



Mini-Rugby FAQs

How is a Player's Age Group determined..?

A player's grade is determined by their age at midnight on 31 August at the start of the season.

Can a youth or mini player play out of his/her age group?

Normally not, though there are some exceptions which should be checked with the RFU.

What is 'squeezeball' and why is it not allowed..?

The RFU definition of 'Squeezeball' is "a technique where the ball carrier goes to ground, head forward (touching or close to the ground), irrespective of immediate contact with opponents, usually keeping parallel to the touchline, holding and protecting the ball close to the chest and, when on the ground, pushes the ball back between the legs". This is considered to be extremely dangerous for young players as it both places pressure on the neck and also exposes the back of the neck to opposition players. 'Squeezeball' is therefore penalised if seen during games and must not be taught or encouraged by Coaches.

When can players kick the ball..?

Kicking appears to be a 'holy grail' for Mini-rugby players but in truth it adds little to the Junior game.

First kicking is introduced at U11 where 'drop-kicks' are used to start and restart the game. Penalties may also be 'kicked' but not at goal. Drop-goals are not allowed and fly-hacking, (kicking a ball that is on the ground), is also illegal. Conversions are allowed, either a drop-kick or a place-kick but are taken from in front of the posts irrespective of where a try has been scored.

Kicking as per the Senior game is not introduced until U13 (Youth) level.

What is a 'scrag tackle'..?

The RFU definition of the 'scrag-type tackle' is "swinging the player round by the shirt". This is interpreted as 'dangerous play' and must be penalised. This term disappears from the Law book at U13 (Youth) level, though such a tackle may still be deemed to be 'dangerous play' and as such liable to penalty.

What is 'fending off'..?

The RFU definition for a 'fend' or 'hand off' is "a hand off being the placing of an open palmed hand by the ball carrier against an opponent's face or body while a fend off is an outstretched arm by the ball carrier towards an opponent to discourage that person making a tackle". Neither is allowed within Mini Rugby and should therefore be penalised if seen during games and must not be taught or encouraged by Coaches.

Why are there 7m 'offside' lines at some Mini-Rugby scrums..?

This often overlooked Law allows young players 'space' to create an attack and should be observed by Coaches and Officials in order to create a more attractive and open game.