

MEET ENJOY GROW

Welcome to a new season of Mini and Youth Rugby at Overton 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.

Overton 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 Overton 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.

Overton 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 subs 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 Craig Wilson (Minis Coordinator) or Vicky Thomas (Safeguarding).

This pack should contain all the information you need but do ask questions or log on to the club website at overtonrugby.com.

A very warm welcome to the 2017/18 season at Overton and we hope that you all enjoy the rugby.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Cornell
Overton RFC Chairman

JOIN OUR SPORT

Overton 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 / School Year R) up to 11 years old (under 12s / School Year 8). The Youth Section provides for children from 12 years old (under 13s) up to 18, at which age they can join the senior section. Age grading is based on the school academic year.

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

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 Overton 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 rfu.com/beginners.

BE PART OF A TEAM

Training, selection & availability

Mini

Training for the Mini Section is on Sunday morning from 10 am, with Tournaments usually kicking off at 0930. Any alterations will be notified by the team coach or manager. At Overton we want to ensure that all children have opportunities to play, selection for individual matches being the responsibility of team coaches and managers.

Youth

Training for the Youth Section (ages 12 to 16) is on Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm and on Sunday mornings from 10.00 am, matches usually kicking off at 10 30 am on Sundays. Alterations will be notified by the team coach or manager. Overton 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 the club house at Laverstoke Park, Watch Lane, Laverstoke.

Colts

Training for the Colts, ages under 17/18 is on Thursday evening from 6:30 and from 12:00 (mid-day) on Sunday. Games kick off from 2:00 pm. Alterations will be notified by the team coach or manager. Overton 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 the club house at Laverstoke Park, Watch Lane, Laverstoke.

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. These can be purchased at the Club shop.

The club colours are blue/green. Team shirts should be worn on match days. Shorts should be navy. Kit and items are available from the Club shop.

- Boots, with safety studs, should be certified to IRB regulations. In warm, dry weather trainers or melded boots may be acceptable.
- Mouth guards are strongly recommended, and you can obtain custom made mouth guards. A custom fitting mouth guard service is available on Sept 7th or from the shop at the Club.
- 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 Overton 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 Paul Inglis

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 Paul Bond for more information.

Kitchen Duty

For Mini Parents each home training requires help in to run the Kitchen. This is for an hour and involves taking money, cooking Bacon / Hot dogs and serving drinks (Hot and Cold), Chocolate and Crisps.

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 Paul Inglis, Craig Wilson, Alan Cornell or your team Manager.

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.

For Application Forms please download from or please ask a member of the committee for a form.

- [Volunteer Coach Application Form](#)
- [Volunteer Manager Application Form for Youth/Colts](#)
- [Volunteer Manager Application Form for Minis](#)
- [Volunteer Coaching Co-ordinator Application Form](#)
- [Volunteer Co-ordinator Application Form](#)

PLEASE NOTE

Safeguarding children & vulnerable adults

At Overton 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: Vicky Thomas

A representative will be on duty most Sunday mornings in and around the clubhouse; if unavailable please contact Craig Wilson Minis Coordinator

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 Sponsorship Officer Chris Sheridan at the club 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 Overton 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: Overton
 Rugby Club Watch Lane
 Overton
 RG28 7NU

For Contact details please see: <http://overtonrugby.com/about-us/contact-us/>

Volunteer roles	Name	Contact Details
Secretary	Graham Spinks	grahams08@googlemail.com 07721 301171
Treasurer	Sally Small	sally@parkfarmoakley.co.uk
Club Safeguarding Officer	Vicky Thomas	vickythomas100@hotmail.com 07584 321545
Disciplinary Officer	Alan Cornell	alancornell@btconnect.com 07775 907579
Mini's Co-ordinator	Craig Wilson	c.wilson7@btinternet.com

