



OBB Boys Regulations 2025/26

1. Description

The OBB Boys competition is an invitational league to the U16s and U18s boys teams, predominantly located in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. It is managed by under RFU regulations and RFU GAME ON Principles apply.

2. Berkshire Youth Competitions Manager

The competitions are managed by the Berkshire Youth Competitions Manager (BCM), Adam Gillings - areg23@hotmail.com

3. Fixtures

Entry Deadline	13th June 2025
Fixtures Issued by	18th July 2025

3.1 The designated home club has the responsibility of finding a suitable playing surface, all match day arrangements and organising the referee(s) as detailed in the Section 9 of these regulations. They may move it to a neutral venue and retain the home status or may offer it to be moved to the away club, who will then take over all the responsibilities.

3.2 Kick off for all matches must be between 09.30-14.00 on the allocated Sunday, Matches may be played on a Friday evening, of the same weekend, with the express consent of both sides.

3.3 Kick off times are the responsibility of the home team and must be declared by 12.00 on the Tuesday prior to the fixture. The away team may request an alternative but cannot decline a kick off time if it is within reg 3.2. Failure to provide a KO time can result in a 'walk-over' being awarded to the away team. A kick off time may subsequently be altered by up to one hour but not more.

3.4 You can only move clubs once within the OBB and still play OBB league rugby. The move must be approved by the BCM, prior to 1st November and for reasons other than specifically to play in the OBB. Expunged clubs still count as one club. .

3.5 The home side is responsible for changing kit or wearing bibs in the event of a colour clash

4. Unplayed, Postponed or Abandoned Matches

4.1 The principle of “**Play or concede**” will be applied to remove grey areas and therefore, no fixtures may be moved except for the following reasons

Acceptable reason to postpone	Weather related issues
	A clash with an officially sanctioned club National cup game or an U18s CB match as marked in the RFU Age Playing Calendar
	A tour approved by relevant CB prior to 1st September 2024 so long as BCM is advised as soon as tour is approved by CB
Unacceptable reason to postpone	Player availability for any reason
	Lack of Referee
	Friendlies or other competitions (other than U18s National Cup)

4.2 If a fixture has to be postponed then it must be played on the **next** Sunday, excluding Sunday 28th December 2025. Due to sides not adhering to this, If it is not then the game will be voided and no points issued.

4.3 Failure to fulfil a fixture or accept one on the following Sunday, subject to reg 4.1, will result in a 'walk-over' result being awarded. A walkover results is a 5 point win and 0 points difference.

4.4 If a match is abandoned due to weather and it has passed half time, the result at the point of abandonment will stand. If a match is abandoned prior to half time then it needs to be replayed on the next available Sunday and the match started again at 0-0. Due to sides not adhering to this, If it is not then the game will be voided and no points issued.

4.5 If the home team has an acceptable reason to postpone, as listed above, but the away team can host then this can be offered but it does not have to be accepted; unless the fixture has been postponed once already.

5. Club Positions

5.1 A table will be formed and displayed via England Rugby website. Points will be awarded as per the below table:

Item	League Points
Win	4
4 Tries or more	1
Losing by 7 match points or less	1
Draw	2
Walk Over	5
No points difference is issued	

If teams are tied on the same number of league points then the following tie-breakers will be used to determine positions.

Rank	Item
1	Match Points difference
2	Results of the head to heads
3	Highest Match Points Scored
4	Tied Position

5.2 RFU Regulation 15 clearly states the maximum points difference allowed at each age group. Any result exceeding this will be marked as a 0-0 draw by the Competitions Manager. Once the game reaches the maximum points difference the game MUST cease with

the score recorded. Should you wish to continue playing then the score moving forward must not be recorded, and the conditions of the game should be altered to provide development opportunities for all players and a more balanced fixture.

6. League Choices

There are 4 league choices available.

