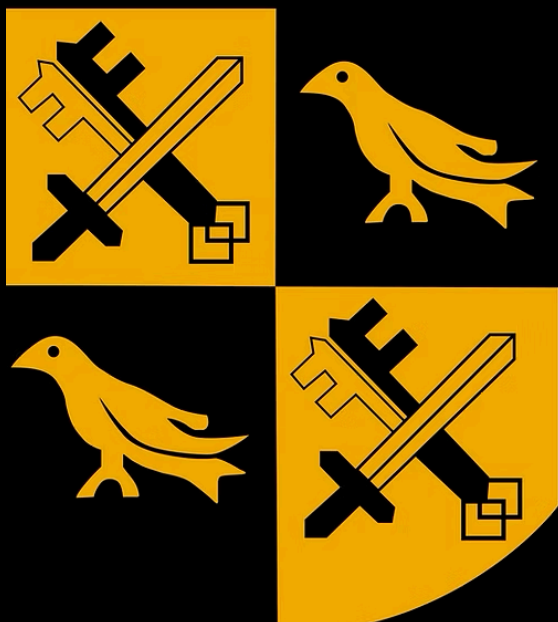




Hellingly Rugby Club

OctoberFest 2026

A Warm Welcome to Hellingly RFC

On behalf of everyone at Hellingly Rugby Football Club, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome all visiting players, coaches, parents, and supporters to today's junior tournament.

We are delighted to host teams from Uckfield, Heathfield, and Lewes for what promises to be a fantastic display of grassroots youth rugby. Days like today are what community rugby is all about, showcasing teamwork, hard work, and the enjoyment of the game.

A massive thank you goes out to our incredible volunteers, coaches, and match officials who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this event happen. Please remember to respect our referees at all times and cheer loudly and positively for all the kids out there giving it their all.

Enjoy the rugby, enjoy the hospitality, and have a brilliant day with us.

Craig Benson

Chairman, Hellingly RFC

With Special Thanks

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Hailsham Radio for their fantastic feature interview with our Club Vice Chairman, Owen Hughes. The broadcast did an incredible job of highlighting the passion, dedication, and community spirit driving both our thriving junior sections and our senior teams here at Hellingly RFC.

Grassroots rugby relies entirely on visibility, community backing, and the tireless efforts of local people. This feature has been a brilliant platform for sharing our club's journey, values, and vision for the future across the local area.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to all the visiting clubs, travelling supporters, local partners, and our dedicated volunteers for making today's tournament such an overwhelming and resounding success. Community rugby is nothing without the people who show up week in and week out, and today is a testament to everything we achieve together.

Chris & Rob

Mini's Co-Head Coaches, Hellingly RFC

Run of Play

Timings

0930hrs - Registration Opens
1010hrs - Coaches/Ref briefing
1030hrs - Matches KO

Structure: all teams will play each other.

Tournament Comms

Please respond providing a suitable phone number of 'responsible' adult representing your club on the day, so that we can add them to the festival WhatsApp group. This will be utilised to disseminate any changes, emergency messages etc.

Location

Hellingly RFC, Hellingly Rec, Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, BN27 4DL
what3words: hype.survey.backpacks

Parking

Parking will be available on the rec ground, and will be clearly directed, this will be at the cost of £3, which can be made at the clubhouse.

Refreshments

There will be food and drink available at the clubhouse house, and via a number of attending stalls throughout the day. There will also be food available to participating players included in the festival cost.

Refereeing Games

Guidance will be given at the coaches/referee briefing, but clubs will be expected to assist with refereeing. Although we will have a number of referees on site, we have experienced at other festivals the benefit of 1 coach reffing the first half and the other the second half.

Team Areas

There will be an area for you to set up any gazebos, etc for your players.

Follow up

Please be on the lookout for a follow-up email with the site map for the day and the schedule of games! Which, of course, you will all know will probably change right up to the last moment! But let's hope not!

We cannot wait to welcome you all to our home for what will be a great day of rugby!

Any questions, please shout!

