



FESTIVAL OF RUGBY 2025/26

HENLEY RUGBY CLUB, DRY LEAS, MARLOW ROAD, RG9 2JA
SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

Henley Rugby Club is looking forward to welcoming you to Dry Leas for what promises to be another successful festival of mini rugby.

Our festival is an inclusive, player-centered event with the primary goal of our players having fun while promoting the RFU's TREDs values.

Details of the festival, logistics, timings are listed below but if you have any questions please contact Rick Oakley, our Head of Mini Rugby via email: rick.oakley@henleyrfc.co.uk

TIMING

The festival will take place on **Sunday 5th October 2025**.

Play will start at **10:00** sharp with games in all age groups.

We recommend that all players, coaches and spectators arrive in good time to set up their tents, warm up and be ready to play.

Our car parks will be open from **08:00**, coffee and bacon sandwiches will be available from **08:30** and the coaches' briefing will start at **09:30**.

The last matches in all age groups are usually finished by **14:00** and the younger age groups have often finished by **13:00**.

PARKING

There is no charge for parking on any of Henley RFC's 3 car parks which are all adjacent to the club or our pitches.

However, we recommend that coaches, players and parents car share where possible as we expect a big turnout and this will reduce congestion.

We also recommend that you arrive early as our car parks will fill up and you'll then have to park by Henley train station (RG9 1FR), which is a 15-minute walk.



PARKING (CONTINUED)

There are three main car parks and it's important that you arrive at the correct one.

GOLD CAR PARK: All Players and Spectators

This is our largest car park and is right next to both our clubhouse and our riverside pitches. The majority of our players, coaches and spectators should park here.

Location for Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/bikAGDqR3ane1XUP9>

GREEN CAR PARK: U7 & U8 Coaches, Players & Spectators

This is the main entrance to Henley RFC and can be found at the back of our clubhouse. Turn in off the Marlow Road.

Location for Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/eAbCQ17nBMMp7Wrw6>

RED CAR PARK: U9, U10, U11 & U12 Coaches Only

This car park is on the opposite side of the Marlow road to Henley RFC and is the perfect location for our riverside pitches.

Each club has been allocated a set number of parking spots per age group for their coaches or anyone bringing the tent!

Remember, this is invitation only and if your name's not down, you're not coming in. Don't worry if you're not on the list, just park in the Gold car park, it's only across the road.

Location for Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/e5dDmeJk1THDGwsj8>

SAFE CROSSING PROCEDURE

The Marlow Road is busy so please take care when crossing it.

Our recommendation is that you walk a little way down the road and use the zebra crossing close to the clubhouse.



FESTIVAL ADMISSION

It's free for all our players to enter and enjoy our tournament but adults, including coaches, will be charged £5 grounds admission, which includes a printed festival programme and festival website.

Running costs have been increasing steadily year-on-year, particularly for essentials like paramedic cover. Your admission ensures that we can put on a high-quality, safe festival.

FACILITIES ON SITE

CATERING

Hot food, drinks and other refreshments will be available both in our clubhouse and in the central catering village by our riverside pitches.

Bacons rolls, Burgers, Hot dogs and plenty of cake as well as coffees and soft drinks will be available.

TOILETS

Toilets can be found in our clubhouse and portaloos over the road by our riverside pitches, including disabled facilities.

PARAMEDICS

Are available for first aid on both clubhouse and riverside locations as per the map.

FESTIVAL FORMAT

The Henley RFC Festival of Mini Rugby is a Mixed Ability Tournament across all age groups in accordance with RFU guidelines.

We would like to remind you not to bring streamed teams in any age group.

In accordance with RFU guidelines, please ensure that all players are given the opportunity to have equal playing time: <https://englandrugby.com/halfgame>



FESTIVAL FORMAT (CONTINUED)

Squad sizes, match duration and maximum playing time per age group are below:

AGE GROUP	SQUAD SIZE	SQUAD BREAKDOWN	MATCH DURATION	MAXIMUM PLAYING TIME
U7	12	4 + 2 Reserves (x 2)	10 Mins	40 mins
U8	12	6 + 6 Reserves	10 Mins	50 mins
U9	12	7 + 5 Reserves	12 Mins	60 mins
U10	13	8 + 5 Reserves	12 Mins	60 mins
U11	16	9 + 7 Reserves	12 Mins	60 mins
U12	19	12 + 7 Reserves	15 Mins	70 mins

U7 RULES

- Competitive tag rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 4 players per side using a size 3 ball.
- Play can continue from a knock-on but no tackling, kicking, scrums or lineouts.
- 20-minute time slot per match: 2 x 5-minute halves and 2 minutes at half-time.
- 40 minutes total playing time for each team.

