

Players to wear Instrumented Mouthguards in the 2024 Guinness Men's Six Nations

- ❑ All Six Nations teams and players will use Instrumented Mouthguards during this year's senior men's Championships
- ❑ Players will be provided with custom fitted Instrumented Mouthguards, which will be worn during training sessions as well as match day
- ❑ A new addition to the HIA protocol, the smart mouthguard technology is driven by the game wide commitment to prioritise player welfare
- ❑ In-game alerts will provide additional indicators to support medical teams and match officials in identifying the need for off field HIA1 assessments during a match.

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The Guinness Six Nations will feature Instrumented Mouthguard technology, with players across all six unions able to use custom fitted mouthguards designed to deliver in-game alerts as an indication for off field HIA1 assessments.

The new technology is being incorporated into the existing HIA protocol for all elite competitions that start from the start of January 2024. No aspects of the HIA protocol are being removed or replaced, instead the introduction of Instrumented Mouthguards is an additional safeguard to improve player protection.

The introduction of the smart mouthguards at the elite level of the game is driven by the game wide commitment to prioritise player welfare, and with the Guinness Men's Six Nations the first elite men's competition to use the new technology, is leading the way for the benefit of the whole game and its players.

The Instrumented Mouthguards will provide in-game alerts, to the independent pitch side medical team. In the eventuality that a player experiences a head acceleration event the match day medical staff will receive an alert to be able to inform the Team Medics and Match Officials that a player needs to be removed for an off field HIA1 assessment.

Commenting on the trial introduction of Instrumented Mouthguards to the Guinness Men's Six Nations, Julie Paterson, Director of Rugby at Six Nations Rugby, said:

“Six Nations Rugby, its Unions and Federations are focused on driving the game wide commitment to prioritise player welfare and innovate in this area, to ensure we are using the latest technology and enhancing our processes where relevant, to protect the players

The technology around Instrumented Mouthguards has been developed extensively over recent seasons through the work undertaken by World Rugby. The ability to expand the HIA process to incorporate this technology is testament to the player welfare commitment across the game. Their introduction into the Championship this year has been through collaboration



with all six unions, leagues, clubs and the players. This highlights the positive steps being taken when rugby comes together with a shared objective to support the game and its players.”

For more information on World Rugby’s HIA Protocol [HERE](#)

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Six Nations Rugby will apply, monitor, and manage the HIA protocol, including the Instrumented Mouthguards, throughout the Guinness Men’s and Women’s Six Nations. This is alongside the ongoing management of all disciplinary processes throughout its tournaments and competitions.

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About Six Nations Rugby

Six Nations Rugby is the official organisation responsible for the annual international rugby competitions that include the Guinness Six Nations, Guinness Women’s Six Nations, Under-20 Six Nations, Under-18 Festivals, and the Autumn Nations Series.

Six Nations Rugby operates on behalf of and in partnership with its shareholders, that include its member unions and federations: England (RFU), France (FFR), Ireland (IRFU), Italy (FIR), Scotland (SRU) and Wales (WRU).

Primary responsibilities of Six Nations Rugby include the negotiation and management of centralised commercial rights on behalf of its shareholders, as well as the promotion and operation of its annual Championships and competitions.

Six Nations Rugby is proud to work with the following partners: Guinness, Sage, and Breitling.

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