

WIMBLEDON MINIS FESTIVAL



WIMBLEDON
RFC

SPRING 10th March 2024

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WIMBLEDON MINIS FESTIVAL



SPRING 10th March 2024

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SUPPORTERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

- Encourage your child to learn the rules and play within them
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes
- Publicly accept officials' judgements
- If your child is injured, allow the trained First Aid staff to do their duty; don't be tempted to move your child until the staff/trainers say it is safe to do so
- If First Aid/Medical staff say your child is not fit to play through injury or illness, please accept this decision
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times

WELCOME TO WIMBLEDON



Accredited Club



WIMBLEDON
RFC

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Wimbledon Festival. As I write this, the sun is finally shining and hopefully drying our pitches out at Beverley Meads. After what seems like

weeks of rain it would be nice to kick off the festival season without the mud.

With the World Cup a distant memory for all except our dear South African friends, eyes have turned to the Six Nations and there are many questions. Can anyone stop Ireland, did Scotland score that try, will France get their mojo back, but probably the most asked question is about England's recent performances, after a solid showing at the World Cup. It feels like they are missing something, something we will see in bucket loads today and that is just the simple joy of playing rugby, our kids will do it today having not been weighed down by the shackles of structure and over-thinking. Yes it is important that our kids should know to run forwards, but let's not coach out the ability to look for space. Yes it is important for our kids to know the benefits of passing down a neat line, but let's not quell the ambition of a miss-3 overhead pass to the player on the wing. The ability to express oneself without criticism is what will make superstars!

Let us all show the players from every age group and club the support and encouragement they deserve on what promises to be a fantastic day of rugby.

That just leaves me with a final word of thanks to our undisputed heavyweight volunteers from the U11s, far too many names to list them all; but Jar, Naoko, Athina, Tom, Richard and the rest, a huge thank you from myself and the club for your efforts over the years. They have throughout their minis journey been a force of nature when it comes to organising club events,

so it will be a sad day to see them move on to youth rugby next season.

All the best,

BEN SMITH
CHAIRMAN OF
MINIS RUGBY



THE TACKLE HEIGHT LAW VARIATIONS & TODAY'S FESTIVAL

Keeping players' heads away from each other's in open play is the key goal from the new tackle height laws. I can't imagine that there is anyone in rugby who doesn't agree that this is a very sensible objective. Here are the key elements for players, coaches and referees to focus on at today's festival.

Players at today's festival in the under 9, 10 and 11 age groups all need to adhere to the new tackle height laws. Remember these new laws only apply to OPEN play. Phase play - rucks, mauls and one metre-carries of 'pick and goes' - are not affected. You are also allowed to lower your height to score a try. In all these cases it is acknowledged that defenders/tacklers may well make contact above the sternum and this is acceptable. In all situations (phase or open play), any player making initial contact with the head of another player is completely unacceptable and sanctions should follow the Head Contact Protocols.

FOR THE TACKLER IN OPEN PLAY

The tackler(s) must make contact with the ball carrier (and remain) below the sternum. I'm sure all clubs have been working hard in training about this and we want this festival to be where all that hard work bears fruit. Simple message: target the belly and the thighs.

FOR THE BALL CARRIER IN OPEN PLAY

The actions of the ball carrier are much more challenging and needs all of our attention. There are two key elements that need to be looked at:

1. LATE AND LOW: Hopefully all players will have been taught that, as ball carriers, they are not allowed to become "late and low". This means dipping their shoulders at the last minute to make it hard for a tackler to be able to access the "green" (ie legal) zones of the tummy and the thighs. A runner cannot lean forward so far as to remove the ability to be tackled.

2. USE OF SHOULDERS AND ARMS: As our kids are not allowed to use the hand off yet we need to be extra vigilant on players using their shoulders and/or forearms as a way of getting through a tackler. The laws of the game have

been changed to reflect these two new obligations on the ball carrier.

RFU DOMESTIC LAW VARIATIONS

9.11. (a) Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the head, shoulder, elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, an opponent.
(b) Ball-carriers must not lower their height significantly before making contact with an opponent in open play.

9.12. A player must not physically or verbally abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, biting, punching, contact with the eye or eye area, striking with any part of the arm, head, shoulder, forearm or knee(s), stamping, trampling, tripping or kicking.

9.13. A player must not tackle or attempt to tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent in open play above the base of the sternum even if the tackle starts below the base of the sternum.

NOTE TO TODAY'S REFEREES

1. Only referee a game if you are fully aware of both the Domestic Law Variations relating to Tackle Height and know the regulations for your age group.
2. Penalise all high tackles and be consistent with the new laws - explain to the players what they did wrong. A child who persistently tackles high may need to be subbed off for that game in consultation with his/her coach. Some coaching before their next game should

resolve things in most cases. There are no yellow cards in minis rugby.

3. For ball carrier actions please penalise late dips where access to tackle zones has been closed off and shoulder-first running and fending. A purposeful hand off is to be penalised (as we always have). A mild, low wafting of the arm that doesn't affect a tackler's ability to tackle should be discouraged verbally (eg "make sure you're not handing off"). It is obvious when the line is crossed and it becomes a hand off. Note it is perfectly legal to run through a tackle. A legal run-through would typically see the ball carrier with the ball in two hands in front of them (not the ball tucked in their arm) ready for an offload and/or in the process of evading the tackle through a side-step.

NOTE TO PARENTS, PLAYERS AND COACHES

Remember that this is kids rugby and in every game it is likely that there will be decisions that you might not agree with. Please keep your opinions to yourselves and respect the referees decisions. Keep calm and carry on!

