

Thames Valley Rugby Football Union Inc

Junior Rugby

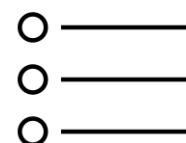
Information Handbook

2022



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WELCOME:

On behalf of the Staff at Thames Valley Rugby Football Union, we would like to welcome you to the 2022 Junior Rugby season.

The aim and purpose of this handbook is to provide you with a point of reference for some of the important policies, rules and procedures often required by those charged with coaching and managing our junior teams. The TVRFU relies heavily on the time and expertise of volunteers, to ensure the best possible rugby experience for our young players.

The Small Blacks philosophy is about playing with mates, having fun and developing skills to foster a lifelong love of the game. The contents of this handbook provide information that supports this philosophy. This is a live document which should change over time depending on your ideas and needs. With this in mind, we are keen to get your thoughts on what else could or should be included. If you have any suggestions on what else you would like to see included in the future, please email these ideas to scott@tvrfu.co.nz.

We appreciate all the hard work and personal time that Junior Convenors and their Committees, Coaches and Managers put in to enable junior rugby players to participate in and enjoy the game that we all love. Again, a big thanks for 'making the game happen' for our kids.

Our staff are always on hand to help so feel free to come and see us anytime. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your time playing Junior Rugby in the Thames Valley Region this year, and we look forward to seeing you in and around the traps throughout.

The TVRFU actively encourages young people to join and the benefits in this regard are to:

- Having fun.
- Meeting new people.
- Retaining a good level of health and fitness.
- Learning the importance of fair play within a competitive team atmosphere.
- Actively participating in a sporting activity.
- Encouraging hardworking ethics and commitment.
- Learning that hard work and practice produces positive results.
- Learning and experiencing the joy and comradeship of being in a team that sets goals and strives to achieve them.

LET'S GROW THE GAME TOGETHER!

Scott Day

TVRFU Game Development Manager.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:



TVRFU Staff:

- **Paul Nisbit** (General Manager)
 - **Mobile:** 027 322 7304 **Email:** valleyrugby@extra.co.nz
- **Marcus Howie** (Game Development Manager)
 - **Mobile:** 027 243 8656 **Email:** marcus.howie@tvrfu.co.nz
- **Scott Day** (Game Development Manager)
 - **Mobile:** 027 281 5270 **Email:** scott@tvrfu.co.nz
- **Kaitlin Russell** (Club Development Officer)
 - **Mobile:** 027 354 8210 **Email:** kaitlin@tvrfu.co.nz
- **Christine Gilfedder** (Administration)
 - **Email:** swampfoxes@extra.co.nz

TVRFU Junior Management Board:

- **Andrew Gemmell** (Chairman)
 - **Mobile:** 027 486 6233 **Email:** gemmell@tvh.com
- **Scott Day** (TVRFU Staff Representative)
 - **Mobile:** 027 281 5270 **Email:** scott@tvrfu.co.nz
- **Moe Williams** (TVRFU Board Representative)
 - **Mobile:** 027 699 0050
- **Aiden Harrison** (Secretary)
 - **Email:** 17091@haurakiplains.school.nz

Junior Club Delegates 2022:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Coromandel: | • Te Aroha: |
| • Tuku Renata Mobile: 027 777 7060 | • Fraser Shallue Mobile: 021 938 957 |
| • Hauraki Plains: | • Thames: |
| • Gavin Flint Mobile: 027 249 1055 | • Jen Fletcher Mobile: 021 062 3146 |
| • Mercury Bay: | • Waihi: |
| • Damian Percival Mobile: 027 749 9011 | • David Carey Mobile: 0274721331 |
| • Paeroa: | • Katikati: |
| • Jake Robinson Mobile: 027 576 5079 | • Liza Hodson Mobile: 021999499 |
| • Tairua: | • Whangamata: |
| • Ashlee Strange Mobile: 021 0230 1332 | • Marius Lloyd Mobile: 021 0225 3441 |

IMPORTANT DATES 2022:



Small Blacks Courses: (7.00pm - 8.30pm) via zoom

Monday 21st March -

CLUBS: *Te Aroha, Paeroa, Hauraki Plains, Thames*

Wednesday 30th March -

CLUBS: *Waihi Athletic, Whangamata, Tairua, Mercury Bay, Coromandel.*

Junior Club Rugby Start & Finish Dates:

Saturday 7th May: Junior Rugby Commences.

