



Kilkenny RFC Minis & Youths 2019/20 Season Information





Key Points

Registration

For the 2019/20 season we are moving to online registration. Link to registration can be found on our club website (www.kilkennyrugby.com)

Training Re-Starts

Minis - Sunday 1st September @ 11:00am

Youths – Week starting Mon 19th August

Get Involved

Help wanted both on and off the pitch.

Coaches wanted at all levels. Volunteers always needed for Home blitzes & games and the Monthly Club Disco. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact any coach, manager or club official...or contact via club website.

Coaching Contacts

Youths Coordinator – Eoin O'Carroll

Girls Coaching Coordinator – Gary Brickell

Minis Coaching Coordinator – George Maher

NEW PLAYERS ARE WELCOME AT ANY AGE & AT ANY STAGE OF THE SEASON...Come out & give it a try!!!!



Introduction

Welcome to the 2019/20 season at Kilkenny Rugby Football Club!!

Minis & Youths rugby in Kilkenny has seen considerable growth in recent years, and is likely to see further growth with this year's Rugby World Cup & the increased popularity of rugby worldwide.

This note is intended for parents and children interested in rugby at Kilkenny RFC. If you are new to Kilkenny RFC this year, we want to set out some key points about how we are organised and how we approach running mini and youth rugby in Kilkenny RFC. If you are already familiar with Kilkenny RFC, this will give you the key contacts, pitch locations and other useful information.

One important point to emphasise – Kilkenny RFC, like most sports clubs, is a voluntary club & cannot function without people giving up their time. As a club we are always very appreciative of any help & we would encourage members, players, parents etc to get involved whenever possible. The growth in numbers of children of all ages participating in the club is fantastic but it does mean that more parents need to get involved to ensure that we deliver on our aims to benefit our kids. There are many ways that you can help, and the more people that get involved the easier it is for everyone. Further details later in this note or from any club coach, manager etc. On behalf of everyone involved both on and off the pitch at Kilkenny RFC, we would like to welcome you to the new season and wish you and your children a rewarding year.

Chair of Youths and Mini Rugby
Girls Coordinator
Youth Coaching Coordinator
Minis Coordinator
Child Welfare Officer
Youths and Mini Rugby Committee

Tim Kiely
Gary Brickell
Steve Ashmore
George Maher
Kieran Conway
Eoin O'Carroll (Secretary)
Quentin Hearne (Treasurer)
Tom Marry (Registrar)
Marie Louise Briody (Youths South East Rep)
Eamon Dooley (Youth Fixtures Secretary)



Pictured above (from L-R)

- Marie Louise Briody (Youths South East Rep)
- Eamon Dooley (Youths Fixture Secretary)
- George Maher (Minis Coordinator)
- Tim Kiely (Youths Chairman)
- Eoin O'Carroll (Youths Secretary)
- Dave Matthews (Club President)
- Quentin Hearne (Youths Treasurer)



Child Welfare Officer – Kieran Conway



Club Structure

Kilkenny RFC is structured as follows:

Junior Rugby

Mini Rugby U7's to U12's (Boys & Girls integrated)

Youth Rugby U13's to U18.5s (Boys & Girls separate squads)

Senior Rugby

Senior Firsts XV, Seconds XV & Third XV

An Executive Committee runs the club on a day to day basis on behalf of the long-term Trustees and the wider membership. The Executive Committee includes representatives for Rugby and Youths Rugby, and the supporting functions such as Finance and Facilities.

Tim Kiely, Chairman of Youths Committee, has overall responsibility for Youths & Minis Rugby this season. George Maher co-ordinates the Minis (U7's to U12's). Gary Brickell is the coordinator of Girls Rugby section.

The Kilkenny RFC 1st XV will once again play in Division 1A of the Leinster League this season. Our 1sts consolidated their position in 1A last season and this season aim to push on from last year & be competitive in all competitions. This season also sees our 1sts play in the All Ireland Junior Cup for the first time having qualified for it based on our finishing position in Division 1A last season.

One of our long term aims is to have the vast majority of our Senior teams made up of "home grown" which have come through the under-age teams at various levels. For the 2019/20 season, a number of Senior players will be paired up with each of the Youths squads to offer some men

Other Club Officials:

- Club President – Dave Matthews
- Club Chairman – Michael Hannigan
- Club Secretary – Vinny O'Shea
- Club Treasurer – Mick O'Donovan
- House – Danny McEvoy
- Grounds – Jimmy McGarry
- Director of Rugby – Ger McDonald
- Social – Glenn Tector
- PRO – James Blanchfield
- Senior Fixtures Secretary – Ronan Blanchfield



Club Ethos

KRFC Mission Statement:

Kilkenny RFC aims to be a Community based club which develops rugby for all age groups. We will assist players to reach their full potential both on & off the field. We will promote age appropriate participation and excellence at all levels. We aim to compete at the top level. We will encourage & facilitate involvement in our club & enjoyment of rugby for as many people as possible.