Yours in rugby

RICHARD CASTLE
WIMBLEDON RFC
TACKLESAFE CHAMPION

TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL RULES

Please help us keep the day moving smoothly by having your team together and ready to play when called. The referee's decision is final concerning matters on the pitch and its immediate surroundings. In all other matters the tournament director's decision will be final.

FIRST AID

There will be an ambulance located near the main clubhouse with two paramedics for the Festival. First Aid kits are available pitch side and there are qualified First Aiders on site. There will also be two physiotherapists available at the Physio Room by the clubhouse/circulating at the festival.

RUGBY RULES & REGULATIONS

The relevant age group Rules of Play and RFU Regulation 15 apply to our festival. If in doubt, links to the rules are at: bit.ly/3cHYu07

THE HALF GAME INITIATIVE

This ensures every player in a match squad gets half a game's-worth of time on the pitch - and is mandatory in all clubs and schools. This applies to U7-U18s.

MATCHES START AT 10.00 SHARP

- u7: 4 a-side, 5 mins each way (2 mins half time)
- u8: 6 a-side, 5 mins each way (2 mins half time)
- u9: 7 a-side, 6 mins each way (1 min half time)
- u10: 8 a-side, 8 mins each way (2 mins half time)
- u11: 9 a-side, 8 mins each way (2 mins half time)

DOWNLOAD THE FIXTURES



The Wimbledon Minis Spring Festival fixtures are now available on the **Tournify app** (download from the app store and search for Wimbledon Minis Spring Festival 2024).



You can also see the fixtures online at - <https://www.tournify.uk/live/wrfcspring2024> or by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera.



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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A warm welcome to Wimbledon RFC, it's great to see so many different clubs present and have so many boys and girls taking part in our Festival. Rugby festivals are such an important part of

developing kids' love of rugby, not only are they safe and fun, but they get to play people and teams they sometimes know, and sometimes don't, forming lifetime friendships and rivalries!



Here at Wimbledon we are delighted to have so many boys and girls participate in our minis and youth section as well as having such a successful club at senior level. We couldn't do this without all the people who volunteer to bring a community club to life, whether through coaching, organising or providing first aid care to ensure we put teams on the pitch and can host such great days as today. A big thanks to all of you and particularly those who have made today happen.

Good luck to everyone involved today. I would encourage you to play hard and play fair, but most importantly have lots of fun and make the most of the opportunity to create lifelong memories and friendships.

SCOTT ROBERTS
CHAIRMAN
WIMBLEDON RFC

... we are delighted to have so many boys and girls participate in our minis and youth section as well as having such a successful club at senior level.



FOOD & DRINK AT THE FESTIVAL

MENU

Located at the seating area outside the Clubhouse, offering an extensive BBQ menu using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

ALSO AT THE CLUBHOUSE

- A full range of alcoholic drinks, tea and coffees will be available throughout the day
- And outside: stalls selling cakes, sweets and soft drinks
Don't forget the Festival Raffle - tickets will be on sale across the site all day - Grand Draw at 12pm, outside the Clubhouse!

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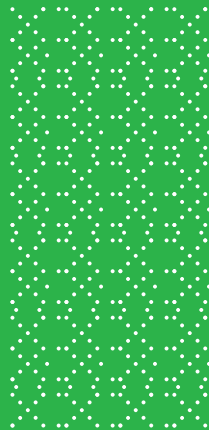
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GIRLS RUGBY AT WIMBLEDON

COME AND JOIN US!



Wimbledon RFC is London's biggest Girls' Rugby Club. We have a thriving and ever-growing girls rugby section with five squads across the age groups – U11, U12, U14, U16 and U18 as well as a large number of girls in our mixed minis teams from U5-U11.



The Club has a strong pathway and two of our recent U18s have represented England in the Six Nations and 7s formats. We are hugely proud that Annabel Meta was signed for Premiership Women's Rugby Club, Ealing Trailfinders.

Players have been offered rugby scholarships at various schools and colleges; girls in all age groups have been selected at county level and for the Centre of Excellence. Some of our girls have played right through from Minis but others only discover the game in their later teens.

We are proud that we can support and develop our players, whenever they begin their rugby journey and wherever it might take them.

We are very conscious of the large number of local rugby clubs and schools and our shared responsibility to the wider growth of the women and girls game. We have built strong partnerships with the neighbouring teams at Old Ruts, Wimbledon Warriors and Old Emanuel to ensure the girls have the best playing experience, get to train and play in larger numbers and have the opportunity to truly enjoy the game.

The U11s to U16s train from 10am-12pm on a Sunday morning with the U18s training from midday. There is

also midweek training for the U14s, U16s and U18s on Wednesday nights at 6.30pm.

Whether you want to play for fun or want to be the next Sarah Hunter we'd love to see you. Please do drop us a line.

Belinda Moore

Girls Director of Rugby
belindajmoore@hotmail.co.uk

Matt Pickin

Head of Development, Surrey Rugby
and WRFC U16 Head Coach,
mpickin@hotmail.com



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With its bi-fold doors opening out onto the expansive grounds, it's the ideal venue to host anything from a ball or fundraiser to simply celebrating with family and friends.

We've years of experience from formal dinners to finger buffets – and we're happy to plan a menu to suit your guests and budget. The venue comes with a fully staffed and stocked bar and if you'd like a band or DJ, we're licensed for live music too.



For more information, menus or an event pack contact:

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