

Monaghan Rugby Club – MINI RUGBY Information 2021/22 Season

Welcome to the 2021/22 season at Monaghan RFC. We look forward to a fun filled season where some new rugby skills may be learned, exciting games played and lots of new friends made along the way. Below you'll find some questions and answers that lots of parents ask us each year which may prove useful to new starters.

- 1. What age does kids rugby start at?** Here at MRFC we have a number of age categories in the Mini Section. These start with the Under 7's and continue through the years up to the Under 12's. MRFC fall under the Ulster age groups which are slightly different to those used in the other provinces with the cut off being 30th June each year.

U7's = 5-6-7 year olds = 1st Class = P3 – Must still be 5 or 6 on 30th June 2021
U8's = 7-8 year olds = 2nd Class = P4 – Must still be 7 on 30th June 2021
U9's = 8-9 year olds = 3rd Class = P5 – Must still be 8 on 30th June 2021
U10's = 9-10 year olds = 4th Class = P6 – Must still be 9 on 30th June 2021
U11's = 10-11 year olds = 5th Class = P7 – Must still be 10 on 30th June 2021
U12's = 11-12 year olds = 6th Class = 1st Years – Must still be 11 on 30th June 2021
- 2. Can boys and girls attend?** Yes, we welcome both boys and girls who play together for all age groups in Mini rugby. In Youth Rugby (U14+) boys and girls play separately.
- 3. How much does Membership cost?** €60 for 1st Child from the same family for the upcoming season. (Sept 2021-April 2022). 2 children from the same family = €100, Adult €50
- 4. When can I register?** Registration for all Minis (U7-U12's), Youth (U14, U16 & U18's) Players and Adults is now done online. Please click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/vv63zuu4> to set up your account on the Sportlomo portal. This must be completed ASAP in order for your child to take part in activities.
- 5. What do I need to register?** All Mini players will need a copy of their birth certificate and appropriate fees.
- 6. What equipment does my child need?** Gumshields are essential. Kids are not allowed to play without a gumshield. Rugby/Football Boots are required (No blades), Shorts/Track bottoms, Socks and a T shirt/training top. As rugby is played over the winter months it can be beneficial to buy base layers to keep your child warm. Some parents buy head guards and gloves but these are completely optional. Glasses/Contact lenses are not permitted. At present the IRFU only permit the use of "Raleri" Goggles which are also available with corrective lenses – see www.rugbygoggles.ie
- 7. MRFC Club Gear** is available to purchase on the O' Neills website - <https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/rugby/rugby-union/monaghan-rugby-club.html> All players purchase their own club gear and it is important to have everyone wearing their full club kit including club jersey, navy shorts & socks on match days. Please note that the Mini Rugby Jersey does NOT have a sponsor's logo on the front and is titled "Monaghan Rugby Club Kid's Rugby Jersey on the O' Neills website."
- 8. What time is training?** Training is every Saturday morning from 9.00-10.00am for U10, U11 & U12 age groups. U7, U8 & U9 age groups training is 9.30-10.30am at MRFC's home grounds at Rafeenan, unless otherwise noted. Home and away matches normally kick off at 9.30am and finish around 11.00am but this is subject to change during the season. Kids should arrive and be collected on time. We normally encourage parents to stay during our activities and take an interest in their child's development however due to current Covid-10 restrictions we are limiting this to essential parents only. Hopefully this will change soon!
- 9. Are parents involved?** We very much welcome parents to help-out and encourage participation. There are many roles for training and match days that we would really appreciate your assistance with. Previous experience is not necessary so please discuss with the relevant coaches or myself.
- 10. What if training is cancelled?** On the odd occasion where training has to be cancelled due to the weather we will post a notice on the MRFC Facebook page ASAP and the coach who looks after your group will try and get a message sent around.
- 11. How do I contact the coach over my child's group?** After registration each coach receives a list of all players in their group, including contact details. We have separate WhatsApp groups for each age category to allow coaches to communicate with parents and visa versa. Please download the WhatsApp App to your phone to be kept up to date with training and match info. This will also be used for Covid-19 Compliance Declarations.
- 12. Will there be matches?** Yes. MRFC Minis play a number of fixtures both home and away over the course of the season. Usually – Clogher Valley, Armagh, Cavan, Virginia, Omagh, Portadown, Dungannon & Enniskillen. We are normally required to be at the ground whether home or away for 9.00am and usually finish up around 11.00am. A fixture list will be posted to our WhatsApp Groups when fixtures are confirmed. Slight variations can occur from week to week during the year so please keep in contact with us should this arise.