Name	Aimed at	Restrictions of Players
Division 1	<p>Strongest A teams, teams that finished in top 3 in the preceding season's league or cup and any side who wishes to enter the national cup at U18s.</p> <p>Please note, Berkshire sides will not be nominated for the U18s National Cup unless they choose this level at U18s.</p>	<p>For those clubs with two teams, 10 players may not play in Divisions 3 or 4. These must be declared prior to 1st September and cannot alter.</p> <p>No restrictions on representative players</p>
Division 2	A teams or the strongest B teams	<p>For those clubs with two teams, 10 Players may not play in Divisions 3 or 4. These must be declared prior to 1st September and cannot alter. No restrictions on representative players.</p>
Division 3	<p>One club A teams that historically have played at a development level and 'fared quite well'</p> <p>or</p> <p>B teams that historically have played at a genuinely developmental level and 'fared quite well'.</p> <p>If a side finished in the top 3 of the development league or cup in the preceding season, then it is expected they go into this league or above and not Division 4.</p>	<p>Maximum of 2 ACE / PDG / Academy / CB Representative player in the match day squad</p>

<p>Division 4</p>	<p>Aimed at genuine development sides who came 5th or below in the previous year's developmental competitions or who are solely U17s sides in the U18s competitions.</p> <p>Please note, U17s sides can choose any division.</p>	<p>0 ACE / PDG / Academy / CB Representatives in the match day squad.</p>
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6.1 We request your preference on your league entries, but the decision of the final league allocation will ultimately fall to the BCM.

6.2 Teams can enter multiple sides but cannot have more than one side in any division.

6.3 A CB U18s side counts as a CB representative side, however a CB U17s development side player does not. If a U17 is selected for the U18s side then they are counted as player for an U18s CB side. For a list of ACE programs please see the England Rugby Website.

6.4 Previously there have been 3 Divisions but Division 2 has been oversubscribed, so we are again using 4 divisions this season. If there is not enough demand in any of the 4 divisions then we reserve the right to change back to 3 divisions and allocate those who requested Division 2 & 3 as deemed required. Sides requesting Division 1 will stay in the top division and sides requesting Division 4 will stay in the lowest Division.

7. Players

7.1 All players must be bona fide members of the club, registered on GMS and of the correct age as per Regulation 15. Any player playing out of age group must have the correct CB approval and be declared to the opposition 48 hours in advance for them to be a bona fide player. A Bona Fide member of a club is someone who has officially joined them as a member through paying a fee or having an agreed hardship membership.

7.2 A player can only play for one club within the competition in one season. An expunged side counts as a club so you cannot play for club X and then Club Y, if Club X are expunged.

7.3 Any player who does not meet 7.1 & 7.2 will be deemed ineligible and if they play, the result will be declared as a 'walk-over' and 50-0 score line. More than one player will also result in the team losing 4 league points for every player who has not met the eligibility criteria.

7.4 To ensure integrity of the competitions, where a club has multiple teams in a competition and one of these is in division 3 or 4, it MUST name 10 players that cannot play in divisions 3 or 4.

These must be named prior to the first match and the list is fixed for the season. If any of these players play in division 3 or 4 then a 'walk-over' and 50-0 result will be awarded. If any team does not declare their 10 players then the same sanction will apply for each match they do not. There are also player restrictions as per regulation 6.

If there are only 3 divisions then sides must name 10 that cannot play in their lowest ranked side.

8. Playing Regulations

8.1 RFU 'Game On' Principles apply, therefore the minimum number of players is 10 per side and there is no punishment in requesting uncontested scrums. We do however encourage contested scrums when safe and suitable. With uncontested scrums, the number 8 cannot pick and go. A team that drops below 10 aside unfortunately concedes the game as a walk over.

8.2 At all times, Teams must match numbers of players on the pitch, unless a team is reduced due to sanctions applied by the Referee. Teams do not have to match substitute numbers.

8.3 Teams cannot elect to reduce numbers and have substitutes. As long as the Half Game Rule is met, there is no maximum squad size.

8.4 Clubs with 2 teams in different divisions must only reduce their Higher Ranked side, if the alternative is their Lower Ranked side drops below the minimum 10 a side. E.g. You cannot have an U18s Division 1 side at 13 a side and a U18s Division 3 side at 15.

This includes DURING the matches, if they are being played side by side and, as an example, a side with 30 players, who suffers an injury must remove the player from their Lower Ranked side, even if the injury was in their Higher Ranked team.

8.5 Any team dropping below 10 will concede the match as a 'walkover', except in the instance that foul play caused it, as deemed by the referee. In this instance, the match will be abandoned and replayed. An example of this would be a concussion caused by a high tackle.

