



ORRFC MINIS AND JUNIORS

Our Club Ethos

The Old Reigatian Mini and Junior section membership has grown from 190 to 380 over the last four years through making training and playing the game of rugby and belonging to the club fun for players, coaches and parents alike. Mini and Junior rugby is all about introducing children to the joys of the game and encouraging them to begin to fulfil their potential. We are sowing the seed of a lifetime of enjoyment and appreciation of the sport.

Above all else we must make it fun.

That said, we must not ignore the vital ingredient of competition. It is not all about the taking part; it is also about winning well and when you can't win accepting defeat with dignity – that goes for coaches and parents as well as the players! Standards of behaviour are as important to this club as standards of play.

Our measures of success in order of importance are:

- 1 Attendance through the season;
- 2 Standard of play;
- 3 Results.

Fixtures, Festivals and Tours

Part of the joy of any sport is meeting new people and making new friends. Through the season we will play many other teams at our ground and travel to other local clubs. In addition, there are likely to be two or three opportunities each season for the children to take part in festivals where many more teams will meet and compete.

It is club policy that when a squad is selected for a Mini festival or fixture, we should aim to ensure that all members of that squad get a good amount of game time.

We also encourage as many of the squads as possible to tour. Travelling as a group creates lasting friendships through the teams and parents alike; touring also has the very special addition of the host's hospitality – great fun.

Streaming

There is no doubt that players enjoy training sessions and matches when they are in the company of those of a similar standard. In this environment they also learn more quickly and progress further.

Our experience has shown that introducing streaming at U7s very clearly increases the involvement and enjoyment of all. It is club policy that streaming be introduced at this age and stage, and that children should be moved between streams as their abilities develop.

Parents

The Mini section (U6s to U12s) involves large numbers of young children in the hands of a small number of volunteer coaches. Coaches need to concentrate on coaching the whole session.

It is club policy that all players up to and including U12s must have a parent or other responsible adult on the touchline that is known to the child and whom the child knows is looking out for them. This is non-negotiable.

It is considered that by U13s, coaches may wish to relax this requirement.

**The Minis and Juniors Committee
August 2008**