

## **GUIDANCE FOR JUNIOR COACHES ON HOSTING TOURING TEAMS**

Playing matches against touring teams is a great way for Devizes teams to gain wider rugby experience and learn to the joys of the social side of rugby.

All age groups are encouraged to host other clubs on tour – subject to pitch availability etc. Below is a coach's checklist to help you organise a tour fixture. Most is similar to the arrangements for any other match – the items in Bold are non-negotiable.

### ARRANGING THE FIXTURE

- **Check proposed game dates with the Junior Chairman for fixture clashes – games against touring sides don't necessarily have priority over other games.**
- Arrange post-match & other catering in advance.
- Check if the touring team expect you to provide other activities for their tour party apart from rugby – and if / how much they will contribute to the cost.
- Advise the Sports Club Manager – particularly if you want early access to the club / room booking for entertainment / catering & bar facilities on an evening when it is usually shut.
- Arrange a referee & first aid cover on the day in advance.

### HOSTING A TOURING TEAM

If your players' families are providing overnight accommodation for touring players in their homes you will need to:

- Confirm volunteers from families within your age group – consider a DBS check if they do not already have one.
- Liaise with the incoming Tour Organiser to allocate players appropriately.
- Be around to meet the tour on arrival and introduce to their hosts.

### MATCH DAY

- The age group(s) concerned have the same match day responsibilities as for any other match:
  - Setting out / putting away flags, post protectors etc.
  - Being present to welcome the opposition.

- Tidying changing rooms.
- Providing volunteers to support post-match catering.
- Parking / drop off & pick up arrangements will be needed for teams touring by coach.

## POST MATCH

- As in all rugby, post match socialising between the teams is to be much encouraged.
- Ideally, age group coaches / parents should stick with their guests while they are on club premises.
- Presentations – the club has a small stock of pennants / junior ties for use to present to touring teams – see the Junior chair. If necessary, the club will refund the (reasonable) cost of presentation material on presentation of receipts.
- **Alcohol – It is the law that no alcohol is allowed to be served to anyone under 18. Failure to enforce this leads to loss of the Sports Club's licence to serve alcohol.**
  - **If home coaches see alcohol being bought for underage drinkers. they should intervene to point out that this is not acceptable.**
  - **Home coaches must support bar staff in refusing to serve alcohol to adults when they believe that it will be given to underage individuals.**
- Behaviour – Home coaches and parents are not legally responsible for the behaviour of a touring team but have a duty to set an appropriate example. **The Sports Club manager has the right to ask anyone whose behaviour is considered inappropriate to quit the premises and home coaches and parents should always support that decision.**
- Clearing up – the host age group is responsible for clearing up any mess left by the touring team beyond normal bar untidiness.