

MEET ENJOY GROW

Welcome to a new season of Mini and Youth Rugby at Bedford Junior Blues Rugby Football Club, where we are rightly proud of the achievements and the excellent attitude of our young players.

The club aims to ensure that players, coaches, parents, spectators and volunteers uphold the Core Values of rugby union, Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. These values will stand our young people in good stead both on and off the rugby pitch and are reflected in the RFU's Code of Rugby.

Bedford Junior Blues supports its aims that we:

- Play to win - but not at all cost
- Win with dignity, lose with grace
- Observe the Laws and regulations of the game
- Respect opponents, referees and participants
- Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs
- Value volunteers and paid officials alike
- Enjoy the game

Last season Bedford Junior Blues managed to both win with dignity and lose with grace and we are proud that our young teams are as renowned for their fair play as for their successes. We are also proud of our RFU seal of approval status, which recognises our achievement in reaching and maintaining the standard of a club committed to providing a quality rugby union experience for young players.

Bedford Junior Blues is a local club at the heart of our community, with links with local schools. We are delighted by the number of players who progress up the age levels and into our senior teams. Keeping players involved throughout their school days and beyond means that they benefit from being part of the rugby family and from the friendships and health benefits that our sport offers.

The credit for our success as a club is due to the commitment of our young players, the endeavours of the club's qualified and enthusiastic coaches, our many marvellous volunteers, our players' parents and supporters and our sponsors. We would like to thank you all and look forward to your continued support.

With a full fixture programme and a full programme of social events coming up, we would be delighted to see our new players and their parents and families fully involved. We are always glad to have help so please talk about volunteer roles with our coaches, managers or anyone on the Mini & Youth Committee.

Registration day is always tremendously busy, so I would ask for your patience and understanding as there are many tasks to perform to ensure that the club lives up to its high standards so that your children are properly registered and cared for in the coming season. I would also ask for membership fees to be paid within four weeks of registration so that we can handle the finances to everyone's benefit. However, if any parent or guardian has a particular financial need this can be discussed in confidence with **John Kearsley**, Equity Coordinator.

This pack should contain all the information you need but do ask questions or log on to the new club website at www.bedfordjuniorblues.co.uk.

A very warm welcome to the 2011/12 season at Bedford Junior Blues and we hope that you all enjoy the rugby.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Breeze
Club Chairman

JOIN OUR SPORT

Bedford Junior Blues Mini and Youth section provides rugby for children of all ages and abilities.

Our Mini Section caters for children of five years old (under 6s) up to 11 years old (under 12s). The Youth Section provides for children from 12 years old (under 13s) up to 18, at which age they can join a senior club.

All age groups adhere to the RFU Age Grade Regulation 15 (rfu.com/regulations), a playing and coaching pathway by which clubs and schools introduce rugby in three incremental stages (Mini-Midi Rugby) so that by Under 13 level, players have the skills and knowledge to participate in the full 15-a-side game.

Each stage has its own rules distinguishing it from the adult game. This progression accommodates the changing developmental abilities of children as they mature, with the emphasis on the improvement of individual skills through purposeful and enjoyable activity. Provision is made for testing these skills in match situations during a limited number of competitive fixtures and festivals/tournaments each season.

The enjoyment and safeguarding of children is of paramount importance at Bedford Junior Blues and we are committed to providing opportunities for all children to play rugby in a friendly, fun and safe environment. For a beginner's guide to rugby's rules and regulations visit www.rfu.com/beginners.

BE PART OF A TEAM

Training, selection & availability

Training for the Mini Section is on Sunday morning from insert time, with matches usually kicking off at insert time. Any alterations will be notified by the team coach or manager. At Bedford Junior Blues we want to ensure that all children have opportunities to play, selection for individual matches being the responsibility of team coaches and managers.

