

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

1) Festival Format

- a) The Festival will consist of a preliminary round consisting of four festivals followed by separate final festival days for U9 – U11 and U12 – U13 depending upon the RFU AGR Structured season and available Sundays.
- b) All clubs will be automatically allocated one (1) space in the preliminary festivals.
- c) Should less than 20 teams enter in any age group then all clubs will be invited to nominate to enter a second team in the LRU Mini/Midi Festival in the age groups containing less than 20 teams.
- d) Should the total number of team in any age group exceed 16 after the automatic 1 team per club and the nominated 2nd entries are totalled then a random draw of the 2nd entries will be made to limit the overall number of teams to 20.
- e) Where a second entry is accepted within an age group from any club then the second team will be placed within a preliminary festival different to that in which the majority of the clubs teams are participating.
- f) Where a 2nd entry in any age group is accepted from a club then the players in each team squad WILL NOT be able to move players between the 2 squads for the Final Festival Day. This does not prevent the club from selecting new or different players for either squad for the Final Festival Day.
- g) If there is a late entry to the Festival the schedule will be adjusted accordingly and clubs will be notified - a late entry will only be permitted if the Festival can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences and/or disruption (and the total number of entries is less than 20).
- h) The match duration for Under 9/10s is 6 minutes per half and for Under 11/12/13's the match duration is 6 minutes per half as detailed in RFU Regulation 15. The preliminary round will consist of mini-festivals operating on a league basis where the precise format will depend on the numbers in the group(s).
- i) The four preliminary festivals will each identify a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th team in each age group – the 1st and 2nd teams in each age group and the 2 best 3rd and the other 3rd, 4th and 5th teams will be invited back to take part in the relevant Final Festival Days
- j) No extra time will be played at any stage of the Festival. In the event of a tie at any stage in the finals festival day, the winner will be determined as the team that scored the first try in that match – if the match ends with a 0-0 score the winner will be determined on the toss of a coin.

We will be hosting the festivals with scoring categories.

Intentions

- To create a positive environment enabling young players to participate in a series of matches, against various teams. This is a festival of rugby, not a competition.

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

- Players having fun and freedom with equal amounts of games time and developing the core values of the game.
- Games should be played without pressure from the side lines either from coaches or spectators.
- Grouping teams of similar abilities for the end of season festivals.

Guidelines

- All referees on the day should read through this document and familiarise themselves with the below categories.
- We will expect the referees from each club to embrace the system and reflect the festival culture by scoring in a fair and balanced manner.

We would expect teams to get 2's – 4's with 3 being the average with points being added or deducted for positive or negative conduct or comments.

Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

Score each category fairly as appropriate. All categories are of **equal** importance.

1. Outstanding
2. Above average - everything you expect and above
3. Average - how everything in the game should be
4. Below average - below what you expect
5. Poor – Unacceptable

Category 1 – Coaches/Management – Marked from 1 to 5

Did the Coaches/Management

1. Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment
2. Appreciate the needs of the players and adhere to core values
3. Be a positive role model
4. Respect all match officials

Category 2 – Players – Marked from 1 to 5

Did the Players

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

1. Recognise and appreciate the efforts of their coaches, parents and match officials
2. Understand the loyalty and commitment to adults and teammates
3. Encourage teammates even if they make a mistake
4. Acknowledge the efforts of their opponents

Category 3 – Parents/Supporters – Marked from 1 to 5

1. Acknowledge good individual and team performances from all young players irrespective of which team they play for
2. Respect match official's decisions
3. Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment
4. Recognise the sanctity of the pitch for players and officials only

Category 4 – General Ethos – Marked from 1 to 5

Did both teams

1. Create a positive and constructive environment
2. Support sportsmanship for both sides
3. Encourage all players irrespective of their ability
4. Support the referee in officiating the game

Category 5 – Score 3 points for win – 1 point for a draw.

