

Neville Furlong Rugby Festival

Saturday March 15th, 2025





A MESSAGE FROM DECLAN MADDEN PRESIDENT IRFU

As a member of Garryowen FC and also President of the Irish Rugby Football Union in this special 150th year, I am delighted to welcome you to Dooradoyle today for the Neville Furlong Festival of Rugby. I sincerely hope that all the participants' parents, players, and coaches have a great and enjoyable fun filled day. The festival is all about fun and enjoyment for U12 Boys and Girls. It is an opportunity to showcase all that is best in our rugby family particularly the camaraderie and experience of meeting like-minded rugby people, there will be no strangers' only friends we have not met. Neville believed in participation, inclusion diversity and fun in underage rugby, a game for all, to be enjoyed and loved, and played in the true spirit and traditions of rugby football.

Neville was a true sportsman a great player whom we lost all too soon, but Neville was not just defined by his rugby prowess it was more by the gentleman and person that he was. He would want all the visitors to Dooradoyle today to enjoy themselves and give the kids the best possible rugby experience.

I want to wish you all well, have a great and enjoyable day, and hopefully the weather will favour you with a bit of sunshine.



Yours in Sport
Declan Madden
President IRFU 2024-25



A MESSAGE FROM Dr JIM FEHILY, PRESIDENT GARRYOWEN FC

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all players, coaches, parents and families to Garryowen FC for the annual Neville Furlong Festival of rugby. Neville introduced this festival for the under 12 grade and his ambition was that this would be a festival, not a tournament, for players from all over the country to come and enjoy their rugby, so I hope everyone has a wonderful day here at Dooradoyle.

Garryowen FC places a huge emphasis on underage rugby and this festival gives our players the ideal opportunity to play against their peers from the four provinces of Ireland. Please encourage all of the players today but at the same time adhere to the IRFU's Quiet Side Line Policy.

Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers for your time and effort in getting everyone here today for what I am sure will be a memorable occasion for all.

Finally a sincere thank you to everyone in Garryowen under age for organising the event – the coaches, parents, club volunteers, facilities committee and underage committee.



Best Wishes for a great day
Dr Jim Fehily
President Garryowen FC



NEVILLE FURLONG

A huge welcome to all of the players and coaches who have travelled from near and far to take part in the Neville Furlong U-12 Rugby Festival. Also a big welcome to all Neville's Family and friends.

For those of you who didn't know Neville; up until 2017 he was our Chairman of Underage Rugby, but that would not come close to the contribution that he has made to Garryowen, Connacht and Irish Rugby.

Neville helped Garryowen to win the All Ireland League in 1995, playing many times for Connacht. He was capped twice for Ireland and became a hero to many after he scored a try against the All-Blacks with a broken ankle, against one of the best wingers in the world at the time, John Kirwan! Also famous for scoring the last 4-point try for Ireland before the scoring system was later changed. He played Gaelic Football for Wexford and assisted in coaching football in his local GAA club Ahane, as well as coaching rugby in Garryowen.

Neville became Chairman of Underage Rugby in Garryowen in 2015 and he was forthright and progressive. He always wanted to do what was best for our underage players and for Garryowen FC. Neville embraced the idea that all children should be given the best chance possible to achieve their potential and in the best environment we could offer. However, as with everything Neville took his hand to, he did not just talk about it. He made tangible and long-lasting changes that have set Garryowen on a course that sees over 500 children as members of Garryowen today and structures to ensure they enjoy their time here and continue playing with the club into adulthood.

Of course, one of the biggest milestones of his time as chairperson was to introduce a festival for the under 12-age grade. He was very clear in his ambition - that this would be a festival and not a tournament, an opportunity for players from all over to come to our club and enjoy a few games of Rugby in the best spirit possible, where inclusion was a priority. Unfortunately, we lost Neville to cancer in September of 2017. This is the fifth running of the festival and it has grown steadily, renamed in 2017 as the Neville Furlong Festival of Rugby. This is our first festival post covid. Our wish is that the ethos Neville lived by and promoted will continue on in an ever-growing annual event.

Enjoy the festival and remember Neville's ambition – it is about ensuring that all players have fun!