Training for the Youth Section during the week is different depending on age group. You will find this on the age group home web page. Matches usually kicking off at 11:00am on a Sunday. Alterations will be notified by the team coach or manager. Bedford Junior Blues will aim to maximise playing opportunities for all, with selection for particular matches the responsibility of team coaches and managers.

All training and home games are held at Bedford Athletics grounds in Wentworth Drive, Putnoe, Bedford – see full location details on our web site.

Parents & Guardians

Remain responsible for their children at training/matches and are encouraged to stay, especially if their children are in the Mini Section.

Punctuality

Children should be in rugby kit ready to start sessions on time, especially on match days. Please let the coach know if your child is unavailable to train or play as they will not want to let team mates down.

Two-way conversation

Get to know your team's coach and manager who will be glad to chat and receive constructive feedback or particular information regarding your child.

Necessary kit

As with most sports, players need kit, at the club this will be: rugby boots, socks, shorts and shirt, mouth guard, and water bottle. The club kit stall which is open on Sunday mornings at the clubhouse can provide club specific items and a range of other rugby related items.

The club colours are Navy/Sky Blue. Team shirts should be worn on match days. Shorts should be Navy blue. Kit and items are available from the club Kit Stall

- Boots, with safety studs, should be certified to IRB regulations. In warm, dry weather trainers or melled boots may be acceptable.
- Mouth guards are strongly recommended, and you can obtain custom made mouth guards.
- Any other protective equipment is worn at the discretion of the parent/player but must conform to IRB standards (a reputable sports shop can advise).
- Wearing layers means players can discard items as they warm up. Waterproof tops must not have zips.
- Players will need a set of clean clothes to change into after training or matches.
- Players' drinks should be provided, especially on hot days, when sunscreen may be needed.

COACH REFEREE VOLUNTEER

Coaching

Young players are coached under the RFU Age Grade Regulations and boys and girls train and play together up to and including the Under 12 age group. Beyond this, boys and girls play separately, for safety reasons.

All lead coaches at Bedford Junior Blues are qualified to UK Coaching standards. We aim to have for each age group at least one Level 1 qualified coach, which means they are trained and accredited. If you are interested in becoming a rugby coach, please contact **Marcus Buckle** our Club Coaching Coordinator at bedfordrugby.coaching@gmail.com.

Refereeing

The club has qualified referees to officiate at matches. However, to cover all matches every weekend, we are always actively recruiting referees. You do not need to have any previous rugby experience as training is provided. Please contact **Mike Pendleton** for more information (see club web site for full contact details).

Volunteering

We very much welcome your help with the running of the club. It takes a great deal of work to ensure everyone can train and play. So if you could help in any way, for example coaching, managing, refereeing, helping in the kitchen or at social events, fund raising or with the website or publicity please join our fabulous army of volunteers.

We have listed some volunteer roles and would be grateful if you could contribute a little time each week to help with the running of the club. For more information, please contact **Kevin Breeze**.

To achieve the RFU recommended minimum ratio of adults to children - 1:10 for children over 8 years old; 1:8 for children under 8 years old and 1:6 for children under 7 years old – we need to recruit volunteer coaches and managers each season.

PLEASE

NOTE

Safeguarding children & vulnerable adults

At Bedford Junior Blues we are committed to safeguarding the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Everyone works in partnership to promote children's welfare, health and development and all allegations and suspicions of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately.

Adults involved in any activity of a specified nature (e.g. teaching, training, care, supervision, advice, treatment or transport) which involves contact with children or vulnerable adults, intensively and or/overnight (frequently or intensively meaning carrying out the role at least once a week, or four times a month or more) must have an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure processed and risk assessed by the RFU. This is in line with the RFU's Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy, which is implemented within this club. CRB certificate applications are free and are only seen by the individual applicant and the RFU Safeguarding team at Twickenham, where clearance is approved.

For further information regarding the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults contact the Club Safeguarding Officer:

Steve Minney: esbminney@ntlworld.com:
07747 830267.

