

## **Brighton Rugby Football Club** **2008/09**



Brighton's Mini & Youth Section is one of the fastest growing and most successful junior sections in the south. We have a commitment to good fun and good rugby provided in a friendly, family orientated environment. Our ethos at all levels is to train for fun and play matches and festivals to win.

The hallmark of the club is its inclusiveness and its warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere and we are extremely well supported by an enthusiastic & active group of parents who help to make the children's rugby experience an enjoyable and positive one.

Mini rugby is a specially designed approach to rugby that introduces boys and girls to the key aspects of the game in a structured and safe manner. The minis play in groups from U6 to U12, attaining new skills and gaining a wider appreciation of the game as they progress from age group to age group. Just as important, children learn about the camaraderie and the philosophy of rugby, making new friends from a wide range of schools and backgrounds.

To deliver training in an effective and child centred manner, we have over 40 RFU qualified coaches. They are committed, enthusiastic and have a well-developed understanding of the needs of children and how best to communicate with them on a rugby field. Our coach to child ratio is 1 coach per 6 children.

### **U9 Mission Statement**

#### **Club Membership**

The Club operates two registration weekends at the beginning of September. Please complete the membership form and pay the membership fees so that you and your

child become members of the club. This will mean that your child is insured under the RFU scheme (and gives 1 parent/carer a vote at General Meetings).

We trust that you appreciate that we can only select players for fixtures/festivals who are members of Brighton RFC.

We also collect weekly subs of **£2 per training session** which is used towards Festival entry fees, Kit subsidies, Equipment purchases, Christmas gifts & Awards at the end of year BBQ.

## **Coaching Commitment**

As qualified RFU coaches we aim to

- Teach the laws of Rugby
- Teach how to catch and pass competently whilst running
- Teach how to run with the ball in both hands
- Teach awareness of space & evasion skills
- Teach how to support other players & communicate
- Teach how to tackle effectively & defend as a unit
- Teach how to play as a team
- Teach how to remember team calls
- Teach how to play rugby for Fun

We plan & attend every coaching session and match day or ensure a suitably qualified coach is in attendance at all times for guidance.

A qualified first aider will always be in attendance during training, matches & festivals to ensure the health & safety of the players in case of an accident.

All coaches and administrators are CRB checked.

We will attend the monthly coaches forums to familiarise ourselves with coaching developments and Club issues.

We will employ the use of specialist positional & community coaches to ensure the players get a variety of coaching skills and also participate in external coached structures such as the Coachclass initiative organised by London Wasps.

## **Selection**

- We will ensure that every player has the opportunity to participate in matches at whatever level.
- We will select sides depending on the players abilities, attendance & standard of the opposition with safety being of paramount importance.
- Our aim is to try and win at all the Festivals we have entered so will select the strongest sides for these fixtures. During all other 3 way and club fixtures we will give everyone ample opportunity to develop their playing skills & abilities in all sides.
- We will run 3 squads with coaches being allocated to a team during festivals/matches who will decide on selection, provide the players with the best opportunity to progress & succeed, but wherever possible will rotate each players participation for equality. Reasons for selection decisions will always be openly explained by the coaches if necessary.

## **Kit**

You will be able to buy kit from us which is supplied through the clubs clothing suppliers "Logo Sports" which is subsidised by the support of our kind sponsors at **Journeys by Design, Continental Move Group, Independent Roofing Ltd, Standard Life, G4 Security & David Harris Motors.**

This includes the new style club shirts, together with appropriate shorts, socks & a waterproof. Please ensure that your child has the correct shirt bearing in mind the need for other layers in the winter months. (please ask us if you are unsure) Also approved boots will be required, but they cannot be the bladed type.

We will be playing in over 20 festivals and matches this year where all other Brighton age groups will be wearing the same kit and it is psychologically important that the players feel part of a team and the club.

During all matches and most training sessions we will insist on all of the players wearing a correctly fitted gumshield to avoid any unnecessary accidents and this is a requirement as they will be playing the contact version of the game,

The subsidised kit can only be supplied to fully paid up members of the rugby club and previously supplied kit is recycled to other younger age groups where possible.

## **Fixtures**

We have a range of fixtures against mini sections of other Sussex clubs whilst we also travel further afield for Festivals throughout the season. We will also be taking part in a squad Tour where we will be travelling away to take part in matches & a festival with a partner club.

A list of the Festivals, Club matches & Training sessions can be found on our website [www.brightonrugbyminis.co.uk](http://www.brightonrugbyminis.co.uk) or on the noticeboard at the clubhouse.

## **Communication**

Aswell as the details supplied to the club for player registration we also keep a record of parent/carer contact details as we may need to contact people about matches, practices, weather problems etc. Most of the communication will be via e-mail but we would keep home & mobile phone numbers as they may be useful. All we ask is that you keep us up to date should any of the details change and we can inform the club registration secretary.

Should you need to contact us E-mails can be directed to [meljheath@aol.com](mailto:meljheath@aol.com) [mark.a3.smith@bt.com](mailto:mark.a3.smith@bt.com) or [tudor22@fsmail.net](mailto:tudor22@fsmail.net), or the details contained within the personnel section of our website.

## **Your Commitment**

As a member of **Brighton Rugby Club** you are expected to abide by the following junior club rules:

- All members must play within the laws and respect officials and their decisions
- All members must respect opponents
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late
- Members must advise us of any medication or treatment you are undergoing
- Members must wear suitable kit – including gumshields, approved studs and appropriate protective equipment– for training and match sessions.

- Members must make sure that you have waterproof and warm clothing to withstand the elements
- Let us know well in advance if you are unavailable because of family holidays, exams, school performances etc. so that we can plan for the other players.
- Members must pay any fees for training or events promptly.
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke on club premises or whilst representing the club at competitions
- Junior members are not allowed to consume alcohol on the club premises or whilst representing the club
- Please do not use the training or matches as a child care situation and ensure that another responsible parent is able to look after your son/daughter if you cannot attend the whole session

### **Codes of conduct for club officials and volunteers**

The essence of good conduct and practice is summarised below.

All volunteers must:

- Consider the wellbeing and safety of the players ahead of the development of performance.
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with players, based on mutual trust and respect.
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part.
- Promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play)
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour.
- Follow all guidelines laid down by the RFU and the club.
- Hold the appropriate, valid qualifications and insurance cover.
- Never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Never condone law violations, foul play or the use of prohibited substances
- Allow specialist coaches access to your squad.

### **Complaints**

Although we are staffed almost exclusively by volunteers we are keen to ensure that your child enjoys Rugby at Brighton and we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all our members. We believe that it is important that members, coaches, administrators and parents associated with the club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the safety and welfare of others. Unfortunately, from time to time, misunderstandings and differences of opinion occur. In the first instance you should address your concern to the head coach of the age group. If he is unable to deal with your questions, please address your concerns or complaints to the Mini and Youth Head of Rugby, Mr Neil Thomas.