Garryowen FC





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Garryowen FC would like to thank the following sponsors for making the Neville Furlong Rugby Festival 2025 a success this year.





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GROUNDS PLAN FOR FESTIVAL



Please note:

- Pitches 3 & 4 are our All-Weather Pitch
- Boots can be worn
- We would request that any player moving from a grass pitch to the AWP clean their boots.



FESTIVAL STRUCTURE

Schedule

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9.00 – 9.30am | Team Registration at Garryowen FC One coach on behalf of club/team. All clubs to register on arrival |
| 9.30am | Boys Coach briefing at Garryowen Clubhouse One coach on behalf of club/team |
| 9.50am | Teams assemble at their assigned pitches |
| 10.00am | First Kick-Off Boys Each team will play 5 matches in total with a lunch break at 12noon |
| 11.00am | Girls Coach briefing at Garryowen Clubhouse |
| 11.30am | First Kick-Off Girls |
| 1.50pm | Play Finishes |
| 2.00pm | Presentation of the Neville Furlong Trophy to “The Most Sporting Club” |
| 2.15pm | Clubhouse open to all for Italy vs Ireland 6 Nations Live |

Parking

Coach parking is at the rear of the club grounds. All teams that wish to avail of the coach parking area must be on site prior to 9.30am, as the coach parking area will be closed for access and egress after that time until the festival ends at approximately 2pm when buses can leave.

Car parking is limited at Garryowen FC and will be provided on a first come basis. Additional parking is available at Crescent College Comprehensive and will also be provided on a first come basis. General parking is available at the Crescent Shopping Centre, which is a 5-minute walk from Garryowen FC.

Please use the traffic lights and exercise caution and supervision when crossing the road to and from the Garryowen Clubhouse & Grounds.

For those parked within the grounds please exercise extreme caution as there will be 600+ children moving between areas.

Weather

The weather is something we cannot control and we encourage all visiting teams to bring pop up tents, as there is limited shelter at GFC. These pop up tents can act as storage locations for your players gear bags & cover from sunshine & rain and will be a good assembly point for your team.

Additional Notes:

- During the games, we would request that all spectators remain behind the barriers and off the pitches. This is to ensure that the safety of the players is not compromised. Please follow the instructions of the pitch managers on the day. We ask that all parents and spectators adhere to the IRFU initiative aimed at promoting positive side-line behaviour.
- Aggressive, loud or abusive coaching, player or supporter comments will not be tolerated. Positive support and encouragement is welcomed.
- As there will not be any changing facilities available, please keep all your gear with your team on your designated pitches, in tent / gazebo or in your bus / car.
- All teams are responsible for their own gear. It would be best to designate a person to look after the gear during the festival to avoid any mix-ups. Ensure you bring your team's first aid kit.
- Photos/Videos - Please note that the players taking part in this festival may be photographed or videoed and these photographs/videos may appear on the Garryowen FC Club website, Facebook page, Twitter or may be used in the Club's promotional literature.
- IRFU Registration - All players participating in this festival must be IRFU Registered, as born 2013. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure all their players are properly registered with the IRFU.
- Garryowen FC is not responsible for the loss or damage to property of participating teams and their supporters.
- Toilets will be available at the clubhouse and throughout the festival site there will be portaloo toilets available near pitch locations.



FESTIVAL REGULATIONS

- Squad of maximum 15 players
- Players must be born on or after 1st Jan 2013 (U12)
- IRFU Mini Regulations (Mini 4) will apply to boys and mixed teams
- IRFU Mini Regulations (Mini 3 & Mini 4) will apply to all girls teams
- All participants in Mini Rugby are to adhere to all aspects of the IRFU Code of Conduct for Players / Coaches / Parents / Spectators / and Referees.

Mini Rugby 3 and Mini Rugby 4 as per the IRFU are detailed below.

