

School Rugby Tackling Ban

Doctors argue that two thirds of injuries in youth rugby are down to tackles, and urge schools to move to touch and non-contact rugby. Dozens of doctors and health experts have written to the Government calling for a ban on tackling in school rugby games to avoid needless injuries. The injuries obtained from rugby range from bruises and sprains to fractures, torn ligaments and at worst, concussion and damage to the brain and spinal cord.

We asked some students their opinion on the matter:

How do you feel about banning tackling in rugby? - "I'm devastated as I've been playing contact rugby at my afterschool club for years, and my coach has always kept me safe. No one has ever gotten severely hurt under the watch of a trained teacher." – Year 9 student

"I don't think tackling should be banned. We are all aware of the risks when we choose to join in this sport. So it's our choice whether we want to play with tackling or not" – Year 8 student

Rugby offers teenagers increased confidence and self-respect, as the ultimate character-building sport. The sport teaches great sportsmanship – shaking hands with an opponent – even

after being hurt by them in a previous tackle. Moreover, it promotes courage, fitness, team effort and togetherness, bringing together boys and girls from all backgrounds.



In retrospect, the rules should be alternated to ensure younger players stay safe and unharmed. However, if the game cannot be altered, then it wouldn't be such a massive loss as the players know what they're getting into and the teachers are trained and reliable.

By Emily, Georgie and Emma