



BASINGTOKE RFC

Kid's First Festival Information Pack

Sunday 26th April 2026



Welcome to the Basingstoke RFC Kid's First Festival 2026.

Our preparations for this event are well underway, and we are delighted to share this information pack to help you prepare your teams.

Our festival is designed as a mixed-ability event, promoting equal opportunity and meaningful playing time for all players. The emphasis is firmly on recognising effort, improvement, and teamwork.

As in previous years, teams will play a series of games against opponents of a similar mixed ability. Our aim is to provide a fun, safe and positive environment that supports player development and ensures an enjoyable day for everyone involved. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us deliver this experience.

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TIMINGS

08:30	Car parking opens
09:00	Registration opens
09:30	Coaches / Referee Briefing
10:00	Matches begin
14:00 – 14:30	Festival Ends (approx.)

LOCATION & PARKING

Venue

The festival is at:

Basingstoke Rugby Football Club, Pack Lane Basingstoke RG22 5HH

A link to Google Maps can be found here: [Basingstoke RFC](#)

Parking

Parking is available from 08:30 at Down Grange (RG22 5SN) and Stratton Park (RG22 5HN), both within close proximity to the club (see car parking map). Please do not try and enter Down Grange via Winchester Road (A30). Please DO NOT park on Coniston Road, Pack Lane, or Ennerdale Close.

Whilst we appreciate some people will have children in different age groups, please can you try and park in the following locations:

- **U7 / U8** - Stratton Park, RG22 5HN (entrance off Pack Lane) – this is about a five-minute walk to the pitches. Please note there is a height restriction of 2.0m for this car park. If you have a vehicle above this height, please park in Down Grange.
- **U9 / U10 / U11 / U12** – Down Grange, RG22 5SN (entrance off Pack Lane) – this is about a five-minute walk to the pitches.

There will be no car parking charge.

If you are bringing gazebos and other kit, please note we can accommodate **drop off only** points at the following locations:

- **U7 / U8** – Basingstoke RFC, RG22 5HS (entrance off Coniston Road)
- **U9 / U10 / U11 / U12** on the middle and top pitches are available past the Hockey club - but please note parking is **very limited** in this area so you may be asked to drop kit and then park in the main car park.

PLAYER WELFARE

First Aid

A medical team will on site during the festival.

Contact numbers for the Team Medic staff will be held at each Age Group Control Desk.

In addition to this, each club should have an appropriately qualified first aider to accompany their teams, as well as having a suitable first-aid kit.

Hospital

The nearest A&E (Accident and Emergency) department at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital is located at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust on Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NA.

What3words: Spike.lush.bids

3.9 miles from BRFC

The main phone number for the hospital is 01256 473202.

Lost & Found

Lost children to report to nearest Age Group Control Desk (marked with an age group flag).

Studs and Gumshields

Referees may be checking studs and gumshields on the day; however, it is each clubs' responsibility to ensure that their players are properly equipped and safe to play. Gumshields are recommended for all age levels and required for Contact Rugby (U9s and over). We will have studs, gumshields and other appropriate accessories available for purchase at the club shop on the day.

Players are advised to bring trainers as well as studded boots, to accommodate ground conditions.

Safeguarding / Safety

Any Safeguarding incident relating to Basingstoke RFC premises / teams must be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer, Sarah Whatmore.

Email: safeguarding@basingstokerfc.com

Telephone: 07778 934468

On the BRFC website you can find information on our [Safeguarding, Player Welfare, and Codes of Conduct](#), alongside information our [First Aid and Emergency procedures](#).

Photography

[DE Photos](#) will be present at the festival taking photographs throughout the day, with online facilities for you to purchase prints of the day's action. Parental consent will be assumed unless written notification is otherwise received. Any team/age group who have children playing without photographic consent must inform DE Photo on the day of competition to ensure that RFU safeguarding guidelines are adhered to.

Drinking Water U9-U12

Nearest drinking water is in the Rugby Club which is a bit of a trek for U9-U12 – please ensure you bring plenty of water with you.

GAME-PLAY INFORMATION

Registration

All teams must register at their Age Group Control Desk. Teams are not required to submit a formal team sheet on the day however, all players must be fully RFU affiliated on GMS.

Due to insurance regulations, only affiliated players can take part. Individual coaches must ensure that their players are covered by the appropriate RFU insurance.

It is the responsibility of all clubs attending to ensure that all players are affiliated - in addition, any player playing out of age grade must have required permissions from the RFU/HRFU and these must be accessible on the day of the festival should any queries arise. Please note that any player not affiliated in this way and any player playing out of age grade without CB approval will constitute a breach of Festival Rules.

Coach/Referee Briefing

A coaches and referees meeting will be held at 9.30am at each Age Group Control Desk. Please make every effort to attend and ensure that any relevant details are passed onto other coaches, as necessary.