13. **Catering/Helping Out.** At our home games parents are requested to bring a few eatables and help in the kitchen/around the club to ensure everything goes as smoothly as possible. As the home team we are expected to provide food for the visiting team. In addition to this we will require any available parents to help out at certain games/blitzes to get pitches set up, organise car parking, help tidy up etc. When we travel away to other clubs the host club provides food after the game for all kids. We strongly rely on our parents to help out at the club, so all assistance is greatly appreciated.
14. **Special Events/Festivals.** From time to time a squad may be selected to travel to a special event or festival. These are usually by invite only and numbers are limited. If the number of players in the squad selected supersedes the number invited then the coaches will have to make a squad selection based on attendance records, length of time at the club etc.
15. **Attendance at Training & Matches:** Like all sports activities, rugby requires lots of coaching and practice to learn the game and improve skill levels. Being a contact sport, technique is everything and the only way to improve is practice. It is very important that your child attends all training sessions where possible. Training attendance is a key consideration in selecting match day teams.
16. **Grievance Procedure:** Should this arise during the season, firstly you should speak with the coaches for the relevant teams. If for some reason you are not satisfied with the outcome, your next point of contact should be the Club Mini Co-Ordinator, and thereafter it is the Club Director of Rugby and Club Welfare Officer.
17. **Fundraising.** Like all voluntary clubs, Monaghan RFC highly depends on the support of all sections of the club including our Minis. We will be holding numerous fundraising activities during the season and will need everyone to help if possible. Fundraising ideas also welcome!!
18. **What if my child misbehaves?** Most kids have a tendency to be excited and boisterous at times and rugby is a great way of expressing this while also learning discipline. At MRFC there is a 3 strikes rule. This allows for two repeated warnings for bad behaviour followed by removal to the 'sin bin' after the third indiscretion for a designated period of time. The sin bin will be a small marked out area, in view of the coaches but away from the distractions of other players at training. If bad behaviour persists this will be addressed with the child's parents/guardians and may result in expulsion from the club as no child will be allowed to hinder the development of the other players.
19. **What happens if my child picks up an injury?** All children are taught the correct technique from day one and our U7's play touch/tag rugby only; however little knocks are inevitable over the course of a season. Once your child is fully registered with the club they are covered for serious injuries by the club and IRFU insurance. We recommend all families take out personal insurance to cover all sporting activities, which is often available through your child's school.
20. **Concussion:** It is important that all parents make themselves familiar with the IRFU Concussion and Graduated Return to Play Protocols. This relates to all sporting activities that your child is involved in and not just rugby. Further information can be seen on the IRFU website www.irishrugby.ie
21. **Who are the coaches?** Just regular parents like you. We started helping out because our kids started playing rugby and the club then arranged our Garda Vetting and put us on a Safeguarding 1 Workshop and an IRFU Coaching Mini Rugby Course (Coaching Children). All coaches are volunteers and we typically have 3 or 4 coaches for each age group.

U7's	Marc Mc Ardle, Bernard O' Reilly, Dylan Carleton, Richard Carleton, Kevin Lambe & Niall Russell
U8's	Pearse Mc Nally, Stephen Mc Cabe, Keith Treanor, Enda Meehan & Paul Kelly
U9's	Conor Casey, Mark Mohan, Anthony Rooney
U10's	Paul Bogue, Adrian Corrigan, Gavan Rooney & Colm Buggy
U11's	Peter Ronaghan, Declan Smith & Noel Smyth
U12's	Iain McGuinness, Malachy Traynor, Declan Prunty & Kilian Coyle

The ethos of Mini Rugby is to foster and develop young players (boys & girls) of all ability in the game of rugby in a safe, non competitive, enjoyable environment through activities which ensure progressive skill development for all participants participants in line with the IRFU Long Term Player Development (LTPD) pathway, Child Welfare Policy and Traditions of Rugby Union.

