



Middlesex
RUGBY

MIDDLESEX U12 RULES

August 2017

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT DISCIPLINE SPORTSMANSHIP

Introduction

The Middlesex U12 Triangular format was created several years ago to help young players develop their Rugby and help bridge the divide between Mini and Youth Rugby. The intention is to provide a format that meets the RFU Age Grade Rugby requirements and enables a better Rugby experience for teams and players as well as helping facilitate a better alignment of teams when they transition to the new Age Grade Youth structure at U13.

From the initial experiment the U12 Triangular has gone from strength to strength helping our Middlesex mini teams move through their last year of mini rugby.

For the 2017-2018 season, the U12s will be viewed as Junior rugby and therefore will not have an end of season festival. Instead, competition supported triangular fixtures will be extended throughout the season in line with the approved Age Grade Rugby calendar.

The format for the Triangulars is unique with a 4 weekend of triangular fixtures. Each round comprises 2 games of 30 minutes played as a triangular fixture. The results of these games are compiled and points awarded for the results.

The pools will be decided by the Chair of Middlesex Mini Rugby and Chair of Community Rugby, along with the U12s administrator. Any points awarded during the triangular weekends are purely for administration purposes to help place team in the correct pool at Herts and Middlesex format for U13s.

The format is closely modelled on the system used by the World Rugby for International Sevens and means that the teams are more closely matched and the rugby even more thrilling for all involved.

There is administration provided by a U12 administrator who is appointed the Chair of Middlesex Mini Rugby. The U12 administrator, Chair of Middlesex Mini Rugby and his/her deputy form the U12 Middlesex Committee.

The process starts in August with Clubs formally entering their teams followed by a draw held in September. The four weekend rounds then follow starting in November.

Dates

The round dates are:

Round 1 – 13th November (20th November)

Round 2 – 10^h December (17th December)

Round 3 – 14th January (21st January)

Round 4 – 11th February (25th February)

(The second date is a fall back to allow for bad weather)

Overview

The regulations will be as previous years with only minor modifications to make certain matters clearer. The format remains the same with the four triangulars.

Teams will be able to stream their players from 2017-2018 at U12s to align with school and girls rugby. Teams will still be able to enter more than one team.

The U12s Triangulars is played using a series of Pool groupings with teams earning points during their games. The final tally of points is used purely for administration purposes to allow teams to be entered into the correctly aligned pool at U13s.

The Organisers have some flexibility in assigning teams to the relevant grouping.

The Organisers reserve the right to manage the Triangulars and may alter the format, rules or individual team entries as necessary. The organisers have the authority to deduct points or even remove a team from the triangulars for breaches of the Rules or the Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Players and Spectators.

Festival Rules

All games are played under the RFU Age Grade Rugby Regulations (please see Regulation 15).

Entry Conditions

Entry is open to all Middlesex Clubs, but numbers may have to be limited.

To enter you need to do the following:

- Agree to participate on ALL dates
- Agree to host if drawn to do so
- Provide one qualified referee per team entry for both the rounds and the finals day.

DATES

We ask clubs drawn to play the round games to work together to agree the date option best for the clubs. By introducing this bit of flexibility it'll help get the fixtures played with minimal disruption. Please ensure that every effort is made to complete games on the agreed date as variation causes considerable disruption and added workload for the organisers.

The Festival Organiser is highly likely to eject any team who fails to turn up for a round. If a team fails to turn up for a fixture, their opponents will be awarded a 21-0 bonus point victory.

COMMUNICATIONS

All clubs MUST register relevant contacts for your club with Contact name, Phone, E-mail and full postal address to the Administrator. You can register your details via this link

<http://middlesexrugby.com/clubs/playingclubrugby/minirugby/>

All Club Coaches and Managers should be familiar with the rules and ensure that all follow the respective Codes of Conduct.

HOST CLUBS

A condition of entry is that a club accepts the responsibility of hosting a round, if drawn to do so.

The host has to do the following:

Supply the visiting teams with directions.

Provide a suitable pitch including posts.

Co-ordinate the schedule of matches, referees and arrange linesmen.

Host Clubs also **MUST** report the results of the Round Fixtures to the U12 administrator within 24 hours. Late reporting may result in a penalty Points Deduction. Reporting will include:

Score of each game listing all Tries

Name of referee

Discipline report

It would also be helpful if the host club can provide changing facilities and offer food to players, but these requirements are **NOT** obligatory.

Match Day Rules

Matches will be played in the following order established by the draw where A is the host and team C is listed last in the draw.

1. A v B

2. A v C

3. B v C

Kick off for the first game should be at 10:00 and **NO LATER** than 10:15 unless agreed otherwise by all teams. This means that with the 30 minute 'Rest Break' all play should be concluded by 12:30.

