29/09/2018

**School Games – Girls U13s + U15s ‘Grapple Tournaments’ 2018**

Dear Teacher(s),

We would like to invite your school to attend the GM School Games - **Girls U13s and U15 Grapple Tournament on 16th November 2018 at Broughton Park RUFC (12.30- 4pm)**

There will be 2 tournaments taking place one at U13 and one at U15. Led by RFU Community Rugby Coaches.

This is the second time that the RFU and GreaterSport have delivered such a festival, after the success of last year’s event which saw over 200 girls take part we have decided to run the event again. The aim is to provide the players and teachers with a positive experience of Rugby Union whilst strengthening the pathway to our local Union clubs, focusing on the values of the games rather than taking home a medal.

At present the TAG games played in the summer games at Y7/8 are not reflective of the club game, or of the wider women and girls pathway/ strategy. By introducing conditioned contact, and by running the festival at a time of year when our clubs are open and actively recruiting, we hope that girls will be provided with a more appropriate ‘rugby experience’ with stronger exit routes.

Key highlights of the laws of the game will be:

* Teams of 8 a side
* Introduction of the tackle (a player holding another player for 3 seconds will also be rewarded by referee shouting ‘tackle’)
* 3 player scrum (uncontested- no pushing) this will be made up of the nearest 3 players to the infringement.
* 3 player lineout (1 thrower and 2 jumpers)
* Played across half a pitch
* No kicking

For those schools/ teachers who wish to enter, we will look to arrange a series of free sessions before the tournament to help to prepare you/ the players for the games (mainly covering the key safety areas around the tackle). If you wish to arrange this please contact philclarke@rfu.com . Please note that the free coaching sessions are for those schools that we are not currently working with/ have very little experience.

We strongly encourage members of staff to be proactive in observing and assisting in the sessions/games alongside the CRCs as this is a great opportunity to pick up some tips to take back to your schools and continue development.

These events are open to your school to enter as many teams as you would like and we would encourage you to bring as many pupils on the day as possible. Please do not be put off attending if your school has little playing experience as we will match schools of similar ability and coach throughout the games.

Entries for the tournaments at both U13 and U15 should be directed to Emma Gooch at GreaterSport Emma@greatersport.co.uk

Kind regards

Phil Clarke

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