



# Gravesend RFC Mini & Youth Section

Donald Biggs Drive, Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent. DA12 2TL

**You will have found or been sent this document because your child has expressed an interest in trying mini or youth rugby.**

Please take a few minutes to read our introduction – it should explain everything you need to know to get your child started in their hopefully long and enjoyable rugby career.

Once you have had a read through these guidelines the next step is to get in touch with the lead coach for your child's age group. You can find these contact details on the hyperlink ; <http://www.gravesendrfc.co.uk/grfc-ltd/contacts/youth-rugby> . Please feel free to contact them via email or give them a call. All of our coaches are committed to Mini & Youth Rugby at Gravesend RFC and will be happy to offer you helpful and friendly advice.

## **So to start with a few basic details...**

Our Mini & Youth Section train and play on Sunday mornings.

Training is held at the club (Gravesend Rugby Football Club, Donald Biggs Drive, Milton Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2TL – don't confuse us with the neighbouring Old Gravesendians). Occasionally the youth teams will train on the adjacent playing fields of Gravesend Grammar School.

Most of our teams meet around 10ish with a view to getting going by 10.30 – if it's any different to that your child's coaching team will tell you otherwise.

Don't rush out and immediately buy your child a complete rugby kit. It's always best to let them try the sport out first. To start with just make sure they have football boots and zip/button free loose clothing. When the time is right you can buy everything you need (except boots) from the club shop on a Sunday morning.

Fixtures are a combination of away and home - if you follow this link it will take you to the mini & youth section fixture list ;

<http://cdn.gravesendrfc.co.uk/images/stories/food/miniandyouthfixtures201112revised071011.pdf>

All of our teams have RFU qualified coaches, a squad manager and a registered first aider. We also have a physio in attendance at most training sessions/home games.

Membership is £35.00 for each child and reduces if two or more children join. Your squad manager should have spare membership forms and there will also be spares in the clubhouse. If all else fails follow this hyperlink ; <http://cdn.gravesendrfc.co.uk/images/stories/food/mymembershipform201112.pdf>

Adults are encouraged to join as social members at £35.00 each. Again membership forms are available in the club house or via this hyper link :

<http://cdn.gravesendrfc.co.uk/images/stories/food/20112012associatesubscriptionadvice.pdf>

For the parents and siblings we have a café open from around 09.30 until about 13.00hrs which serves bacon sandwiches and the kind. From around 12.00 the bar is open for "other" refreshments.

The club offers many social events outside of Sunday mornings and as members you and/or your child are positively encouraged and invited to join in. Details of immanent social events can be found on the website and on the notice board behind the bar in the clubhouse. Your squad manager and Mini & Youth Section Social Rep (the lovely Louise Johnston) will also be on hand to coerce your participation.

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**G**umshields (mouth guards) are a good idea and the earlier children have them the sooner they get used to playing in them. For contact age groups it is mandatory.

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**R**egister your child as soon as you know they want to take up the sport. Not only do we need the membership money to run the section but your child needs to be registered with the RFU to play in games and competitions

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**A**lways make sure your child comes with a spare layer of clothing because rugby pitches are always a few degrees colder than you think.

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**V**ery often the weather turns wet on a Sunday morning so please ensure your child has a waterproof jacket and a change of clothes to go home in.

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**E**ncourage your child to join in but never force them to participate – Sunday mornings are for their enjoyment.

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**S**tay at the club while your child is enjoying their rugby. We aren't a baby sitting service and for obvious reasons you should remain at the club.

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**E**ach child trains and plays to different skill levels. Whatever your child's ability Sunday mornings are about them learning, developing and enjoying themselves.

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**N**ew players may be a little shy at the first few sessions. If they feel uncomfortable allow them to watch for a while and leave it to the coaches to gradually involve them.

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**D**iscipline and respect are core values to the game and apply to players, coaches, parents and other visitors. Our Codes of Conduct will point you in the right direction.

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**R**egardless of your views never berate the referee or coaching staff. If you have an issue with any aspect of the training or playing approach the Lead Coach at the end of the session.

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**F**ootwear should be football or rugby boots with metal (not plastic) studs. In certain circumstances such as dry weather trainers or moulded studs are acceptable.

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**C**lothing should be labelled – our lost property shelf already has plenty of very expensive children's rugby clothing.

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**Hopefully we've answered most of your queries and all that remains is for me to welcome you to our club. I'm sure your family will enjoy your time with us here at Gravesend RFC.**



Gary Theobald  
Chairman for Mini & Youth rugby  
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