ignore your advice or you are not confident in approaching them, please report this through [Rugby AU's incident reporting system](#). This is a potential breach of the Rugby AU Code of Conduct and your report will notify the Competition Manager so they may investigate the case.

Where can I find more information?

[Rugby AU's Concussion webpage](#) has many fact sheets and FAQs you can download.

The 'Concussion and Serious Injury Management' program on the [Rugby Learning Centre](#) contains much of the same content as the face-to-face presentation delivered around the state. Anyone can enrol in this.

SIGNS OF A CONCUSSION



Loss of
Consciousness



Disorientation



Incoherent
Speech



Confusion



Memory Loss



Dazed or
Vacant Stare

SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION



Headache
or Dizziness



Difficulty
Concentrating



Sensitivity
to Light



Ringing in
the Ears



Fatigue



Vomiting