Hellingly Rugby Club

11s Mini Tournament Schedule

Teams: Hellingly, Uckfield, Heathfield
Format: Single pitch – each team plays each other twice (6 games total)
Match Length: 8-minute halves + 2-minute half-time = 18 minutes (10-minute break between games, First kick-off: 10:30)

Time	Match	Resting Team
10:30 – 10:48	Hellingly vs Uckfield	Heathfield
10:58 – 11:16	Uckfield vs Heathfield	Hellingly
11:26 – 11:44	Hellingly vs Heathfield	Uckfield
11:54 – 12:12	Uckfield vs Heathfield	Hellingly
12:22 – 12:40	Hellingly vs Uckfield	Heathfield
12:50 – 13:08	Hellingly vs Heathfield	Uckfield

***Subject to change**

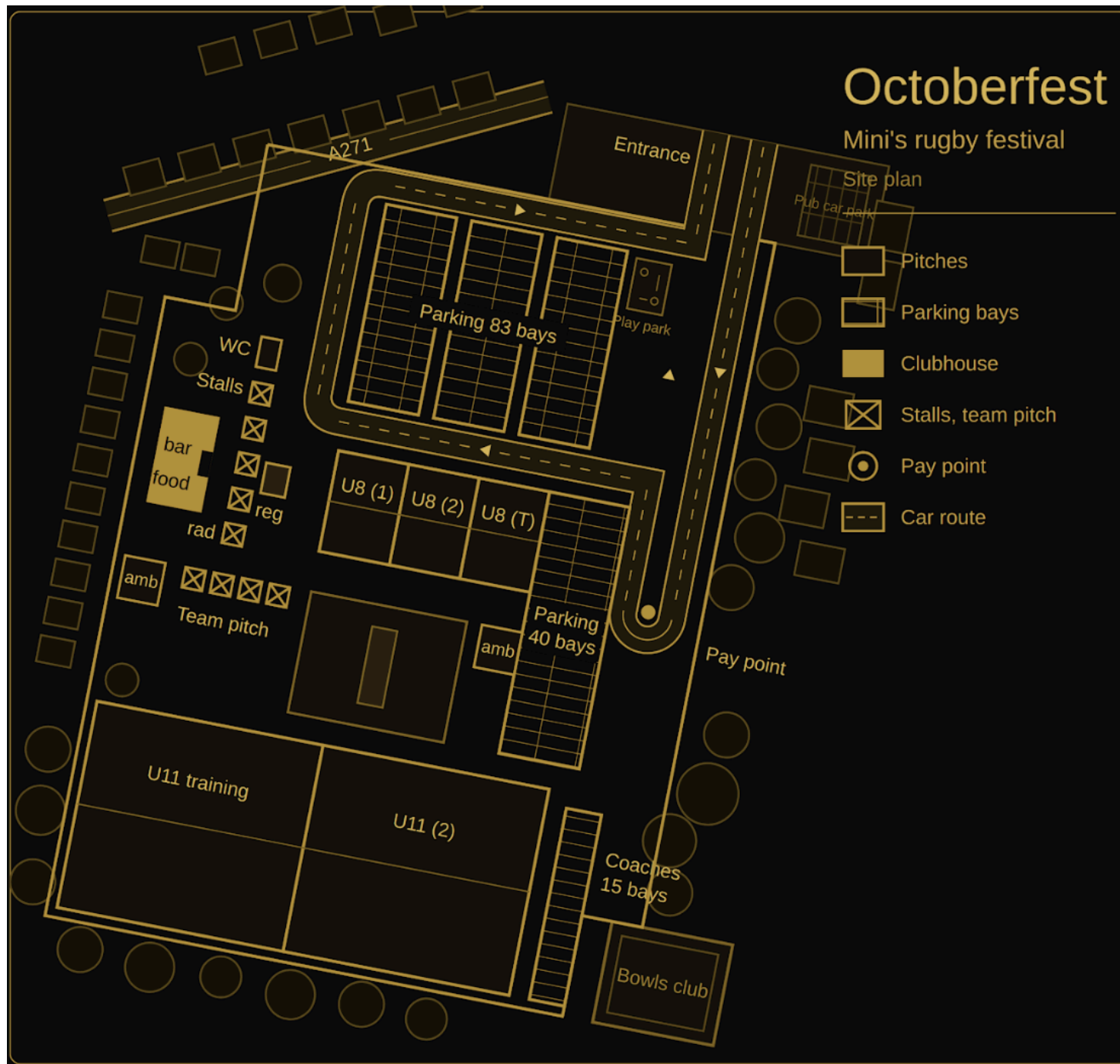
Main Tournament & Multi-Pitch Schedule

Match Format: 7-minute halves, 2-minute half-time, 5-minute breaks (21-minute intervals)
Venues: Dual Pitch Setup (Pitch 1 & Pitch 2)

