



2015 2016

SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINI FESTIVALS

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A major change is taking place to the way minis and youth rugby is coached in England, which is set to influence the game globally.

From September 2015, coaches, parents and helpers have a new set of rules for coaching age groups from U7 to U11 following a two year trial. More trials are taking place for further changes later.

Other governing bodies worldwide are likely to follow the lead of England Rugby who have decided to introduce complex skills like tackling and rucking gradually in steps, rather than all at one age group. Practice games and festivals will be played with smaller team numbers to encourage more individual involvement and a free-flowing game with fewer interruptions.

The changes are known as the **New Rules of Play**, and the trials have shown that they do give players more touches of the ball, improve individual skills, making the sport more enjoyable and ultimately lead to players staying in the game for longer.

For parents, the changes are intended to make understanding the rules and refereeing easier, but will require more volunteers and helpers to manage a greater number of games.

A Festival in the eyes of the participating South Nottinghamshire Clubs provides the right competition environment where all boys/girls from the clubs can turn up and take part. The Festival will not last much longer than a normal training session and will not leave children utterly exhausted.

Festival organisers and participating Clubs will endeavour to ensure 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

West Bridgford, Nottingham Corsairs, Nottingham Moderns and Keyworth all believe in encouraging their young players to:

- **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!**



Phil Cass
NLD President

BACKGROUND TO THE CHANGES

Research into the existing rules for the mini and youth game started in 2007 when researchers at Exeter University were asked to make recommendations for change. The existing rules for U7 to U12 players had been unchanged for 20 years.

Their brief was to improve skills of young players and improve retention levels in the adult game.

The main findings were that children learn best by doing, and reducing numbers is a way to increase involvement.

The existing structures were found to be too rigid and structured and an emphasis on contact in rugby resulted in a "bigger is better" mentality, rather than a focus on skills and decision-making.



WE HOPE THAT YOU CONTINUE ENJOYING YOUR RUGBY!