



Oatley Rugby Club

2009 Juniors' Guide

Welcome to the Oatley Rugby Club. This guide is designed to give a brief rundown on the activities of the Junior Club, however should you have any further queries, feel free to contact any of the committee listed at the end of this guide.

Club Colours	Bottle green with gold and black hoop.
Home Ground	H.V.Evatt Park, Forest Rd, Lugarno (Gregory's Ref: Map 429, K12; UBD Map 292, E12). Our ground has off-street parking for approx. 70 vehicles. A pedestrian entrance is also available from Allwood Crescent.
Major Sponsor	St George Masonic Club (Masos), 86 Roberts Avenue, Mortdale
Seniors	The Club fields an U21 team & 4 senior teams in the NSW Suburban Rugby Union Division 2 competition.

Walla & Mini Rugby (U/6s-U/9s)

Walla Rugby (Under 6 and Under 7)

Under 6s and Under 7s play Walla Rugby, a game devised for young children that includes these features;

- * a two handed tag below the waist instead of tackles
- * three man scrums with no pushing
- * every player gets an equal chance to run with the ball
- * no kicking except for shots at goal.

Mini Rugby (Under 8 and Under 9)

Under 8s and 9s play Mini Rugby, a modified version of Rugby;

- * tackle football
- * five man scrums with no pushing
- * no kicking except for shots at goal.

Each team is lead by a coach and a manager who are usually parents of players within the team. Your child can begin playing rugby after the age of 5 years.

Walla & Minis matches are all played on Saturday mornings; however pre-season training may occasionally take place on Sundays because of overlapping summer sport commitments. The approximate match times are;

Under 6s	8.30 a.m.	Under 8s	9.30 a.m.
Under 7s	9.00 a.m.	Under 9s	10.00am

All Walla and Minis teams play in a local competition that includes teams from Oatley, Sylvania, Blakehurst, Canterbury, Rockdale, Burraneer, South Hurstville, Menai and Engadine. These games are located at the home grounds of the various clubs. Location details for these grounds are available from each team manager. A draw for the season's games is usually finalised near the beginning of the competition season, but changes can occur during the season. Parents need to confirm game details with the team manager each week.

The number of players per side 7, being able to drop down to 5, in Walla and 10 dropping down to 8 for the Mini's. This is flexible and is solely dependent on the number of players each team can provide on the day. Lending of players with the opposing team occurs frequently to ensure everyone gets a game and that numbers are even.

The length of halves will differ depending on the age. Under 6s and 7's play for 15 minutes per half with Under 8's and 9s playing for 20 minutes per half. The field size is less than half the size of a standard football field

The results of Under 6-9 matches are not recorded by Southern Districts on a week by week basis, which means coaches can concentrate on skill progression without worrying about winning. The season normal ends in August when a Gala Day is held where all Walla and Minis teams from each age group in the Southern Districts competition compete against each other for the age group trophy. Gala Days are played over two Saturdays with all teams required to participate on the second Saturday. The venue and responsibility for hosting the Gala Day rotates annually between the Clubs.

Midi Rugby (Under 10s and 11s)

Under 10s play on a slightly reduced field, where the five metre line on each side becomes the sideline. Team numbers are also reduced to 12 players per side. There are some minor law changes to, counter the reduced no. of players and their strength until normal Rugby U19 laws are introduced in the Under 12s.

Under 10s and up play in the Southern Zone competition which includes teams from the Eastern Suburbs. Halves are 20 minutes long.

Under 12s to Opens

Under 12s to 19s play normal Under 19 laws, which encompass very strict conditions regarding pushing in scrums.

Under 12s and 13's play in the Southern Zone competition which includes teams from the Eastern Suburbs and Randwick. Halves are 20 minutes for 10's to the 14's 25 minutes for 15's, 30 minutes for 16s and 35 minutes for Opens.

Under 14's to Opens(17 &18), play in either the Western Zone,(Sat Comp) or the Northern Zone,(Sun Comp)as required by demand and availability.

The Juniors' Competition

Registration and Fees

A player's age group will be decided by the age that he turns during the year. Players will be asked to provide a photocopy of their birth certificate and two identical photographs which are placed on registration cards that are retained by the Registrar.

Fees for 2009 are:

Under 6 to 10's \$ 70.00

Under 10 to 17's \$ 90.00

Upon payment of fees, new junior players are presented with an Oatley Rugby T-shirt, which the Club hopes players will wear proudly to all matches. For the club to provide players with up-to-date equipment and gear, the prompt payment of fees is an absolute necessity. Please help by paying them immediately.

