Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, Sportsmanship.





Mini & Junior Parent & Player Guide

Issue No. 1: Aug 2017





TringRugby Minis & Juniors – The Facts:

- Our M&J section is in excess of 450 active players under 18 years of age.
- Tring has a proud tradition of developing players through to our senior sides (and beyond). Many of our parents and volunteers played within the section.
- Our Mini Rangers tour annually with over 100 players and their families travelling further afield, making memories and enjoying their sport.
- TringRugby offers free trial sessions to any player.
- Your player is trialling the sport and the club not the other way around!
- Players and their families are encouraged to spend up to 3 weeks exploring the sport and the club with no commitment.



Welcome to TringRugby

Tring RUFC was founded in 1963 and boasts one of the oldest Mini & Junior (M&J) sections in England.



Volunteers

TringRugby is almost exclusively run by volunteers. All of our age group coaching and support teams are all unpaid volunteers, looking to 'give back' to the community and the next generation. We will always welcome offers of help be that coaching or other roles. We cannot operate without such generosity.

Our coaches offer a broad range of backgrounds and playing experience, the only demand we make is enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference. We actively ask for volunteers particularly in the under 6s and cubs as we need to form those age groups annually. The club provides support throughout.

All of our coaches are DBS checked and fully trained. Volunteer coaches can develop their expertise from the minimum qualifications expected through to their desired level. We are always looking for individuals interested in refereeing, again training is provided. Finally, there are always wider roles available for your talents in supporting the children.

If you feel you can help or want to find out more, please just speak to one of the coaches or email mjchair@tringrugby.com. Your offer will be welcomed.





My child wants to try rugby. What do I do?

Just bring them along to Cow Lane for a training session.

All players, new or experienced are welcome in any age group. Please check our website for age group fixtures and just come along to a training session. Players can start at any point in the season.

TringRugby offers trial sessions to any player. Your player is trialling the sport and the club not the other way around! All players will be welcome to join. Players and their families are encouraged to spend up to 3 weeks exploring the sport and the club with no commitment.

After this period we would expect the player to then look to join the club to continue. Players need to register with the RFU and TringRugby and pay the seasons subscription. This covers all match fees for the season (Training, Festivals and Friendlies).

Joining details are on our website www.tringrugby.com and in this handbook.

Membership queries can be answered by your age group Head Coach or Team Manager. Alternatively our Membership Secretary can be contacted on membership@tringrugby.com.

TringRugby believes in provision for all young players in the surrounding area. We are committed to providing value to families and seek to offer a fair price in our subscriptions. In case of financial difficulty please contact our club treasurer (treasurer@tringrugby.com). We will seek to provide a solution, all discussions are strictly confidential.

What equipment does my player need?

Boots; football or rugby boots are fine, moulded or screw in rugby studs. Football 'blades' should be avoided.

Water; players will take frequent and regular water breaks.

Club playing kit is available from our club shop as desired.

Under 9s onwards; all players at TringRugby must wear a mouthguard to participate in contact activity.

It is incredibly important that our players dress for the weather. We would much rather a child was warm than looking ready to run out at Twickenham! This is especially true of the younger age groups. Layers are vital. From Under 9s onwards clothing with zips must be avoided during contact activities.

Various padded under shirts (body armour) are available. The use of head guards (scrum caps) are strictly by personal preference. TringRugby does not endorse or discourage their use.

"Rugby head guards do not protect against concussion. They do protect against superficial injuries to the head such as cuts and grazes though - this has been demonstrated in a number of research studies. There is also however some evidence to suggest that head guards may increase risk taking behaviours in some players."

RFU Concussion – Headcase, Players and Parents (as at March 2017)







Age Grade Rugby

Players are grouped by their age on 31st August.

A child who is 9 years of age on 31st August is under 10 and therefore would play in our Under 10 age group for that season. This is consistent across all RFU clubs.

Our Under 6s train with the Under 7s and after their 6th birthday are encouraged to play in club matches.