All participants in Mini Rugby are to adhere to all aspects of the **IRFU Code of Conduct** for Players / Coaches / Parents and Spectators available at www.irishrugby.ie

Covid-19:

As a club, Monaghan RFC must adhere to all Government, Health Service Executive, IRFU and Ulster Rugby guidelines regarding Covid-19 guidelines. You will appreciate that the directives we must adhere to change over time so please keep yourself and your child familiar with our obligations as the season progresses. Full details can be obtained by clicking on: [Irish Rugby | COVID-19 Resources For Rugby Clubs And Schools](#)

With this in mind, each age group in our Mini Rugby section has a Covid Compliance Officer as outlined below. Before taking part in any activity associated with Monaghan Rugby Club (training, home fixtures and away fixtures), you must complete an up to date Health Declaration for each player, coach or guardian.

Our Covid-19 Compliance Officers are: U7s: Sinéad Mc Skane, U8s: Michelle Meehan, U9s Geraldine Kelly, U10s Florence Steenson, U11s Clare Singleton & U12s Karen Clerkin.

All members of the rugby community should continue to exercise the basics of COVID-19 safety that will continue to be effective, particularly in the winter season. These include:

- Staying at home/restricting movements if symptomatic
- Coughing and sneezing etiquette
- Hand hygiene
- Wearing of face coverings in congregated indoor settings

Club Welfare Officer:

Our Club Welfare Officer is Geraldine Kelly who will be your point of reference for any issues relating to this that may arise.

Keep an eye on the Monaghan Rugby Club Facebook page for updates and additional info throughout the season. If you have any further questions or queries, please contact Kilian Coyle (Monaghan RFC Mini Rugby Co-Ordinator) on 086 8151717 or Email: monaghanrfcminirugby@gmail.com

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MINI & YOUTH PLAYERS WITH MONAGHAN RUGBY CLUB

- Play for enjoyment and become part of the rugby family.
- Respect the “Game of Rugby” and play within the laws of the Game.
- Accept the referee’s decision and let your captain or coach ask the relevant questions.
- Play with control. Do not lose your temper.
- Always do your best and be committed to the game, your team and your club.
- Be a “good sport”. Applaud all good play whether by your team or by the opposition.
- Respect your opponent. Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Do not “bully” or take advantage of any player.
- Rugby is a team sport and make sure you co-operate with your coach, team mates and members of your club.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good.
- At the end of the match thank your opponents and the referee for the match.
- Always remember that you owe a duty of care to your opponents. Tackle hard but fairly, do not intend to hurt your opponent.
- Winning and losing is part of the sport: Win with humility – lose with dignity.
- As part of the team it is important that you attend training regularly and listen to your coach and help your team.
- As a team sport it is important to understand that all members are important to the team.
- Remember that you are representing your team, club, family and the Game of Rugby.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH MONAGHAN RUGBY CLUB:

- Remember, young people play rugby for their enjoyment, not only yours.
- Encourage your child always to play by the Laws of the Game.
- Teach young children that honest endeavour is as important as winning, so that the result of each game is accepted without disappointment.
- Help young people to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or shout at young players for making a mistake or losing a match.
- Do not place emphasis on winning at all costs.
- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in the playing of rugby. If the child is to play, he/she will do so in good time through your encouragement.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from rugby.
- As a spectator do not use profane language or harass referees, coaches or players.
- Do not publicly question the referees' judgement and never their honesty.
- Recognise the value and importance of volunteer referees and coaches.
- Identify and acknowledge the good qualities of the Game of Rugby and uphold these values.
- Remember you and your child's contribution to the Game of Rugby is very important to the IRFU and be proud of your contribution.
- Understand the value of team sport and the importance there of.