

# #BanTackling: Why we are calling for a ban of tackling in school rugby

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## High and Serious Risk of Injury

**RISUS: Ulster Schools** (825 players, 28 schools, School 1<sup>st</sup> XV)  
426 injuries across a season of which 270 (63%) were in the tackle. 38% of the sample had at least one injury and 49% of the sample (208/424) had more than 28+ days away from sport as a result of injury.

### Systematic Review of Adolescent Injuries

From 35 studies, a pooled incidence of 10.3/1000 player-hours was found for injuries requiring 7 days absence from games. This gave a player a 12.1% risk of being injured over a season.



“Proponents of the sport claim there is little evidence of excess risk in school age players.... Yet abundant anecdotal evidence suggests otherwise, and emerging work suggests a heavier burden of injury in the pediatric rugby population than was previously suggested”.

Michael Carter

[Clinical Lead: Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon]

## Informed consent v Compulsion

% of schools where Rugby was compulsory



■ Compulsory ■ Non-Compulsory

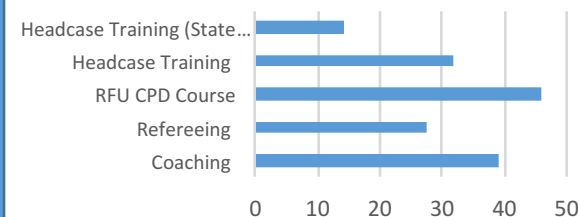
*77% of (116 sampled) schools make rugby a compulsory part of the PE curriculum. Only 9% obtained parental consent.*

## Education is not the answer

All Schools Autumn Report (2015)

31% of schools had staff who had received no training despite intense support and investment.

Oxfordshire rugby teachers trained (%)



## Is there a safe tackle technique?

- No evidential basis for good technique reduces injuries (especially concussion related).
- [Limited consensus on the correct method for tackling.](#)
- The tackled-player (often) at highest risk of injury.
- [Primary objectives are to win the ball, not keep the opposition safe.](#)
- [Limited variance between injury and non-injury tackles.](#)
- [Rapid skill acquisition of tackle technique in the 16 to 18 years age range.](#)