Players can only move age group by RFU consent, permission is exceptional and subject to strict conditions. In exceptional circumstance only, parents should contact our Mini and Junior Chair for detail and support as applicable (michair@tringrugby.com).

Players in contact age groups (Under 9 upwards) may train together with 'next' age group only. Eg U9 & U10, U10 & U11.



Fixtures and Training

Weekly playing activity will be published on our website and further information provided by the age groups. In mini rugby this will be classified as:

- 1: **TRAINING**: Activity at home coordinated by your Head coach and their team.
- 2. FRIENDLIES: These are treated as an extension of training and an opportunity for players to put their skills to work All minis players wishing to play, will play. TringRugby will offer an extensive fixture schedule though the year. Format and structure will vary based upon the opposition, location and player needs. We will always seek to challenge players in a safe and supportive environment; to enjoy, learn and grow in confidence.
- 3. FESTIVALS: Opportunities to play in festivals will be offered to our minis players throughout the season. Format will differ depending upon the specific event. Player numbers may be limited or aimed at specific ability levels. Our coaching teams ensure that all players are provided the opportunity to participate in a minis festival during the season. Players not participating in a Sunday festival will usually be provided with training or a friendly fixture that day.

Fixture Format

Matches are strictly played under RFU age grade Rules of Play. A brief summary of the current minis Rules of Play are provided later in this document (March 2017)

TringRugby follows a policy of appropriate competition. Players should enjoy play in a safe, enjoyable and challenging environment and our coaches will always positively encourage and seek to develop all players. We recognise that individuals have individual needs but we will seek to consistently deliver equal support to all.

Fixtures may be "streamed" or "mixed" depending on the circumstance and agreement between clubs. Streamed fixtures allow players to test themselves against peer teams. Mixed fixtures allow players exposure to playing alongside others potentially more able at present.

All players are there to play and learn, they are expected to positively encourage others but not peer coach. TringRugby recognises that both approaches have merits when used on appropriate occasion and safely. All players will have an equal opportunity in fixtures.

Within the minis, TringRugby traditionally field teams named after big cats eg Lions. The children will not usually hear any references to "A, B, C". The "team name" is irrelevant, they are all Tringrugby players. The minis do not "make a thing" of any TringRugby team. Parents are expected to respect this and assist in this approach in any discussions with players. Coaches will not usually initiate selection discussions with players, no player has ever been "dropped". We will seek to always encourage all players and provide challenges for them to solve. This includes mental as well as physical, eg leadership.

All players will be treated fairly. Deciding on teams at this young age is often one of the most difficult



decisions for our coaches. We are always seeking for them to enjoy playing in an appropriate environment in which they can thrive. Players will move around teams as appropriate. Coaches also have to 'juggle' player availability, this impacts selections as we seek to develop all players.

Our players are there to play. Mini rugby operates "rolling substitutes". Our coaches will seek that all players get the opportunity for playing time in games equally.

Playing Times

The playing season begins on the first Sunday of September ever year, with training. October sees the first fixtures. Minis will usually start at 10am every Sunday morning.

Maximum playing time in age grade rugby is prescribed by the RFU and actively monitored. This will vary by age. Minis players will have the opportunity to play in festivals. Matches run throughout the day, however actual playing time will never exceed these limits.

Older minis age groups may offer midweek evening training sessions. These are usually Wednesday nights and are strictly fun sessions aimed in part at preparing players for junior rugby. Your Head Coach will advise if these are being run.





Age Groups and Structure

Age grade rugby is often your first experience of a club. TringRugby prides itself upon welcoming the whole family to Cow Lane.

Our age groups are led by the Head Coach. They are responsible for leading playing activity and the overall management of the age group. They are supported by the Team Manager and our dedicated team of coaches.

Team Managers coordinate the age group and provide a focal point for parents. All of our age groups have trained first aiders and should have a "Social Secretary" to provide coordination of club and age group events.

All of our volunteers are there to help first. If you have a question or concern please just ask. In the first instance queries or concerns are best addressed to your age group head coach or team manager. If your query is not addressed, don't hesitate to contact our Minis or Juniors Chair for response.