Mini Rugby 3

| | |
|--|---|
| Ball size | 4 |
| Maximum time per half – Single match | 20 minutes |
| Maximum time per half – Festivals/ Events | 7 minutes |
| Maximum time a squad/ team is allowed to play per day/ event | 70 minutes |
| Minimum time allowed for half time | 1 minute |
| Max no of players per team | 10 |
| No of forwards | 5 |
| No of backs | 5 |
| Safety zone between pitches | 6 metres |
| Tackle height | Waist high. Penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous Tackles (e.g. High / Swinging / Dump tackle) to be penalised immediately & player warned. |
| Ripping / Tackling the ball | Not allowed and will be penalised. |
| Hand off | Not allowed. Carry ball in two hands. |
| Time allowed for rucks & mauls | The 5 seconds "Use it or Lose it" rule applies. It is illegal to collapse a maul Referee/Coach should count down "5, 4, 3, 2, and 1" from moment ruck/maul is formed. |
| Ruck – number of players | Maximum 2 players from each team are in contact, on feet, over the ball. 2 v 2. |
| Maul – number of players | No more than 3 |
| Kicking in Play | Defence zone only |
| Start match | Drop Kick on Half Way |
| Method of scoring | Try |
| Line-Out | 5 Players including the thrower All "forwards" must be involved in lineout No lifting allowed. |
| Scrum | 5 Players. 3 front row, 2 second row Uncontested. Strike allowed by receiving team only Players must stay bound. |

Discipline

- No sending off in Mini Rugby.
- Only compulsory substitutions to ensure same numbers on the pitch at all times.

Start of Match and/or Restarts

- Starts - Drop Kick on half-way must be after the referee's whistle
- In dead ball situations, the restarts must take place 10m from try-line (kicking zone).

Penalties

- No quick tap penalties allowed.
- Penalties must be taken through the mark designated by the referee.
- A scrum to be awarded to the opposition if persistently done incorrectly.
- Opposition must be 10 m back or behind the goal line.

- To play the ball, it must be first tapped with the foot before being passed off the ground.
- The first receiver must start no more than 2m back from the scrum half/passers.
- Penalties inside the Kicking Zone: The DEFENDING team awarded the penalty may kick directly to touch and are awarded throw in.

Kicking

- It is not permitted to kick the ball outside the “Kicking Zone” (10m from own goal line). If the offence is unintentional, a scrum is awarded to the opposition, and if intentional, a penalty is awarded to the opposition.
- Pass back into Kicking Zone rule (as per 15-a-side) to apply.
- Players in front of the kicker must be brought onside before they can take part in play.

Hand Offs

- Not allowed.
- Ball should be carried in both hands.

Scrum

- 5 players (LHP/H/THP & Two 2nd Rows)
- Uncontested
- All players stay bound until ball has emerged.
- Strike from receiving team only.
- Scrum half to feed the ball into the scrum with two hands and straight.
- No forward allowed to pick up the ball from the scrum.
- Opposition scrum half behind his/her 2nd Rows - no follow around allowed.
- Both back lines 5m back from scrum.
- Always 10m from touchline and 5m from goal line.
- Scrum is over when referee calls “scrum over” or when the ball is in the hands of the scrum half who may break.

Lineout

- 5 players including the Thrower
- Line out 2m from touchline.
- The ball may be contested.
- No lifting allowed
- No quick throw allowed
- A space of one metre (arm’s length) between all players in the lineout.
- Both hookers/throwers must be at the front of the lineout and both scrumhalves behind their forwards.
- Both back lines 5m back from lineout.
- Ball must be thrown straight into the lineout no over throw.
- Line out is over when the scrum half passes the ball/ makes a break or when team catching the ball catches & drives
- 5 seconds “Use it or Lose it” in driving maul to apply.

Rucks and mauls

- The “Use it or Lose it” rule should be strictly applied – Referee/Coach should count down “5,4,3,2, and 1” from the moment ruck/maul is formed.
- It is ILLEGAL to COLLAPSE a Maul.
- Players arriving at a Ruck or Maul must do so in a safe and legal manner, e.g. no shoulder charging, diving off feet etc.
- Squeeze ball and Bridging are not allowed.

