

BREDON STAR R.F.C. Ltd. est. 1991

Incorporating
Bredon Star Junior Rugby

(Affiliated to the Rugby Football Union, North Midlands RFU
and Worcestershire & Herefordshire RFU)



Mini & Junior Section Policy & Procedures

Mission Statement

To organise, supervise and promote the playing of rugby at Mini & Junior level (ages 6 to 18) within Bredon Star Rugby Football Club.

To create and maintain a friendly and positive atmosphere on and off the field, in an environment within which players of all abilities can play rugby and take an active part in the future development of the club.

Mini & Junior Section Committee Structure

The mini & Junior section of the club will be run by a Chairman and have a Committee made up of the Age Range Coaches / Managers, A Coaching Co-ordinator, Secretary, Registration Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Child Protection Office, Safeguarding Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator. Meeting will be held monthly on the 1st Monday of the month at the clubhouse. Minutes and Agenda will be published in advance.

Players

All players must be registered members of Bredon Star RFC and the RFU and have paid their annual subscription.

Mini & Junior Section Playing Policy

NO matches can be played in September. Only training can take place in this period.

All training for the appropriate ages ranges where contact is allowed must be undertaken in a controlled environment as the players will have had a summer off from such activities.

Also, some players will be moving into contact for the first time, e.g. players new to rugby and where players are moving up from Tag rugby.

From the 1st Sunday in October, matches can be played. All those playing and being played against must be registered with the RFU, if not they cannot play.

The team management must assess whether this will affect those taking part / not taking part. Players should not be age group pre-registered from the previous year. As the system moves their registration up a year automatically, then it is the Registration Secretaries responsibility to check all these out.

Those organising a match should also take into account:-

1. Preparation – are the players ready for a match.
 2. what are the ground conditions – end of summer hard surfaces.
 3. Are the match opponents wanting to be competitive or learn from a development / training session.
- Inter club matches are better put off until October. Also, all referees must be qualified and experienced.

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4. Pre-Season Training is not permitted - Summer Leisure rugby activity must be limited to Touch / Tag only - No exception will be permitted. RFU / Sport England / CoachUK state - Summer training:- it is recommended by RFU Coaching Dept. and CoachUK that players should have a rest from their chosen sport in the closed season and learn other sports. There is evidence that by doing so players return with enhanced skills acquired from these other sports and a refreshed enthusiasm for rugby.

Note:

1. These are RFU Regulations and the RFU insurance cover is provided on the basis of compliance with these RFU Regulations. Non-compliance would be a breach of the Club's RFU insurance cover. Similarly non-compliance with RFU Guidelines and Policy could be regarded by the insurance company and the Courts as negligence.
2. Ages Range Matches or Training for u6 – u12 are based at our Westmancote Site. Age Range Matches or Training for u13 – u17 are based at our Bredon Site.
3. Club Protocol - For Matches played at Bredon, players are expected too:-
 - a. Shower or at least have a wash after a game
 - b. Have changed out of their rugby playing kit
 - c. Either wear Number 1's or a club Polo shirt or similar
 - d. Ensure the visiting players / guests are looked after and particularly are offered food first
 - e. It is the Coach or a nominated parent / guardian's responsibility to supervise the post match activities and behaviour of Bredon Star RFC players

Midweek Training Policy & Procedures

1. Tuesdays and Thursday nights are when the Seniors and Ladies train. Also the Physio is on-site for any pre-planned treatment sessions
2. On Monday nights the club is closed.
3. Wednesday nights are available for training subject to agreement with the Junior Chairman.
4. All age group midweek training to be subject to the new RFU protocols.
5. Cancellation of midweek training due to pitch and/or weather conditions will be by the 1st Team Manager or the Junior Chairman.
6. Age groups should have a qualified first aider present.

Sunday Match / Training Policy & Procedures

1. Training and fixtures for Sundays will be decided by the Fixtures Secretary and in accordance with the new RFU protocols on matches and training. Fixtures Secretary and Junior Chairman agree Sunday matches/training on a Wednesday evening. Facilities are informed of number of plated meals and hotdogs by Thursday morning.
2. Age groups to have a qualified first aider present on Sundays whether matches or training.

