**RUGBY CODES RESEARCH GROUP**

**Associate Professor Simon Walters**



**Research specialization:** Sports coaching, coach development, youth development.

**Experience:** Simon is an Associate Professor at Auckland University of Technology where he leads sports coaching courses in the Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Coaching major and the Master of Sport Exercise and Health Coaching specialization. He received a Master of Science in Sociology of Sport at the University of Leicester and completed his Doctor of Philosophy at Auckland University of Technology. He has coached football predominantly at a community level, and athletics, mountain running and orienteering working with athletes from junior level through to senior and national level.

**Research overview:** A focus on enhancing the experiences of all young people participating in organized sport. A lot of my work draws upon qualitative methodologies with an emphasis on representing participant voice. Current projects include an international collaborative project led by New Zealand Rugby designing, implementing and evaluating a concussion management pathway for community rugby in New Zealand. A further related project is the development of a rugby concussion management guidelines for high schools. Previous rugby-related research has explored secondary school first XVrugbyplayers' perceptions of their coaching environment:

**Postgraduate supervision:** Currently 5 PhD & 5 Masters students

**Recent research publications (2020->)**

1. Salmon, D. M., Badenhorst, M., Walters, S., Clacy, A., Chua, J., Register-Mihalik, J., . . . Whatman, C. (2021). The rugby tug-of-war: Exploring concussion-related behavioural intentions and behaviours in youth community rugby union in New Zealand. *International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching*. doi:[10.1177/17479541211047661](http://doi.org/10.1177/17479541211047661)
2. McGowan, J., Walters, S., & Whatman, C. (2021). 10,000 hours and Early Specialization: Short­ term Gains or Long­ term Pain?. In A. Whitehead, & J. Coe (Eds.), *Myths of Sport Coaching*. Sequoia Books.
3. Salmon, D., Chua, J., Sullivan, J. S., Whatman, C., Brown, J., Register-Mihalik, J., Murphy, I., Walters, S., . . . England, M. (2021). Baseline concussion assessment performance of community-based senior rugby players: A cross-sectional study. *Brain Injury*. doi:[10.1080/02699052.2021.1972452](http://doi.org/10.1080/02699052.2021.1972452)
4. Bradbury, T., Walters, S., Lucas, P., Minjares, V., Lenton, A., Spencer, K., & Spencer, S. (2021). The industry-academic nexus: A case study of collaboration. *Managing Sport and Leisure*. doi:[10.1080/23750472.2021.1918018](http://doi.org/10.1080/23750472.2021.1918018)
5. Wilson, O. W. A., Walters, S. R., Naylor, M. E., & Clarke, J. C. (2021). Physical activity and associated constraints following the transition from high school to university. *Recreational Sports Journal*, *45*(1), 52-60. doi:[10.1177/1558866121995138](http://doi.org/10.1177/1558866121995138)
6. Woolliams, D., Spencer, K., Walters, S., & Krägeloh, C. (2021). Resolving uncertainties of the factor structures of the Coach-Athlete Relationship Questionnaire (CART-Q). *Australian Journal of Psychology*, *73*(2), 212-222. doi:[10.1080/00049530.2021.1882275](http://doi.org/10.1080/00049530.2021.1882275)
7. Salmon, D. M., Romanchuk, J., Sullivan, S. J., Walters, S., Clacy, A., Register-Mihalik, J. K., . . . Keung, S. (2021). Concussion knowledge, attitude and reporting intention in rugby coaches and high school rugby players. *International Journal of Sports Science & Coaching*, *16*(1), 54-69. doi:[10.1177/1747954120961200](http://doi.org/10.1177/1747954120961200)
8. Tomsovsky, L., Reid, D., Whatman, C., Fulcher, M., & Walters, S. (2020). Futsal FastStart: The development of a futsal specific warm-up. *New Zealand Journal of Sports Medicine*, *47*(1), 15-19.
9. Lees, A. B., Walters, S., & Godbold, R. (2021). Variation in ethics review for tertiary-based educational research: An international and interdisciplinary cross-sectional review. *Journal of Academic Ethics*, *19*, 517-540. doi:[10.1007/s10805-020-09382-1](http://doi.org/10.1007/s10805-020-09382-1)
10. Reid, D., Hume, P., Whatman, C., Theadom, A., Walters, S., Hardaker, N., & Fulcher, M. (2020). Knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of New Zealand physiotherapists to sports-related concussion. *New Zealand Journal of Physiotherapy*, *48*(1), 19-28. doi:[10.15619/NZJP/48.1.03](http://doi.org/10.15619/NZJP/48.1.03)
11. Salmon, D. M., McGowan, J., Sullivan, S. J., Murphy, I., Walters, S., Whatman, C., . . . Romanchuk, J. (2020). What they know and who they are telling: Concussion knowledge and disclosure behaviour in New Zealand adolescent rugby union players. *Journal of Sports Sciences*, *38*(14), 1585-1594. doi:[10.1080/02640414.2020.1749409](http://doi.org/10.1080/02640414.2020.1749409)



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1. Walters, S., Rogers, A., & Oldham, A. (2020). A competency-based approach to coach learning: The Sport New Zealand Coach Developer program. In B. Callary, & B. Gearity (Eds.), *Coach education and development in sport: Instructional strategies* (pp. 154-165). New York, NY: Routledge.
2. McGowan, J., Whatman, C., & Walters, S. (2020). The associations of early specialisation and sport volume with musculoskeletal injury in New Zealand children. *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*, *23*(2), 139-144. doi:[10.1016/j.jsams.2019.09.002](http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsams.2019.09.002)
3. Salmon, D., Sullivan, J., Romanchuk, J., Murphy, I., Walters, S., Whatman, C., . . . Van Der Vis, K. (2020). Infographic. New Zealand rugby's community concussion initiative: Keeping kiwi communities RugbySmart. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, *54*(5), 300-301. doi:[10.1136/bjsports-2019-100949](http://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2019-100949)
4. Salmon, D., Romanchuk, J., Murphy, I., Sullivan, J., Walters, S., Whatman, C., . . . Van Der Vis, K. (2020). Infographic. New Zealand Rugby's concussion management pathway. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, *54*(5), 298-299. doi:[10.1136/bjsports-2019-100950](http://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2019-100950)