Moortown Acorns

Mini Rugby

Players and Parents Pack

2024 / 2025 season

A logo of a sports team

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Moortown Acorns are a community mini rugby section which is part of Moortown RUFC. Moortown RUFC is a well-established rugby club in North Leeds that has traditionally had a full mini junior rugby section.

Moortown Acorns has been established to re-invigorate mini rugby at Moortown. It is run entirely by volunteers, with a clear ethos, which echo’s the Rugby Football Unions principles of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship.

The aim of Moortown Acorns is to provide a fun and healthy environment, which is welcoming to all, allowing children to thrive and benefit from everything rugby has to offer. A big part of this is having a mini rugby community at Moortown where respect and consideration is shown to all including players, parents, volunteers, coaches, referees and the communities we encounter. Please see the code of conduct at the end of this pack.

**Mini rugby remains a no contact sport up until the age of 9.  This is described below:**

**Mini Rugby (U6-U12)**

Mini rugby is designed to introduce children to the basics of the game in a safe environment, and in line with their physical abilities and at their own pace — letting them run, chase, throw, catch and learn teamwork. Boys and girls play together on an equal footing. The club runs teams based on school years - this relates to a child’s age on the 1st September and the child remains in that age group for their youth rugby career.

These groups play non-contact “tag” rugby. The main aim is to develop the basic skills such as passing the ball backwards, catching a pass, running into space and of course, scoring tries. The players wear a belt with 2 velcro tags. A tackle is made when the opposition pull one of the tags off the ball carriers belt and calls “tag”. Once the ball carrier has been tagged they must attempt to stop immediately and pass the ball to another team member before reclaiming their tag, re-attaching it then continue with the game. There is no contact, tackling, scrums, line outs or kicking.

We will run age group teams where we have enough players. In general, we will need 7 or more players for each age group. The age groups are based on school years so it the child’s age on the 1st of September that decides which team they are in.

**Under 6’s – mini acorns**

We will run Sunday morning training for girls and boys who are under 6. This will be mixed ages from age 3 to 5. There will no charge for these sessions, and they will be rugby ‘games’ with a ball to learn the basics of passing, catching running and teamwork. Parent participation is required for this.

**Under 7’s**

Still with an emphasis on learning the basics of rugby, the under 7’s will alternate training and playing games of tag rugby against other local teams.

**Under 8’s**

Still with an emphasis on learning the basics of rugby, the under 8’s will alternate training and playing games of tag rugby against other local teams.

**Girls team**

We have a core group of girls aged around 8 to 10 and so we are looking to build on this to build a girls team to continue through the age groups.

**All Players need to be registered with the RFU. Players can register in person with Mark (Registration Officer) and his team from the 8th of September onwards, whilst attending training.**

**Safeguarding**

A safeguarding officer for Moortown Acorns has been appointed. This is Sue Fallon, who you will all get to meet at the weekly Acorn training sessions. Sue’s mobile number is 07758513996 if you need to contact her.

The Rugby Football Union has a clear Safeguarding policy, details of which can be found at [Safeguarding | England Rugby](https://www.englandrugby.com/run/safeguarding) . At Moortown Acorns we recognise our responsibilities under this policy and take these extremely seriously. In the coming weeks the Moortown Safeguarding Policy will be published and displayed at the rugby club. Parents and guardians also have a role to play within this and this extract is copied directly from the RFU website:

*We want to ensure that parents understand just how impactful they can be on their child’s development in rugby. We would strongly encourage parents to do the following:*

* *Contact your child’s club’s Club Safeguarding Officer, let them know who you are, who your child is, if your child has any care and support needs, allergens etc., and ensure that the Club Safeguarding Officer has suitable contact numbers for you, as well as emergency contact numbers for your child/children*
* *Be as present at the club as you can. Being present in your child’s rugby career will have a huge positive impact on them, as you will be better placed to offer encouragement and be a part of their journey*
* *Be proactive in understanding what your child’s club’s safeguarding procedures are, and what safeguarding responsibilities you have, as a parent*

**Social media –** We want to showcase the fantastic rugby community we have at the Moortown Acorns. This includes regular updates on the Acorns Instagram account. Please can you complete and sign the social media consent form using the link below to confirm whether you consent to photographs being published on the Acorns Social Media accounts:

<https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSeszzCj2MXFEM8g7wyfu0Ypy8V3jxJfyg7xhWmeL70UeHryxw%2Fviewform%3Fusp%3Dsf_link&data=05%7C02%7C%7C26ab12a5d0af423216bc08dccf4e3848%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638613182056609170%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=k33YQKY2LgRxTC6339BbHRRMJ4NhKTs9wCQZ2bdr%2BLY%3D&reserved=0>

**FAQ’s**

***Will the sessions be on if it’s raining?***

As long as it is safe the sessions will run in the rain, wind, snow…and sunshine.

***What should the kids wear?***

Ideally football or rugby boots as the sessions will be on grass.  Trainers that you don’t mind getting muddy or wellies will be slippy but will be ok.  Gloves and hats if it is cold and waterproof layers if it is wet but the kids will be doing lots of running so really it’s the parents who need to wrap up.

Plans are in place to start making Moortown branded kit available for those that wish to purchase it.

***What’s the cost?***

To become a member of Moortown RUFC, which means you are covered by the insurance when on the premises, there is a £50 annual family membership which covers all immediate family members. We know that children can change there mind about joining in so please take some time to make sure it is something you will make use of, but if you are using the facilities at Moortown regularly then we ask you to buy a family membership for you and your child(ren).

There will be no charge for the mini acorns and for these sessions you can just turn up when you are available.

For the age grade teams, once we start to arrange games against other clubs then there will be an annual subscription cost to cover expenses including kit, meals and other costs.

***Do parents have to stay for the sessions?***

Due to the age of the children please can the adult who brings the children stay on site at Moortown RUFC.  There is a great cafe called the *Chunky Cactus* to grab a coffee or tea and even enjoy some brunch after training. Players meals will be provided when there are matches.

***How do I contact Moortown Rugby Academy?***

The email address is [acorns@moortownrufc.com](mailto:acorns@moortownrufc.com)

Instagram is @moortownrufc\_acorns

For administrative queries please contact Lucy Lewis on 07763734060

For registration questions or similar please contact Registration Officer Mark Harrison on 07872509038

Overseeing the Sunday morning training and games is Tim Lewis on 07958748478

For Safeguarding concerns and issues please contact Sue Fallon on 07758513996

**Rugby calendar 2024 / 2025**

10:30 Sunday 8th September – rugby fun day / Family subscription to Moortown RUFC / player registration with RUFC

8th September to 20th October - Autumn term rugby

27th October to 3rd November – Half term break – no rugby

10th November to 15th December - Autumn term rugby

22nd December to 5th January – Christmas break – no rugby

12th January to 9th February– Spring term rugby

16th February to 23rd February – Half term break no rugby

2nd March to 30th March – Spring term rugby

6th April to 20th April – Easter break no rugby (possible rugby tour)

27th April to 25th May – Summer term rugby

1st June – rugby finished for the summer

A football ball on a green field

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A coach code of conduct

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A poster of a player code of conduct

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A poster with text and a couple of people

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A poster with a crowd of people

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