



DERBY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - MINI AND JUNIOR SECTION

Haslams, Haslams Lane, Darley Abbey Derby DE22 1EB
Tel: 01332 344341

Chairman: Paul Fish

August 2011

Derby RFC welcomes you all to a new season !

On behalf of Derby 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 Haslams, Home of Derby Rugby Club.

Last season we enjoyed a further successful year throughout the section, particularly in respect to our achievements in the various NLD competitions. Our juniors were well represented at County level, Schools of Rugby and the EPDG at Leicester Tigers RFC. This success, however, is not just down to individual talent but also the support of a host of coaches, managers, parents and volunteers and on behalf of all Derby players, past and present, I offer our sincere gratitude. This gratitude I further extend to my Committee members for the forthcoming season with who I look forward to working alongside.

Off the pitch, the usual rant persists; we are responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and success of the Club and we desperately need volunteers to step forward. The facility continues to age, increasingly requiring maintenance and redecoration and yet we are still reliant on fund raising, sponsorship and membership support. To this end, we have introduced a Club Membership to run alongside the current Vice-president Membership both of which are available on a voluntary donation basis. These are both primarily aimed at parents, girlfriends, family etc, who want to play a bigger part at Derby RFC and become a fully contributing and voting member. For more information on either of these ways to become a full member of Derby RFC and make that little extra contribution, please ask for more information from any of the Committee or check the website.

For the season 2011/12, all mini age groups (U7 to U12's) are eligible to receive a voucher to purchase a Club playing shirt for 50% of the normal shop price. Please ask your team manager for a voucher.

Finally, as before, I hope that all players have an exciting and injury free season and that everyone enjoys their rugby.

Paul Fish
M & J Section Chairman



PLAYERS INTRODUCTION

Welcome ! You have come to a thriving club where players from the age of U7 through to U12 are introduced to rugby in a safe, friendly and controlled manner through the mini's section before entering the juniors for players from U13 through to U17.

Our overall aim is to teach players the basic ball and playing skills, working very much as a team and sharing the enjoyment of this increasingly popular sport. For the smaller players, the over-riding objective is for them to be able to play and develop safely, enjoy themselves and wanting to "come again next week". As players progress into the junior section, the playing skills and competition become more important and it is hoped the players will want to continue to play into their adult life and play for the senior club, representing Derby RFC.

What we do ? Weekly coaching sessions at Haslams Lane are interspersed with matches against other clubs, roughly every two weeks, becoming more frequent as the teams get older. In addition, there are several tournaments each year, where we play not only against clubs from Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, but also much further afield.

Which team ? Players join a particular team according to their age at 1st September. For example, someone with their tenth birthday on 13th March would be under ten on the previous September 1st, and so would join the "Under 10s". A team therefore will have players with up to one year age difference.

When ? Coaching sessions are on Sundays throughout the season, begin at 10.00 a.m. and end at around midday. Away matches and tournaments normally require an earlier start, which is agreed at the time. Most junior age groups train in mid week too, but these must be kept in line with the RFU continuum (please ask your coach for details)

Clothing and changing: The player normally provides his/her own kit. Please ask for a coach for clarification. During colder months, it is imperative, especially for the younger players to have several layers of warm clothing. Youngsters' teeth are extremely vulnerable and the wearing of gum shields is recommended for training and is mandatory for matches and whenever undertaking contact drills. Boots need to have kite marked studs (not nylon), the only exception to this rule is the use of "blades" which whilst not banned by the RFU is strictly discouraged by Derby RFC. The club sells most of the kit a player needs through the club shop (please see the website for opening hours). There are showers available and players **require a change of clothing to enable them to enter the clubhouse afterwards.** Please encourage your child to use these facilities.

Coaches: Each age group has at least one trained rugby coach supervising the training and matches. The coach is the key link between the club and the player and any queries or problems should be addressed through them or the manager in the first instance.



Administration: New players are encouraged to come to a few coaching sessions without any commitment. If he or she then wants to join the club properly, they must register, through the club, with the England Rugby Football Union. This ensures both the player and club is insured and is operating within the rules of the RFU. The registration form will also ask for details on any health aspects, which may affect the safety and health of the player during play. **No player may play representative rugby for Derby until this has been completed and subscriptions have been paid.**

Family help: Most coaches and helpers are parents who through watching their children play have wanted to become more a part of the coaching set up and be more involved with the club. 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.

