



## **MARIE CURIE 2008 MIDDLESEX MINI RUGBY FESTIVAL RULES**

### **Laws and eligibility**

1. All matches will be played in accordance with The Laws of the Game of Rugby Union as amended by the Rugby Continuum.
2. Eligibility to play in a particular age group will be determined by the age of the player at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007. Unless an official dispensation from the RFU is able to be produced NO player may contest the festival in any other age group than that they are properly qualified.
3. All games will be played under the RFU Continuum.
4. Entry fees must be paid prior to Festival.

### **The County Format Is Different This Year**

5. The teams in the age groups Under 7 and Under 8 play in one Tag Festival to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2008 at Grasshoppers Rugby Club.
6. The Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 are playing in one Festival to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March at Teddington Rugby Club.
7. The Under 12's are playing on 16<sup>th</sup> March at WASPS in a special Championship Finals Day.
8. Both the Midi and Tag Festivals will be played in a pool and then knock out basis. Clubs are free to enter as many teams as they wish in consultation with the Festival organisers and County Chairman. Some limit may be needed to be agreed to ensure balanced pools.
9. From previous festival results four clubs have been seeded to ensure even spread across the pools.
10. The new format allows for all teams to progress with competitive Rugby throughout.
11. Teams previously entered into *either* A or B festivals are automatically entered into the main Festival. Teams entered into the C Festival should be genuine C or Development squads.

### **A/B Shield – Bowl - Plate – Trophy Format & C Shield – Plate Competition**

Rugby has a rich tradition ensuring that teams can participate fully in Competitions appropriate for their level of skill. We have adopted this format to deliver a better format for all clubs and players.

12. The Format of this year's festival permits automatic progression for losing teams as well as pool winners giving all clubs the opportunity to play more Rugby and contest the Shield, Bowl, Plate or Trophy competitions as the Festival progresses.
13. All regulations apply equally to all elements of the Festival

### **The Format of the Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11 Festival to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March at Teddington Rugby Club.**

14. For each age group there will be 6 competitions.
15. In the A/B Festival there will be 4 competitions. The A/B competitions will be run on the 'cascade' format and consist of 24 teams (8 pools of 3 teams). The competition each team enters and competes for depends solely on where they finish in their respective groups. ie



**The County Shield** – This will be contested, in a knock out competition, for the 8 teams who finish first at the Group stage.

**The County Bowl** – This will be contested, again in a knock out competition, for the 8 teams who finish second at the Group stage.

**The County Plate** – This will be contested, again in a knock out competition, for the 8 teams who finish third at the Group stage.

**The County Trophy** – This will be contested, again in a knock out competition, for the 4 teams which get beaten at the quarter final stage of the County Shield competition

**16. In the C Festival there will be 2 competitions.**

The C festival for the U9's & U10's will be on the basis of 2 pools - each of 5 teams. In the U11's there is only one pool of five teams.

**County Shield** – This will be contested for by the 2 teams which finish top of each pool, with the exception of the U11's where the Shield will be contested for by the top 2 teams in the pool.

**County Plate** - This will be contested for by the 2 teams which finish bottom of each pool, with the exception of the U11's where the Plate will be contested for by the bottom 2 teams in the pool.

**Pool phases**

17. Each team will play each of the others in its Pool.
18. Each team will be awarded four points for a win, two points for a draw and one point for a defeat.
19. The teams in each league will be ranked by reference to the number of points awarded, with the team with the highest number of points ranked highest in the pool.
20. If at the end of the pool phase two or more teams are level on points the following process will be used to determine their final positions in the league:
  - if two teams are level on points the league position will be determined by the result of the match between the two teams. If that match is drawn the pool position will be determined by the margin between tries scored for and against them in all pool matches (the team with the highest margin will be ranked higher);
  - if the league position of teams level on points cannot be resolved by the above means the teams will be ranked by tries scored (the team with the highest number of tries scored will be ranked higher);
  - if the league position of teams remains unresolved the teams will be ranked by reference to the toss of a coin between the team coaches.
  - if three or more teams are level on points the league position will be determined by the margin between tries scored for and against them in all pool matches (the team with the highest margin will be ranked higher);
  - if the league position of teams level on points cannot be resolved by the above means the teams will be ranked by tries scored (the team with the highest number of tries will be ranked higher);
  - if the league position of teams remains unresolved the teams will be ranked by reference to the toss of a coin between the team coaches.



### Quarter finals, Semi-finals and Finals

After the Pool phase has been completed, the next stage of the competition, in the quarter finals, semi-finals and finals, will be on a straight knockout basis. If the score is level at the end of normal time NO extra time will be played, as set down in the Continuum.

21. If the score is level at the end of a quarter or semi-final the winner will be determined by the by reference to the number of points awarded in their respective Pools (the team with the highest number of points will be ranked higher);
22. If a quarter or the semi-final winner cannot be resolved by the above means the teams will be ranked by reference to the margin of tries scored for and against them in their respective Pool matches (the team with the highest margin will be ranked higher);
23. If a quarter or the semi-final winner cannot be resolved by the above means the teams will be ranked by reference to the total number of tries scored by them in their respective Pool matches (the team with the highest number of tries scored will be ranked higher);
24. As a last resort, if a quarter or the semi-final winner cannot be determined by the above the winner will be determined by reference to the toss of a coin between the team captains.
25. For finals, if a winner cannot be determined during normal time the teams will be declared joint winners.

### Substitution and duration of matches

26. Each team may play substitutes to be introduced only with the permission of the referee.
27. Matches for Under 9's and Under 10's will be six minutes each way and for the Under 11's seven minutes each way.

### Discipline

28. Should there be a breach of good conduct or the Laws of the game by a player the Referee may recommend their substitution to a coach under the proscribed process. Coaches should take this opportunity to remove the player from the field and coach them appropriately to resolve the issue. Should the player re-offend or the Coach refuse the request the Referee may ask for the immediate Substitution of the offending player. In this instance the Player may not take any further part in the Festival.
29. Should there be a breach of good conduct or the Laws of the game by an Adult the Referee may stop the game to address the issue. Time will be stopped and the Pitch Marshal invited on to the field. **The club coach will be officially notified of the issue and instructed to immediately resolve the matter; this will be noted by the Pitch Marshal and reported to the County Chairman.** The game will be restarted once the issue has been dealt with, but should there be any further occurrences or other inappropriate behaviour the Referee may immediately end the game awarding the result to the non-offending side.
30. ***PLEASE NOTE: any offences by adults are dealt with as a senior club matter by the County and RFU and the sanctions against both club and individual can be severe.***  
***We will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse of officials or other volunteers. Refer to the Codes of Conduct for further information.***

### Disputes

31. All disputes must be brought to the attention of the Pitch Marshall who shall have the full authority of the festival committee to rule on the dispute.
32. Appeals against the decision of the Pitch Marshall may be made to the Festival Chairman. These rulings shall be final.