Saturday 9th July: Junior Rugby Finals Day, Venue TBC.

Primary School Rippa Rugby:

Wednesday 18th May - Paeroa Domain, Paeroa. (Women's RWC Trophy Tour)

Wednesday 25th May - Sports Park, Whitianga.

Wednesday 1st June - Waihi College, Waihi.

Wednesday 8th June - Boyd Park, Te Aroha.

Wednesday 15th June: Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea.

Wednesday 29th June - Paeroa Domain, Paeroa (FINALS DAY)

Primary School Tackle Rugby Tournaments:

Wednesday 17th August - Whangamata Rugby Club (GIRLS)

Wednesday 24th August - Rhodes Park, Thames (BOYS)

Shaw Cup & Fleming Shield:

Dates TBC



GRADE RULES & INFORMATION:

Please Note - Please read each competitions rules & information carefully. This is especially the case in our Year 3 Competition where there are changes in field size, numbers per team and NO scrum and lineouts.



SMALL BLACKS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

THE WAY TO PLAY

Rugby is a dynamic and exciting sport that is a whole lot of fun, and helps develop friendships that can last a lifetime. Small Blacks Rugby has been designed to help players develop their rugby skills as their physical ability develops, making the game as simple and safe as possible for all Kiwi kids, regardless of their age, shape or size. The Small Blacks Development Model has been developed to ensure that there is a consistency of play, coaching and player welfare at all levels throughout the country, and is a great way of getting kids involved in a team sport.

DIFFERENT AGES, DIFFERENT STAGES

This poster clearly explains the Small Blacks Development model for coaches, parents and Small Blacks players. It contains easy to follow guidelines on how the game is to be played at each age. The Model has been designed to ensure that all kids who graduate from the Small Blacks programme have the best possible skill set to take them through their rugby career.

Rip Rugby is a non-contact option for U8 - U13.

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APPLAUD



BY COMMITTING TO APPLAUD; ALL PARENTS, CARE-GIVERS AND SUPPORTERS IN NEW ZEALAND ARE CREATING A GREAT PLACE FOR RUGBY.

FIND OUT MORE BY GOING TO SMALLBLACKS.COM



GRADES ELIGIBILITY:



To be eligible to play in the Thames Valley Junior Rugby Competition all players must qualify under the following criteria:

- All correct ages, year groups and birth dates & current photo must be entered on the Registration form on the Sporty Website as provided by the TVRFU.
- All players must play in their correct year level/age group as of **January 1st, 2022**.
- No secondary school students are to play Junior Rugby in 2022.
- There are NO weight limits to play Junior Rugby in 2022.
- Registered Junior Year 7 & 8 players may play for a Year 9 & 10 team in the Secondary Schools Competition, if required, for up to 2 competition games. Players who play 3 or more competition games in the higher grade will be ineligible to return to the Year 7 & 8 grade and must remain in the Year 9 & 10 team for the remainder of the season (*Must play a minimum of 3 games to play in Finals Matches*)
- Where clubs/school have more than one team entered in the competition, there can be NO interchange of players between teams once the season has started. Each team remains a separate identity throughout the competition. However, in the event of any team losing several players, or a team is disbanded, a club may apply to transfer players to another team. Such application must be in writing to the TVRFU Junior Management Board.
- All players needing/wanting dispensation to play in the grade below their year group, must talk to their Junior Club Delegate. From here, the request will come to the Junior Management Board where a decision will be made by the dispensation committee.
- Girls playing their first year of Competition Rugby, may be graded down to the competition. This is due to wanting to keep girls in the game