The Clubhouse: A friendly family atmosphere is encouraged and players, families and their friends are very welcome into the clubhouse after training or matches. Hot snacks, meals, sweets and beverages of all kinds are sold at Haslams during playing days (please see the website and posters for events, offers and opening times).

Club personnel: The section has the help of many people, although more help is always greatly appreciated, for all sorts of duties. Coaches, team administration officers and members of the Mini and Junior section committee, would be glad to answer any questions you may have or respond to offers of help.

Use of photographic materials for promotion purposes: It is the general practice at Derby RFC to use video and still photography of matches and training, involving both children and adult coaching staff, for promotional and training purposes. This includes posters, web page content and media editorial. Please complete the declaration on the club registration form to indicate your acceptance of this practice.



DERBY RUGBY CLUB MINI & JUNIOR SECTION

CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING POLICY

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Derby Rugby Football Club we believe that taking part in our sport should be a positive and enjoyable part of children's lives.

We want to make sure that children are protected and kept safe whilst they are with the club's coaches, helpers and volunteers.

To do this we have these aims:

1. All coaches will go on relevant coaching courses, or be supervised by a qualified coach
2. All coaches and all other volunteers (i.e. administration, kitchen staff etc) abide by all of the clubs policies.
3. All coaches will be qualified to mini/midi level 1 before they are allowed to be the head coach of an age group, this level of qualification includes child safeguarding awareness.
4. All coaching staff and volunteers coming into contact with young children are screened through a national CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checking process as prescribed by the RFU.
5. The club will encourage and help coaches stay up-to-date with rugby, coaching and child safeguarding issues.
6. All coaches will be given a copy of the club's code of conduct for coaches and be expected to keep to it at all times.
7. We will keep written records of attendance, parental consents and accidents.
8. As a club, we will promote 'fair play' and always play within the spirit of the laws and the letter of the continuum.
9. We will provide coaches and parents with a written procedure for dealing with accusations or suspicions of child abuse.
10. A Club Safeguarding Officer will be appointed to deal with any concerns about physical, sexual or emotional abuse within the club



DERBY RUGBY CLUB MINI & JUNIOR SECTION

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

In Rugby Union we encourage parents to:

1. Be familiar with Derby Rugby Football Club's code of conduct.
2. Make sure the club has your contact number and that for **insurance purposes**, your child is fully registered with the club (subscriptions to be paid in full)
3. Be involved in the club activities – please stay both during matches and training sessions – support your child. You are also very welcome to come into the Clubhouse and enjoy it's facilities
4. In supporting your child, during training and matches, set a sporting example by cheering one and all.
5. Respect your child, his/her teammates, the opposition - all coaches and referees.
6. Share your expertise with the club
7. Share any concerns you may have with the rugby club (either your child's coach or any committee member – see notice board for details)
8. Please ensure that, at each and every attendance at the club, your child has an adequate change of clothing (check the weather forecast) and either brings a drink with him/her or has sufficient funds to purchase one.
9. All players on entering the clubhouse after playing, must have a change of clothes – **NO PLAYING KIT SHALL BE WORN UPSTAIRS IN THE CLUBHOUSE**
10. We encourage parents to be pro-active in communicating with club officials (who are all volunteers).

REMEMBER YOUR CHILDS
SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT



DERBY RUGBY CLUB MINI & JUNIOR SECTION

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

PROCEDURES

It is the responsibility of the committee of the mini and junior section of Derby Rugby Football Club to establish a Club Safeguarding Policy and to set up procedures within the club, as required by the rugby football union.

Instigation of Procedures

1. A representative from the club attends all regular RFU meetings concerning the Safeguarding of Children and Young Adults.
2. All volunteers are required to fulfill the requirements of CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checks as part of our policy.
3. Adults working with young players will complete "adults wishing to supervise mini/junior rugby" forms.
4. A person in charge of this policy has been appointed – see below.

