



# boarugby minis festival

## MINI FESTIVAL RULES

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024

### Festival Rules

The festival will be played as a round-robin playing opportunity where equal team and player participation is the emphasis. Scores will not be recorded and therefore winning does not affect your on-going participation as every team plays the same appropriate number of matches. There are no winners/runners-up trophies.

1. All age groups, the festival will be run in-line with RFU Regulation 15 (Effective from 1 August 2022) and the Age Grade Playing competition format of the specific age grade.
2. Emphasis of the festival is on mixed ability and competitive, but NOT at the expense of having fun and playing rugby.
3. Clubs must nominate their squads prior to the tournament and must NOT switch during the day.
4. All clubs are required to register their players at the control point by 1000hrs. No player may participate unless registered with the RFU. No exceptions will be permitted.
5. In compliance with RFU Regulation 15.1.5 registration cards for each player, within their team construct, and copies of any dispensations issued are to be presented at the point of registration. Following registration team managers must retain the documents such that they can be produced for inspection by festival organisers or Dorset and Wiltshire RFU (Constituent Body) representatives.
6. 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.**
7. The festival is for squads of mixed ability.
8. The festival will operate on a round robin basis with a different number of pools consisting of teams in each pool and therefore all squads will play the same number of games.
9. The number of Pools will depend upon interest and subject to availability with the following being the maximum; U7s = 8 Pools, U8 and U9 = 3 Pools and U10 and U11 = 2 Pools.
10. Participant medals will be presented for all players.
11. No extra time is allowed in any match, except that added for injury time at the referee's

discretion.

12. 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.

13. All 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 from the tournament 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.

14. 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.

15. Each Club must provide a competent referee for each team.

16. 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.

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

18. The referee's decision in all cases is final.

19. While concussion guidelines apply to all age groups particular care needs to be taken with children and adolescents because their brain is still developing. Children and adolescents 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.

20. Coaches should try to resolve any disagreement over refereeing decisions amicably between themselves, failing that, any such issues should be referred to the Head Referee at the control point.

21. 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. For this reason we ask all teams to adopt the following code at this year's festival: Players are part of a team and vocal support should be directed at the team and not the individual.

22. Touchline instructions must be left to the coaches without exception.

23. Coaches, spectators and players should must not criticise referees and accept decisions without question, even if it seems wrong. If you have a query, please speak to the designated pitch coordinator, who will direct you to the adjudicating committee. They will listen to your complaint and if necessary take the matter up privately with the referee.

24. No team coach, medic or spectator is allowed on the pitch **EXCEPT** at the invitation of the referee.

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

26. Replacements may come on, in the case of any injury or as a substitute, at the discretion of the team coach but always with the referee's permission. Any player who has been replaced due to an injury may take no further part in that game but may play in following games if appropriate.

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

28. 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.**

### Medical and Safety

Any game will be stopped if a serious injury occurs requiring medical attention. A St John's Ambulance or equivalent will be stationed next to the control point. 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. In the event of a child being lost, please go to the main control point so that an announcement may be made over the festival communication system.

### Rules of Play

The festival will be played under the RFU Age Grade Rugby Format and Regulations; a copy will be available on the day for reference. 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	50	50	60	60	70
Squad size	8	12	14	16	18
Max pitch size	20 x 12	45 x 22	60 x 30	60 x 35	60 x 43
Knock-on penalty	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Try scoring allowed to ground	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tackling ( <i>below shoulders</i> )	No	No	Yes (3 sec hold)	Yes	Yes
Scrum	No	No	No	Yes (uncontested)	Yes (strike no push)
Scrum Players	0	0	0	Nearest 3	Nearest 3
Contest for the ball	No	No	No	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
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.