The COMPETITIONS are set out as stated below, or as amended by the Junior Management Board:

Mixed (Boys & Girls Combined) Competitions:

- Year 8 Grade
- Year 7 Grade
- Year 6 Grade
- Year 5 Grade
- Year 4 Grade
- Year 3 Grade



Rippa Rugby Year 2 and Below (Played in-house at clubs - TVRFU will endeavour to host a few tournaments to ensure there is an opportunity to play different opposition)

CHILD PROTECTION:

We here at the TVRFU take our children's safety very seriously. Here is a bit more information on Child Protection, and we would appreciate if everyone could upskill on this subject.



Definition of Child Abuse

- **Physical abuse** is any act that may result in physical harm of a child or young person. It can be but is not limited to: bruising, cutting, hitting, beating, biting, burning, causing abrasions, strangulation, suffocation, drowning, poisoning and fabricated or induced illness.
- **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child's emotional development. This can include a pattern of rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising. It may also include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It also includes the seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of others.
- **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities as well as non-contact acts such as involving children in the looking at or production of sexual images, sexual activities and sexual behaviours.
- **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, causing long term serious harm to the child's health or development. It may also include neglect of a child's basic or emotional needs.

Child Safe Practice Guidelines

- If any form of physical contact is required ask the person's permission, explain what you are doing and why to both the child and their parents/caregivers.
- Where possible ask parents/caregivers to be responsible for children or young people in changing rooms. Always ensure that whoever supervises does so in pairs.
- Where there are mixed teams away overnight, teams should always be accompanied by an adult male and female coach or helper.
- If it's necessary to do tasks of a personal nature for a child, make sure you have another adult accompanying you. Get the consent of the parent/caregiver and if possible, the child. Let them know what you are doing and why.
- Avoid situations where you are alone with a child. While acknowledging that occasionally there may be no alternative, for example, where a child falls ill and has to be taken home. However, one-to-one contact must never be allowed to occur on a regular basis.
- Don't allow physically rough or sexually provocative games, or inappropriate talking or touching.
- Ensure that use of photographic images and video are aligned to relevant privacy policies.
- That the all people responsible for children and young people at any given time should always remain in an alcohol-free state that they can react appropriately to any situation that might arise.

For more information on this, please contact the TVRFU Child Protection Officer:

- Marcus Howie **Mobile:** 027 243 8656 **Email:** marcus.howie@tvrfu.co.nz

SHAW CUP & FLEMING SHIELD:

The aim is to provide an opportunity for as many Junior Club & Primary School players as possible to experience the enjoyment of rugby and to play in a tournament under specific rules & conditions.



Shaw Cup - player eligibility:

- Year 7 or below as of the 1st January 2022.
- There is NO weight limit.
- Must attend a school located within the Thames Valley Rugby Union Boundaries or are registered before Friday 17th June to a club affiliated to the Thames Valley Rugby Union.

Fleming Shield - player eligibility:

- Year 8 or below as of the 1st January 2022.
- There is NO weight limit.
- Must attend a school located within the Thames Valley Rugby Union Boundaries or are registered before Friday 17th June to a club affiliated to the Thames Valley Rugby Union.

Player eligibility, teams, regions and all other information can be found in the Shaw Cup & Fleming Shield information booklet, available from the TVRFU RDO Team & will be available on the TVRFU Website.