The Club Safeguarding Officer

Mini & Junior Section

Please refer to the club website



PROCEDURES

Listening to children

Committee members, Club Safeguarding Officer and Coaches must listen attentively to children at all times and if it becomes evident that a child wishes to disclose problems they may have, every assistance will be given to do so. The following guidelines should be followed: -

❖ **Listen to the child, rather than question him/her directly**

❖ **Never stop a child who is freely recalling significant events**

❖ **Keep a record of what was said, where the discussion took place and who was present.**

❖ **Ensure the Club Safeguarding Officer is issued with all the relevant details**

N.B the RFU consider the Club Safeguarding Policy to cover all children until the age of 18 years old

Should anyone have an issue to be discussed, in the first instance they should contact Paul Fish or any member of the committee (details as shown on the club notice board).

The Club Safeguarding Officer and any member of the committee asked for by the child to provide support will be kept informed when concerns have been expressed.

REMEMBER – COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

All information will be treated in a sensitive manner and will be kept in the strictest confidence and will be dealt with immediately.

All documentation relating to any child safeguarding issue will be treated as completely confidential.



THE GOOD SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

Spectators are encouraged to:

- Act as positive role models to all young players.
- Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU Child Safeguarding Guidance in relation to verbal and emotional abuse.
- Respect the rugby club with regard to spectator behavior.

Spectators should:

- Remember children play sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all youngsters irrespective of the team they play for.
- Respect match officials' decisions. Remember – they are volunteers providing an opportunity for youngsters to play rugby.
- Never verbally abuse young players, match officials, fellow spectators or coaches. Such behavior can create a negative environment for young players and their behavior will often reflect this.
- Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than the 'win at all costs' ethic.
- Verbally encourage all youngsters in a positive way. If spectators do want to shout they must make sure it is *for* not *at* the players.
- Encourage all youngsters, irrespective of their ability – never ridicule any individual player, regardless of the team they play for.



THE GOOD COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

In rugby union, coaches of young players should:

- Recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players. Most learning is achieved through doing.
- Appreciate needs of players before the need of the sport.
- Be a positive role model – think what this implies.
- Keep winning and losing in perspective – encourage young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.
- Respect all referees and the decisions they make and ensure that the players recognise that they must do the same.
- Provide positive verbal feedback, in a constructive and encouraging manner, to all young players, both during coaching sessions and games.

In rugby union, coaches of young players MUST:

- Provide experiences which are matched to the young players' age and abilities as well as their physical and mental development.
- Ensure all youngsters are coached in a safe environment, with adequate first aid readily to hand.
- Avoid the overplaying of the best players by using a squad system which gives everybody a satisfactory amount of playing time.
- Never allow a player to train or play when injured.
- Ensure good supervision of young players, both on and off the field.
- Recognise that young players should never be exposed to extremes of heat, cold, or unacceptable risk of injury.
- Develop an awareness of nutrition as part of an overall education in lifestyle management.
- Recognise that it is illegal for young players under 18 to drink alcohol
- Ensure that their knowledge and coaching strategies are up to date and in line with RFU philosophy.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the RFU recommended procedures for taking young people on residential tours at home and abroad.
- Be aware of, and abide by, the policies and procedures outlined in the RFU Child Protection Guidance booklet.

NB: Coaches working with young players up to the age of 12 must follow the guidelines laid down by the RFU Rugby Continuum. Coaches working with young players aged 13+ must be aware of the under 15 and under 19 law variations, including those that apply to cross-border matches.



THE GOOD PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents are encouraged to:

- Be familiar with the coaching and training programme so that they can ensure that their child is fully involved and the coaches are aware of their availability.
- Be familiar with the teaching and coaching methods used by observing the sessions in which their child participates.
- Be involved with club activities and share their expertise.
- Share concerns, if they have them, with club officials.
- Be familiar with the Good Coaches Code. In particular, coaches should:
 - recognise the importance of fun and enjoyment when coaching young players.
 - keep winning and losing in perspective, encouraging young players to behave with dignity in all circumstances.

It is important that parents support coaches in instilling these virtues.