Head Coaches can be contacted using the following email format; u7@tringrugby.com, u8@tringrugby.com etc

Our Minis Chair can be contacted on minis@tringrugby.com and Juniors on juniors@tringrugby.com.





Coaching

All of our coaches are DBS checked and RFU qualified to the appropriate levels for their age group and role. TringRugby follows the RFU guidance on coaching activity.

All activity led by our coaching teams should be "APES". **A**ctive **P**urposeful **E**njoyable Safe

TringRugby aims to support our young players long term development rather than seek short term results. We are looking to foster a love of the sport and personal growth, with participation and player retention through age grade rugby into the senior game.

TringRugby takes a player-centred and development-driven approach.

The Rules of Play

The Rules of Play use a 'building block' approach and aim to equip players and coaches with the skills they need as they build towards the 15-a-side game. They offer progression and challenge for players season by season and state the furthest players can travel towards the 15-a-side game at each age. This ensures our game remains player-centred and development-driven.

This gradual introduction of new rules, a simpler game, and a focus on growing confidence and selfesteem will ensure that the development of each individual child goes hand in hand with the development of the game through the age groups. This stepping stone approach will equip players with the skills and confidence they need to fully enjoy the 15-a-side game later in life.

The Principles of the rules are to:

- 1. Put the child first
- 2. Maintain rugby as a game for all shapes and sizes
- 3. Increase enjoyment for all
- 4. Increase involvement for all
- 5. Retain players in the game

RFU (published as at March 2017)



All players will be encouraged to participate in various playing activities. In minis rugby this will usually be a focus upon conditioned games aimed at creating fun game based situations for the players to solve; and the introduction of technical drills aimed at skills development as they progress.

All players will participate in similar activities regardless of their current ability. Players will gain exposure to all expertise in the age group.

Minis rugby does not specialise players into positions. Rugby is a late specialisation sport. All players are there to enjoy and learn equally. Players will vary in their physical and mental development which may effect their current ability. All players will be encouraged in all roles dependent on these factors. Players will be encouraged to play to and improve their strengths whilst developing upon any weaknesses.

Our coaches are actively encouraged and supported in attending regular coach education sessions and courses (Continuous Personal Development).

TringRugby is committed to supporting our players and coaches in the provision of both training and equipment.

We measure our success by:

- 1. SMILES: Our minis coaches have two fundamental targets, safety and every child enjoying themselves
- 2. PLAYER AND COACH RETENTION: Delivery of an engaged and enthusiastic age group to our juniors at U13.

Our Values

The culture of Rugby is much more than just physical exercise. Within TringRugby we expect young players to grow as individuals exploring the game and culture. We expect families to find a safe, supportive environment.

TringRugby's underlying values are shared with the RFU. You will often hear our coaches referring to "TREDS". We seek to reinforce these consistently throughout the club in all our actions, behaviours, expectations and objectives amongst all those involved.





Rugby's Core Values

Rugby's values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship are what makes the game special for those who enjoy the environment and culture they create. They define the game and define England Rugby.

T

eamwork

Teamwork is essential to our sport. We welcome all new team members and include all because working as a team enriches our lives. We play selflessly: working for the team, not for ourselves alone, both on and off the field. We take pride in our team, rely on one another and understand that each player has a part to play. We speak out if our team or sport is threatened by inappropriate words or actions.

R

espect

Mutual respect forms the basis of our sport. We hold in high esteem our sport, its values and traditions and earn the respect of others in the way we behave. We respect our match officials and accept their decisions. We respect opposition players and supporters. We value our coaches and those who run our clubs and treat clubhouses with consideration.



njoyment

Enjoyment is the reason we play and support rugby union. We encourage players to enjoy training and playing. We use our sport to adopt a healthy lifestyle and build life skills. We safeguard our young players and help them have fun. We enjoy being part of a team and part of the rugby family.



iscipline

Strong discipline underpins our sport. We ensure that our sport is one of controlled physical endeavour and that we are honest and fair. We obey the laws of the game which ensure an inclusive and exciting global sport. We support our disciplinary system, which protects our sport and upholds its values. We observe the sport's laws and regulations and report serious breaches.



portsmanship

Sportsmanship is the foundation upon which rugby union is built. We uphold the rugby tradition of camaraderie with teammates and opposition. We observe fair play both on and off the pitch and are generous in victory and dignified in defeat. We play to win but not at all costs and recognise both endeavour and achievement. We ensure that the wellbeing and development of individual players is central to all rugby activity.