2022 Dates are still TBC - depending on other dates.

CANCELLATIONS, POSTPONEMENTS AND GROUNDS CLOSURES:

Cancellations/Postponements:

- Cancellations/postponements may occur due to weather or other adverse conditions which could cause the cancellation or postponement of a game. In the event of a game being cancelled or postponed - the game should be rescheduled and played later. The day/date will be finalised by the JMB Chairman or TVRFU Staff Member.
- If a game is to be cancelled it is the team managements responsibility to inform the opposition and the JMB Chairman or TVRFU Staff Member in plenty of time to avoid any unnecessary travel.
- In the event of a change of game dates for any other reason - team management must seek permission from JMB Chairman or TVRFU Staff Member.
- All cancellations from the TVRFU will be put onto the Thames Valley Junior Rugby Facebook page.



TVRFU JUNIOR CLUB GROUNDS:

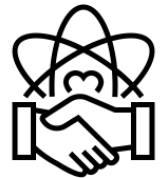
- **Coromandel:**
 - 320 Woollams Avenue, Coromandel.
- **Hauraki Plains:**
 - State Highway 25, Waitakaruru
 - Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea.
- **Mercury Bay:**
 - Lyon Park, Albert Street, Whitianga.
 - Sports Park Moewai Park Road, Whitianga.
- **Paeroa:**
 - Centennial Park, Towers Street, Paeroa.
- **Tairua:**
 - Cory Park, 406 Main Road North, Tairua.
- **Katikati:**
 - Moore Park, Fairview Road, Katikati.
- **Te Aroha:**
 - Boyd Park, Stanley Avenue, Te Aroha.
- **Thames:**
 - Rhodes Park, Ngati Maru Highway, Thames.
- **Waihi:**
 - Rugby Park, Kenny Street, Waihi.
- **Whangamata:**
 - Aicken Road, Whangamata.



TVRFU JUNIOR RUGBY CODE OF CONDUCT:

For Coaches & Management:

- Remember that players participate for enjoyment and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making a mistake or not winning.
- Be reasonable in demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of the game and teach players to do the same.
- Ensure that the time players spend with the coach is a positive experience. All players are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control, & professionalism to all involved including opponents, referees, coaches, administrators, parents & spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players and follow advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all people involved in the game, of their gender, ability or cultural background.



For Players:

- Do not argue with an official. If you disagree with a decision inform your captain, coach or manager during a break or after the game.
- Understand that verbal abuse of officials and other players, or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not acceptable or permitted behaviour in rugby.
- Work equally hard for yourself and the team.
- Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another player. Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game.
- Use appropriate language, with players, coaches, officials and other spectators.
- The participating teams and officials should shake hands after the match - no matter the result.



THE COACHING GIG:

The TVRFU and The Coaching Gig have partnered up in 2022 to provide Junior Rugby to excel. Kyle McLean at The Coaching Gig uses the vehicle of sport to provide holistic programmes and events to help our people whether that be sport coaches, coach developers, teachers, business leaders or staff. We back ourselves to provide training and development programmes that are participant-centred, on-going and a heap of fun in order to help "Our People Thrive On and Off the Field."

The Thames Valley Rugby Football Union are massive advocates of The Coaching Gig and their philosophies. We believe that this is a hugely exciting opportunity for our clubs and schools to get onboard and give their players and coaches a great rugby experience. Rugby isn't played by standing around in queues and getting one touch on the ball every 3 minutes, it needs to be played in an environment where the coach knows what they are coaching, enjoying what they are coaching, and providing the players with an opportunity to improve themselves in a positive game-based environment. To see more, click on the link in our resource section.



TROPHIES:

- The Junior Management Board offers the following Trophies for the Competition by Teams under its control.

