

## IRFU Age Grade Rugby (Mini Rugby) – 2020/21 Season

Age on 1 January <sup>st</sup>	Under 6/ Under 7	Under 8	Under 9 & Under 10	Under 11 & Under 12	Under 12 (all players must be aged 11)
	<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>Maximum time a squad/team is allowed to play per day/event</b>	60 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 on skills, inclusion of all participants, safety and enjoyment.	8	8	10	12
<b>No of forwards</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	3	5	6
<b>No of backs</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	5	5	6
<b>Safety zone between 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.	Coaches to teach correct technique. Waist high – penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump tackle) penalised immediately.	Coaches to teach correct technique. Waist high – penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump tackle) penalised immediately.	Coaches to teach correct technique. Waist high – penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump tackle) penalised immediately.	Coaches to teach correct technique. Waist high – penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/Swinging/Dump tackle) penalised immediately.
<b>Ripping / Tackling the ball</b>	Not applicable.	Not allowed and will be penalised.	Not allowed and will be penalised.	Not allowed and will be penalised.	Not allowed and will be penalised.
<b>Hand off</b>	Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands.	Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands.	Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands.	Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands.	Below shoulder.
<b>Rucks &amp; mauls no players</b>	Not applicable	No more than 3	No more than 3	No more than 3	No more than 4
<b>Rucks &amp; mauls time allowed</b>	Not applicable	5 seconds 'Use it or lose it' rule applies. 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. 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. 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. 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. All 'forwards' must be involved in lineout. 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 before the put in & strike allowed. Players must stay bound.	6 Players – 3 front row, 2 second row, 1 back row. 1 step allowed before the put in & strike allowed. Players must stay bound.
<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

