



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

SPORTS GOGGLES COMMUNICATION

In recent weeks we have received an increasingly large number of queries in relation to the wearing of goggles and thought it would be helpful to clarify the current position.

The RFU's regulation relating to the wearing of spectacles or sports goggles is set out in Regulation 15.13.3 which states that players of all age grades are permitted to wear spectacles, glasses or specifically designed sports goggles in all forms of non-contact rugby but not in any form of contact rugby. This means that U9s and above are not permitted to wear any eye wear when playing contact rugby. This is not a change in regulation from last year but a clarification only.

The prohibition on sports goggles in contact rugby stems from IRB Regulations (IRB Law 4/IRFB Regulation12). The RFU recognises that this prohibition is not socially inclusive and creates difficulties for children with impaired eyesight who are not yet able to wear contact lenses. For these reasons, the RFU is talking to the IRB to permit U12s and below to wear sports goggles, subject to certain conditions.

The RFU and IRB are undertaking significant work to reach a common consensus on this as quickly as possible and we hope to be able to report back on a definitive positive solution shortly after the New Year. In the meantime, the RFU requests that all players, coaches and parents continue to abide by RFU Regulation 15.13.3 until further notice.

Please rest assured that the RFU is making significant progress on this issue and is dealing with it as a matter of urgency.