YEAR 7/8s:	Award:	2021 Winners:
Bernie Passau Cup	Championship	Thames
Dennis Lees Trophy	Plate	Paeroa
TCDC Cup	Winners of Round Robin	Mercury Bay
TCDC Shield	Ranfury Shield of TVJR	Mercury Bay
Keith Robinson Award	Most Promising Player	Tamatea Paetai

YEAR 6s:	Award:	2021 Winners:
Roly Chaney Trophy	Championship	Hauraki Plains
Rex Holden Cup	Plate	Thames
Steven Hill Award	Most Promising Player	Mateo Coll

YEAR 5s:	Award:	2021 Winners:
Bill Cooksley Cup	Championship	Waihi Athletic
Chris Costello Award	Most Promising Player	Lincoln Rangitawa

YEAR 4s:	Award:	2021 Winners:
Bill Hayward Cup	Championship	Waihi Athletic
Barry Priest Cup	Plate	Tairua
David Harrison Award	Most Promising Player	Daytona Phillips

YEAR 3s:	Award:	2021 Winners:
TVYMB Trophy	Championship	Te Aroha
Brett Ranga Award	Most Promising Player	Evan Bedford

PRESIDENTS TROPHY:

- Junior Management Board President Award 2021 - GAVIN FLINT.



SPIRIT OF THE GAME:



Excessive Scores:

- If any grade reaches a score of 35-0, the game must be stopped, and the coaches must get together to discuss how a more even contest can be generated. A winner should be declared 35-0 at this time. The reason for this recommendation is to stop the continual thrashing of weaker teams, as it does nothing for the game and can dishearten even the most dedicated player and coach. It is hoped that all coaches will enter the spirit of this recommendation. Humiliation is felt strongly by children and serves only to make it more difficult for a coach to motivate their players. As a positive coach you should consider the advantages (and enjoyment) that come when children are involved in a fair and even contest. The following are suggested steps that the coaches may agree to take:
 - Swap players:
 - The notion that children will not swap teams is an adult one. There may be a few selected players (test your own team to see how they cope with playing against some of their own OR Swap forward packs or backlines with the other team.
 - Change positions:
 - Move some selected players to see how well they cope with playing in another position.
 - Subbing:
 - Sub-off some key players. Wind advantage: Be willing to give away any wind-advantage that may exist.
 - Kick-offs:
 - The weaker team restarts play with a tap and pass rather than the usual kick. OR the scoring team kicks-off to the weaker team.
 - Depower:
 - Depower scrums, non-contested lineouts and scrums. No conversions or change your kicker to an untried player.

Half Game Rule:

Following two pieces of significant research it has been identified that lack of game time is a significant cause of players leaving the game and low retention rates.

Having sought the players' views and looking to honour the 'player first' sentiments of the Community Rugby Strategy, a minimum half game for every player policy has been implemented. NZR Policy At all rugby below First XV and including all representative rugby below Under 18 grades, it is compulsory for all players to play a minimum half game. For players at the Small Blacks level this can consist of two quarters. As part of this policy it is re-stated that rolling subs are not allowed, although substitutions at quarter time, half time or three-quarter time will be permitted.



Responsibilities:

- All teams must actively implement the Half Game Rule in ALL Junior Rugby Grades.
- All clubs & teams must proactively educate adults on the rationale for the rule.

SMALL SQUAD SIZES:

The Thames Valley Rugby Football Union is enforcing small squad sizes at Junior Rugby level. We believe it will have a positive influence on players' rugby experiences, such as giving players plenty of game time, as well as making it easier for coaches to manage teams. Please see some positives of the change below:

- Fewer players being sidelined, more players playing.
- Less conflict between coaches & parents over player selections.
- Regular substitutions but fewer tactical disruptions.
- More 1 on 1 coaching so the kids become more skilled and better players.
- Provides more opportunity for coaching & management roles if clubs have higher numbers.

How should this look? This is aimed at clubs that have an awkward number of players, or a high number of players in a particular year group. The following guidelines will be put in place.

Year 6 and below: (10 Aside)

- NO more than 13 players per squad (where possible).
- If clubs have more than 14 players, they are to enter TWO teams into the competition and compete with 7 players in each squad.

Year 7 & 8: (15 Aside)

- NO more than 18 players per squad (where possible)
- If clubs have more than 24 players, they are to enter two teams into the competition and compete with 13 players in each squad.