Teams can elect for an earlier kick off if they wish and all parties agree.

Each team will provide a qualified referee who will officiate over the game between the other two teams.

The **FAILURE** of a club to provide a **REFEREE**, for any reason, will possibly result in the deduction of points.

The coaches will ensure that the players get sufficient recovery time between games. Normally a rest break of 30 minutes will apply for the team playing consecutive matches unless otherwise agreed by both teams. Coaches are also responsible for ensuring that all their players get equal game time throughout the triangular fixtures.

Matches will be 15 minutes each way. Half time is 2 minutes only. Injury time will not usually be played, however time maybe stopped by the referee for serious incidents.

Coaches will remain **OFF** the pitch during the game, except to attend to an injury and at half time. This includes breaks in play. Self-motivation and organisation are considered part of the game for U12 players. **NO SUPPORTERS OR PARENTS** are allowed on the pitch at any time unless asked to do so by the referee.

If one team gets six clear tries ahead, the game will end and the score will be recorded. So, at 6-0, 7-1, 8-2, 9-3 etc.

This 'final' score will be used as the result for the Triangular purposes. The match *may* continue to full time, if both coaches and the referee agree but the score at the end of this extension to the game will not be put forward. If this is the case, then coaches are encouraged to switch their team around to ensure a more balanced game.

Substitutions will only be made during a break in play with knowledge of the referee. Substitutions are otherwise unrestricted.

Points system

Points will be awarded as follows:

Match winner – four.

Drawn match – two each.

Losing Bonus Point - for loser within seven match points or less.

Try Bonus Point – for scoring THREE or more tries.

Complete match scores, tries scored and calculated league points will be reported, by the host, to the U12 Administrator within 24 hours.

The final position of teams from the triangulars will determine which pool they will participate in on the finals day. The order for determining the pools for the finals day will be based on the following in order:

1. Points.
2. Total match points difference.
3. Tries scored.
4. Match result between relevant teams.
5. Toss of a coin.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FINALS DAY RESULTS ONLY

On the Finals day and for each aspect of the Festival in the event of tie then the process to differentiate teams shown above will be used with points 2 - 4 being applied initially.

However, ahead of the 'Coin Toss' the team with the overall higher Pool position will benefit from their consistency over the season and be awarded higher placement.

The 'Coin Toss' should only be used if no other method separates teams.

Disputes and Discipline

Any disputes should be resolved locally by relevant clubs, whenever possible. If a dispute cannot be resolved then notice within 24 hours should be given to the Festival Organisers.

The Organisers will inform the other clubs involved of the dispute notification and within a FURTHER 24 hours a written report of the dispute and such further information as needed should be provided to the Organisers by all parties.

Further communication and investigation of the circumstances will be undertaken as necessary.

Any Discipline complaints regarding coaches, players, spectators or referees received by the Festival Organiser, will be dealt with in the same manner and treated with the utmost seriousness.

Incidents may be escalated to the Middlesex Rugby Disciplinary Panel should it be deemed necessary by the Chair of Middlesex Mini Rugby.

The Organisers reserves the right to discipline any participating club as considered appropriate for the circumstances.

Coaches, Players and Spectators are reminded of the Codes of Conduct and their requirements. Any Abuse of Officials, Players or other Spectators will be subject to disciplinary action either through the deduction of league points or through formal proceedings through Club or County Disciplinary Panels.

OTHER NOTES

Please ensure Parents are aware of the Festival Structure and the expectations of Behaviour.

Please ensure that ALL people attending the Triangulars are familiar with the Codes of Conduct. Abuse and foul language will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

DOGS are NOT permitted at many Rugby Grounds (please check with the host club). Those Clubs with a NO DOGS policy will be fully supported by the Organisers. To avoid problems please do not allow any parent, player or supporter to bring Dogs to the Triangulars.

Middlesex operate a STUDS ONLY preference. All footwear must be safe and comply with IRB - NO BLADES Policy for Boots at all Festivals and this includes all fixtures. Please ensure the players and their parents are aware of this Policy.

Mouthguards are a requirement for all players.

Clubs are expected to work in support of the organisers and communicate promptly on all matters.

Should a team be potentially compromised through the lack of players it is recommended that in the first instance a player is loaned by the opposition teams and thereafter that player numbers are reduced to matching levels to enable the match to be completed. Matched numbers should be achieved first through the removal of the No8 (1), then a Back (2) then second Row and No8 with the option of scrums going uncontested (3). No further concession on numbers will be allowable with 10 players being the minimum number required to complete the match.



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Managers and coaches must provide though a list of players for each squad on the day including birthdates and RFU number. Barbarian teams will be considered for entry in the Development triangulars, but the organisers will need reassurance on the commitment and participation to the season before an entry will be accepted.

For further information contact:

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