All clubs must provide a referee for each team. Team 1 will 'game coach' the first half and Team 2 the second half.

Please remember that all referees are volunteers, and all clubs are requested to ensure they allocate a qualified referee for **each team** registered. The availability of referees is critical to ensure the order of play keeps to time.

Matches will begin promptly at 10.00am

We ask that teams and referees are ready at the assigned pitch at the allocated time.

Presentations

Please collect medals at Age Group Control Desk for your squad. Medals will be provided for the maximum squad numbers for each age group.

Thank you to Action Trophies for supporting the festival - <https://www.thetrophysite.co.uk/>

Pitch Inspections and Go-Ahead

Clubs will ONLY be notified if the pitches are unsuitable for play after our pitch inspection on Saturday morning or earlier if obvious weather issues have occurred.

Rules of Play

Please note that the festival this will be subject to the RFU Rules of Play:
<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/rules-and-regulations/regulations>

- U7s – [RFU Under 7s Rules and Regs](#)
- U8s – [RFU Under 8s Rules and Regs](#)
- U9s – [RFU Under 9s Rules and Regs](#)
- U10s – [RFU Under 10s Rules and Regs](#)
- U11s – [RFU Under 11s Rules and Regs](#)
- U12s – [RFU Under 12s Rules and Regs](#)

	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12
Team size	4	6	7	8	9	12
Squad size	6	9	10	12	14	18
Ball size	3	3	3	4	4	4
Pitch size (metres)	20 x 12	45 x 22	60 x 30	60 x 35	60 x 43	60 x 43
Match Time	2 x 5 mins	2 x 5 mins	2 x 6 mins	2 x 6 mins	2 x 7 mins	2 x 7 mins
Format	Tag	Tag	Transitional Contact - Tackle / Pass	Transitional Mini Contact	Transitional Midi Contact	Transitional Contact
	Unlimited Tags - No knock-on	7 Tags	7 Tackle Turnover	Contest Possession	Contest Possession	Contest Possession
Ruck/Maul	None	None	None	Mini Mauls & Rucks - 2 Players from each team	Midi Mauls & Rucks - 3 Players from each team	Yes - Unlimited Numbers

Scrum	None	None	None	Uncontested Front Row only	Contested Strike. No Pushing - Front Row only	Contested Strike. No Pushing - 5 Man Scrum
No Lineouts	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass	Free Pass
Kicking	None	None	None	None	Yes	Yes

Should timings need to be amended from the published timings, the Age Group Control Desk will have details of any revisions to the schedule.

Registered Teams

The playing schedule will be sent out separately prior to the festival and a copy will be available at each Age Group Control Desk.

CATERING, VENDORS & SPECTATOR INFORMATION

Food and Drink

Refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the festival. Please refer to the site map for details. Dietary requirements are also listed below.



Paul's Ice's

A local family run business will be selling ice cream and ice lollies between the bottom and middle pitches.

Cafe2U

Serving specialist coffees and teas along with associated coffee shop products, will be situated between the bottom and middle pitches.



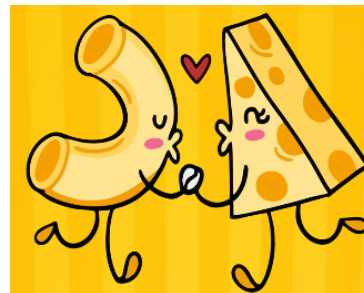
Mobile Dessert Bar Serving from our little converted horsebox, freshly made waffle sticks smothered in melted chocolate and thick, fresh milkshakes, all smothered in toppings and sauces, topped with cream.

At **Events Kitchen**, we bring a world of flavours straight to you with more than a touch of authentic food flair! We will be serving—rich, creamy mac and cheese! Whether you like it classic or loaded with delicious toppings, we've got something to satisfy every craving. Grab a bowl and enjoy the warm, cheesy goodness while soaking in the festival vibes with a side of garlic bread! (Includes V & Vegan offering)

Also NEW to 2026 – come and enjoy our tasty churros!!

<https://www.eventskitchen.co.uk/>

<https://www.instagram.com/eventskitchen.co.uk/>



The Clubhouse Kitchen

Get ready to follow the irresistible aroma of sizzling grills and smoky goodness straight to the clubhouse – our BBQ is firing on all cylinders and it's not to be missed. Whether you're craving a juicy cheeseburger fresh off the grill, a classic hot dog piled high, or a side of golden, crispy chips (with or without that extra cheesy indulgence), we've got something to satisfy every appetite. See you at the grill!

The **Clubhouse Bar** will open from 9:00am to serve tea, coffee & non-alcoholic drinks and at 11am for other drinks and we encourage all attendees to stay after the festival has finished to enjoy a drink in the sun (hopefully!).

Each age group will also be running a bake and cake sale from their Control Desks so please bring some change for a sweet treat! At many, there will also be the ability to pay online via a QR code.



