



## West Sussex Rugby Festival

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

We can't wait to welcome you to our 2025 West Sussex Rugby Festival taking place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**Age Groups competing will be U7-U15.**

As you prepare for an unforgettable weekend, we've outlined below everything you'll need to know about the festival. If you're looking for information specifically about your accommodation, please see your accommodation document in the Sports Tours App.

### **Session times:**

AM: Approx 9am-2pm - U7, U9, U10, U11, U13

PM: Approx 2pm-6pm - U8, U12, U14, U15

All games will be played on either grass or artificial grass pitches.

## Contact Details

### **Tournament Committee**

- Tom Fowles
- Alex Greenhalgh
- Roger Thompson
- Stacey Brace
- Jamie Boyden
- Matt Torr
- Joe Moran

**Administration:** Sports Tours Ltd

**Email:** [info@sports-tours.co.uk](mailto:info@sports-tours.co.uk)

**Phone:** 01332 227 474

## On Arrival at the Tournament

- For those with disabled parking, on arrival cars will be directed to a designated parking area. Wherever you park your car, please hide all valuables out of sight.
- The club will be charging for parking, this will be TBA per car.

## Team Registration

- **All teams** must register at the Tournament HQ at least 30 minutes prior to your first game.
- Please make sure to provide the names and dates of birth of your players on the Sports Tours Hub prior to arrival.
- Please bring passports, photocopies will be accepted or RFU GMS Profiles – there may be “spot checks” and if players’ ages cannot be verified, the player in question may be suspended from playing.

## Other Important Information

- Food & drink refreshments will be available at the festival grounds.
- Toilets are available.
- Please do not drop litter or leave rubbish – take it home with you or use the bins provided.
- Limited changing facilities are available in the clubhouse. Please do not leave your belongings in the changing room as they are a shared facility.
- Tents and Gazebos are recommended but please do not put these up near the emergency access points and playing areas. Please also ensure these are fastened appropriately, and not left unattended.
- We recommend bringing portable chairs to the venue. Please take them home with you after the event.
- BBQs or other cooking equipment are not permitted at the rugby pitches.

## Presentation Information

**Sunday 4th May**

After your matches have finished, the players will receive their awards at the rugby club.

- There are participation awards for all age groups, and winners and runners up trophies.
- The awards will be presented by this year’s special guests: **TBA**.

## Festival Regulations

**Please read the full festival rules and regulations document in the Sports Tours App**

### General Regulations:

- All games will be played in accordance with the rules set out in the RFU Regulations as they apply to each individual age group and the type of rugby.
- Within the “spirit of the game”, if a team is unable to field the maximum number of players for any one game, the opposing team should play with the same number of players on the field.
- Please ask your coaches and parents to assist by being ready for your next match 5 minutes ahead of the scheduled time.
- Players and supporters are required to abide by the RFU guidelines in relation to who is permitted onto the pitch
- The home team must provide the match ball

### Referees:

It is our intention to provide referees for all games; however, if this is not possible, the “home team” shown on the fixture schedule will provide the referee / coach to officiate the game. If the home team does not have someone to officiate, then the away team should provide a referee. If no referee is available, the game will become void, and no points will be awarded.

#### **Player Welfare:**

- Only players, coaches and authorised persons are allowed in the changing rooms. Teams should arrive ready to play.
- Drinking water is available free of charge from the designated area in the changing rooms and clubhouse. You can purchase drinks & food at the grounds.
- Emergency first aid will be provided; however, teams are expected to arrange transport to hospital or the medics will call 999 if required



### **Event Photography & Video**

Please note that both team and action photographs & video will be taken throughout the festival and team photographs will be available to purchase on the day. Photographs will be available on the photographer's website to purchase. Photographs may also be printed in the local newspaper and posted on websites or social media. Any teams/individuals who do not wish to have their photographs taken must make this known to the photographers and Event Manager.

