



Age Grade Rugby

1) Organisation and Management of the Festival

- a) The Leicestershire Rugby Union (LRU) will organise a festival for the age groups U9–U13 administered by the LRU Mini/Midi AGR Festival Secretary.
- b) All matches shall be played in accordance the appropriate RFU Age Grade requirements and rules of play 2016/17 for the age grades
- c) All matches will comply with the specific rules of the of play for the Festival **except** that there will be no conversions after a try is scored where this would normally apply.
- d) Information regarding the organisation and progress of the LRU Mini / Midi Festival will be produced at regular intervals during the Season and will be published on the LRU web site.
- e) The format of the festival will be set annually in accordance with the number of entries received.

2) Entry Fees and Deposits

- a) Entry to the festival is subject to a single non-refundable £25 entry fee per team.
- b) A £25 deposit is also required for each age group entered – this deposit will be in the form of a cheque per age group which will be banked if the deposit is forfeit.
- c) Initial decisions on the forfeit of deposits will be made by the LRU AGR Festival Organiser. There will be a right of appeal against any such decision to the Chair of the LRU AGR Committee. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the Club's MJ Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of a lost deposit.

3) Protests, Disputes and Appeals

- a) Any matters in dispute or any perceived breach of the rules is to be reported IN WRITING to the LRU AGR Festival Secretary within 48 hours of the alleged incident. festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser has the power to exclude any club or team from the LRU Mini / Midi festival organised by the LRU if that club or team has not complied with the rules of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) or has not played within the spirit and ethos of the RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby and the category's section.
- c) Initial decisions and interpretations on all matters regarding the organisation and management of the LRU Mini/Midi festival will be made by the LRU Mini /Midi Festival Organiser.
- d) There will be a right of appeal against any such decision to the Chair of the LRU AGR. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the appellant club's AGR Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of any such decision. festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk



Age Grade Rugby

4) Membership and Eligibility of Clubs

- a) The LRU AGR festivals are open to any club in membership of the LRU and the Rugby Football Union.
- b) The AGR Festival Committee may authorise participation by a club in membership of another Constituent Body Rugby Union and the Rugby Football Union.
- c) It is the intention of the LRU to provide festival rugby for as many players as possible. To this end, a club may enter 'late' as long as the LRU festival can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences and/or disruption.

5) Registration and Eligibility of Players

- a) All players must be registered with the Club they are representing and be registered on the RFU Game Management System (GMS) and on the day of the festival, the player must hold "Active" status on the RFU GMS. ID cards for all participating players should be with the team manager or coaches on the day. If we are unable to validate Active Status the player may be requested not to participate.
- b) All participating players should be in a team based upon the chronological age of the players. However, consideration will be given to official dispensation, where held under RFU Regulations 15.4.3/15.4.4
- c) The LRU Festival Organiser must be made aware of any player dispensations prior to the start of either the Preliminary Festivals or the Finals Day Festival. Failure to comply may lead to disqualification from the festival and forfeit of festival deposit.
- d) Joint club entries are permitted to allow clubs at a particular age group to jointly raise a team. The players of each club must be registered for their respective club and also be registered with the RFU GMS as "active" players.

6) Entry Requirements and Dates of Rounds

- a) The closing date for entries to the LRU Festival will be the date specified on the entry form in order that entries can be finalised. The initial draw for the LRU festival will be made well in advance of the Preliminary Festival date(s). Teams will be given a date to enter team sheets.
- b) The Festival Organiser will fix the date of each stage of the Festival(s) and will publish this. The preliminary round will consist of four preliminary festivals - the first four clubs to be drawn shall be the hosting teams for the preliminary rounds – subsequently drawn clubs will be placed in respective groups in order (A then B then C then D) until all clubs have been drawn.
- c) A subsequent draw will be made for the finals festival day – this will be drawn well in advance of the Finals Day for the season.

Age Grade Rugby

6) Venues

- a) The venue for the preliminary mini-festivals will be the host clubs ground unless agreed otherwise by the LRU AGR Festival Organiser.
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser will decide the venues for the finals of the Mini / Midi festival following application from interested clubs to host the Finals.
- c) The LRU AGR Festival Organiser reserves the right to organise the match at another ground in the event of an unfit pitch at the originally designated host club.
- d) All pitches used in the Mini / Midi Festival will be roped off with no access onto the playing area except for the participating players and the match officials. A club official may be allowed inside the ropes as a 'sponge person'. Team coaches and managers should refrain from wandering up & down the touch line and should be encouraged to stay in the technical area. The technical area is defined as being a space at the side of the pitch close to the halfway line of the pitch.
- e) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of spectators and team coaches and in the event of serious misbehaviour, individual teams or whole clubs may be removed from the festival.

7) Team Entry

All clubs will be automatically allocated one (1) space in the preliminary festivals.

- a. Should less than 16 teams enter in any age group then all clubs will be invited to nominate to enter a second team in the LRU Festival in the age groups containing less than 16 teams.
- b. Should the total number of team in any age group exceed 16 after the automatic 1 team per club and the nominated 2nd entries are totalled then a random draw of the 2nd entries will be made to limit the overall number of teams to 16.
- c. Where a second entry is accepted within an age group from any club then the second team will be placed within a preliminary festival different to that in which the majority of the clubs teams are participating.
- d. We request that when a second team is entered players do not switch teams.

If there is a late entry to the festival the schedule will be adjusted accordingly and clubs will be notified - a late entry will only be permitted if the festival can be adjusted without consequences to the organisers and other teams (and the total number of entries is less than 16).



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8) Kit

In the event of Clubs having similar coloured playing kit the team listed on the left of the running order shall change its colours (often best achieved by turning existing shirts inside out).