



# Accies' Minis Rugby Edinburgh BATs Rugby

## PARENTS' WELCOME PACK

2017/18 Season

# Contacts

## Minis' Team Contacts

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## Minis' Management Contacts

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## BATs' Team Contacts

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## BATs' Management Contacts

Chairman:	<b>John Wright</b>	<a href="mailto:pjw.gullane@btinternet.com">pjw.gullane@btinternet.com</a>
Treasurer:	<b>David Black</b>	<a href="mailto:dasg.black@blueyonder.co.uk">dasg.black@blueyonder.co.uk</a>

## BATs' Development Team

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Modern Apprentice:	<b>Ryan Grieve</b>	<a href="mailto:ryangrieve51@gmail.com">ryangrieve51@gmail.com</a>

## International Tickets

International Tickets	<b>George Henderson</b>	<a href="mailto:gnh@hendersongm.co.uk">gnh@hendersongm.co.uk</a>
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## Mini and Youth Rugby

**Accies' Minis** is an open club for all boys and girls from P1 to P7 who want to try rugby. The current membership of Accies' Minis includes children from 19 different primary schools, so there is ample opportunity to make new friends.

At the transition point from P7 to S1 Accies' Minis, who want to continue their rugby, are warmly welcome to join BATs - who offers a seamless transition from mini to youth rugby under the watchful eyes of the its Development Team.

**BATs** is a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) that contributes to improving young people's lives and nurtures talent from primary and secondary school age groups through to district and national representation.

As well as running teams for S1, S2, U16 and U18 age groups, BATs deliver rugby programmes in 16 local schools in north Edinburgh through curricular activity and after-school clubs. This provision includes the management and delivery of Scottish Rugby's 'School of Rugby' at Trinity Academy and from August 2017 the introduction of a new BATs' 'School of Rugby' at Broughton High School

Both Accies' Minis and BATs promote the health and welfare of youngsters by providing opportunities for them to take part in rugby safely, whilst encouraging fun and sportsmanship. Both clubs follow the **sportscotland** 'If in doubt, sit them out' guidance on head knocks at all age levels: if a player is suspected of having a head knock they will be immediately removed from play or training.

Opportunities for parents to become involved in rugby through coaching and volunteering are available through both Accies' Minis and BATs.

## Coaching

All our youth rugby coaches will be subject to vetting by Disclosure Scotland under the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme. It is our policy that no one coaches at the Accies' Minis or BATs without their PVG clearance.

We pride ourselves in the investment we put into coach education, so we ensure that the environments in which we operate have player welfare at their centre.

All coaches and match officials are required to complete the RugbyRight course that goes through; concussion, player welfare, safe coaching practices and law updates.

We also encourage our coaches to complete the Coaching Children Rugby Union (UKCC Level 1) Course, which qualifies them to coach and referee (game coaching) children in rugby union. This will enable coaches to develop core skills and core values in young players in an active, purposeful, enjoyable and safe environment.

## **Annual Membership Fee and Registration**

It costs £75 a year to join Accies' Minis and £70 to join BATs. This covers membership of the relevant club, insurance, use of facilities and equipment, access to the pitches, hire of all-weather pitches, games, participation in tournaments and coach travel when required.

Accies Minis registration and payment of the annual subscriptions will be managed electronically through their Teamer payments platform. BATs registration and payment will be managed through e-mail and completing a form. Either way this ensures we have an up-to-date record of the player's details including emergency contact telephone numbers, photographic and medical consent, and whether you would like to volunteer to help or become a sponsor.

Teamer is a free and easy to use platform that allows communication between the coaching teams and players/parents via web, e-mail, SMS and mobile app - for more information please see [www.teamer.net](http://www.teamer.net) and click [here](#) to see a short overview video.

You will be invited to join the relevant Teamer group for your child by the age group coach/organizer.

## **What do Youngsters Gain by Playing Rugby?**

The benefits to young people of being involved in rugby cannot be overestimated: the game teaches individuals about themselves as well as valuable skills and life lessons.

The benefits include:

- Physical fitness, strength and coordination.
- The acquisition of essential social skills such as sportsmanship, team spirit and leadership.
- A sense of personal achievement from learning new skills.
- Improved body image and a better understanding of the importance of physical health and fitness.
- A healthy sense of competition and engagement.

- Personal growth and development.
- Respect for your opponents, which teaches young people about healthy conflict.

In addition to the host of physical benefits associated with rugby, the mental and psychological advantages can actually be profound and far-reaching. Those who play team sports, such as rugby, learn skills that they will use and benefit from throughout their lives. Developing these skills from an early age allows them to reap those benefits much sooner.

## Training and Tournament/Match Details

Please note except for a couple of sessions in August and the last session in April, the Accies' Minis have re-located to use New Field – the playing fields of Edinburgh Academy – whilst the redevelopment of Raeburn Place takes part. We will go back to our historic home, at Raeburn Place, when the new playing surfaces have been laid.

### Accies' Minis P1 & P2

- The first two sessions - Sunday 20th (10.30am) and Saturday 26th August (1pm) - and the last session – Sunday 22nd April (10.30am) - will be held at Raeburn Place.
- From Sunday 3rd September training is held on Sundays at New Field, 10.30-11.30am.
- From 5th November to 25<sup>th</sup> February, training indoors at The Edinburgh Academy Junior School Sports Centre: P1, 10-11am; P2, 11-12 noon.
- Tournaments – there are no tournaments until P3, but there may be fun events organised in collaboration with other clubs.

