



# WRU HEARING AIDS GUIDANCE

## Can individuals with a Hearing Aid still play rugby?

The Welsh Rugby Union recognises the benefits that rugby can provide, such as improving fitness and wellbeing. The WRU aim to be as inclusive as possible, however player welfare must come first, and so we must bear in mind the risk of injury to a player wearing a hearing aid, and to other players from contact with the device or potentially, a broken device.

Hearing aids are not specifically set out as banned items of equipment. However, they must comply with the requirements of World Rugby regulation 12, as set out in Law 4. Where possible, we recommend that hearing aids are removed prior to playing or taking part in any contact activity.

It is generally accepted that participants can use their aids when playing non-contact versions of the sport, provided they are comfortable and securely fitted.

Coaches and match officials should be made aware of any hearing impairment, to ensure a higher degree of empathy with that player's communication needs.

It is advised that the player/parent/carer(s) speaks with their specialist before participating in any rugby union activity. They should discuss what activities they will be undertaking and follow advice. Players should also inform their club, who should keep a record.

Everybody should be clear on what, if any accommodations need to be taken to consider safety and ensure that the experience is a positive one for the player and others involved.

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### Useful Information & links

A guide to deaf friendly rugby union -

[https://ukdeafsport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/deaf\\_friendly\\_rugby1.pdf](https://ukdeafsport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/deaf_friendly_rugby1.pdf)

World Rugby, Regulation 12 - <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/player-welfare>

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If further information is required, please contact: [integrity@wru.wales](mailto:integrity@wru.wales)