## **Codes of Conduct**

- Everybody attending the festival is expected to abide by the RFU Age Grade Codes of Practice, Regulation 15 (Age Grade Rugby) and Safeguarding Children Policy
- The organisers reserve the right to ask anyone who is considered to be behaving in an inappropriate way to leave the festival. Their accommodation arrangements at the holiday centre will be terminated forthwith
- Any behaviour falling below the standard expected by the rules and codes of conduct may be reported to the RFU
- Referee and match official abuse will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will result in the individual/team/Club being asked to leave the festival and will be reported to the RFU

#### **Players:**

- Abide by the rules of the tournament and decisions made by the officials and referees
- Play fairly and demonstrate good sportsmanship both on and off the pitch
- Play by the laws of the game
- Do not argue with the referee

**Coaches & Parents:**

- Act as a positive role model to all young players
- Be familiar with, and abide by, the RFU child protection guidance in relation to verbal and emotional abuse
- Remember children play sport for their enjoyment
- Acknowledge good individual and team performance from all youngsters irrespective of which team they play for
- Respect match official's decisions - Remember, they provide an opportunity for youngsters to play and enjoy rugby
- Never verbally abuse players, match officials, fellow spectators, or coaches
- Acknowledge effort and good performance rather than the "win at all costs" ethic
- Verbally encourage all youngsters in a positive way. If you do want to shout, make sure it is 'for', not 'at', the players
- Condemn bad language, rude behaviour, and violence

## **Sports Tours Rugby Festivals**

All age groups will be played in accordance with the RFU age grade regulations. Sports Tours continue to fully support the RFU in their efforts to promote participation and fair play through their core values.

The RFU Core Values include; Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. We would like to encourage all teams to be mindful of these values whilst participating in our festivals.

**U12 – U18:**

Competitive rugby will be played at all our events throughout the UK where league tables and results will be displayed. These age groups will play a round-robin league with no knockout or finals stages.

**Tournament Committee:**

The management committee will have the power to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of the Festival and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the Tournaments, including any not provided for by the Rules. In the event of a dispute, only the team coach will discuss with the Committee.



## FAQs

If you have any further questions not answered on this document, or our accommodation document, please contact our team who will be happy to help.

### **How many games will we play?**

The number of games will differ, however, each team will play up to the maximum number of minutes per day, as stipulated by the RFU.

### **When do we play our games?**

The final fixture schedule will go live the week of the tournament.

### **Can we let you know our preferred session time?**

Unfortunately, due to the nature of scheduling of pitches and age groups, we are unable to accept any preferred session requests for teams.

### **How can we check our fixtures and scores?**

Sports Tours has its own online results page where you can view fixtures and track results. Please click the fixtures link in the Sports Tours App.

*Please do not print out your schedule as it is subject to change dependent on late entries/withdrawals*

### **What I.D do we have to bring for the players?**

We ask that you bring RFU cards OR a photocopy of a passport for all players involved in the festival. Age checks may be carried at any point during the tournament.

### **Shall we bring both home & away kits?**

To avoid kit clashes, we strongly recommend you bring both your home & away strips.

**Do we have to bring rugby balls?**

Yes please – the ‘home’ team for each match will be required to provide the match ball.

**Do you provide referees?**

We will be providing referees.

**What footwear should players wear?**

All pitches are played on grass, so it is recommended to wear studded boots, but players are welcome to wear alternative footwear depending on the state of the ground surface.

**Do we have to drive to the venue?**

Yes, car parking is available, please note that the club are charging TBA per car, so please try to car share where possible.

**What catering options are there?**

There will be catering in the clubhouse, and various food offerings available. There will also be hot and cold refreshments available to purchase.

**Will alcohol be served?**

Alcohol will be served from the clubhouse and must be consumed either in the clubhouse or on the clubhouse terrace.

**Can we bring our own alcohol to the tournament venue?**

As the club serves alcohol, alcohol is not permitted to be brought to the venue. It is not permitted to consume alcohol pitch-side.

**Are dogs allowed?**

Dogs are allowed, at the holiday park please ensure that you have booked a pet friendly unit with us.

At the venue, please make sure that dogs are kept on leads and they are not allowed into the clubhouse.

**Will there be a presentation?**

Yes, the presentation will take place pitchside once your matches are complete.

**Will players receive medals/trophies?**

All players will receive a participation medal and there will be winners and runners up trophies.

Those attending the presentation will be awarded their medals by a special guest rugby player – we are thrilled to announce that this year's awards will be presented by **TBA**.

**What happens if a member of my group causes damage to the accommodation or the event site?**

All damages should be reported prior to departure. The cost of any damage or compensation is the joint responsibility of all group members. It is for the service provider / host club / accommodation centre to reasonably determine the value of the damage or compensation. Any costs will be charged to your group and will be payable on demand. Where your group has paid a security deposit directly to the accommodation centre, any issues will be in accordance with their own policy.