2) Festival Responsibilities – Prelim and Finals

- a) Responsibility for organising the preliminary mini-festivals and finals will sit with the 'host club'. The LRU AGR Festivals Organiser will provide a running order and format for the day. Members of the LRU AGR Committee may attend in a support capacity but this cannot be guaranteed and should not be relied upon.
- b) All teams **MUST** submit a team sheet prior to the day of the Preliminary festival to the LRU festival organiser. The LRU AGR Festival Organiser will check the information to verify that all players entered onto the team sheet hold a valid RFU AGR Registration Scheme Player Number and are defined within the RFU AGR Registration Scheme as being "Active" Ineligible players entered may result in the withholding of the team deposit as in 6c above.
- c) The host club must ensure that appropriate first aid facilities and Welfare facilities are provided.
- d) With regard to any disputes arising on the day, the AGR Section Chairman of the host club will be the final arbiter (with possible input from a member of the LRU Festivals team, if such

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

a person is available on the day of the Preliminary Festival – the normal procedure will apply to raise a dispute after the festival.

- e) The host club must ensure that appropriate first aid facilities are provided.
- f) With regard to any disputes arising on the day, the LRU AGR Festivals Organiser will be the final arbiter – the normal procedure will apply to raise a dispute after the festival.

3) Entry Requirements and Dates of Rounds

- a) The closing date for entries to the LRU Mini / Midi Festival will be the date specified on the entry form in order that entries can be finalised. The initial draw for the LRU Mini/Midi Festival will be made well in advance of the Preliminary Festival date(s) - this draw will determine opponents in the preliminary stage of the Mini / Midi Festival– one draw will cover all age groups for that club, entry forms and fees must be returned to the LRU AGR Festival Organiser by the due date.
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser will fix the date of each stage of the Mini / Midi Festival and will publish this alongside the LRU Festival dates (shortly after the RFU structured season for the forthcoming season is published). The preliminary round will consist of four preliminary festivals - the first four clubs to be drawn shall be the hosting teams for the preliminary rounds – subsequently drawn clubs will be placed in respective groups in order until all clubs have been drawn.
- c) A subsequent draw will be made for the final’s festival day – this will be drawn well in advance of the Finals Day for the season.

4) Entry Fees and Deposits

- a) Entry to the Festival is subject to a single non-refundable £30 entry fee per age grade.
- b) A £30 deposit is also required for each age group entered – this deposit will be in the form of a cheque per age group which will be banked if the deposit is forfeit (see below) – non-forfeit deposit cheques will be destroyed at the end of the season.
- c) Individual AGE GROUP deposits will be forfeit in the event of an age group failing to comply with the rules and requirements of the Festival including but not restricted to playing ineligible players, failure to prepare and submit team sheets, failure to produce player registration cards and failure to provide a suitably qualified referee.
- d) All AGE GROUP deposits will be forfeit in circumstances where the club as a whole fails to comply with the rules and requirements of the Festival including but not restricted to repeated age group offences as described above and failure to submit entry forms and fees to agreed timescales,
- e) Initial decisions on the forfeit of deposits will be made by the LRU AGR Festivals Organiser. There will be a right of appeal against any such decision to the Chair of the LRU CBRDP. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the Club’s AGR Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of a lost deposit.

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

5) Organisation and Management of the Festival - Squad Size - Match Time

- a) The Leicestershire Rugby Union (LRU) will organise a Festival for the age groups U9–U13 administered by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary.
- b) All matches shall be played in accordance the appropriate RFU Age Grade requirements.
 - All U9 matches will be played in accordance with New Rules of Play U9 Transitional Contact; Squad Size 12 – Match time 6mins each way
 - All U10 matches will be played in accordance with New Rules of Play U10 Transitional Contact; Squad Size 14 – Match time 6 mins each way
 - All U11 matches will be played in accordance with New Rules of Play U11 Transitional Contact – 9 players per team on pitch; Squad size 16 – Match time 7 mins each way
 - All U12 matches will be played in accordance with New Rules of Play U12 – 12 players per team on pitch; Squad Size 18 - Match time 7 mins each way
 - All U13 matches will be played in accordance with the new rules of play U13 13 players per team on the pitch; Squad Size 20 – Match time 7 mins each way
 - No extra time permitted
- c) All matches will comply with the rules of the Mini / Midi Festival as set out by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary **except** that there will be no conversions after a try is scored where this would normally apply.
- d) Information regarding the organisation and progress of the LRU Mini / Midi Festival will be produced at regular intervals during the Season and will be published on the LRU web site.
- e) The format of the Festival will be set annually in accordance with the number of entries received.