### Accies' Minis P3-P7

- The first two sessions - Sunday 20th (10.30am) and Saturday 26th August (1pm) - and the last session – Sunday 22nd April (10.30am) - will be held at Raeburn Place.
- From Sunday 3rd September training is held on Sundays at New Field, 10.30-11.45am.
- Regular Sunday Fixtures/Tournaments – [click here](#) to get full details
- Full contact starts in P4 as per Scottish Rugby's guidelines.

### BATs S1 & S2

- Training on Wednesdays at Raeburn Place, 18.00-19.00pm (throughout the year).
- Matches – friendly matches will be played on Sundays during the season.

## **BATs U16 & U18**

- Training on Wednesdays at Raeburn Place, 18.00-19.00pm (throughout the year).
- Matches – U16 will enter Regional Cup and League and U18 will enter Regional Cup and play friendlies.

A parent, or nominated person, must be present **throughout** at training or games for all children playing in P1 to P7 groups. Parents of children playing for S1 and above are encouraged to stay to spectate or help with sessions when possible.

## **Bad Weather – Accies' Minis Training**

If you are concerned about the weather, and want to know if coaching is going ahead, you should contact the appropriate year group coach. A decision about whether to go ahead or cancel is usually made by 9.30am on Sunday mornings.

## **Accies' Minis Kit Information**

Please ensure that children arrive for training or tournaments with:

- Appropriate clothes to keep warm and dry.
- Rugby or football boots and socks.
- Shorts and tracksuit bottoms.
- Rugby top.
- **Gum shield – it is compulsory that these are worn by all children from P4 upwards. All others may do so at their own/parents' discretion.**
- A water bottle, as training can be thirsty work and good hydration is an important habit to develop.

Children representing Accies' Minis in tournaments are required to wear the full Club kit. It is also encouraged that they should wear this at training as well. Full Club kit is available to purchase at First XV in the Hay Market – full details at [www.rugbystuff.com](http://www.rugbystuff.com), go to Teamwear and Edinburgh Accies Minis.

## **BATs' Kit Information**

Young people should arrive suitably dressed for training and tournaments, including rugby boots and a gum shield. No one will be allowed to play without a gum shield. When representing BATs in tournaments, players will be provided with a BATs' shirt.

## Communication

We have a comprehensive communication network to ensure you and your child or children know what is going on week by week, whether they belong to Accies' Minis or BATs. This includes web, newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and Teamer:

- **Website** - [www.edinburghaccies.com/youth-junior-rugby/](http://www.edinburghaccies.com/youth-junior-rugby/) will be updated regularly with news and fixtures.
- **Newsletters** – these will be sent to the e-mail address you provide on your membership form.
- **Facebook**
  - BATs Facebook is at - [www.facebook.com/EdinBATs/](http://www.facebook.com/EdinBATs/) - and Accies Minis Facebook is at - [www.facebook.com/EdinburghAcciesMiniRugby/](http://www.facebook.com/EdinburghAcciesMiniRugby/)
  - Both are closed groups - once logged in to FB, please visit the page and request to join.
- **Twitter** - the Twitter feed for BATs is found [@EdinBATs](https://twitter.com/EdinBATs) and for Accies Minis [@AcciesMinis](https://twitter.com/AcciesMinis)
- **Teamer** – both the Minis and BATs will be using Teamer to help the coaching teams to plan for training and tournaments as well as Teamer's payments platform to facilitate electronic registration and payment of the annual subscriptions.
  - Teamer is a free and easy to use platform that allows communication between the coaching teams and players/parents via web, e-mail, SMS and mobile app - for more information please see [www.teamer.net](http://www.teamer.net) and click [here](#) to see a short overview video
  - You will be invited to join the relevant Teamer group for your child by the age group coach/organizer.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Accies' Minis and BATs are both primarily run by volunteers (BATs is boosted by two Development Officers) who are parents and other supporters who give up their time to ensure young people benefit. They administer the Clubs, coach, organise games, deal with membership, fundraise and deal with the governing body (Scottish Rugby).

### **Volunteer assistance is essential for Accies' Minis and BATs to function...**

We understand parents have many demands on their time, but both clubs would be grateful for any support you can give. This can be done in many ways:

- Collecting membership money or helping with administration at training sessions.

- Helping with fundraising events, e.g. quiz night, raffle, sale of teas and coffees on Sunday mornings.
- Sponsoring either Accies' Minis or BATs.
- Providing transport to/from tournaments and matches.

If you are interested in volunteering to support the relevant club, please tick the relevant box on the Membership Form or contact Chris Bamberry (Accies' Minis) or Iain Berthinussen (BATs).

## Code of Conduct

Accies' Minis and Edinburgh BATs aim to ensure that all people, irrespective of their age, gender, ability, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed, colour, nationality, social status or sexual orientation, have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in the game of rugby union at all levels and in all roles.

To ensure this can happen, in as favourable environment as possible, Accies' Minis and BATs have a number of policies on how we expect our players, coaches, volunteers, members and visitors to behave towards each other.

By joining either Accies' Minis or BATs, both parents and children agree to follow our Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action being taken by the appropriate club against the individual(s) concerned.

Click [here](#) to visit our web site and see full details about our policies

### **We always:**

- Support positively and applaud good play.
- Respect officials and opposition players.
- Remember that children are playing to have fun.
- Behave as good role models on the touchline.
- Congratulate the opposition and make their supporters feel welcome.

### **We never:**

- Force any child to play rugby.
- Stray from the touchline onto the pitch.
- Verbally abuse match officials, players or other spectators.
- Threaten, intimidate or use bad language.
- Give offence by way of insult, humiliation or discrimination.