U8 RULES

- Competitive tag rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 6 players per side using a size 3 ball.
- Play can continue from a knock-on but no tackling, kicking, scrums or lineouts.
- 15-minute time slot per match: 2 x 5-minute halves and 2 minutes at half-time.
- 50 minutes total playing time for each team.

U9 RULES

- Competitive rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 7 players per side using a size 3 ball.
- Play can continue from a knock-on but no kicking, scrums or lineouts.
- 15-minute time slot per match: 2 x 6-minute halves and 2 minutes at half-time.
- 60 minutes total playing time for each team.

U10 RULES

- Competitive rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 8 players per side using a size 4 ball.
- Uncontested scrums utilising the 3 nearest players.
- 15-minute time slot per match: 2 x 6-minute halves and 2 minutes at half-time.
- 60 minutes total playing time for each team.



FESTIVAL FORMAT (CONTINUED)

U11 RULES

- Competitive rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 9 players per side using a size 4 ball.
- Scrums utilising the 3 nearest players, no pushing but strike can be contested.
- Contest for the ball limited to 2 vs 2 in maul and ruck.
- 15-minute time slot per match for a single 12-minute game.
- 70 minutes total playing time for each team.

U12 RULES

- Competitive rugby matches but scores must not be recorded or displayed.
- Matches consist of 12 players per side using a size 4 ball.
- Scrums utilising the 5 nearest players, no pushing but strike can be contested.
- No limit on numbers contesting for the ball in the maul or ruck.
- Hand off allowed beneath armpits.
- 20-minute time slot per match for a single 15-minute game.
- 70 minutes total playing time for each team.

PITCHES

Our pitches are split either side of the A4155, Marlow Road with the U7 & U8 age groups playing on pitches located on the clubhouse side and the U9 – U12 age groups playing on pitches located on the riverside.

The U7s will be playing on our Invesco Turf (3G all-weather pitch).

Players, coaches and referees should wear moulded studs, short metal studs, short blades or AstroTurf trainers. Long metal studs and trainers are not allowed.

The U8s will be playing on the Henley Hawks First XV pitch and studs are mandatory for all players, coaches and referees on this pitch.

Everyone other than the competing teams, coaches and referees must remain outside the Invesco Turf fence and the white fence around the Henley Hawks 1st team pitch.

Players in the U9 – U12 age groups should wear boots suitable for soft ground given the amount of rain we've had recently.



FESTIVAL FORMAT (CONTINUED)

REFEREES

Each club is responsible for providing one referee per team and will share officiating duties with their opponents, changing at half time. Referee briefings will take place at **09.30** at the Henley RFC age group tent.

Each Club is responsible for providing one referee for each team they enter into the festival. Refereeing will be shared by the coaches of the teams participating in each match, with one half refereed by each team or by separate agreement.

DISCIPLINE

Coaches, players and spectators are reminded of the Codes of Conduct and their requirements.

Abuse of players, coaches or referees will not be tolerated and may be subject to disciplinary action through formal proceedings via the club or county disciplinary panels.

Similarly, any complaints received by us will be treated in the same manner and treated with the utmost seriousness.

FIRST AID & SAFEGUARDING

Each participating team is required to bring at least one qualified first aider with them.

Paramedic facilities will be provided on-site and can be located on the site map. An ambulance will be summoned for serious injuries.

Players, parents & supporters should bring clothing and equipment appropriate for the weather. Teams should come kitted up and ready to play with sufficient water for the day.

AWARDS

Festival participation medals will be presented to every player.

NO DOGS

We operate a strict **NO DOGS** policy at the grounds during this festival and this will be enforced, with the exception of guide dogs and other assistance dogs.



FESTIVAL FORMAT (CONTINUED)

PHOTOGRAPHY

By entering children into this festival parents/carers implicitly agree and accept that photographic images may be taken of their child during the normal course of rugby activity by accredited photographers and/or other parents/guardians.

Images may be used in the local press or in club publicity, in line with the RFC guidelines for the welfare of young people in Rugby Union.

We will not have a photography company on site, and we respectfully ask that you do not take videos during the event and do not post any photographs you take on any social media platform. Please note these are relevant safeguarding procedures to protect all children, so ensure to advise all parents/attendees.

SITE MAP: CLUBHOUSE



SITE MAP: RIVERSIDE