RFU (as at March 2017)



What we ask of Parents

- 1 Be a model not a critic
- Respect all players and their development needs, viewing the game with team goals in mind.
- 3. Remember kids are there to play for them not you.
- Respect decisions made by players, coaches and officials
- 5. Never criticise any player or critique on the way home.
- 6. Let the coaches coach. Never coach from the sideline.
- 7. Encourage all good play and endeavour.
- 8. Encourage adherence to a game's rules.
- 9. Never force a player to attend.
- 10. Encourage and applaud all players equally.
- 11. Welcome any visitors and new faces.
- 12. Volunteer if you can. It will be welcomed.
- 13. Represent your child's needs, use your vote when required.
- 14. If you have a question, just ask. There is always a reason for an action.

What we ask of Players

- 1. Listen, Learn and always Act safely.
- Enjoy and have fun.
- 3. Ask guestions.
- 4. Respect others and be kind.
- 5. Treat the equipment and clubhouse of you and others with care.
- 6. Speak up, your thoughts matter.
- 7. Encourage others, never criticise.
- 8. Play within the rules of a game and accept the referee's decision without comment.
- 9. Welcome visitors and new faces.
- 10. Help your coaches.





Age Grade Rugby at TringRugby



Rugby Cubs

Ages: 3 to 5 Years

School Years: Reception & EYFS

minis@tringrugby.com



Junior Rugby

Ages: Under 13 to Under 16

School Years: Y8 to Y11 juniors@tringrugby.com



Minis Rugby

Ages: Under 6 to Under 12 School Years: Reception to Y7

minis@tringrugby.com



Academy

Ages: Under 19

School Years: Y12 to Y13 academy@tringrugby.com



Progression through Minis

Cubs - Ages 3 to 5

We provide sporting activity within Minis to children from the age of 3 to 5 years old in our Cubs section, on their 5th birthday they can graduate to our age grade rugby provision, starting with our under 7s.

Tag Rugby - U6 to U8

From the U6 age group, they build on their skills year on year through the RFUs "rules of play". This player first ethos, moves focus to player enjoyment and development from match results. After their 6th birthday, they will be provided the regular opportunity to play within interclub fixtures in a safe and fun environment

Contact Rugby - U9 onwards

Players will move to contact at Under 9 (school year 4). This is probably the most eagerly awaited age group in the minis. Contact is introduced gradually and in a controlled and safe manner. Players are first taught to fall safely and the tackle is then introduced gradually under the watchful eye of our trained coaching team. The focus for the year is the tackle. Players will then gradually progress through to our U12s, each year elements are added, allowing players to explore each aspect fully and safely without being overwhelmed. On completing U12, players graduate to our Juniors. Our Juniors play through U13-U16 before moving on to our successful Academy section in preparation for senior rugby.







TringRugby Juniors

On entering the Junior section the approach becomes far more player led. We encourage players to take more responsibility both on and off the field in their training, warm-ups and decision making.

From U13 onwards through Juniors the structure of game play moves to a single match basis. At TringRugby each agegroup enters the Herts & Middlesex League system where they will play against other clubs of a similar standard in competitive games. They will also play 'friendly' fixtures as arranged by the respective squad managers.

We ask that players arrive to their matches wearing Tring polo shirts and in good time to get changed with their teammates ready for pre-match team talks, planning and warmups. This is a key part of match preparation, building team spirit and bonding. Post-match tea is usually provided by the hosting club and we ask that all players attend and mix with opposition and appreciate hospitality offered.

