



Ballymena Rugby Football Club



Youth, Mini & Rascals Section
Player & Parents'
Handbook
August 2011





INTRODUCTION

MINI SECTION PLAYER & PARENTS' CHARTER

The Youth, Mini and Rascals Sections of Ballymena Rugby Football Club are fully committed to the mental, physical and emotional development of its age-grade players, to the best of their individual abilities, by creating an acceptable, ethical coaching framework, and to safeguard the well being of its participants and volunteers, by protecting them from neglect and physical, sexual or emotional harm. Fair play, mutual understanding and cross-community aspects play an important role in the ethos of the Club.

This handbook details the code and conduct we expect for both parents and players in order to ensure the maximum safety and fun for all involved.

We hope you will take the time to read this and talk to your children about its contents.

We would like take this opportunity to thank you for your support and cooperation and wish you all a safe, fun and rewarding experience during your time at BRFC.

Thank you
In Rugby
Ballymena RFC



PLAYERS

***IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY, WORRIED OR UNSURE THEN
SPEAK TO YOUR PARENTS OR THE COACHES***

Remember: A problem shared is a problem halved

**Full details of our Child Protection Policy and
Procedures are available from the club
website at:**

www.ballymenarfc.com

**The Downloads section of the website also
contains further information regarding
Coaching, Long Term Player Development and
Child Welfare.**



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

YOUTH CONVENER

He will:

- Be a member of the Club Board of Governors.
- Attend meetings of the Club Board of Directors.
- Be a member of the Club Community Rugby Committee.
- Ensure that all information relevant to Youth Rugby is circulated to club coaches and volunteers.
- Be aware of relevant IRFU Ulster Branch and Club policies, and ensure that these policies are adhered to at all times.
- Ensure that all Youth volunteers and participants are aware of, and adhere to, all procedures.
- Ensure that all Youth and Mini rugby volunteers and participants are given a copy of the Club Child Protection Policy document.
- Represent the Club Youth Section on the Ulster Branch Youth Committee.
- Organise the collection of details of Youth players for the purpose of Registration.
- Organise the coaches for each of the Youth teams.
- Liaise closely with the Club Youth Development Officer.
- Liaise closely with the Club Children's Officer regarding Child Protection issues.
- Work closely with the Club Mini Organiser and Club Volunteer Co-ordinator to interview and appoint volunteers for Youth Rugby.
- Work closely with the Mini Rugby Organiser in organising all aspects of Mini Rugby in the Club.
- Scrutinise Youth Volunteer application forms and self-declaration forms.
- Hold regular meetings with Youth Volunteers.
- Supervise Youth Volunteers or delegate that to others.
- Organise appropriate training for Youth Volunteers.
- Ensure that all volunteers and Age Grade Players are aware of all procedures and adhere to these procedures.
- Keep up-to-date records of Youth Volunteers.
- Keep Youth Volunteers as motivated and enthusiastic as possible.
- Regularly revise Youth Volunteer duties.
- Represent Club at Branch meetings.

The current Youth Convener is Tom Wiggins and he may be contacted on 07801 738359 or adriennetom@yahoo.co.uk



MINI-RUGBY CONVENER

He will:

- Be a member of the Club Board of Governors.
- Prepare written material advertising for Mini-rugby Volunteers on posters, club newsletters, etc.
- Be responsible for organising all aspects of Mini Rugby.
- Ensure that all official policies and developments relating to Mini Rugby are adhered to.
- Work closely with the Club Youth Convenor and Club Volunteer Co-ordinator to interview and appoint volunteers for Mini-Rugby.
- Scrutinise Mini-rugby Volunteer application forms and self-declaration forms.
- Hold regular meetings with the Mini-rugby Volunteers.
- Supervise Mini-rugby Volunteers or delegate that to others.
- Organise appropriate training for Mini-rugby Volunteers.
- Keep up-to-date records of Mini-rugby Volunteers.
- Organise the collection of details of Maxi-rugby players for registration.
- Organise the coaches for each of the Mini-rugby groups.
- Organise the keeping of attendance records for Mini players.
- Keep Mini-rugby Volunteers as motivated and enthusiastic as possible.
- Regularly revise Mini-rugby Volunteer duties.
- Represent the Club Mini-rugby Section on the Ulster Branch Mini-rugby Committee.
- Ensure all participants and volunteers within the Club Mini-rugby Section are given a copy of the Club Children Protection Policy document.
- Work closely with the Youth Convenor and the Children's officer regarding Child Protection issues.
- Represent Club at Branch meetings.