Steve will be on duty most Sunday mornings in and around the clubhouse; if unavailable please contact **Kevin Breeze**, Junior Chairperson.

Sponsorship & fundraising

Each year we endeavor to raise funds for the club through events and sponsorships. If you might be able to help or suggest possible sponsors please contact the Club Development Officer, Marcus Buckle at bedfordrugby.coaching@gmail.com or the Chairman.

First aid

In the event of a player being injured, in the absence of the parents the team officials are responsible for deciding whether further medical assistance is required. Parents and/or guardians

will be contacted as quickly as possible. The club has invested in First Aid training and there is on site someone qualified in Emergency First Aid during training or matches at the club.

Transport

In most instances it is the responsibility of parents, not the club, to transport their child to and from the club or nominated meeting point. If parents make arrangements between themselves this is a private arrangement and at the parents' discretion.

When Bedford Junior Blues formally arranges transport we will ensure that drivers and vehicles comply with the RFU's Safeguarding Policy.

In the event of a late collection coaches and volunteers will attempt to contact the parents, wait with the child, preferably in the company of others, notify the Club Safeguarding Officer and remind parents of their responsibility to collect their child promptly.

Photographic Images

We encourage the taking of appropriate images of children involved in rugby celebrating the Core Values of the sport. The RFU's guidance for parents and the paid and volunteer workforce can be found on the Safeguarding pages of rfu.com. It is based on common sense and we would ask everyone to read and comply with this guidance.

Any parent or guardian who does not want their child photographed for any reason should talk in confidence to the team's coach or manager. We will then take all reasonable steps to ensure the child is not photographed whilst playing or training at the club.

Dogs

Dogs are allowed on the club fields, providing they are kept on a lead and that any mess is cleared up and disposed of properly.

GET IN TOUCH

Club contacts

Our location is:

Bedford Junior Blues RUFC
 Wentworth Drive
 Bedford
 Bedfordshire
 MK41 8QA

Volunteer roles	Name	Telephone	Email
Chairman	Kevin Breeze	07713 592013	kevinbreeze@talktalk.net
Vice Chairman	Alison Bowden	07769 648921	ketih.bowden@virginmedia.com
Treasurer	Chris Wright	07966 180044	chris@netmarkuk.co.uk
Secretary	Paul Moffat	07912 945417	easternregion@cwu.org
Club Development Officer	Marcus Buckle	07973 261007	bedfordrugby.coaching@gmail.com
Asst Club Development Officer	Paul Moffat	07912 945417	easternregion@cwu.org
Junior Coaching Coordinator	Marcus Buckle	07973 261007	bedfordrugby.coaching@gmail.com
Mini Coaching Coordinator	Mark Apps	07958 511144	Appsmark@aol.com
Safeguarding Officer	Steve Minney	07747 830267	esbminney@ntlworld.com
Fixtures Secretary – Junior	Jakie Spencer	07733 481531	jakiespencer57@hotmail.com
Mini Fixtures Secretary	Mark Apps	07958 511144	Appsmark@aol.com
Membership Secretary	Mary Lipner	01234 306658	mary.lipner@hotmail.co.uk
Social Secretary	Chris O'Dell	07976 238309	chris@espbusiness.co.uk
Assistant Social Secretary	Tracey Pryke	07837 498514	tracie.pryke@btinternet.com
Communications Officer	Colin Reed	07519 952012	reedsinbedford@yahoo.co.uk
Health & Safety Co-ordinator	Darren Kerr	07900 680731	dkerr@mmm.com
Equity Co-ordinator	John Kearsley	01234 406808	john@bedfordtouch.co.uk
Referee Liasion	Mike Pendleton	07765 221561	mike.pendleton@ntlworld.com
Kit Stall Manager	Emma Minney	07747 830267	esbminney@ntlworld.com
School Liaison Officer	Carryl Grant	01234 301135	carrylgrant@btinternet.com