Community Kit Bag

The Community Kit Bag mobile shop will also be in attendance on the lower tier pitches for used affordable rugby kit. Please do pop along and take a look.

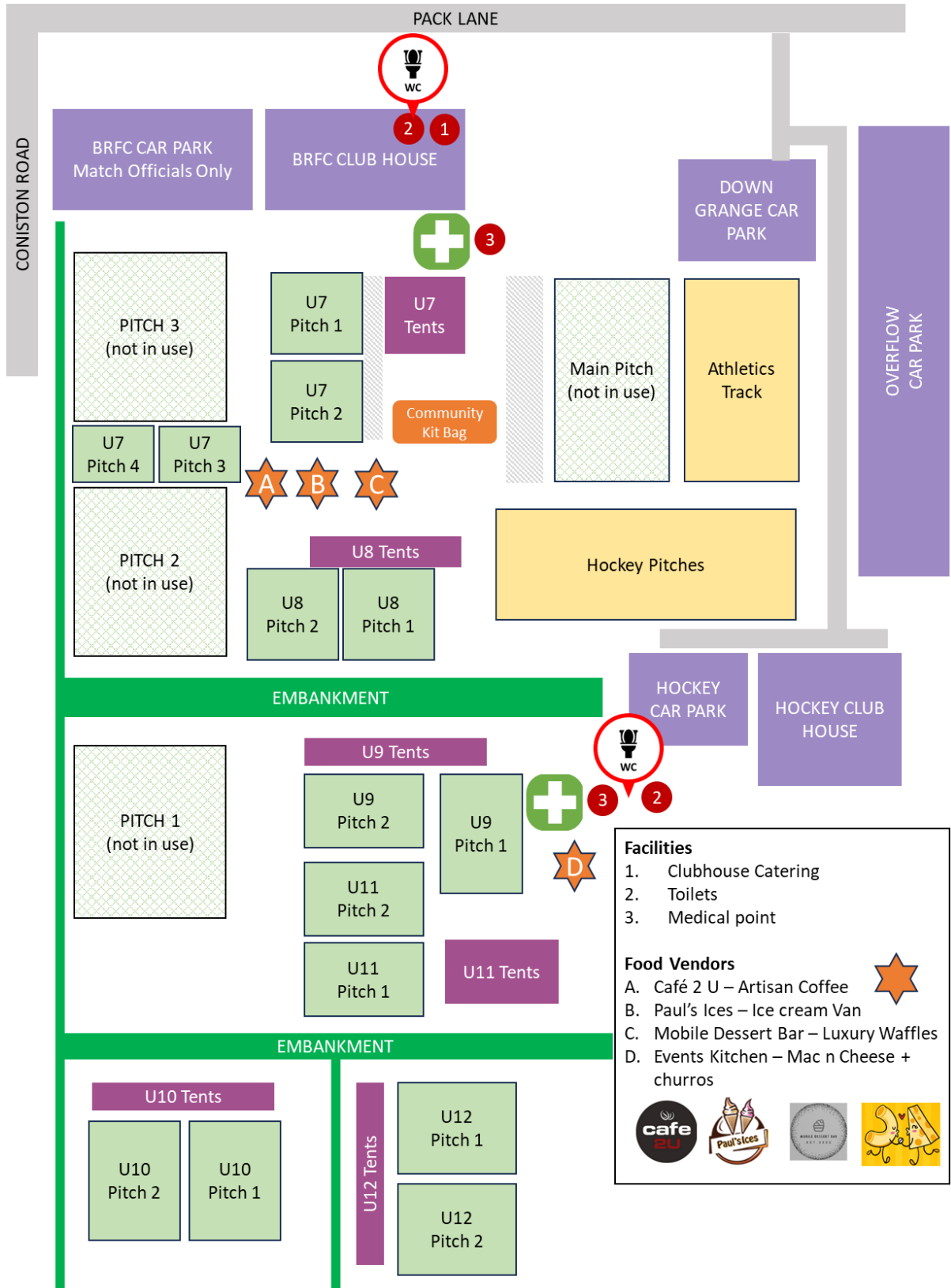
Litter

All teams will be provided with a black refuse bag at registration. Please encourage the children to deposit ALL their rubbish into the bags, if possible, please take this rubbish away with you, or return it to the Age Group Control Desk at the end of the day. In addition to this there are wheelie bins located around the pitches, please ensure all litter is disposed of before you leave.

Dogs

Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome on site. Please clear up after your dog.

SITE MAP



CAR PARKING & KIT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



CAR PARKS

1. Stratton Park – U7s and U8's
2. Basingstoke RFC – Volunteers and kit drop-off for U7s / U8s only
3. Down Grange – U9s, U10s, U11s and U12s
4. Hockey Club drop-off for U9s, U10s, U11s and U12s
5. Overflow car park.