



World Rugby Research Funding General Principles and Priorities

The following general principles should be considered when applying to World Rugby for research funding in the areas of player welfare and safety:

Research should:

- Result in a benefit to Rugby;
- Be applicable to the global Rugby community and not normally focused on local issues; and
- Not be a repeat of previous research but must be either novel or add to previous research.

Funding

- Funding may be for multiple years but generally will be restricted to a maximum of two.
- Performance indicators and significant milestones will be jointly agreed upon and funding will be linked to the achievement of these indicators and milestones.
- Funding does not cover the cost of office space or secretarial support. Administrative charges by institutions are not funded.
- Graduate student, technician and research assistant salaries may be funded provided they are adequately justified
- Funding will not provide salary support for principal investigators.

Approval

- Ethics review by an appropriate ethics board is required, as are consent forms of participation for individuals within a study. Funding applications do not require pre-existing ethic approval however formalizing contracts will require ethics approval. In instances where ethics approval is not deemed necessary a full justification of why must be provided.
- Applications must be made in English (the international scientific language) and budget items quoted in pounds' sterling.

The following projects will **not** be considered for funding unless initiated by the World Rugby:

- Basic, laboratory research with no direct applicability to Rugby
- Equipment development

The following topics have been identified as priorities for research by the World Rugby Medical Science and Research Group:

- Concussion
 - Evaluation and development of educational materials for different stakeholders
 - Long term neurodegenerative and mental outcomes in retired players
 - Surveillance
 - Identifying the best diagnostic tools
 - Evaluation of the head impact forces during match play and training for all
 - Evaluation of player welfare standards in the professional game
- Injuries
 - Prevention strategies
 - Long term consequences
 - Injury surveillance studies in the community game
 - Risk factors for injury
 - Mechanism of injury for various injury types (community and professional)
- Player loads and impacts on welfare and safety
 - Game numbers and description of game demands
- Anti-doping
 - Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs around doping
 - Prevalence and risks of supplementation use in professional or community rugby
 - Influence of normalisation of supplement use in the game
 - Risk and protective factors for doping
 - Fluctuations in doping risk according to career path and age
 - Risk of supplements acting as "gateway" to later doping use

By submitting a proposal to World Rugby for funding, applicants agree to the terms and conditions set out at [World Rugby Funding Terms and Conditions](#)