8.6 The RFU regulations will be used for playing regulations and the matches will be played at the maximum allowed. Where sides reduce below 12 then the pitch should be narrowed as deemed by the Referee and the scrum should be adjusted accordingly. Likewise, if the number of players goes below 12 then the referee may reduce playing time but should declare what it will be at the point it becomes 11. It should factor in player welfare and not the score.

8.7 Any team posting a score in excess of 50 match points difference, and therefore breaking regulation 15, will have the result changed to a 0-0 draw.

9. Referees

9.1 The responsibility of appointing the referee falls initially on the home side. We are aware that there is a shortage of referees and there **is no requirement for the referee to be a society ref.** It is preferred but unrealistic to require it.

9.2 For the benefit of this section, neutral means that they are not a player, parent or coach within the age group. It is very difficult to get truly neutral refs and a coach from a different age group / section of the club is considered neutral.

9.3 For the benefit of this section, qualified means having taken an RFU referee course and highly qualified means having taken the ERRA.

9.4 The appointment by the referee is as per the below flow chart. We strongly recommend that sides invest in upskilling and training referees so that they can ensure matches are played. No Ref = No Game.

1. Home side must find a Neutral and Highly Qualified Ref and declare it by the Midday on the Wednesday Prior.

IF THEY CANNOT

2. The away side must find a neutral and qualified Referee and declare by midday on the Saturday prior.

IF THEY CANNOT

3. The home side must find a neutral and qualified Referee and declare 3 hours prior to kick off.

IF THEY CANNOT

4. The away side must find a referee that is safe to referee the game and declare 30 minutes to kick off

IF THEY CANNOT

5. The home side must find a referee that is safe to referee the game.

IF THEY CANNOT

6. The match is void and 0 league points are issued

It is hoped that we never get to the point where we have to void matches. If a side fails to meet the above deadlines, then the process automatically moves on. For example, if the home side does not declare a suitable referee by midday on the Wednesday prior, the away side can automatically start to select one.

9.5 It is the responsibility of the side that is providing the ref to brief the referee on any competition specific regulations such as the reduction of numbers, not allowing pick and go from uncontested scrums and so on.

9.6 Whilst the referee is the sole arbiter of fact, they must apply the laws as per Reg 15 and other appropriate regulations. They may not remove age grade regulations, such as pushing 1.5m at a scrum or allowing squeezeball etc... **It is the responsibility of the side providing the referee to ensure that the referee is correctly briefed on all age grade & competition specific regulations.**

9.7 All Red cards, to players, coaches or supporters, MUST be reported to the relevant CB via the correct disciplinary procedures and within 48 hours. Failure to do so will result in 5 League points being deducted per Red card not reported as it is the team who has received the red card;s responsibility to ensure the referee sends off the form or they should self report. Agreements to deal internally with red cards cannot be made.

10. Behaviour of Non players

Both sides have a responsibility for not only their players and coaching team but also the non-players (supporters and third parties). We reserve the right to deduct league points or award 'walk-overs' based on the behaviour of non-players. Even if you cannot identify the exact person

who has behaved incorrectly, a side may still be assigned responsibility and deducted league points. You must not be an inactive or passive bystander.

11. Results & Postponements

All results must be sent to Results@firsteleven.co.uk within 3 days. Failure to include the competition title, age group, score, number of tries scored and THE FULL NAMES of each club may result in the result not being logged correctly and incorrect points being awarded. If any game is postponed then equally this should be sent to the same address at the point of postponement.

12. Disputes

The regulations will never cover every situation that arises and therefore the BCM has the right to alter, add or remove regulations as long as they are within the spirit and ethos of the competition. This would be briefly summarised as the purpose of the leagues are to try and create more playing opportunities, increase and develop players, being supported by the competitions and trying to be equitable for all. RFU 'Game On; and, except for the specific reasons given, '**Play or Concede**' given are also the overriding decision principles.

Any breach of the regulations may incur the sanctions of a warning or expulsion but the default position should be assumed to be a walkover and 50-0 points difference.

All disputes must be logged within 7 days of the incident or they will be dismissed

13 Appeals

The ultimate jurisdiction for this competition falls to the BCM and any decision can be appealed once. If you feel that the BCM is compromised in the decision making and their judgement cannot be impartial then the decision will be made solely by the Berkshire Youth Chair.

14 Fees

Entry fees are £50 per team. They are payable by 1st September 2025. Payment details will be supplied by the League Organiser.