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Serious Injury Protocol (SIP)

(Update 30 August 2021)

SA RUGBY via BokSmart have endorsed the appointment of a ***Serious Injury Case Manager (SICM)***, whose primary role is to assist SA RUGBY in the appropriate follow-up management of rugby-related serious and/or catastrophic injuries, and data-collection on these cases. The ***SICM*** is also the direct link to the ***Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund*** support system.

A Serious and/or Catastrophic Injury is defined as any head, neck, spine, or brain injury that is life-threatening, or has the potential to be permanently debilitating and results in the emergency admission of a rugby player to a hospital or medical care centre.

THEREFORE, ONLY SERIOUS CONCUSSION, HEAD, NECK OR SPINE INJURIES MEETING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE SICM:

- i. The injury must be potentially life-threatening for the player.***
- ii. The injury must be potentially debilitating or disabling.***
- iii. The injury must result in the player being admitted to a hospital ward.***

The nearest and most suitable hospital or medical facility (*i.e., private or state hospital*) must be determined by the school or club's emergency action plan, and the player's medical aid status.

The club or school must identify and have present at the field a *Responsible Person* to take charge of managing the situation. *Responsible Person* for the purposes hereof, means, in order of seniority, a sports physician, medical doctor, emergency care personnel, physiotherapist, biokineticist, rugby medic, first aider, coach, referee, and manager.

Where an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider ***is not present*** at the field, the duties of the *Responsible Person* are outlined in 1 below.

Where an EMS provider ***is present*** at the field, the *Responsible Person* will oversee the duties of the EMS provider in 2 below.

In the event of a Serious and/or Catastrophic Injury during a rugby match or practice at a club or school where:

1. Emergency Medical Services ***are not present*** at the field.

The *Responsible Person* must:

- 1.1 provide on-site and appropriate medical care of the injured player, or if he/she is not qualified to do so, a suitably qualified person in attendance must do so.
- 1.2 immediately alert the 'BokSmart SpineLine' call centre on phone number **0800 678 678** which is linked to the Emergency Service provider, **ER24**.



- 1.3 ensure that an appropriate emergency response team has been dispatched to the venue via the '*BokSmart SpineLine*' process, i.e., an ambulance. Alternatively, this does not always have to be **ER24**; they might be further away and delay timely transport and access to treatment.
- 1.4 oversee the transportation of the injured player to the hospital or medical facility, if so required.
- 1.5 record and collate to the best of his/her ability the injury details, and the personal details of anyone associated with the injury, including witness reports if any are available.
- 1.6 notify the next of kin, unless in the case of a fatality, whereby he/she must contact the police, who will perform this task.
- 1.7 notify the *SICM* by completing the 'Serious Injury Report' form and e-mail or fax it within 48 hours to the *SICM* (Mrs. Gail Baerecke – Cell: 0728903538, e-mail: manager@playersfund.org.za, fax: 021 659 5653).

2. Emergency Medical Services **are present** at the field.

- 2.1 The *Responsible Person*/EMS provider must provide on-site and appropriate medical care of the injured player.
- 2.2 The *Responsible Person*/EMS provider must contact the '*BokSmart SpineLine*' number immediately and log the event with **ER24**.
- 2.3 Should the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) provider not have appropriate transportation available at the venue, they must request or dispatch an appropriate emergency response team to the venue, e.g., an ambulance. This does not always have to be **ER24**; they might be further away and delay timely transport and access to treatment.
- 2.4 If so required, the player must be transported to the nearest and most suitable hospital or medical facility.

- 2.5 The *Responsible Person*/EMS provider must record and collate to the best of their abilities the injury details, and the personal details of anyone associated with the injury, including witness reports if any are available.
- 2.6 The *Responsible Person*/EMS provider must notify the next of kin, unless in the case of a fatality, whereby they must contact the police, who will perform this task.
- 2.7 The *Responsible Person*/EMS provider must notify the *SICM* of the incident by completing the 'Serious Injury Report' form and e-mail or fax it within 48 hours to the *SICM* (Mrs. Gail Baerecke – Cell: 0728903538, e-mail: manager@playersfund.org.za, fax: 021 659 5653)

3. *SICM* Responsibilities

- 3.1 The *SICM*, on receipt of the 'Serious Injury Report' form as in 1.7 and 2.7, and where the case meets the *Serious and/or Catastrophic Injury* criteria defined above, must notify, and send copies thereof to:
 - 3.1.1 SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Medical
 - 3.1.2 SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Rugby Safety
 - 3.1.3 The CEO of the relevant Provincial Union.
- 3.2 The *SICM*, where able to, will remain in frequent contact with the hospital or medical facility to which the injured player has been transported.
- 3.3 The *SICM* will identify a singular point of contact within the club, school, or team to keep updated on the situation.
- 3.4 Depending on the severity of the injury, and as the situation requires, and where able, the *SICM* will visit the patient, to:
 - 3.4.1 Monitor and, if required and where possible, influence the level of care provided, and link the player and his/her family up to the *Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund* support system.
 - 3.4.2 Complete a follow-up questionnaire, where possible, with the player and his/her family in conjunction with the Provincial Rugby Union involved.

- 3.4.3 Submit a report to:
 - 3.4.3.1 SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Medical
 - 3.4.3.2 SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Rugby Safety
 - 3.4.3.3 The Chairman of the *Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund*
- 3.5 The SICM will provide the link between the relevant club, school or team, and the *Chris Burger Petro Jackson Players' Fund* and SA RUGBY.
- 3.6 The SICM will provide additional support and advice to the relevant player, family, school, or club where needed, and where able to do so.
- 3.7 Information will only be supplied to those parties, who need to be made aware of the injury, in line with POPIA compliance.

Please note that the BokSmart Serious Injury Case Manager or SICM number is NOT an emergency helpline. The SICM number is simply there for notifying the SICM of the Serious or Catastrophic Head, Neck, or Spine injury, once it has already happened. When asked to do so, simply leave a short message and your contact details, and log the incident.

4. Provincial Union's responsibilities

- 4.1 The CEO of the Provincial Union once made aware of the incident via the SICM as in 3.1 above or otherwise, should confirm knowledge of the injury and contact SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Medical, and SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Rugby Safety, in this regard.
- 4.2 Has to participate and assist with any follow-up investigation or inquiry regarding the incident.
- 4.3 Where possible arrange hospital visits for the patient, which may include Provincial team players.
- 4.4 Assist the club, school, or team in any fund-raising initiative that might arise, if applicable.

5. SA RUGBY's responsibilities

- 5.1 SA RUGBY's Senior Manager: Medical, once notified by the SICM, must contact:
 - a. All the relevant SA RUGBY personnel
 - b. The relevant Provincial union's CEO
 - c. SA RUGBY's GM of Corporate Affairs
- 5.2 Maintain regular contact with the SICM to be updated about the progress of the patient.
- 5.3 Ensure that copies of the relevant Serious Injury Reports and Serious Injury Follow-up Questionnaire documentation, where applicable, are received.
- 5.4 Maintain records of these serious injury reports on the SA RUGBY database.
- 5.5 Request an in-depth investigation into the incident by the Provincial Rugby Union, where relevant or applicable.