Club Values:

- **Teamwork:**

Rugby brings together a group of individuals and moulds them into a single unit, where they learn to support and encourage one another in pursuit of a common goal. This team spirit cuts across cultural, geographic and religious differences and often leads to the creation of lifelong friendships.

- **Respect:**

Respect is of the utmost importance to rugby, as players are taught to show respect for their teammates, the opposition, their coaches, the match officials and themselves. They must work to earn and retain the respect of the rugby community by setting good examples both on and off the pitch.

- **Community Spirit:**

As a club one of our main aims is to bring together people from diverse backgrounds & with common interests, with the intention of creating a welcoming rugby community within the wider community.

- **Enjoyment:**

Rugby is a fast and exciting sport that generates great passion amongst its participants. It is also very sociable and provides an opportunity to make enriching friendships with people from diverse backgrounds and communities.

- **Progressive:**

As a club we aim to be progressive in all matters in order to allow us to constantly change and improve. We will strive to take members views into account in implementing continuous improvement within the club.



Fundamentals of Minis & Youths Rugby

The following are underlying objectives that we strive to achieve through our Minis & Youths Rugby at Kilkenny RFC:

1. Creating a safe and suitable environment for all participants.
2. Ensuring all participants enjoy their experience with Kilkenny RFC.
3. Facilitating the players' Personal Development – primarily social skills, teamwork and self-confidence.
4. Providing an opportunity for Physical Activity.
5. Development of core Rugby Skills.

It is important to note that while developing rugby skills is a key objective there are a number of other objectives that are given precedence at these age groups. This is a fundamental part of our approach to maximise the number of children who will benefit in the long term from participating in Kilkenny RFC.

All adult participants – in non-coaching as well as coaching roles – are required to complete Garda Vetting prior to taking a position in the club. This is the same for all sports in all positions. We take the welfare of all children very seriously at Kilkenny RFC and follow the IRFU Guidelines for the Safeguarding of Age Grade Players, which can be found on the IRFU website at <http://www.irishrugby.ie/playingthegame/development/safeguarding/policy.php>

Kieran Conway is the **Club Welfare Officer**. We recognise that increasing demands are being put on coaches and volunteers to comply with child safeguarding regulations and ensure the safety and welfare of all at Kilkenny RFC. All coaches, managers and regular volunteers must be Garda vetted (every 3yrs) and sign a 'Declaration of Intent' form (annually). All coaches and managers must attend Safeguarding 1 training.

Rugby is a contact sport, entered into voluntarily, & injuries can occur from time to time. Kilkenny RFC cannot reimburse for medical expenses or compensate for injury. Please take time to explore the IRFU website, www.irishrugby.ie and the Kilkenny RFC website, www.kilkennyrugby.com On the IRFU site you will find much valuable information about Irish Rugby and the many perspectives on 'Playing the Game' including medical issues, anti-doping, concussion, fitness & nutrition. On the Kilkenny RFC site you will find the Club Rules and links to other informative and interesting sites.



Club Rules

There are a few club rules that apply to everyone when participating with Kilkenny RFC:

Adhere to the Club Codes of Conduct.

- Players agree to a Players Code of Conduct both on and off the pitch.
- All parents and club members are expected to follow the Code of Conduct off the pitch. Essentially we are representing our club and are expected to treat other players, coaches, club members, referees, visitors and other clubs with appropriate respect and good manners. Violations of the code are treated extremely seriously in all cases, and may result in expulsion from the Club.
- All members (& parents) must acknowledge that they agree to abide by the Code of Conduct when completing Registration online.

Mini-rugby teams are of mixed ability.

- We do not stream or grade teams U7-U12 by ability.
 - This is in accordance with IRFU Best Practice. It also provides the best environment at these age groups to ensure the maximum number of participants benefit from the training programme.
 - Our approach is that winning is not everything, but trying your best is. We will not select teams specifically to win matches, but all players will be encouraged to play any individual match to the best of their ability within the laws of the game and in a spirit of good sportsmanship.

Half a Game Rule

- For 2019/20 season & onwards, ALL players involved in match day squad will play a minimum of half a game (this applies to all Minis & Youths games up to U16s). This will be extended to all Youths teams in 2020/2021 season.

Gender Equality

- Boys and girls compete as equals.

Membership

- All members are expected pay their club membership fees in a timely manner (online via www.kilkennyrugby.com).



