



To: **Secretaries / Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of the IRB**

From: **David Carrigy**
Head of Development & International Relations

Date: September 18, 2013

Re: **Practical application of Law 3 and Regulation 15**

Council at its Annual and Special Meetings held on May 8, 2013 agreed to approve changes to IRB Regulation 15 and IRB Law 3.

Following the changes to IRB Regulation 15 and IRB Law 3 the notes set out in **APPENDIX ONE** have been prepared to assist in the practical application where a Match Day Doctor (MDD) is appointed to an international test match. This document has been produced for the benefit of; Players, team management, team physicians, match officials (fourth and fifth officials in particular) and MDDs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Carrigy
Head of Development & International Relations



Practical application of Law 3 and Regulation 15 and the role of the Match Day Doctor

Following the changes to Law 3 and Regulation 15 the following notes will assist in the practical application where a Match Day Doctor (MDD) is appointed to an international test match. This document has been produced for the benefit of; Players, team management, team physicians, match officials (fourth and fifth officials in particular) and MDDs.

BLOOD

1. The definition of a blood injury that is allowed to access 15 minute temporary substitution is 'uncontrolled active bleeding'.
2. Practical definition provided in Match Day Doctor (MDD) Education Module *"Participants with uncontrolled active bleeding should be removed from the field of play if the bleeding cannot be stopped within 60 seconds or as soon as is practical. A temporary substitution is allowed for up to 15 minutes to allow medical staff to control the bleeding, cleanse the wound and cover the wound"*
3. The MDD is the decision maker on access to 15 minute temporary substitution - Regulation 15.2.1.c - if no MDD this responsibility rests with Referee
4. Through the 4th official the MDD can recommend "the removal of contaminated clothing from a player on the field, at the next break in play".
5. Minor cuts and abrasions that do not have active bleeding should be cleansed and covered during scheduled breaks in play.

PSCA

- MDD has power to call for a PSCA
- MDD has power to call for a second PSCA on a player who has been cleared by a Team Doctor
- MDD has power to remove a player from further game participation as per Regulation 15.2.1 d. - *If the nominated Match doctor gives his opinion that a Player should not continue playing on account of his injury, (whether such injury is a blood injury or otherwise) shall not be allowed to resume playing. The opinion of the nominated Match doctor shall be conveyed to the Player's Union or its representative and it is then for that Union to decide whether or not a replacement shall be introduced.*
- MDD has power to enforce permanent removal from play any player who has indications for permanent removal under the PSCA criteria.

HEAT GUIDELINES

MDD must confirm IRB Heat Guidelines require implementation on days of extreme temperatures