6) Registration and Eligibility of Players

- a) All players must be registered with the Club they are representing and be registered on the RFU AGR Registration scheme and have been allocated a valid RFU Player Registration number at least five days prior to the day of the relevant festival. On the day of the Festival, the player must hold “Active” status on the RFU AGR Registration scheme.
- b) The LRU Mini/Midi Festival is strictly an Age Grade specific Festival and all players taking part must be in a team based upon the chronological age of the players. However, consideration will be given to official dispensation, where held under RFU Regulations 15.4.3/15.4.4
- c) Joint club entries are permitted to allow clubs at a particular age group to jointly raise a team. The players of each club must be registered for their respective club and also be registered with the RFU AGR Registration scheme as “active” players.
- d) Any team found to be in breach of registration rules may be disqualified from the Festival for the season in which the breach of rules occurs.

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

7) Membership and Eligibility of Clubs

- a) The LRU Mini/Midi Festival is open to any club in membership of the LRU and the Rugby Football Union - entries are restricted to one team per club.
- b) The AGR Festivals Committee may authorise participation by a club in membership of another Constituent Body Rugby Union and the Rugby Football Union.
- c) It is the intention of the LRU to provide rugby for as many players as possible. To this end, a club may enter 'late' as long as the LRU Mini/Midi Festival can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences and/or disruption.

8) Protests, Disputes and Appeals

- a) Any matters in dispute or any perceived breach of these rules is to be reported IN WRITING to the LRU AGR Festival Secretary within 48 hours of the alleged incident. festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser has the power to exclude any club or team from the LRU Mini / Midi Festivals organised by the LRU if that club or team has not complied with the rules of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) or has not played within the spirit and ethos of the RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby.
- c) Initial decisions and interpretations on all matters regarding the organisation and management of the LRU Mini/Midi Festival will be made by the LRU AGR Festival Organiser.
- d) There will be a right of appeal against any such decision to the Chair of the LRU CBRDP. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the appellant club's AGR Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of any such decision. festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk

9) Venues

- a) The venue for the preliminary mini-festivals will be the host clubs ground unless agreed otherwise by the LRU AGR Festival Organiser.
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser reserves the right to organise the match at another ground in the event of an unfit pitch at the originally designated host club.
- c) All pitches used in the Mini / Midi Festival will be roped off with no access onto the playing area except for the participating players and the match officials. A club official may be allowed inside the ropes as a 'sponge person'. Team coaches and managers should refrain from wandering up & down the touch line and should be encouraged to stay in the technical area. The technical area is defined as being a space at the side of the pitch close to the halfway line of the pitch.
- d) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of spectators and team coaches and in the event of serious misbehaviour, individual teams or whole clubs may be removed from the Festival.
- e) The LRU AGR Festivals Organiser will decide the dates for the preliminary festivals and for the finals of the Mini / Midi Festival within the RFU AGR Playing Calendar.
- f) The LRU AGR Festivals Organiser will decide the venues for the finals of the Mini / Midi Festival following application from interested clubs to host the Finals.

Age Grade Rugby

Mini / Midi (U9-U13) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2018/2019

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Regulation 15 Guidance for Age Grade Rugby U9 -U13 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

10) Referees

- a) All clubs will be required to provide a competent Mini/Midi referee for the matches indicated in the programme / running order and in line with RFU guidelines these referees must have attended an appropriate referee training course.
- b) Failure to provide a suitably qualified referee may lead to the withholding of the age group deposit.

11) Kit

- a) In the event of Clubs having similar coloured playing kit the team listed on the left of the running order shall change its colours (often best achieved by turning existing shirts inside out).