Time	Pitch 1	Pitch 2	Resting Teams
10:30	Hellingly 1 vs Heathfield 2	Heathfield 1 vs Heathfield 3	Hellingly 2, Lewes 1
10:51	Hellingly 2 vs Lewes 1	Heathfield 2 vs Heathfield 3	Hellingly 1, Heathfield 1
11:12	Hellingly 1 vs Heathfield 1	Lewes 1 vs Heathfield 3	Hellingly 2, Heathfield 2
11:33	Hellingly 2 vs Heathfield 2	Lewes 1 vs Heathfield 1	Hellingly 1, Heathfield 3
11:54	Hellingly 1 vs Heathfield 3	Hellingly 2 vs Heathfield 1	Lewes 1, Heathfield 2
12:15	Lewes 1 vs Heathfield 2	Hellingly 1 vs Hellingly 2	Heathfield 1, Heathfield 3
12:36	Heathfield 1 vs Heathfield 2	Hellingly 2 vs Heathfield 3	Hellingly 1, Lewes 1
12:57	Hellingly 1 vs Lewes 1	(no match)	Hellingly 2, Heathfield 1, Heathfield 2, Heathfield 3

Octoberfest

Mini's rugby festival



Referee Briefing & Rules Summary

Team Referees & Festival Pitch Expectations

Every team must supply at least one referee to manage their team's matches (or share halves with opposition coaches).

- **RFU Core Values:** Every referee, coach, and spectator is expected to uphold the core values of our game: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, and Sportsmanship. Set the standard on and off the pitch.
- **Game Management:** Keep games moving, referee with common sense, and prioritise player safety. Where minor technical mistakes happen, manage them quickly with a brief word to the players to keep the flow rather than blowing the whistle every ten seconds.
- **Touchline Conduct:** Coaches are directly responsible for the behaviour of their parents and supporters. Touchline abuse towards referees, players, or opposition coaches will not be tolerated.
- **Pre-Match:** Agree ball sizes, pitch boundaries, and half lengths with the opposition coach before kicking off.

Under 8s Rules

Under 8s is non-contact tag rugby focused on running, spatial awareness, and quick passing.

- **Numbers & Pitch:** 6-a-side. Pitch size up to 45m x 22m (plus 5m in-goal). Size 3 ball. Maximum 10 minutes per half.
- **Tagging:** When a defender pulls a tag, they hold it high and shout "TAG!". The tagged player has 3 strides to stop and must pass within 3 seconds. The tagger must drop back 1m to let the pass happen before handing the tag back.
- **Key Rules:** No tackling, no contact, no fending off/hand-offs, no diving to the ground to score or avoid a tag, and no tag guarding (covering tags with hands or the ball).
- **Restarts:** Free pass from the centre to start halves or after a try. Free pass 5m in from touch if the ball goes out. Defence must stay back 7m on all free passes. No kicking, scrums, lineouts, rucks, or mauls under any circumstances.

Under 11s Rules

Under 11s introduces 3-player unpushed scrums, 2v2 contest at the breakdown, and open-play kicking.

- **Numbers & Pitch:** 9-a-side. Pitch size up to 60m x 43m (plus 5m in-goal). Size 4 ball. Maximum 20 minutes per half (shorten as needed for tournament schedules).
- **Tackling & Breakdown:** All tackles must be below the armpit. Breakdown (ruck/maul) contest is strictly capped at a maximum of 2 supporting players per team (2v2 contest). Call "*Use it!*" quickly once a maul forms (5 seconds max).
- **Scrums:** 3 players per side (nearest 3 players form the scrum). Engagement sequence: "*Crouch, Bind, Set*". Strictly unpushed: no pushing allowed. Hookers may strike for the ball. The attacking scrum-half must pass directly from the base and cannot run with the ball. The defending scrum-half must stay behind their own scrum in the pocket between props.
- **Kicking & Lineouts:** Restarts after a score are drop kicks from the centre (must go 7m). Kicking in open play is permitted. There are no lineouts; if the ball goes into touch, restart with a free pass 5m in from the touchline. No penalty kicks at goal or conversions. Offside lines are 5m at scrums, 7m at free kicks, and back-foot at rucks/mauls.