



# boarugby minis festival

## **MINI FESTIVAL RULES**

**SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2026**

### **Introduction**

The festival will be played as a round-robin format. Matches will not be scored, instead the focus is on player participation, rugby skills, enjoyment and the RFU's TREDs core values.

Please respect the RFU's Half Game Rule and age grade best practice of fielding teams of mixed ability.

Each club in each age group will be asked to vote for the team showing the best Spirit of Rugby according to the RFU's core principles of TREDs: a Spirit of Rugby trophy will be awarded at the end of each age group's matches. Additionally, participant medals will be presented to all players.

### **Regulation and registration**

1. For all age groups, the festival will be run in-line with RFU Regulation 15 and the Age Grade Playing competition format of the specific age grade.
2. Players must always play within their individual age grade. Any team playing a player over or under the stated age for the age group will be automatically disqualified from the competition, unless prior agreement has been made with Dorset and Wiltshire RFU or by the governing body that covers that club's location. Combined age group squads will also need to ensure that prior agreement has been made with the relevant Constituent Body.
3. Unless pre-registered, clubs are required to register their players and team constructs at their age group control point by 10:00. No player may participate unless registered with the RFU. Clubs must not switch players between registered teams during the day.

### **Refereeing**

4. Each club must provide a competent referee for each team entered.
5. The referee will inspect players for World Rugby approved head protection and body padding and for any sharp edges on studs and will require them to be changed/removed if necessary.
6. The referee should ensure all spectators remain off the pitches during play and also maintain a buffer of no less than 1m along the touchlines - for player and spectator safety.
7. The referee's decision in all cases is final.
8. Players with suspected concussion must be immediately removed from the field of play and

referred to a healthcare practitioner immediately for initial assessment. They may also need further assessment by a doctor.

9. Where there is a clash of team colours, the referee of that match will decide which team changes shirts or wears bibs.

## **Substitutions**

10. Team coaches must substitute any of their players at the request of the referee when foul or dangerous play or persistent offending is identified. The player concerned will be suspended for the remainder of that game. At the discretion of the referee, a player may be sent off for serious misconduct and this player will take no further part in the festival.

11. Rolling substitutions will be allowed throughout the games as long as there is a break in play. All substitutes must be brought to the attention of the referee before being made.

## **Code of Conduct**

12. All players, coaches and parents are expected to follow Bradford on Avon Rugby Club's Code of Conduct, which respects the needs of the team rather than the individual.

13. Coaches, spectators and players must not criticise referees and should accept decisions without question, even if it seems wrong. Coaches should try to resolve any disagreement over refereeing decisions amicably between themselves. If you have a query, please speak to the designated BoA RFC Age Grade Lead, or the Festival Rugby Lead contactable via the control point. They will listen to your complaint and, if necessary, take the matter up privately with the referee.

14. Touch line instructions must be left to the coaches without exception.

15. No team coach, medic or spectator is allowed on the pitch except at the invitation of the referee.

16. No coach shall interfere with, manhandle or physically manoeuvre a player on the field of play other than for reasons of safety.

17. Swearing from anyone is unacceptable. Foul language could result in a team being disqualified.

## **Timings**

18. No extra time is allowed in any match, except that added for injury time at the referee's discretion.

19. Coaches must ensure that their teams are present at the allocated pitches 5 minutes before kick-off to allow time for the preliminaries to be undertaken by the referee and to help the fixtures run to schedule.

## **Medical and Safety**

20. Any game will be stopped if a serious injury occurs requiring medical attention.

21. A St John's Ambulance or equivalent will be stationed next to the clubhouse. Safe lanes are marked from all pitch areas to a suitable ingress/egress point and across the car park for NHS ambulance entry if required. These lanes are to be respected, please do not block at any time.

22. In the event of a child being lost, please go to the main Control Point.

## Rules of Play

The festival will be played under the RFU Age Grade Rugby Format and Regulations. In summary:

	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11
Max mins per half <sup>1</sup>	10	10	15	15	20
Max players per side	4	6	7	8	9
Max minutes per player <sup>1</sup>	50	50	60	60	70
0 Knock-on/marginal forward pass	None	Free pass	Free pass	Scrum	Scrum
Try scorer allowed to ground	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tackling ( <b><i>below base of sternum</i></b> ) <sup>2</sup>	No	No	Yes (including 3 sec hold)	Yes	Yes
Scrum	No	No	No	Yes (uncontested no strike, no push)	Yes (strike no push)
Scrum Players	0	0	0	Nearest 3	Nearest 3
Contest for the ball	No	No	Tackle: uncontested breakdown. Loose ball: possession to team with first hands on ball	Yes (ruck and maul 1 support player per team)	Yes (ruck and maul 2 supporting players per team)
Lineout	No	No	No	No	No
Kicking	None	None	None	None	Yes, as per Reg15
Conversion	None	None	None	None	None
Fend off	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>1</sup> This will be adjusted prior to the festival dependent upon interest and number of teams entering. The time will not exceed that stated here.

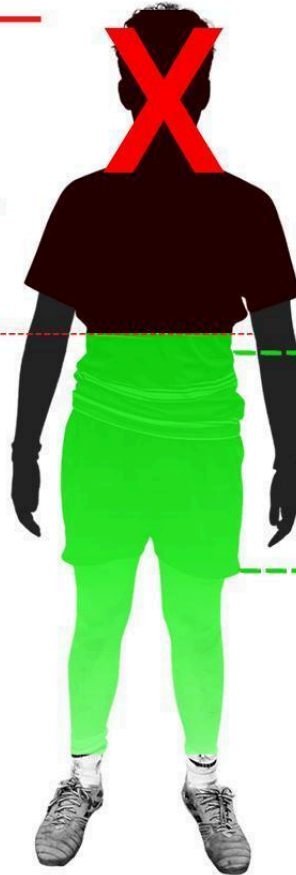
<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the RFU's Tackle Height Hub and the following RFU infographics:

# COMMUNITY GAME: TACKLE HEIGHT



Any tackles above the  
base of the sternum may  
be liable for sanction

**BELOW THE BASE  
OF THE STERNUM**



**TARGET THE  
BELLY**

OR

**TARGET THE  
THIGHS**



Find more support online  
[englandrugby.com/tackleheight](http://englandrugby.com/tackleheight)

# COMMUNITY GAME: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BALL CARRIER

---



To minimise the risk of head-to-head contact a ball carrier must not lower their body height or dip down just before contact with an opponent.

This might be described as  
**“LATE AND LOW”**  
and may be liable for sanction.



Find more support online  
[englandrugby.com/tackleheight](http://englandrugby.com/tackleheight)