

# Risk and safety in sports accidents

## Construction of logic beyond the assailant/ victim relationship

NAKAMURA Shuhei

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

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In Japan, there were 360 rugby accidents during the past twenty years, with serious accidents occurring at an average rate of twenty per year. The Special Committee on Measures for the Prevention of Serious Accidents was established in 2003; however, efforts have failed to yield a decrease in the number of accidents.

The sport of rugby carries with it the risk of no-fault injury for any or all of the 30 players on the field. In today's courts, however, fault must be assigned in order for compensation to be determined. This focus on fault and compensation constructs a clearly-defined assailant/ victim relationship that interferes with progress toward preventing an accident from being repeated.

It is impossible to improve the present situation unless the injured individual and his family on one side and the club activities coach and school on the other side meet halfway. To investigate potential solutions, I interviewed a former club activities coach actively working toward reducing rugby accidents.

I discuss “no fault compensation” to prevent sports accidents from becoming court cases and the introduction of “emergency drills” for sports accidents at school. I hope that this becomes an opportunity for junior high school and high school students who participate in sports daily to think about safety.