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Cancellation of Home Matches

a) If all matches are cancelled due to weather, facilities will be notified by the Junior Chairman as will Coaches/Managers.

b) If a specific age group match is cancelled, then it is the responsibility of the age group coach / manager to contact the Youth Chairman and facilities. This must not be later than 5pm on Saturday evening so that food orders can be amended.

Cancellation of Sunday Training

If training is cancelled due to the weather and pitch conditions, the Junior Chairman will inform Coaches / Managers by text message or email. This will normally be by 6pm on the Saturday before. The Website will also be updated.

Fundraising / Social Events

1. All events must be agreed by the Mini & Junior Section Committee first and also agreed with the Club Social Committee. Facilities cannot be booked until this is done and will include risk and safeguarding assessments, and whether additional insurance is necessary.
2. Providing (1) has been complied with facilities can then be booked with the Facilities Manager. If pitches are required, then this should be confirmed with the Junior Chairman.
3. If the age group is maintaining a tour bank account it should not contain the initials BSRFC, otherwise it is a club account which will need to be accounted for by the club and maintained by the club. H. M. Revenue and Customs will fine £1,000 for each account not included within the club's accounts.

Coach Training courses

All Coaches should have at least a Level 1 qualification. Those doing tag rugby should have the appropriate tag qualification.

The Coaching Co-ordinator will book courses on application from the age group Head Coach following discussion with the Junior Chairman.

Age Group Age Group Course Qualification:-

Under 6, 7, 8 Parents / New Coaches / Teachers of Tag-Rugby
Tag-Rugby, Rugby Ready

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Under 9 - 12 Coach
Rugby Ready , Level 1,Beyond Level 1, CPD

Under 13 – 16 Coach
Rugby Ready , Level 1,Beyond Level 1, CPD

Under 17 & Colts Coach
Level 2, Beyond Level 2, CPD

Note: It is important that all coaches attend as many CPD courses as possible to develop their technical skills.

By the time a coach evolves into an upper junior coach and potentially into the ranks of senior coaching, he or she should have undertaken an appropriate level of learning and self-improvement that enables him or her to undertake coaching at any level across the continuum, U19 or within the senior game.

We would strongly encourage all those who are serious about their coaching to undertake a formal coaching qualification, as our Club goal is to have a minimum number of qualified coaches per age group. The Club is able to support financially candidates with RFU award courses. This will then help us to achieve our ambition of developing players, as better coaches lead to better players.

In addition, the club will liaise with professional bodies to develop additional specialist training sessions to cover the more technical skills of the game (CPD's) throughout the season that are non- award courses based around core skills and disciplines such as The Scrum, Introducing Contact etc. Details of all these courses can be found on the RFU web site.

Refereeing

Critical to the game of rugby is discipline. This is NOT football and respect for officials is paramount and Bredon Star RFC will not tolerate any disrespect of officials from either players or parents at any time, no matter how poor the officiating may have been. There are pathways to follow in the event of lodging complaints and these should be adhered to. The philosophy is always the same "The referee is always right, even when he/she is wrong".

The most appropriate way of appreciating the massive pressures that referees find themselves under even at Mini level, is to do it yourself! Officials are very hard to come by at the best of times and every age group should have at least one qualified referee, ideally one per team, from their ranks in order that they can officiate at their own fixtures and festivals. You will be required to provide an official at ALL Mini festivals, regardless, from Under 7 to Under 12 anyway.

Refereeing games also provides a coach with a different perspective on the game rather than always from the side-lines and this is a very useful tool indeed in helping to develop your squad's abilities.

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Again, the RFU provides a whole host of courses to qualify and keep officials up to date with the Laws of the Game. These Laws are always changing and several ELV's (Experimental Law Variations) which have a direct impact on an official's ability to manage the game have come into play. Keeping up to date is critical and there is a logical pathway for officials as well.