

**KCRFU Age Grade Mini Rugby Festival Rules 2019-2020**

# Preamble

All KCRFU Mini Rugby festivals will follow the Regulations and Codes of Practice of Age Grade rugby which is a player-centred, development driven and competition supported approach to 7-11 year old rugby, underpinned by the wants and needs of young players.

The format at various ages ensures that young players play the right rugby at the right time. These formats are supported by the regulations of the Age Grade game and have been developed by scientific research and studies on player development in sport.

The principle behind the Rules of Play is to provide a playing format with building blocks to the 15-a-side game that allows players time to get to grips with the basics of running and catching the ball before contact and specialism is gradually introduced – which positively impacts on player safety.

The rationale for Age Grade Rugby is embodied in RFU Regulation 15, which is simplified below:



# Club Eligibility

The Competition is open to all clubs that are in full membership of the Kent County RFU and shall be played under the Rules of the Rugby Football Union. **Such clubs will have submitted an entry form by the specified deadline and paid the relevant fee, details of which will be published on the KCRFU website.**

# Competition Management

1. The management of this competition shall be vested in the County Youth Committee; the Mini Rugby Chair shall appoint the Host Clubs who shall in turn be responsible for organising each Festival.
2. The Mini Rugby Chair shall have full powers to deal with all disputes and transgressions subject to 2.3 below.
3. In the event of an appeal against a decision of the Mini Rugby Chair the appeal shall be referred to the County Youth Chair. The Youth Chair will have access to all relevant statements, reports and / or correspondence related to the incident concerned.
4. The decision of the County Youth Chair, with due reference to the Chair of the Game Development Committee, shall be final.
5. The power to disqualify a Club from the competition remains with the County Youth committee but may be subject to appeal to the Game Development Committee as set out in 2.3 and 2.4 above.

# Behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute

* 1. All clubs participating in the competition have a duty to ensure that players, coaches and supporters understand that ‘behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute’ (RFU Regulation 5.12) **will not be tolerated**.
	2. For the avoidance of doubt ‘behaviour likely to bring the game into disrepute’ shall mean ‘any conduct, behaviour, statements and/or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a Match or otherwise, that is unsporting and/or cheating and/or insulting and/or unruly and/or ill-disciplined and/or that brings or has the potential to bring the Game and/or its appointed personnel or Match Officials into disrepute’. (Edited from World Rugby.)
	3. Cases of such behaviour must be noted by the Referee and reported immediately to the Tournament Referee of the venue in question. The Tournament Referee will report to the Kent Mini Rugby Chair.
	4. All cases will be reported by the Kent Mini Rugby Chair to the County Age Grade Disciplinary Officer who will initiate an immediate enquiry in accordance with RFU regulations. The AGDO will oversee any disciplinary process in conjunction with the clubs and the County Disciplinary Committee.
	5. If a club and /or an individual or individuals is/are found guilty of behaviour which brings the game into disrepute then, the sanctions outlined below may be administered by a disciplinary panel in accordance with the RFU regulations.
	6. The sanction may include:
		1. a caution and warning as to future conduct;
		2. a fine;
		3. a suspension for a specified number of Matches (including all on-field activities) or period of time;
		4. expulsion from the remainder of the competition
		5. suspension from involvement in officiating, coaching and/or administration of the Game;
		6. the deduction or cancellation of points
		7. the cancellation of a Match result;
		8. the forfeiture of a Match;
		9. any combination of the above or such other sanction as may be appropriate
	7. If, prior to the submission of a formal report, the behaviour is considered prejudicial to the reputation, good conduct or spirit of the competition, the Tournament Referee, in consultation with the Kent Mini Rugby Chair, shall have the right to suspend or exclude of the team from the competition.

# **Festival Organisation**

Each Festival will be run by a Host Club who shall appoint a nominated Tournament Referee. The TR will have full powers on the day to deal with any dispute, including those falling under 4 above. The Host Club will also appoint a Safeguarding Officer who will be in attendance throughout the Festival.

# **Rules and Regulations**

1. All KCRFU Age Grade festivals are run in line with RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby and its associated appendices together with the RFU Age Grade Codes of Practice.
2. Games will be run according to RFU rules for the Age Grade in question.
3. Matches will be organised in a Round Robin format with teams allocated to groups. Details will appear in the Festival programme.
4. Throughout the Festival the “spirit of rugby” should prevail.
5. All sides should be of mixed ability with all squad members gaining plenty of match experience.
6. All teams will be required to demonstrate compliance with Regulation 15.12, the “Half Game Rule”.
7. KCRFU encourages all coaches to communicate with the other team coaches in their pool. Nobody is going to develop if a match becomes too one-sided. Where there is a mismatch between teams coaches are encouraged to make changes to their team(s) in the spirit of the game. We do not want to witness games finishing early due to a 6-0 whitewash we want all children to have the maximum amount of game time.
8. Match results will not be recorded by KCRFU and should not be used by participating teams for the purpose of publicity, marketing or similar.

# Venues

The venue of Mini Age Grade Festivals will be:

* U7 - Old Elthamians and Ashford
* U8 - Beckenham and Folkestone
* U9 - Cranbrook
* U10 - Aylesford
* U11 - Medway

Details of arrangements for the festival day will be issued to participating teams by the host organisers. These will include:

* Car Parking
* Entry and Programmes
* Team Registration
* Coach and Referee Briefing
* Dos and Don’ts to respect whilst at the venue

Players, team officials, parents and spectators will be expected to observe these.

# Players

All players must be registered on GMS with a valid RFU ID and must be a paid up member of a participating club. Players, especially those in the U9- U11 Age Grades, are encouraged to wear gum shields.

# Coaches

# Each team should have a named, DBS cleared, coach whose responsibility it will be to guide players throughout the day. The coach will be expected to register the team before the prescribed deadline and attend the coaches’ briefing. Failure to register on time is likely to result in the team’s exclusion from the Festival.

1. Referees
Each team entered is obliged to supply a referee. Referees will be required to attend a briefing before the start of the festival. Any team arriving without a referee must make it known immediately to the host organiser who will endeavour to find an alternative referee; if such cannot be found the team may jeopardise their right to participate.

# Spectators

All spectators will be expected to support and encourage all players. Inappropriate, ill-disciplined or unruly behaviour will NOT be tolerated. Any infringement will be investigated and addressed as per 4. above.

11. First Aid

All teams are asked to provide a First Aider and appropriate first aid kit for the needs of their players. Host organisers will provide additional First Aid provision in the event of an emergency. Boot studs and other kit should be in line with regulation.

# **Photography**

**Under no circumstances must drones be used.**

KCRFU positively encourages parents and spectators to take photographs of participants involved in rugby union to celebrate the ethos and spirit of the sport. Photographs should be of the activity or team, not on one individual

It is assumed that all clubs have in force current safeguarding and photographic policies and that parents or guardians of participating players will have given consent for the child to be photographed. Participating teams must bring to the attention of the host organiser, prior to the date of the Festival, any player for whom consent has been withheld.

Host clubs may appoint professional sports photographers who will have been appropriately vetted prior to the event.