As players progress in age and develop physically they may find themselves settling more into positions. This does not mean that players will be pigeon holed permanently or that they will even have set positions for the season. However, players may find that they begin to specialise, such as forwards and front row (front row players must be specifically trained). Players may begin to find where they enjoy playing and are encouraged to discuss options with their coaches.

In order to give TringRugby players the very best opportunities to develop we have introduced the Tring Player Development Pathway (PDP) using documented plays, objectives and metrics to produce a progression through to Academy. This means we can have 1st team players, senior club coaches and players all speaking the same 'language'. These expectations of skill sets are mapped out assuring a rounded and managed player development. With skill sub-sets introduced and developed year on year the pathway ensures all players progress in all required proficiencies.

Under 16 players begin graduated integration into the Tring Academy, with combined training from Christmas onwards



Age grade Rules of Play differences and focus at TringRugby

Rugby Cubs (Ages 3 to 5, Mixed)

Summary: Cubs is not governed by the Rules of Play. Sporting activities, not specifically rugby type games or drills. No competitive games.

Player Development Focus: Focus solely on fun and activity. Evasion games. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).

Under 6 and Under 7 (Tag, Mixed)

Summary: Tag Rugby, no kicking, scrums or lineouts. 4-a-side. Max pitch 20m x 12m, Ball size 3. Maximum minutes each half: 10. Players not permitted to go to ground to score tries. Play can continue from a knock-on.

Player Development Focus: Focus solely on fun and evasion games. Basic ball handling and principles of the game. Leadership and communication - captains by match. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).

Under 8 (Tag, Mixed)

Summary: Tag Rugby, no kicking, scrums or lineouts. Knock on not permitted. Maximum 6-a-side. Maximum Pitch 45m x 22m. Maximum minutes each half: 10. Players permitted to go to ground to score tries.

Player Development Focus: Focus on fun and evasion games. Improved ball handling and principles of the game. Focus remains on evasion skills. Go forward: Offload, timing runs, communication, defensive line. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).

Under 9 (Contact, Mixed)

Summary: Introduction of the tackle only but no rucks, mauls, lineouts or scrums. A tackle will be called if a player is brought to ground or held for 3 seconds. Maximum of 7-a-side, Maximum pitch size: 60m x 30m. Maximum minutes each half: 15.

Player Development Focus: Learning to fall to ground & 3 elements of the correct tackling technique (Cheek to cheek, socket to pocket, ring of steel). The year is for players to gain confidence in contact. Provision is made for less confident adopters with the 'hold' tackle call. Continued focus on offload and evasion, U8s and U9s is the same game solely with the tackle. Basic ball presentation / pop from floor. Player responsibility (kit) FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).



Under 10 (Contact, Mixed)

Summary: Introduction of uncontested 3 man scrum, no contest for the ball & "1+1" ruck and maul. Maximum of 8-a-side. Maximum pitch size: 60m x 35m Increase in Ball Size (4). Maximum minutes each half: 15.

Player Development Focus: Uncontested scrum provides space in restarts. Ball Rip, Ruck and Maul rules. Safe and strong body positions. Ball presentation & Communication. Awareness of new offside lines and entry gates — self discipline. Continuity in play and teamwork. Improve evasion. Player reponsibility, supervised player led warm up. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).

Under 11 (Contact, Mixed)

Summary: Introduction of the contested strike in scrum (no push), ruck and maul "1+2" players. Introduction of tactical kicking and kicking restarts. Maximum of 9-a-side, Maximum pitch size: 60m x 43m. Maximum minutes each half: 20.

Player Development Focus: Contested scrum strike no push. Spatial awareness, Ball Rip, Ruck and Maul rules. Safe and strong body positions. Decision making & communication, numbers to commit to ruck. Ball presentation. Awareness of new offside lines and 'entry gates', self discipline. Continuity in play and teamwork. Improve evasion. Basic game management. Player responsibility, captain for day, leadership, trust and communication. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).

Under 12 (Contact, Boys)

Summary: Boys only, contested strike, no push in scrum with 5 players. No limit on numbers contesting the ball (ruck and maul). Introduction of the hand off below armpits. Maximum of 12 a-side, Maximum pitch size: 60m x 43m.