Club Gear

Kilkenny RFC gear is available to purchase at **The Hurley Depot** shop on John St, Kilkenny & via their online store www.hurleydepot.com . If your child is just starting rugby (at any age) it's fine to hold off purchasing if you have doubts about whether or not they will stick with it. Jerseys are provided for matches. Match day shorts & socks should be black.

For safety reasons, blades studs are not permitted.

Gumshields MUST be worn at all training sessions & matches.

No gumshield = No play.

Parents, as well as coaches, need to insist that players use gumshields properly (i.e. keep the gumshield inside your mouth!!) during training as well as games. Regularly check that your child's gumshield still fits them correctly.

Communications to Parents

Each age group use Teamer along with email or text notifications to communicate with Parents to confirm training, fixtures and other club events.

A few points to note: -

- If you can, please install the Teamer app on your phone. Please register under your child(s) name for each team.
- Please supply the club with a valid email address. Email is not as restrictive as using text i.e. the messages can be more detailed and include directions. Email is also free.
- When requested, please respond to texts/alerts/emails in a timely manner. The earlier that coaches/team managers know about availability the easier it is for everything to be organised.
- Emergency contact phone number should be supplied when registering your child.
- If you are receiving texts/emails that you don't want, please say so and we'll take you off the list. Similarly, if you have registered your child & are not receiving any communications re training or matches, please raise it with your child's coach/team manager.
- If you have a question, talk to the coach/team manager. There is usually a good reason for the approach taken, but we can occasionally miss or just be unaware of something that may be an issue. If there is a potential issue, we are all interested in sorting it out so bring it up with the head coach, team manager or Coaching Coordinator. (Please do this outside of the coaching session times).



Registration

All players must register with Kilkenny RFC. Players who are not registered put the Club, the Coaches and other Club members in a precarious position with regard to insurance, child welfare legislation and IRFU policy.

To register, you must complete a Kilkenny RFC registration online form for the current season and pay the appropriate subscription (details online). The link to the online registration is available on the club website www.kilkennyrugby.com

For similar reasons, all coaches must be registered with Kilkenny RFC. Coaches' registration is also completed online via the club website. Parents are encouraged to join the club as Social Members (also online).

If for whatever reason, you are not in a position to complete your child's registration via the online option, please contact your child's head coach or team manager.

Age Groups

Junior rugby players are grouped by age based on calendar year. So for example, if you child was born in 2009, they are considered to be age 10 at the start of the 2019-2020 season and will be playing in the U11 age group.

Year Born	Age Group
2013 & 2014	Under 7s
2012	Under 8s
2011	Under 9s
2010	Under 10s
2009	Under 11s
2008	Under 12s

For Insurance purposes, players must be at least 5 years of age to join.

IRFU Branch Registration

All Youth players (U13 to U18) must **also** be registered with the IRFU. The IRFU registration only needs to be completed once for each player (i.e. once in their playing career...not annually) & is handled by the club but requires additional documentation (Birth Certificate) & photographs which must be supplied by player/parent. On completion of the IRFU Registration process, each player will receive a Player's Registration card including photo. In order to play in competitive matches, youth players must have completed this process...if your child is playing Youths rugby (U13 & up) & you have not supplied the above documentation (Birth Cert, photo etc) to the club, please contact your child's head coach/team manager.



Training & Game Schedule

Minis

All of our Minis teams (U7s-U12s inclusive) train at 11am on Sunday mornings in Foulkstown. Home games/blitzes are also on Sunday mornings at 11am. The day of Away games/blitzes are determined by the host club so can be Saturday or Sunday mornings.

Hospitality – for all home games, we provide some hospitality for the teams. We generally ask if each player (all age groups) can bring some sandwiches, buns etc. Plating up the food & tidy up is done on rotation between the Minis groups e.g. Parents of U12s & U11s do the 1st blitz, U10s & U9s do the next blitz etc.

If your child has any specific conditions or needs that may impact their level of participation, as well as noting while registering online, please mention to your child's head coach or manager.





Safety Notice –

The club is very busy on Minis mornings so please read & abide by the following:

- If the carpark is full, parking is allowed **ONLY** on the club side of the road. Do **NOT** park on the opposite side of the road as it is a busy/dangerous road.
- Children must be escorted to & from the playing area & **NOT** left to walk across the carpark or along the roadside on their own.
- If parking along the roadside, please enter the club grounds via the main gates (not over the fence).
- Please **REVERSE** into car spaces.
- Please follow **One-Way system** through car park.
- **Drop Off** only at designated location...X on photo below.
- Please drive with caution through the car park.
- For children in the younger age groups (U7s & U8s especially) an adult should remain for the duration of training/blitzes.



