

FAIRFORD RUGBY CLUB LIMITED

Junior and Mini Membership Pack



Welcome to the new season at Fairford RFC

On behalf of Fairford RFC and the Mini & Juniors section, I am again delighted to extend a warm welcome to all parents, players and supporters alike. Whether you are returning to the club for the new season or joining us as a new recruit, I look forward to enjoying with you over the forthcoming season what I hope will be another great season of rugby and the enjoyment that this brings to all involved. As last season, I would ask that you continue to support the game; the players and the club in a positive manner to ensure that we achieve the absolute maximum enjoyment and camaraderie for all that play and visit us at Leafield Road, Home of Fairford Rugby Club.

Off the pitch, we are still reliant on fund raising, sponsorship and membership support and I would still ask you all to pay your subscriptions promptly and to consider taking a more active part of the Club through either Club or Vice-president Memberships, both of which are available on a voluntary donation basis. These are both primarily aimed at parents and family, who wish to play a greater part at Fairford RFC and become a fully contributing and voting member. For more information on any forms of membership or support that you may be able to offer, please feel free to contact myself or any of the Committee or check the website. Finally, as in many seasons before, I

hope that all players have an exciting and injury free season and that everyone enjoys their rugby. *Jonathan Chambers Youth Chairman*

Annual Subscriptions

We have a “no pay no play” policy, for insurance purposes, therefore please ensure you have completed the registration form and paid your membership A.S.A.P. Any questions on membership and fees to the coaches or Lindsey at rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Training and Fixtures

For all minis and juniors, training officially begins at 10.30am each Sunday and finishes by 12.00pm except on match days (home and away) when each coach will inform their squads of any change in timings. Training takes place at the Juniors and Minis Pitches, off Leafield Road, just before the Primary School.

We ask that in order for the coaches to develop their squads, **no child should be left without a responsible adult in attendance** (this can be a nominated representative who the coach is made aware of but each young person or child should have support available off the pitch). Teas / coffees and refreshments are available from the pitches ‘hut’ during training and matches. On match days all children and young people will get a free ‘hot-dog’ for their efforts.

There is a copy of this season’s training sessions and fixtures on our website www.fairfordrfc.co.uk . Occasionally, matches will be cancelled and additional matches/tournaments (home and away) will be organized. Your child’s coach will give you details of these during the season or keep your eye on your teams pages on the club website. All coaches will contact you before matches to confirm your child / young person availability and we ask that you respond to this communication promptly to ensure appropriate planning is in place. Fixture lists will also be displayed at the pitches ‘hut’ on training days so you can sign up for all season matches well in advance.

We hold an annual end of season event to which all members are invited and where we celebrate individual and the team successes from the season.

What is Mini Rugby?

Tag Rugby is for under 8s, under 7s and younger in mixed groups. Tag rugby is a reduced contact introduction in to rugby, which encourages running with the ball, passing and working as a team. Team sizes vary, with the official team size being 4 at under 7s, and 6 at under 8s.

Tag is a very fast paced game with scores typically every 30 seconds. Passing forwards is discouraged and a tackle consists of a tag being ripped from a belt. The defensive team will try and tag 6 times and this then earns them the ball, in the unlikely event this happens the ball is passed to the defensive team who then get to attack. There is no kicking allowed. If a player runs out, then the opposing team gets the ball. Matches last about 10 to 14 minutes.

From 9 years old onward, children play contact rugby in a mixed group up until 12/13 years old. Contact rugby for Minis is a smaller version of the full game, and team sizes are still reduced. Kicking during play is not allowed, scrums are not competitive and the tackle process is introduced gradually over a few years.

What is Junior Rugby?

Junior Rugby is for boys from under 13s to under 18s. Junior rugby at Fairford operates under a well-defined Junior Operational Structure which has been in place for several years. It covers all aspects of junior rugby including: individual player development; squad and team development; coaching and management standards; representative rugby; health and safety; and child welfare. We are assisted regularly by the Senior Squad who assists the coaches with training on Sunday mornings. All of our volunteers that work with children are CRB checked. Further information on the game of Rugby can be found on the RFU website:

http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/MyRugby/Coaches/01/30/43/38/Introductiontorugby_Neutral.pdf

Junior and Mini's Rugby Strip and equipment

The emphasis on clothing is to keep warm and safe. We recommend standard training kits of football / rugby boots with studs (any type), long socks, shorts or jogging bottoms, and warm sports top, such as a Rugby shirt. For colder days a warm undershirt or thermal tops and for rainy days a water resistant training top is recommended.

Gum shields are required from 9 years onwards; some parents provide gum shields earlier. Scrum hats and head protection are worth considering from 9 years onwards, however the protection they offer is offset by the decrease in player awareness and the false feeling of invulnerability.