Player Development Focus: Transition year for Junior Rugby. Decision making. Controlled aggression. Fitness and responsibility. Awareness of space and evasion. Other key points as per U11. FUNdamentals of movement. Agility, Balance and Coordination (ABC).





Under 13

Played with 13 players a side and a 6 man scrum (no flankers), strike and push. Slightly shortened pitch. Trained forwards. No lineouts, with restart from touch as a free pass. Kicking from hand is permitted. No conversions. Size 4 ball.

Under 14

Played with 15 players a side with an 8 man scrum, strike and push. Uncontested lineout (contest resumes when catching player in control of the ball and on the ground), with no lifting. All kicking is permitted including penalties and conversions. Size 4 ball. 5 minute sin bin.

Under 15

Played with 15 players a side with an 8 man scrum, strike and push. Full sized pitch. Uncontested lineout but with lifting(contest resumes upon catching player in contact with the ground). All kicking is permitted including penalties and conversions. Size 5 ball. 5 minute sin bin.

Under 16

Played with 15 players a side with an 8 man scrum, strike and push. Full sized pitch. Contested lineout with lifting. All kicking is permitted including penalties and conversions. Size 5 ball. 7 minute sin bin.





Mini Rangers Tour

TringRugby recognises the importance and tradition of touring within the sports culture. The purpose is one of teams and the section bonding inter age groups; making new friends and memories for a lifetime. The minis will tour (U7-12) subject to the annual formation of a suitable volunteer committee to enable the trip.

Membership and Voting Rights

All players are members of our 'members club'. Parents of all members under 18 carry their vote by proxy in any member ballot. We expect parents to have their say and help steer the club. It's your club. The children are the clubs future.

Playing membership is conferred for the season upon payment of the club subscription. Please refer to the clubs constitution.

Engagement

We will welcome parents and families to be involved throughout the club, it's your club. After training, our head coaches will explain the purpose of any activity if asked, likewise they will provide honest feedback to you on your players development if approached.

Player Welfare

TringRugby takes player welfare extremely seriously.

If you have any concerns please contact our Welfare Director welfare@tringrugby.com.

With young players, our minis parents are required to remain pitchside at all times. If you need to leave the pitchside area, you must arrange an adult to be in loco parentis and the child must be aware. Our coaches do not provide this service unless they would do so in the normal course of your relationship.

Inclusivity

TringRugby is committed in sporting provision for all.

Minis rugby from U6-11 is mixed gender with both girls and boys welcomed. Under 12 onwards, age grade rugby is separated by gender.



Joining TringRugby

The process to join the Club is really simple and is all online for the new season, please follow the steps below:

Go to www.tringrugby.com

Select the green tab on the top right 'Join this club website'

Choose to signup with Facebook or signup with your email address (follow the steps and complete ALL fields)

Select your role from the list: NB if you are registering a player and you are a parent, please register YOURSELF first and NOT the player.

Select 'Parent' then Click 'next step'

'Add your children to apply for the Parent role' start typing the childs name, if they are NOT registered then select 'Click here if your child is not in the list'

Enter 'First name' and 'Last name' then click 'Add' now click 'Next step' if you need to add a second or third child please do so here.



If you have already received your membership card then please enter the number here in the 'Parents questions' field, if not type NONE.

Now select your child's Primary team, then enter their membership number if known (this can be edited afterwards once you have received your membership card).

The Club Questions section should be completed in full, please be sure to enter your partners details in the 'Alternative' contact detail sections.

Now click 'Complete Application'





You should now select to 'Review' your membership and check the details are correct so that an 'Admin' can approve your request. It is important that you ensure the communications and privacy settings are accurate and switched ON. The club may need to contact you for many reasons to do with your child's membership, selections to play matches, and any other pertinent information, please double check your telephone numbers and allow the club to see your email and mobile numbers in case of emergency.



In case of difficulty please email your Age group team manager, details are on the club's website.









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