

## IRFU Age Grade Rugby (Mini Rugby) – 2017/18 Season

Age on 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Under 7	Under 8	Under 9 & Under 10	Under 11	Under 12
	<i>Leprechaun Rugby</i>	<i>Mini Rugby 1</i>	<i>Mini Rugby 2</i>	<i>Mini Rugby 3</i>	<i>Mini Rugby 4</i>
<b>Ball size</b>	3	3	3	4	4
<b>Maximum time per half – Single match</b>	Can vary from 5 minutes each way to 10 or 15 minutes each way.	15 minutes	15 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes
<b>Maximum time per half – Festivals/Events</b>	As above.	7 minutes	7 minutes	7 minutes	7 minutes
<b>Max time a squad/ team is allowed play per day/event</b>	30 minutes	60 minutes	70 minutes	70 minutes	70 minutes
<b>Minimum time allowed for half time</b>	Not applicable	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute
<b>Max no of players per team</b>	Can vary from 4-a-side to 8/10-a-side. Emphasis is on the introduction of the skills, inclusion of all participants, safety and enjoyment.	8	8	10	12
<b>No of forwards</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	6
<b>No of backs</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	6
<b>Safety zone betw. pitches</b>	6 metres	6 metres	6 metres	6 metres	6 metres
<b>Tackle height</b>	Tagging only of the ball carrier with two hands (one on each side of the hips). Ball carrier must then pass backwards within a maximum of 3 steps or stop, turn and present the ball to support player.	Below the waist. Above the waist to be penalised.	Below the waist. Above the waist to be penalised including tackling the ball. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump) penalised immediately & player warned	Below the waist. Above the waist to be penalised including tackling the ball. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump) penalised immediately & player warned	Below the shoulder. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump tackle) penalised immediately and the player warned
<b>Hand off</b>	Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands.	Not allowed. Players should be encouraged to carry the ball in in two hands.	Not allowed. Players should be encouraged to carry the ball in in two hands.	Below shoulder. Players should be encouraged to carry the ball in in two hands.	Below shoulder. Players should be encouraged to carry the ball in in two hands.
<b>Rucks &amp; mauls no players</b>	Not applicable	3	3	5	6
<b>Rucks &amp; mauls time allowed</b>	Not applicable	5 seconds ‘Use it or lose it’ rule applies. Starts from the moment ruck/maul is formed. (Illegal to collapse a maul) Referee/Coach to count down “5, 4, 3, 2, and 1” from moment ruck/maul is formed.	5 seconds ‘Use it or lose it’ rule applies. Starts from the moment ruck/maul is formed. (Illegal to collapse a maul) Referee/Coach to count down “5, 4, 3, 2, and 1” from moment ruck/maul is formed.	5 seconds ‘Use it or lose it’ rule applies. Starts from the moment ruck/maul is formed. (Illegal to collapse a maul) Referee/Coach to count down “5, 4, 3, 2, and 1” from moment ruck/maul is formed.	5 seconds ‘Use it or lose it’ rule applies. Starts from the moment ruck/maul is formed. (Illegal to collapse a maul) Referee/Coach to count down “5, 4, 3, 2, and 1” from moment ruck/maul is formed.
<b>Kicking in play</b>	Not applicable	Not allowed.	Not allowed.	Defence zone only.	Defence zone only.
<b>Start match</b>	Pass-off with the referee indicating the mark. Opposition must be 5 to 10 m away.	Pass-off: Must be off the ground and after the referee’s whistle.	Pass-Off: Must be off the ground and after the referee’s whistle.	Drop kick on halfway.	Drop kick on halfway.
<b>Method of scoring</b>	Try	Try	Try	Try	Try
<b>Line-out</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	3 players incl. thrower. No lifting allowed.	5 players incl. thrower. All ‘forwards’ must be involved in lineout. No lifting allowed.	6 players incl. thrower. All ‘forwards’ must be involved in lineout. No lifting allowed.
<b>Scrum</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	3 players. No contest. Players must stay bound until scrum is over.	5 Players – 3 front row, 2 second row. 1 step allowed Strike allowed. Players must stay bound until scrum is over.	6 Players – 3 front row, 2 second row, 1 back row & 1 step allowed Strike allowed. Players must stay bound until scrum is over.
<b>Pitch size</b>	Can vary from 10m x 20m to 30m x 40m and or 50m x 70m depending on no of participants.	Minimum 40m x 30m	Minimum 60m x 40m	Minimum 70m x 40m	Minimum 70m x 40m

## IRFU Age Grade Rugby (Game Regulation Variations Schools & Youths Rugby)

Age Category	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19
Max. Match Duration	50 min.	50 min.	60 min.	60 min.	70 min.	70 min.	70 min.
Injury time	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Extra time:	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ball size	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Line out: Pre-grip	No	No	*No	*Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Line out: Lifting	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**\*Lifting also allowed at Medallion Schools (Under 15) level in Ulster.**

Scrum: Push	1.5m only	1.5m only	1.5m only	1.5m only	1.5m only	1.5m only	1.5m only
Scrum: Wheel & reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset	45 Degrees & Reset

**Must have the same number of forwards in the scrum, if a forward is carded – opposition must reduce numbers – if a back line player is carded no reduction in forwards. Must have the following format:** Full scrum: **3-4-1**. In the event of yellow card(s): then **3-4/** then **3-2-1/** then **3-2**

Maul - Use or Lose Application	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Squeeze Ball	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed

**Squeeze ball: Sanction Penalty Kick**

Yellow Card	No	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes	7 minutes	7 minutes	7minutes
Red Card	Yes, player to be replaced	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Yellow cards are not applicable in matches refereed by club and school affiliate referees. Incidents where players are ordered off must be reported to the relevant branch.**

Substitutes: (7 +) Front Row cover	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations	Must have front row cover i.e. 6 front row players See Law 3.5 U19 Variations
Blood Substitutes:	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Blood Substitutes: Player if returning must do so within 15 minutes.**