



Marie Curie Middlesex Festivals

Marie Curie 2010 Middlesex Tag & Mini Rugby Festival Rules

Laws and eligibility

- All games will be played under the RFU Continuum.
- Eligibility to play in a particular age group will be determined by the age of the player at midnight on 31st August 2009. 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.
- Entry fees must be paid prior to Festival.
- The 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.
- The format allows for all teams to progress with competitive Rugby throughout. The festival permits automatic progression for losing teams as well as pool winners giving all clubs the opportunity to play more rugby
- Teams previously entered into either A or B festivals are automatically entered into the main Festival. Teams entered into the Development Festival should be genuine C or Development squads.
- 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.
- For each age group there will be 6 competitions.

The A/B Festival

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. This will be contested, in a knock out competition.

1. The County Shield - the 8 teams who finish first
2. The County Bowl - the 8 teams who finish second
3. The County Plate - the 8 teams who finish third
4. 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

The Development Festival

In the Festival there will be 2 competitions, on the basis of 2 pools

Where the pools consist of 5 teams:

1. County Shield - This will be contested for by the 2 teams which finish top of each pool.
2. County Plate - This will be contested for by the 2 teams which finish second in each pool.

Where the pools consist of less than 5 teams:

There will be a semi final. The team finishing top will play the team finish second in the other group.

1. County Cup – This will be contested by the winners of the semi finals
2. County Award - This will be contested by the losers of the semi finals

All 4 teams will be awarded medals.

Pool Stage

- Each team will play each of the others in its Pool.
- Each team will be awarded four points for a win, two points for a draw and one point for a defeat.
- **For U9/U10 competition the maximum try difference is 4.** The game will stop. For other age groups, continuum rules apply – game stop after 7 try difference.

- 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.

At the end of the pool phase if two or more teams are level on points the following process will be used to determine their final positions in the league:

1. 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);
2. 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);
3. 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.
4. 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);
5. 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);
6. 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.

1. If the score is level at the end of a quarter or semi-final the winner will be determined by reference to the toss of a coin between the team captains.
2. For finals, if a winner cannot be determined during normal time the teams will be declared joint winners.

Substitution and duration of matches

- Each team may play substitutes to be introduced only with the permission of the referee.
- Matches will be six minutes each way.

Discipline

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.

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.

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

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.

Appeals against the decision of the Pitch Marshall may be made to the Festival Chairman. These rulings shall be final.