The current Mini-convenor is Alistair McKay and he may be contacted by e-mail at amckay123@btinternet.com or by telephone on 07952 507413.



Club Children's Officer

He will:

- Act as a resource to all members with regards to Children's issues.
- Ensure that children have a say in the running of the Club.
- Promote the values, attitudes and structures, which make sport enjoyable to all participants.
- Communicate with Ulster Branch and Club Officers information relating to Children in Sport.
- Attend Club training sessions to act as a resource to children and volunteers.
- Encourage involvement of parents/guardians in Club activities.
- Report regularly to relevant Club Committees.
- Influence policy and practice within the Club to prioritise children's needs.
- Accept and act upon reports from other Volunteers.
- Report cases of child protection concerns to the Northern Health and Social Services Board, and to the relevant Statutory Authorities.

The current Children's Officer is

Trevor Gillen,

Tel No. (028) 2563 1324(home) 07713 326 358 (M)

E-mail: trevorgillen1@yahoo.co.uk



PLAYERS' CHARTER

- Play for enjoyment and become part of the rugby family.
- Respect the "Game of Rugby" and play within the laws of the Game.
- Accept the referee's decision and let your captain or coach ask any relevant questions.
- Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.
- Be a "good sport". Applaud all good play whether by your team or the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players, as you would like to be treated. Do not "bully" or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport and make sure you co-operate with your coach; teammates and members of your club.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of sport: Win with humility - lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend training regularly and listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team!
- Remember you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.



PARENTS' CHARTER

It is your responsibility to ensure that the young people you are responsible for have:

- The correct kit/equipment and that it is in a good state of repair.
- Inform your year coach of any underlying injuries or medical conditions which may have occurred from the start of the season when you filled out the Club registration form.
- Been informed who they may talk to if they have any concerns or worries.
- Are suitably dressed for the weather conditions forecast and will be warm and dry in the event of inclement weather.
- Are dropped off and escorted to the area they are training at and handed over to a member of the coaching staff.
- Are picked up by ensuring you arrive at games/training in plenty of time to collect your children. If you are running late it is your responsibility to let us know so we can make appropriate provision.
- Know the areas of the club which are out of bounds and ensure your children know them.



CODE FOR PARENTS & SPECTATORS

- Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- Do not publicly question the referees' judgement and never their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's contribution to the Game of Rugby are very important to the IRFU and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance there of.
- All actions concerning children and young people must uphold the best interests of the young person as a primary consideration.
- Everyone must always be mindful of the fact that they hold a position of trust, and that their behaviour towards the children and young people must be above reproach.



HEALTH & SAFETY @ EATON PARK

So far as is reasonably practicable the club will try to ensure the health and safety of all those visiting Eaton Park. Everyone though is expected to co-operate with the club and to take reasonable care of their own safety and of others whilst they are on the grounds. Anyone can/should report any dangerous incident/accident which causes, or may cause, a personal injury or property damage.

Everyone (adults & children) should be aware of the areas of the club that are out of bounds. Whilst all reasonable care will be taken to supervise all children teams during training sessions, these hazards remain constant. The most effective means of accident prevention is to avoid the hazard:

The following are Out of Bounds Areas for everyone's safety:

- Woods behind the pitches.
- Monkey Bars and Apparatus at rear of the clubhouse.
- Scrummaging Machine (unless with appropriate coach and conducting training).
- Match Commentator Tower.
- All riverside areas.
- Club House Balcony (access allowed only when given by appropriate authority).

Take care when moving around Eaton Park and be aware of moving vehicles

IF YOU ARE A DRIVER, SPEED LIMITS ARE THERE TO PROTECT EVERYONE PLEASE DO ABIDE BY THEM.

