



Introduction for Parents – 2017 Minis Rugby (U6-U9)

Welcome to Mosman Junior Rugby Club (MJRC) for 2017. The purpose of this introduction is to outline some basic features of MJRC and to assist families (especially those new to the club) with information for the season ahead. We hope this will help you enjoy your involvement with MJRC Minis in 2017.

About Mosman Junior Rugby Union Club

MJRC is one of the largest and most active junior rugby clubs in Australia. The club's mission is to provide all children with the opportunity to learn and play the game of Rugby Union in an environment that is friendly, safe, fun and fair; and to provide players' families with the opportunity to be involved in a progressive club through the game of Rugby Union.

Values are an important part of the game of rugby. We recently affirmed these are the values that define our club:

- We strive for excellence
- We share a passion for the game
- We foster principles of inclusion
- We are a community
- We aim to achieve all aspects of player development
- We promote friendship and fun

Key Diary Dates (subject to change)

- 12 Feb Try Rugby Day (Rawson Oval)
- 2 Mar Pre-season training at Rawson for U7s, U8s and U9s. Also 9 and 16 Mar.
- 20 Mar Minis Teams notified
- 21 Mar Coaching Kids Rugby course (Rawson)
- 23 Mar Gear Handout and BBQ at Rawson
- 26 Mar Trial matches (Hunters Hill – note this is a Sunday)
- 27 Mar Coaches & Managers Night (Rawson)

- 28 Mar Refereeing Kids Rugby course (Rawson)
- 30 Mar Regular Training at Balmoral commences
U6: 5.00pm – 5.30pm
U7 – U9: 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- 1 Apr Gordon Gala Day, hosted by Lindfield
- 8 Apr Regular Saturday games commence
- 5 May Jeans & Jersey Night at Rawson (organised by U8 parents)

Match Days for 2017

Match days can be changed but at the time of writing the following dates have been agreed by Gordon/Norths Minis as match dates for 2017. Details of times, venues and oppositions will be provided as soon as they are available:

- Mar: 26 (Trials)
- Apr: 1 (Gala Day), 8, 29
- May: 6, 13, 20, 27
- Jun: 3, 17, 24
- Jul: 22, 29
- Aug: 5, 12, 19

Dates shown are Saturdays so you can note them in your diaries. Remember that each team may be scheduled a Sunday game during the season.

Player Registration

Online registrations have been enabled from early February via the club website. We encourage all families who have previously been involved with MJRC to re-register on-line for 2017.

The club is also running a Try Rugby Day on 12 Feb at Rawson Oval for new players and parents to come along and find out about playing with us.

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Club, Age Group and Team Management

Key committee members in 2017 include:

President:	John Mutton
Secretary:	Diana Kahui
Minis Coordinator:	Anthony Hunt
Minis Registrar:	Sarah Allsopp

Age Group Coordinators (AGCs) for 2017 are:

U6	Katie O'Brien (katie.obrien@mjrc.com.au)
U7	Mandy Scammell (mandy.scammell@mjrc.com.au)
U8	Edward Abbott (edward.abbott@mjrc.com.au)
U9	Nikki Warburton (nikki.warburton@mjrc.com.au)

Each team has a Coach and a Team Manager. Team Managers should be the first point of contact for day-to-day queries from Parents. Team Managers in turn will liaise and receive information from the relevant AGC. The Minis Coordinator, AGCs and Team Managers are available to deal with any queries or questions that Parents may have.

Contact details of office bearers, AGCs, Coaches and Team Managers are published on the MJRC website.

Gear

New jerseys, shorts and socks are included in the registration fee. Every player will receive these at the Gear Handout Night at Rawson on Thursday 23 March 2017. Boots and mouth guards (mandatory) and headgear (optional) are to be supplied by each family.

Pre-Season Training (U7s – U9s)

After successfully introducing pre-season training last year for U7s, U8s and U9s, we will be doing so again in 2017. Pre-season training is optional but strongly encouraged. It will focus on fun, footy and fitness. Pre-

season training will be at Rawson from 5.30-6.30 on 2, 9 and 16 March. It's a great chance to burn off that summer energy!

Regular Training (U6s – U9s)

Regular Training for all Minis Teams takes place at Balmoral on Thursday nights commencing 30 Mar:

- U6: 5.00 – 5.30pm
- U7-U9: 5.30 – 6.30pm

Girls Minis

This year we will be attempting to introduce Girls Minis teams to play in the new Gordon/Norths girls minis competitions. We will be looking to form a combined U6/7 Girls team and a combined U8/9 Girls team. Email Anthony (anthony.hunt@mjrc.com.au) for further details.

Games

Mosman Minis play in the Gordon Junior Rugby Union Minis Competition and are not graded. Games are held on a Saturday morning at various clubs around the North Shore, usually between 8.00am – 12.00pm. Occasionally games may be scheduled on Sunday mornings.

The season commences with a Gala Day hosted by Lindfield where each team normally plays two games. Draws for the remainder of the season will be distributed by Team Managers when available but game dates are noted above.

Home games for Mosman U6 and U7 teams are at Balmoral Oval. Home games for U8 and U9 teams may be at Balmoral or Rawson Oval.

