



**Esher Rugby Club**  
**Minis Spring Festival**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Teamwork • Respect • Enjoyment • Discipline • Sportsmanship**

## ORGANISERS' WELCOME

Welcome to the **Esher Rugby Minis Spring Festival 2022**. We have experienced the pleasure of visiting some great clubs playing our own Age Grade festivals since the turn of the year, and are now proud to be hosting all our guests visiting Esher today.

It has been whirlwind of a Season, just where has the time gone? Of course we all faced so many challenges and changes, and I sincerely hope you all are fit and well, and making the most of our full season returning to this great game.

The players and coaches have been remarkably adaptable over the course of this season, so please bear this in mind when supporting your age groups. I know many of the coaches, let alone the kids themselves, feel the pressure to perform and put on the best display of Rugby, sportsmanship and entertainment. It is no easy feat to adapt changing rules over the course of the season, and for our own referees to apply those rules. I am sure with your support, understanding and encouragement this will be a fantastic day to celebrate for all.

Esher is nearing it's Centenary Year and involved in a huge effort to move up to National League Division 1 - hopefully coinciding with that 100 Year milestone for the 2022/23 Season. The 1<sup>st</sup> Team plays an exciting brand of expansive, free flowing rugby, and all are welcome to come down on Saturday afternoons for high level, accessible and entertaining rugby.

Esher are investing in all areas of Rugby, with particular focus on the Minis and Juniors. This year we have introduced a regular Half-Time match put on by the Minis and Juniors during 1<sup>st</sup> Team home games. The young players love the opportunity to put on a display in front of the home crowd for ten minutes. The experience gained from participating in our festivals shines through in these matches, and I thank all those attending today who have hosted and visited other clubs – I know just how much effort goes into making these occasions special and enjoyable for all. Next season I would love to invite our neighbouring clubs, or those from further afield, to take on one of our Esher Mini age groups in our half time specials. Please contact me directly if you are interested.

Finally, I am confident all spectators here today will be impressed by the standard of sportsmanship on display, and the talent of all the participants. The spirit of this festival is for all participants to have fun while playing rugby as it should be; fairly, respectfully and within the spirit of the Laws. But most of all we hope that you enjoy the friendship and hospitality of Esher Rugby Club and this great game of ours.

**Nigel Sanderson**  
**Chair of Minis**  
**Esher Rugby**

**Darrel Spencer**  
**Fixtures Secretary**  
**Esher Rugby**



## COMPETITION RULES

### PLAYERS

For each age group entered, clubs must submit a team sheet declaring all players in the squad. With the permission of the referee all replacements may be used in any match.

All teams are required to have available a qualified first aider and referee to enable safe and easy participation.

The age groupings are those traditional in Mini Rugby. For each age group, all players must have been under the relevant age on 1st September. Any club violating this rule will be disqualified.

All players must be registered with the RFU.

Rules of play are as published by the RFU for the relevant age group. In line with age grade guidelines, the U8s – U11s festivals.



## **MATCH DURATION & SCORING PROCEDURE**

The competition will run as a “round robin” with each team playing four matches. Matches will be five minutes each way for U7 and U8, six minutes each way for U9, eight minutes each way U10 and U11. In line with the age-grade rugby guidelines published by the RFU, there will be no overall winners in any of the age groups festivals. Published fixtures may be subject to change if we experience a change in demand over the weekend, however we endeavour to provide equal amount of rugby for all teams. Substitutes are allowed, and we encourage all Clubs to allow the same pitch time for all squad players.

## **PITCH TIMINGS**

Each team will also need to provide a referee to officiate their games during the morning. A referees' briefing will be held on the half way line of Pitch 1 for each age group by the Esher Head Coach of the relevant age group at 09.30. Please liaise with all teams to ensure everybody is in the right place at the right time so we can keep on schedule through the morning! It is up to the Ref and Coaches to stick to the published timings. Please encourage post match congratulations to take place off the playing area.

## **First Aid**

St John Ambulance will be in attendance, and set up next to the Barbeque Hut and Clubhouse.

## **Disclaimer**

Esher Rugby, The Organisers and referees can accept no responsibility for any injury, accident or loss to person(s) or property that may arise from attending or playing at this event.

**Please note that children are under parental responsibility at all times.**



## **PLAYERS' CODE aligned with TREDs**

- Teamwork - Play well for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Never argue with the referee.
- Play for the fun of it not just to please your parents or coaches.
- Be a good sport; recognise and respect all good play whether by your own team or your opponents.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated; do not interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Remember that the aims of a game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.

## **PARENTS' CODE**

- Foster enthusiastic participation, let the players feel comfortable with their involvement.
- Encourage respect for referees by not publicly questioning their decision and never their honesty.
- Remember that children learn by example. Applaud good play by both your team and the opposing team.
- Encourage your child always to play by the rules of the game.
- Teach your child that an honest effort is as important as victory so that defeat is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches and referees. They give up their time and resources to provide rugby for your child.

# ESHER RUGBY MINIS AUTUMN FESTIVAL