All clubs & coaches are requested to buy into this philosophy, with the purpose of wanting to give players more game time and less standing on the side-line. Clubs must play down to the number of players their opposition have, which in theory will promote good sportsmanship and spirit of the game. By going with a smaller number of players per squad, children and parents will recruit other children to play rugby who would not normally play and this will help increase the numbers. This will come from children and parents reaching out to schools and other sports that don't conflict with rugby.



SIDELINE BEHAVIOR & WHERE TO STAND:



Be supportive:

- It's all about the game, but the game would be nothing without the players. That's why it's our job to back them up and send nothing but positive energy no matter what. Always remember to show your support on and off the field - even if they're from the other team.

Lead by example:

- It's all about the game, but the game would be nothing without the other team. That's why we must remember they're there for the love of the sport, just like us - and we like that. So, when they perform well and set a good example on the field, give them a cheer.

Be respectful:

- It's all about the game, but the game would be nothing without the volunteers. Parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents rise early to coach the teams and ref the games. So, even when they miss a penalty or make a mistake, remember, they're the ones making it all possible for the kids - that's something to appreciate.

Roped Off Grounds:

- Please note that all grounds should be roped off (3-5 metres) from the side-line. An event manager must be appointed for each game. Referees can stop the game proceeding if this is not done.

Sub Benches:

- Sub Benches will be located on the sideline of Junior Rugby Matches. Please let players play, coaches' coach and managers manage. There is plenty of room to stand at matches, so please make a conscious effort to stay clear of the sub benches.



CONCUSSION CHECKLIST:



Questioning:

It is important to remember that a person can be concussed without losing consciousness. If a player appears stunned, dazed or confused ask some of the following questions to check if the player is aware of their surroundings and that their memory is working correctly.

- What ground are we at?
- Which team are we playing today?
- What position are you playing?
- Which half is it?
- What is the score of the game?

If they answer any of the questions incorrectly, or are very slow to respond, it indicates that they have probably sustained a concussion and should not continue to play.

Symptoms:

If any of these symptoms are present a player should not return to play

- Unsteadiness or poor balance and co-ordination.
- Blurred or double vision.
- Ringing in their ears.
- Sensitivity to light and noise.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- A headache or feel extremely tired or become irritable.

Important:

Even if there are no immediate symptoms of concussion these can show up later Ensure the player is regularly checked and not left alone during the first four hours after injury. Concussed Players must get urgent medical treatment if they show signs of:

- Worsening headache.
- Increased drowsiness or can't be woken up.
- Vomiting.
- Increased confusion or agitation.
- Weakness in any limbs.
- Slurred speech.
- Loss of consciousness or seizure.

Players should not return to sport until symptom free AND medically cleared. The IRB's mandatory stand down period is for a minimum of 3 weeks (23 days for U19s). If they return too soon, they are at risk of further concussions. If you sustain a second concussion before the previous one has fully resolved the impact will be more severe and can in some instances be fatal.

INJURY CHECKLIST:

In the event of a suspected spinal or other serious injury

- DON'T MOVE THE PLAYER!
- GET HELP FIRST and GET IT FAST.
- Call 111 for an Ambulance.
- Don't move the player until qualified medical personnel arrives!



A player may have suffered a severe neck injury, and yet still be able to move. If the spine is unstable, and they are moved, they run the risk of permanent paralysis. Referees and coaches should err on the side of caution and seek medical assistance in the event of any potentially serious injury. For all other injuries If the injury disrupts play, get the player assessed on the field so you can decide whether to keep the player on or take them off.

Assessing the Injury:

For effective assessment of an injury use T.O.T.A.P.S.