Please note that for U10's and up, a NSW junior Rugby Union player registration card is required before your child can take the field.

This will require the Oatley Rugby Club to take a digital photo when you register your child. Also, you will need provide proof of age, please bring either a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport.

The Season

Training begins in early March with the season concluding in August. Trial games normally start in March, with the official season commencing on the first weekend in April. Each team's draw is dependent on when school holidays occur and cannot be finalised until we know how many teams are actually competing. During school holidays, matches are usually only played on 1 of the 3 weekends.

Individual teams will commence weekly training at different times, so please refer to your coach or manager. Training is usually at Evatt Park on Wednesday evenings from 5:30pm. Special tournaments are also played at various times throughout the season. Information and participation in these tournaments is normally arranged through the team manager.

On Match Days

Coaches and managers will advise the time that they would like players to be at the ground approximately 1 hour prior to kick-off. For the Minis, 30 minutes prior is usually sufficient but please check with your manager. Oatley jerseys are handed out to players on match day and must be returned at the end of the match. Each manager will ask a parent to take the team jerseys home, wash them and take them to football the next week.

Code of Conduct

The Oatley Rugby Club is steeped in tradition and has a reputation for good sportsmanship. Under no circumstances will the club condone any verbal abuse of opposition players, officials or referees by our members or supporters. Southern Zone Rugby has the right to cite players, officials or parents to appear at a judiciary hearing if necessary. Remember, the referee's decision is final!

Canteen

The Club operates a canteen during most home games, which supplies hot food, drinks and snacks. The canteen is operated by parents and supporters of our teams on a rostered basis. The canteen represents one of the main fund raising opportunities for the Club and your support is greatly appreciated.

Parental Assistance

A successful season for the Oatley Junior teams is dependent on the help provided by parents and supporters. There are a multitude of tasks that need to be undertaken. All parents are expected to assist with ground set-up and canteen duties. However, the club would appreciate if parents could offer their services through their team manager for other duties that may suit them.

Referees and Touch Judges

Walla, Minis and Level 1 referees are always required by the Club.

- Walla and Minis referees are usually parents or older junior players who undertake a very basic training course. Referees for 8's & 9's (tackle) require "SmartRugby" accreditation
- Level 1 referee's are qualified to referee Under 10s through to Under 19s matches. Refereeing junior matches is a very fulfilling experience and there are no obligations to officiate at the higher grades if you don't want to. The Club will fund the cost of the Level 1 course.

- 2 hour Level 1 Touch Judge Courses are available for those wishing to assist their teams by becoming qualified touch judges. A shirt and flag will be provided and the course cost will be funded by the club

Please see Mick Waudby if you are interested.

Social Functions

The Club relies on social functions to help fund ongoing expenses. The Club will endeavour to hold a Sportsman's night and our Junior Club holds an annual Golf Day and fun trivia night. Individual teams will also hold their own functions, such as team barbecues etc.

Club Clothing

Players are provided with club jerseys prior to each match. Players do need to purchase their own shorts and socks in the Club colours. The Club sells these items and a range of other clothing in Club colours for both children and adults. Support the Club and your children by turning up in Oatley gear! See the newsletter for a list of gear available and prices which will be available through the canteen in March. If you have grown out of any boots and they're still in good condition, please bring them along and donate them to the boot exchange pool.

Personal Insurance

As a junior member of Oatley Rugby Club, players are provided with NSWRU insurance cover. The cover is limited and we strongly suggest private health insurance. For details of the cover, please consult the weekly newsletter for details.

First Aid

All team managers are provided with an up-to-date first aid kit, every venue is also required to have a fully equipped first aid kit, and it is the responsibility of each team to have a medically trained person in attendance at all of our games. We are always on the lookout for such people, so please contact your team manager.

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter is prepared by the Club covering the results of the previous month's matches for all Club teams. The newsletter contains a match report for each team, editorials, news, sponsorship information and contact details. It will be available at the canteen for home games over the month. This will also be available over the internet at oatleyrugby.com

End of season trip

An end of season bus trip is organised each year to compete in the Canberra 7's tournament. We leave on the Saturday morning from Maso's undertake some sort of activity, Questacon in 2008, before staying at the Australian Institute of Sport. All the games are on Sunday. We depart when the last games have finished. This is for age groups 9 to Open.

Presentation Day

The Club's junior presentation night is usually held late September at the St George Maso's. We will endeavour to obtain a guest speaker for the evening. Players are all presented with pennants or trophies, and each manager/coach has trophies to present to three team members.

We hope you have an enjoyable season with Oatley Rugby.

Juniors Club Contacts

President	Junior Secretary	Mini's Co-ordinator
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