



STUD LAW

ELLESMERE RUGBY

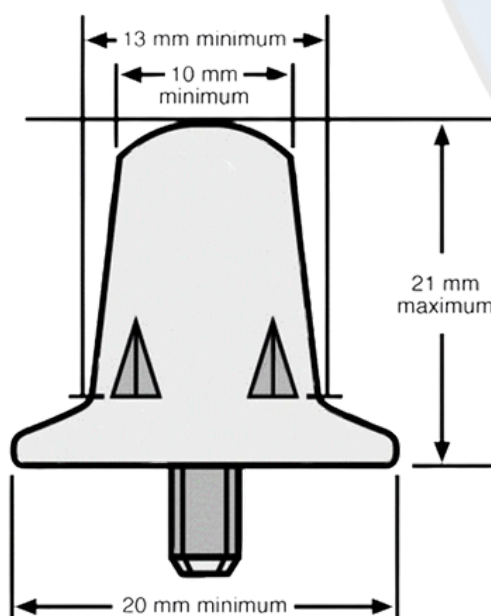
Recent incidents in the representative programme have highlighted concerns over non-compliant boots, leading to significant injuries. The primary issue involves metal sprigs that fall outside World Rugby's regulations, particularly those that are too narrow at the tip (less than 10mm in width) or have sharp edges or burrs.

A key concern is boots designed for soccer/football, such as the Adidas Predator range, which often features metal sprigs that do not meet World Rugby standards. However, other brands and styles also present similar risks.

To enhance player safety and ensure compliance, there will be increased boot checks across club rugby.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- All boots must adhere to World Rugby's Regulation 12 regarding stud dimensions and shape.
- Metal sprigs must have a minimum width of 10mm at the point.
- No sharp, excessively pointed, or irregularly shaped studs are permitted.
- Mixed stud patterns (metal and plastic) must still comply with safety regulations.
- Players are responsible for ensuring their boots meet these requirements before arriving at the match venue.



ENFORCEMENT & CHECK PROCESS

- Pre-match checks: Referees will conduct boot inspections before warm-ups to avoid disruption. A recommended check time is either:
 - As players arrive and change into gear.
 - During a designated period before the final warm-up.
- Corrections allowed: If a player's boots do not initially comply, they will be given the opportunity to:
 - Swap out non-compliant sprigs for legal ones.
 - Use a tool to round off a sharp edge or remove burrs.
- Players will not be allowed to take the field until their boots are fully compliant.



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CLUBS CAN ASSIST BY

1. Educate players – Ensure all players understand and check their boots against World Rugby's regulations.
2. Encourage self-checks – Players should verify their own boots before arriving at the venue.
3. Support referees – Facilitate a smooth boot check process by agreeing on an appropriate pre-match check time with match officials.
4. Monitor boot purchases – Avoid players buying soccer/football boots with non-compliant metal studs for rugby use.

EXAMPLE OF NON-COMPLIANCE



We are not aiming to ban all boots, only those that pose a risk of injury. For moulded soles, we are checking for any burrs or sharp edges, and studs should meet the 10mm diameter requirement as shown in the law book. However, the primary concern is the types of studs shown in the attached photo, which are becoming more common in the game.

The studs in the photo are narrower than 10mm at the tips, and due to wear and tear, they can quickly become even sharper and more pointed, increasing the risk of significant injury.