The Coffee Dock is located upstairs in the clubhouse & is open every Sunday morning for training/blitzes. It is managed by the U12's parents group & funds raised go towards funding the annual U12s end of season tour. If you need a coffee to get through the Sunday morning, we'd encourage parents to purchase it from our Coffee Dock ☺



Youths

Our Youths teams train as per the following schedule:

Age Group	Training Days
U13s	Mon & Wed @ 7.00 tbc
U14s	Mon & Wed @ 7.00 tbc
U15/16s	Tues & Thurs @ 7.00 tbc
U17/18.5s	Tues & Thurs @ 7.00 tbc
Girls U14s, U16s & U18s	Wed @ 7:00 pm (2 nd night tbd)

Youths games are generally played on Saturdays. Fixtures are determined by South East & Leinster Branch fixtures committee. Once confirmed, they will be posted to club website.

Please remember...When leaving the playing pitches, please ask players to clean boots on the grass & **NOT** on the Pavilion or Car Park area.



Key Contacts

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Youths Chairman	Tim Kiely	087 225 1868	tkiely@pkhl.ie
Child Welfare Officer	Kieran Conway	087 683 9818	kconway@eircom.net
Minis Coordinator	George Maher	087 922 6174	George.maher1@gmail.com
Girls Coordinator	Gary Brickell	086 412 8811	garybrickell@gmail.com
U7s Head Coach	George Maher	087 922 6174	George.maher1@gmail.com
U7s Manager	TBC		
U8s Head Coach	TBC		
U8s Manager	TBC		
U9s Head Coach	Paul Hanrahan	086 677 5525	paulhanrahankk@gmail.com
U9s Manager	TBC		
U10s Head Coach	Paddy Phelan	086 806 7869	
U10s Manager	TBC		
U11s Head Coach	Vinny O'Shea	086 826 5970	vinnyoshea@gmail.com
U11s Manager	TBC		
U12s Head Coach	Tom Marry	086 220 8008	thomas.marry@surfbox.ie
U12s Manager	TBC		
U13s Boys Head Coach	Eoin O'Carroll	087 267 8352	eoin.ocarroll@bbl.ie
U13s Boys Manager	TBC		
U14s Boys Head Coach	Noel Devlin	087 283 1174	Devlins48@yahoo.ie
U14s Boys Manager	TBC		
U15/16s Boys Head Coach	Richie McEvoy	086 020 8650	richard@rmcc.ie
U15/16s Boys Manager	TBC		
U17/18.5s Boys Head Coach	Mick McGrath	086 824 2735	mickmcg@iol.ie
U17/18.5s Boys Manager	Marielouise Briody	087 690 7436	finhugh@eircom.net
U14s Girls Head Coach	Gary Brickell	086 412 8811	garybrickell@gmail.com
U14s Girls Manager	TBC		
U16s Girls Head Coach	Derel Lawlor	086 876 7419	
U16s Girls Manager	TBC		
U18s Girls Head Coach	Noel Devlin	087 283 1174	Devlins48@yahoo.ie
U18s Girls Manager	TBC		



Club Funding

The majority of our club funding comes from our own fund raising efforts. These include events such as the following:

- Club Teen Disco – run monthly throughout the season. Along with social members, Minis & Youths teams provide supervisors on a rota basis (once every 3 months for each team).
- KRFC Tag – runs annually for 8 weeks during the summer.
- Golf Classic – runs annually in mid-July.
- Marble City 7s tournament – runs annually in June/July.
- The Coffee Dock – Open each Sunday morning. All funds raised go towards the U12s end of season tour.
- Sponsorship – Various packages available to any potential sponsors. Please contact any club official if you require further details.

These events are hugely important to the running of the club & cannot continue to run successfully without the help of club members. When asked to help out, we would greatly appreciate if members could make themselves available where possible.

If you are interested in helping out with any club event or getting involved with any aspect of the club, please contact any club official for further info...or send us a note via Contact section on www.kilkennyrugby.com

Social

Throughout the 2019/20 season we will be running a number of Social events. These events are open to ALL members of the club (age appropriate) & we would encourage members to participate whenever possible.

These events include:

- Table quizzes
- Christmas Party
- Golf Classic
- Tag Rugby & Teen Tag.

Details of these events (& others) will appear on the club website well in advance of the events so please keep an eye out for them.

We would also encourage Youth & Minis players to attend Home Senior games when possible. Dates & times will be advertised widely on Social media & club website (www.kilkennyrugby.com) in advance. Most games will be Saturday afternoon with Bar & BBQ open.