Kit for Matches are confirmed by the age group coaches, but a match shirt or Fairford Shirt is required. A range of Fairford kit (from shirts, socks to waterproof tops and hats) can be purchased can be bought

through the clubs website:

<https://www.ragingbullsportswear.com/fairford-rfc>.

Squad Selection

Rugby is an inclusive game, and the importance is taking part and being a team rather than just the winning. Coaches will pick players based on a number of factors and the emphasis on matches is a continuation of learning rugby. Care will be taken in light of the opposition and the conditions. We do not play to lose, but we also do not play to win at all costs. Please therefore be supportive of the coaches as they try and consider the ability and needs of all the players. Also please note that Fairford RFC juniors and minis is one of the most inclusive clubs and all players will get a game if available to play.

Family Support

Parents are encouraged to support their child not only on the touchline but also by helping out with minor administration, transport, kit and many other jobs which need to be done by the entirely voluntary helpers in the club.

OUR CODE OF CONDUCT:

As members of the rugby family **WE ALWAYS**

- Support positively and applaud good play. Respect officials and opposition players.
- Remember that children are playing to have fun. Behave as good role models on the touchline.
- Congratulate the opposition and make their supporters welcome

As members of the rugby family **WE NEVER:**

- Force our child to play rugby.
- Stray from the touchline onto the pitch.
- Verbally abuse match officials, players or other spectators.
- Threaten, intimidate or use bad language.
- Give offence by way of insult, humiliation or discrimination.

Who are we?

We are a volunteer led and managed junior and minis rugby football club and without the passion and dedication of all our volunteers the club would not exist. These volunteers put a huge amount of time and effort into ensuring the club is managed and runs as smoothly as possible.

If there are any volunteers (18 years plus) who would like to play a role in the development and management of the club your assistance would be most welcome. We run additional events and activities throughout the year and could always do with and would appreciate additional support. If you can help, please speak with your child's coach or contact Lindsey Thurlow rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Volunteer Coaches. We are always looking for more coaches to join our enthusiastic team of volunteers and the club, subject to agreement, will reimburse all course fees to obtain the necessary qualification. All our coaches have been screened (DBS checked) and attended regular safeguarding training for their suitability for working with children and young people. There is a list of coaches by age group on the website.

Other Club Volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome please contact Lindsey at rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk if you are interested in supporting, our current volunteers are and you will see them around at training and matches and are always willing to help:

- Youth Chairman – Jonathan Chambers
- Fixtures coordinator – Lindsey Thurlow
- Youth and Mini's administration and data officer – Lindsey Thurlow
- Coaches Co ordinator – Khalid Moore
- School Liaison Coordinator – Lindsey Thurlow
- Safeguarding Officer – Lindsey Thurlow
- DBS and First Aid coordinator – Lindsey Thurlow
- Communication and Marketing – Lindsey Thurlow
- Website – Emma Tuck
- Social media coordinator – Jonathan Chambers / Kenny Robins
- Events Coordinator - Debbie Rees Jones / George Ellis
- Liaison with Gloucester RFC community – Jonathan Chambers
- Kit Store – Debbie Rees Jones

Child protection and expectations of parents/guardians, coaches and players. In accordance with the RFU's child protection scheme, Fairford RFC has a child protection policy and a Child Protection

Officer (see volunteer list). Details are posted on the Club notice board. There are certain expectations of players and coaches in addition to parents/guardians . Please familiarise yourselves with this.

First Aid. Our coaches are qualified first aiders. In the event of your child being injured whilst playing and you cannot be contacted, you have signed a consent for your child to receive medical attention, as appropriate (membership form). Any incidents, e.g. administering first aid, that need to be documented will be and parents will be made aware of the incident that occurred to their child. It is essential you inform coaches of any medical conditions on arrival that could affect your child's participation, if not already notified previously.

Communication, Social Media, Schools Liaison and the Community

Communication / Social Media: We endeavor to ensure that you are kept up to date on club news and informed of upcoming events through a monthly newsletter, other email communications and social media such as Facebook and Twitter. If your contact details change during the season please contact Lindsey at rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk who will update your details on our contact management system.

Photography: Like all sporting communities we like to promote and advertise the success of the club. In doing so we often use images of our players. We have asked for parental / guardian consent on the membership form and we ensure that we follow better practice in this area. Again is circumstances change in the season and you no longer wish your child's image to be used please contact Lindsey at rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk to give consent.

Community Events: We are a community based organisation and like to be involved in local events such as the Fairford Festival and Fairfest to spread out love of Rugby. If you are organizing events or know of events where our presence would be of value, giving us an opportunity to promote what we do please let us know at rugby@fairfordrfc.co.uk

Schools Liaison: We have an active schools programme working closely with all schools across the area and the RFU providing free coaching sessions and opportunities for tournaments etc. We also positively encourage all members to spread the word about the fun they have at the club in their assemblies and classrooms and happy to support any requests.

END OF PACK
