**Hemel Tag Rugby Festival**

**Rules of Play**

**Considering the recent amendments to the RFU guidelines for grassroots rugby, we have made the decision to adopt the proposed changes for 2021/2022 with the view to evaluate and review the process at the end of the season. This means that ALL tag rugby festivals run by the Saracens Foundation will be on a non-competitive basis where no scores based on tries will be kept by referees, knock out stages will be removed from the festival structure, all teams will have the same amount of on-pitch game time and all pupils will receive a ‘Certificate of Participation’.**

**Up to 10 Players in a squad of which 7 play at one time. There must be a minimum of 3 boys and girls on the pitch throughout the game with each team being able to provide at least 1 boy AND 1 girl reserve player.**

Starting: Free pass from the centre of the pitch to start the half/after each try

* Play is restarted up to 1 metre inside the touch line when the ball is out in touch
* Any offence within 5 metres or over the try line should be brought back 5m out
* Opponents must be back 7 metres from any free pass or start of the game. They must not move until the ball has been passed.
* MUST have two hands on the ball to score a try
* Must stay on their feet… NO DIVING (This includes going on to both knees)
* Allowed one step to score a try
* No fending off with the arms or the rugby ball
* **Run with the ball in two hands (This is a coaching point and not a rule.**)
* You must have your tag replaced before re-joining the game. Free pass to the non-offending team if the child touches the ball with only one tag. The Tags must be correctly placed. One tag on either side.
* **The team in possession of a ball will only be allowed to be tagged a maximum of 6 times before scoring a try. At the 7th tag, the referee will stop the game and give the ball to the other team by awarding a free pass at the point that the tag took place.**
* **Unlimited tag for year 3 & 4.**
* Knock on = Free Pass
* If the ball goes back on the floor – ‘Play on’
* If a Tag is made the referee will call ‘Tag’
* If a child accidentally falls to the grounds, the team in possession receives a free pass.
* Substitutions are roll on roll off and the teacher/parent in charge of the team is responsible for making the changes. Teams with more than 7 players on the pitch will be penalized.