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RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

RFUW

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

PARENT GUIDE

MIND BODY & SOUL

www.rfu.com/community

PARENT GUIDE

As a parent you will no doubt want your son/daughter to enjoy their involvement in rugby union in a safe enjoyable environment where there are opportunities to learn and develop rugby skills and also have 'fun' This guide suggests questions you might ask when choosing a club for your son/daughter before making that final decision.

JOINING A CLUB

Always check

- The qualifications and experience of the coaches.
  All coaches should hold an RFU qualification.
- The ratio of adults to young people.
  Ratio for Under 8s should be a maximum of 1:8, for Under 12s 1:12 and older age groups 1:15.
- The club has a health and safety policy.
- The club has clear codes of conduct stating expected behaviour of members, player and coaches.
  The RFU Welfare of Young People in Rugby Union – Guidance which can be found on rfu.com has clear Codes of Conduct documented and is displayed on the club noticeboard
- What happens if there is an accident.
  All clubs must have documented procedures.
- The club has a Welfare Officer and Deputy who is in attendance at the club on Sunday mornings.
  It is a requirement of the RFU Child Protection Policy that all clubs have an identified welfare officer.

Questions to ask

My son/daughter has never played rugby before; can they come along and try out a couple of sessions?
The answer should be "yes".

When is training?
Normally on Sunday mornings.

When are the matches?
Normally on Sunday mornings.

What kit do we need to buy?
Most clubs have a "Kit shop" where you will be able to buy the necessary kit. This will include shirt, shorts, boots and tracksuit.

THE RFU STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT WHEN YOUNG PLAYERS ARE PLAYING CONTACT GAMES OR ARE PARTICIPATING IN CONTACT TRAINING SESSIONS THAT THEY WEAR A MOUTHGUARD.
For more information on mouthguards go to www.opro.com

Does the club have a Child Protection Policy?
It is a requirement of the RFU that all clubs have a Child Protection Policy.

How does the club manage any issues, which may arise – i.e. bullying?
There are identified procedures laid down by the RFU which clubs must follow. The RFU will always support clubs to manage any issues which arise.

Are the coaches qualified?
All coaches should hold an RFU qualification. Contact the Club Coaching Co-ordinator, he/she will be able to inform you of the available qualifications.

Are the adults helping with the teams checked and trained?
It is a requirement of the RFU that all adults who have regular supervisory contact with young people undertake CRB Disclosure.

Does my son/daughter have to share changing facilities with adult players?
No, not under any circumstances.

Do the club have social events?
The majority of clubs do for both young people and adults

How much does it cost to be a member of the club?
This will vary.

How are away matches organised?
All clubs will organise their fixtures in line with the requirements of the RFU Continuum which can be located on rfu.com and the RFU structured season. In terms of transport to away fixtures the club is usually dependant on parental help.

Is there a first aider on site?
The RFU strongly recommend that there is a qualified first aider present at all games and training.

Is the club affiliated to the RFU
ALL clubs must be affiliated to the RFU.

MEMBERSHIP

What does the club expect from me?

The club will expect you to:

- ensure that your son/daughter is dropped off and picked up from the club and matches and in the case of younger children there will be an expectation that a parent or designated adult remains throughout the session. *This responsibility can be delegated but the club must be aware.*
- adhere to the codes of conduct within the club, in particular the Parents Code of Conduct. *This highlights the positive aspects of being a part of the club and supporting both your own child and all the other young people within the club.*

The Club would like you to:

- become as involved in the club as much as possible. This provides your son/daughter with the support to enjoy their rugby. *Clubs are dependant on volunteers.*
- support the coaches by ensuring your son/daughter enjoys their rugby and plays within the laws of the game *It is crucial to develop a positive relationship with the coaching team and to support them. If an issue does develop then manage this through the Club Welfare Officer.*