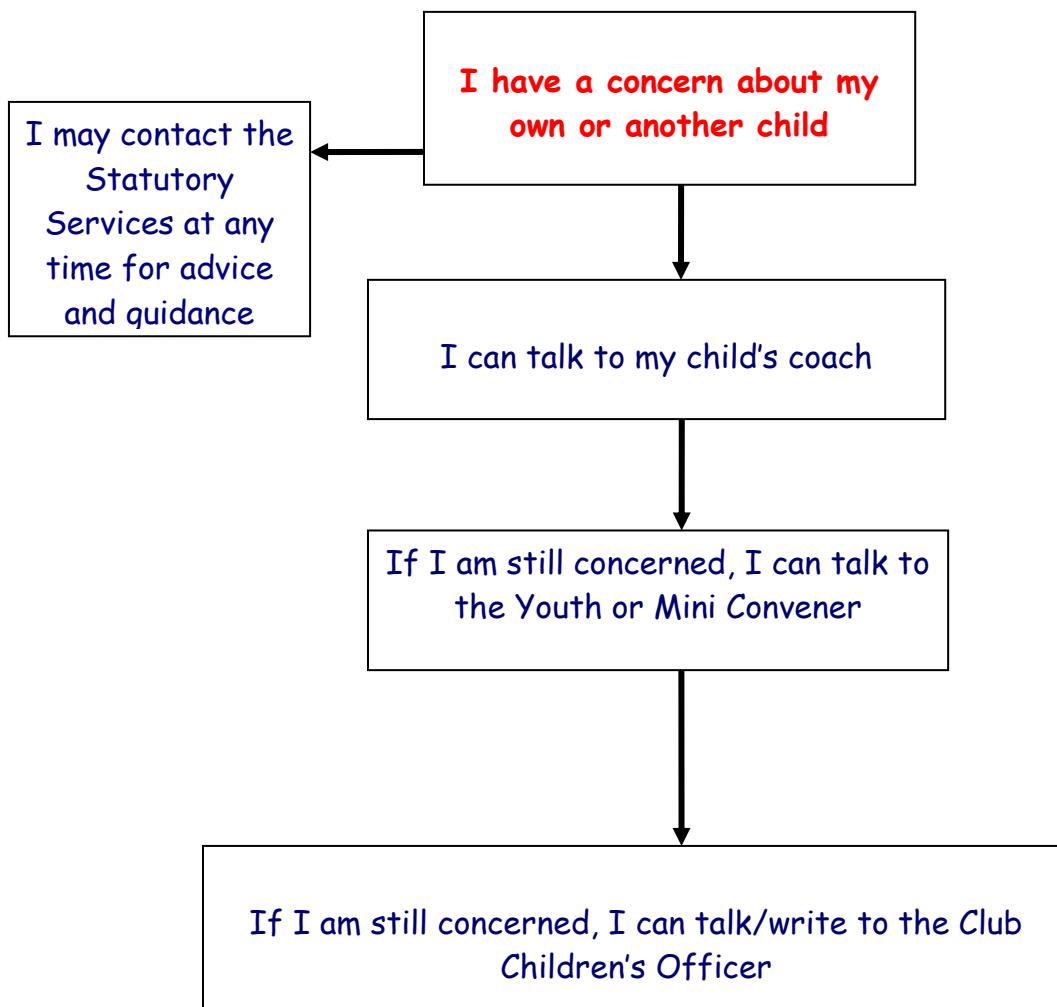
REMEMBER: KILL YOUR SPEED NOT A CHILD!



Complaints / Concerns / Queries

While the Club Children's Officer is happy to be contacted about significant matters or about concerns that you have not been able to resolve, the majority of complaints, concerns and queries can be best put right at an early stage and by direct contact with the member of staff most directly involved with your child's age group. All concerns will be dealt with promptly and confidentially.

Simplified Action Chart for Parent's with concerns





What's Needed To Play Rugby?

The season runs from September through the winter, to late April. At the start of the season, jerseys, shorts etc. should be fine. In the colder weather children can still wear their BRFC jerseys, but make sure they have sufficient clothing underneath. Tracksuit bottoms with zips are not allowed in those age groups where full contact rugby is played. Children are welcome to bring their own drinking flasks especially if it is sunny.

For Rascals there is no need to purchase specific rugby clothing, as there is a whole lot of growing to be done! For them, they just need play clothes you don't mind getting dirty. More importantly Rascals should be warm and especially in the deep winter, hats and gloves are a must.

As it becomes wetter and muddier, boots will be essential. Soccer boots are OK, but make sure the studs are aluminium, and the approved IRB kite-marked type. Insist on the correct studs from your retailer!

There is a well-stocked 'shop' in the foyer of the club, with shirts, shorts and a wide range of club merchandise for sale at reasonable prices.

The Club recommends that players in all age groups wear gum shields and shin guards at all times, for most age groups this is mandatory for both training and games, check with your lead coach. Gum shields tailor-made by your dentist are ideal. However, sport shops and the Club Shop sell DIY versions that you soften by heating in boiling water and then mould around the teeth. Rascals, as their sessions are totally non-contact, need not have a gum shield to play (the final decision rests with the parent/guardian).