1. TALK:
 - Ask the player what happened.
 - Where does it hurt?
 - What kind of pain is it (Scale of 1-10)?
2. OBSERVE:
 - Look at the affected area for redness or swelling.
 - Is the injured side different from the other side?
3. TOUCH:
 - Feel for lumps, depression, swelling, heat, points of tenderness
 - Skin
 - Soft tissues
 - Bones
4. ACTIVE MOVEMENT:
 - Ask the injured player to move the injured part without any help.
5. PASSIVE MOVEMENT:
 - If the player can move the injured part, carefully try to move it yourself through its full range of motion.
6. SKILL TEST:
 - Did the active and passive movement produce pain? If no, can the player stand and demonstrate some of the skills from the game? If an injury is identified, remove the player from the activity immediately.

TIPS FOR REFEREES:

Referees must be organised/provided by the HOME team. Referees in the Year 7/8 Competition should have attended a Associate Referees Course, due to refereeing the scrums contesting ½ meter pushing. Referees are the sole judge of the game. Their decisions should be supported by all players, coaches, managers, and supporters. Here are some tips below:

Tip 1 - Never Assume Anything:

- Never assume anything, only rule on what you can see. Do not assume players are aware of their requirements according to law and to the required technique for the game.

Tip 2- Play Advantage:

- For Junior Rugby its more about players getting their hands on the ball and running with it. So, who really cares if you play a long advantage, and it does not work? A long advantage gives the kids a chance to play the game, spectators have cheered on their team, and maybe a try has been scored.

Tip 3 - Safety:

- Never allow the game to be started or to continue when anyone on the paddock is in an unsafe position. As a referee, it is partly our responsibility to make sure that the game is played safely.

Tip 4- Scrum Time:

- Ensure the scrum platform is secure and safe before allowing the ball to be put into the scrum. Make sure that the front rows are bound together properly, the hooker is bound tightly onto the props, and the locks are binding correctly so the scrum is 'strong' and 'safe'. Do not let them bind up in a 'league' way.

Tip 5 - Lineout:

- Make a good effort to have a clear 1 Metre gap at all lineouts.



Tip 6 - Tackle, Ruck, and Maul:

- This is a great opportunity to do some good coaching, get there early and talk to the arriving players reminding them of their requirements. Use voice commands like; "Release" / "Stay on your feet" / "Join at the back" / "Through the gate"

Tip 7 - Offside in General Play:

- Make sure players are clearly 'ON-SIDE' before blowing your whistle. If they are not, play a Penalty Advantage. Children are likely to fly out of the line, so have a quiet chat to players infringing frequently and nip it in the bud. The more players onside, the better the match will be.

Tip 8 - Enjoy Yourself!

RESOURCES:

- Rugby Smart App:
 - Available on Apple & Google Play
- The Coaching Gig:
 - <https://www.thecoachinggig.com/>
- Coaching Toolbox:
 - <http://www.coachingtoolbox.co.nz>
- The Rugby Site:
 - <https://www.therugbysite.com/>
- Small Blacks:
 - <http://smallblacks.co.nz>
- New Zealand Rugby:
 - www.nzru.co.nz
- Thames Valley Rugby Football Union:
 - <https://thamesvalleyswampfoxes.co.nz/tvrfu/>



NZRFU COACHING COURSES:

- Small Blacks (compulsory attendance for Junior Coaches/Managers)
- Rugby Smart (compulsory attendance for Secondary School, Club Rugby and Referees)
- Associate Referees Course
- Level 1 Foundation Coaching Course
- Level 2 Developing Rugby Coaches (DRC) Coaching Course
- Level 3 Performance Coaching Course
- World Rugby Coach Educator

If you want more information on any of these courses, please click on this link:

<https://thamesvalleyswampfoxes.co.nz/tvrfu/coaches-corner/>

If you are interested in attending any of these courses and gaining certificates to enhance your coaching, please get in touch with Scott Day scott@tvrfu.co.nz



SPONSORS:

A HUGE THANK YOU GOES OUT TO **SUPERIOR PET FOODS (CHUNKY)** FOR THEIR MAJOR SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIP TOWARDS JUNIOR RUGBY IN THE THAMES VALLEY REGION:



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