Each team will be allocated one day per year when they are responsible for the set-up, timing, packing away and general ground management. More information will be provided to Team Managers and Coaches.

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Team Selection Policy

We aim to keep everyone happy. However, as you will appreciate, there are many factors to consider in determining which team your son/daughter plays for. Parents should note that, in registering their child to play with MJRC, they understand, accept and agree to abide by the team selection policy outlined below which has been found to be most effective from experience over many years.

The creation of teams in the Minis does not involve any assessment of ability. The club's process for creation of teams in U6 – U9 age groups is:

a) Allocation of players to teams is the responsibility of the Minis Coordinator and the Minis Registrar with the assistance of AGCs. When a team progresses from one age group to the next, existing players in a team have priority;

b) Each team should, where possible, have a balanced representation of children from more than two schools. The club has found that this policy greatly enhances the friendship and social aspects of the club. We do not create teams based on schools alone and any such requests will be denied;

c) Each new player joining will, where possible, have a friend (someone he or she already knows) in the team. Experience has shown, however, that even without a friend, children assimilate and make new friends very quickly, especially with the help of team coaches and managers; and

d) Requests by individual players at the time of registration to be selected for a particular team will be granted where possible. Such requests however cannot always be granted and under such circumstances the decision of the Minis Coordinator is final.

Club and Team Involvement

We encourage every parent to become as involved in the club as they can. Please

contact the Minis Coordinator, AGC or Team Manager if you feel that you can help in any way.

MJRC is an active club with numerous events throughout the season in addition to training and weekly fixtures. For the club to operate smoothly, parental involvement at these events and on training/match days is essential. Without the valuable support of volunteer parents MJRC simply would not exist. We encourage every parent to assist where possible, no matter how minor the task. Many years of experience suggests that the more parents that volunteer their time and help out, the more social and vibrant community atmosphere we have. Areas where you may be able to help are:

- Becoming a Team Manager, Coach or Referee;
- Assisting coaches/managers team with training, first aid, refreshments and substitution at games;
- Participating in ground management when your team is rostered for Ground Marshall duties;
- Helping with special events such as the club's Annual Ball, Jeans & Jersey Night (run by the Under 8s) and Rawson clubhouse nights; and
- Organising your replacement if you are unable to fulfil a duty that has been allocated to you.

Team Managers will coordinate volunteers to perform the duties at the start of the season and/or as required during the course of the season.

Coach and Referee Development

All Coaches are trained in "Smart Rugby" to support player safety. Many coaches also complete Australian Rugby Union Level 1 and Level 2 courses (highest level possible is Level 3). MJRC supports and pays for these qualifications. The club also provides its own coach development and training program targeted at the needs of each age group. We

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want all participants to enjoy their rugby as much as possible!

Coaches and interested parents should note there will be a Coaching Kids Rugby (U6 – U12) course run at Rawson Oval on March 13. Please contact Anthony for more details.

Similarly the club is keen to develop and support referees. Parents and children over the age of 12 who are interested in becoming referees should contact the Referees Coordinator Rob McKay at rob.mckay@mjrc.com.au. Refs are an essential part of good rugby!

We will host a Refereeing Kids Rugby (U6 – U12) at Rawson on 28 March. Anyone aged 12 or over who is interested in refereeing should contact Rob for details.

Good Spectator Behaviour

Junior rugby can be very exciting, not just for the players, but for the spectators as well. Parents are reminded however that the game is played by the children primarily for their own enjoyment and that, regardless of the level of excitement or emotion generated during a game, they are expected to adhere to the behavioural guidelines as set out by MJRC and the NSW Rugby Union.

Behavioural guidelines are published on the MJRC web site. Breaches of these guidelines are taken extremely seriously and may be reported by team coaches and managers to the club management or district organisers for disciplinary action. In certain circumstance this could involve suspension or expulsion from the club. Parents should also remember that their behaviour is also a reflection of your club.

Some of the more important game day tips include:

- only ever shout encouragement;
- stand two metres back from the touchline (unless carrying out a team support role);
- never criticise the Referee; and

- comments/observations should only be brought to the attention of the relevant coach/manager offline at an appropriate time (i.e. out of range of players and other parents/spectators)

Parent Social Events

As a community club we encourage parents to enjoy their membership. Some of our social events for parents are:

- Jeans & Jersey Night on 5 May at Rawson. This is a great night out and especially designed for parents who are new to the club to meet other parents. All Minis parents are welcome to attend. Come along and enjoy catching up with friends from the community.
- MJRC Ball in Aug, a must-do event on the Mosman social calendar. Frock up and get along to a fabulous night out!

Website and Emails

Finally, we encourage you to make use of our website as a primary point for information about the Club and its calendar. (www.mjrc.com.au).

The Club has launched a new weekly update email called "The Whale Watcher" which provides useful information about what is happening in the club and with our great game – keep an eye out for it! If you're not receiving it please email mike@mjrc.com.au to be added to the list.

In addition you will receive important specific communication via emails throughout the season from the Club, Minis Coordinator, AGCs and Team Managers (including any updates concerning dates and times for Key Events throughout the year).

See you at training!

Anthony Hunt
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anthony.hunt@mjrc.com.au

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