Parents should:

- Remember that young people play rugby for their own enjoyment, not that of their parents.
- Encourage young people to play – do not force them.
- Focus on the young players' efforts, rather than on winning or losing.
- Be realistic about the young players' abilities – do not push them to a level that they are not capable of achieving.
- Provide positive verbal feedback both in training and during the game.
- Remember that persistent, negative messages will adversely affect the players' and referee's performance and attitude.
- Always support the rugby club in their efforts to eradicate loud, coarse and abusive behaviour from the game.
- Remember young people learn much by example
- Always show appreciation of good play by all young players both from your own club and the opposition.
- Respect decisions made by the match officials and encourage the young players to do likewise.
- All players on entering the clubhouse after playing, must have a change of clothes – NO PLAYING KIT SHALL BE WORN UPSTAIRS IN THE CLUBHOUSE



THE GOOD PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Players are encouraged to:

- Recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, match officials and administrators in providing the opportunity for them to play the game and enjoy the rugby environment.
- Understand the values of loyalty and commitment to adults and teammates.
- Recognise that every young player has a right to expect their involvement in rugby to be safe and free from all types of abuse.
- Understand that if an individual or group of young players feel that they are not being treated in a manner that is acceptable, then they have the right to tell an adult either at the rugby club or outside the game.

Players should:

- Play because they want to do so, not to please coaches or parents.
- Remember that skill development, fun and enjoyment are the most important parts of the game.
- Be attentive at all training and coaching sessions.
- Work equally hard for themselves and their team – both will then benefit.
- Recognise good play by all players on their team and by their opponents.
- Be a sportsman – win or lose.
- Play to the laws of the game and accept, without question, all referees' decisions.
- Control their emotions. Verbal and physical abuse of teammates, opponents, or match officials is not acceptable.
- Treat all, players as they themselves would like to be treated. They must not interfere with, bully or take advantage of any player.



EQUITY POLICY STATEMENT

- This club is committed to ensuring that equity is incorporated across all aspects of its development. In doing so it acknowledges and adopts the following Sport England definition of sports equity:
"Sports equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognising inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society."
- The club respects the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their sport, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
- The club is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
- All club members have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behavior and promote equality of opportunity. The club will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behavior seriously, according to the club disciplinary procedures.



DERBY RUGBY FOOTBALL - MINI AND JUNIOR SECTION

Haslams, Haslams Lane, Darley Abbey, Derby DE22 1EB
Tel: 01332 344341

Offer of help to the mini and junior section

I should like to provisionally offer my help in the following part of the section. Please contact me to discuss how I may help. (Please circle the appropriate area.)

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Coaching | Administration | Laundry |
| Pitch Setting Out | Buying | Ground Maintenance |
| Sponsorship | Transport | |
| Other (please name) | | |

Please complete the following in block capitals:

Full name

Address

Tel. number Alternative tel. number

Child's name Playing for U/.....

For further information, please contact **Paul Fish** on **07802 290881** or your **coach** or any other Committee Officer (contacts may be found on the DRFC website).

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MINI & JUNIOR PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM – 2011/2012 (To be completed in all cases)

I should like my son/daughter to take part in the Mini / Junior sessions at Derby Rugby Football Club.

I understand that Derby RFC, its servants, agents or employees are not under any liability whatsoever for loss of property, accidents or injuries to my son/daughter, however caused, during the course of undertaking either playing or training sessions at Derby RFC or any other grounds.

Where matches are arranged with other clubs, either at home or away, I shall check the website or ask the head coach or manager for fixture details and will make appropriate arrangements for travel. I am aware that ground conditions may cause sessions to be cancelled at late notice and will check with the head coach or manager if in doubt.

Membership The annual subscription for the forthcoming 2011/12 season are:-
£50 for mini players up to and including U12's
£60 for junior players from U13 up to and including U17's
(There will be a £5 discount for each **additional** player from the same family)

Registration card All existing players should have an NLD card, which is held by their respective coach. Club officials or referees may request to see these cards at any time. New players should complete the RFU registration form.

Medical form Please assist us by telling us of any medical condition which may affect your child's health during training or playing.

Does your child suffer from any of the following?: (Please circle)

Epilepsy Dizziness Diabetes Heart Condition Allergies Ear Disorders

Respiratory Disorder Do they use an inhaler ?

If you answer YES to any of the above, or have any other information of which we should be aware, please state below

Please complete the following in block capitals:

Players Full Name :DOB

Full Address:

Postcode:

Tel no. Alternative tel no.

Age Age group U..... Parent/Guardians name :

School attended:

Doctor's name: Tel no.

Signature of parent / guardian:

Email address:.....

I accept the practice of using video and still photography of matches and training sessions, involving both children and adult coaching staff, for promotional and training purposes

Signature of
Parent / Guardian.....Date