Dangerous Tackles: High /Swing and Dump Tackles

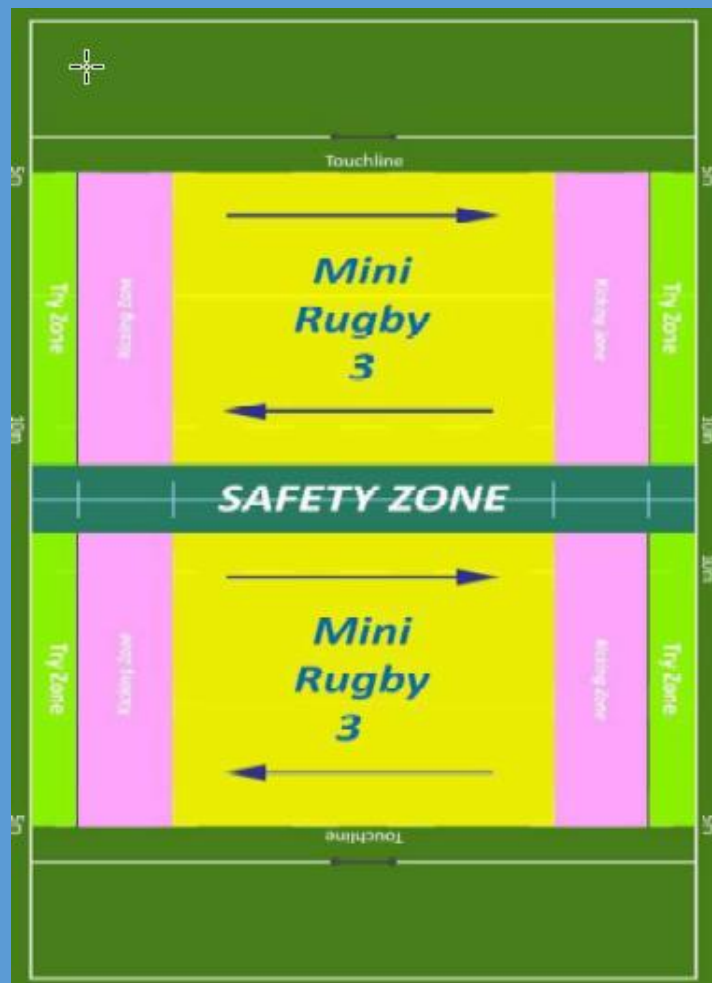
- Player to receive 1 (one) verbal warning from the referee. If the player offends again, compulsory substitution to be made by coach on request by the referee.
- Player is allowed to participate in next match / rest of day’s event unless there is a repeat of the offence.

Punching/Kicking of an opponent

- No verbal warning - immediate compulsory substitution and the player is not allowed to participate in next match or rest of the day’s event.

15 a side

- Not allowed at U12. Doing so will result in a club sanction from the branch.



Mini Rugby 4 - For U12s only and all players must be aged 11

| | |
|--|---|
| Ball size | 4 |
| Maximum time per half – Single match | 20 minutes |
| Maximum time per half – Festivals/ Events | 7 minutes |
| Maximum time a squad/ team is allowed to play per day/ event | 70 minutes |
| Minimum time allowed for half time | 1 minute |
| Max no of players per team | 12 |
| No of forwards | 6 |
| No of backs | 6 |
| Safety zone between pitches | 6 metres |
| Tackle height | Waist high – penalty for tackles above the waist. Dangerous tackles (e.g. High/swinging/dump tackle penalised immediately) |
| Ripping / Tackling the ball | Not allowed and will be penalised. |
| Hand off | Below shoulder Players should be encouraged to carry the ball in two hands. |
| Time allowed for rucks & mauls | The 5 seconds “Use it or Lose it” rule applies. It is illegal to collapse a maul Referee/Coach should count down “5, 4, 3, 2, and 1” from moment ruck/maul is formed. |
| Mauls – number of players | No more than 4 |
| Ruck – number of players | Maximum 2 players from each team are in contact, on feet, over the ball. 2v2. |
| Kicking in Play | Defence zone only |
| Start match | Drop Kick on Half Way |
| Method of scoring | Try – no conversion kicks |
| Line-Out | 6 Players including the thrower All “forwards” must be involved in lineout No lifting allowed. |
| Scrum | 6 Players – 3 front, 2 second rows, 1 back row. Uncontested Strike allowed by receiving team only Players must stay bound until scrum is over |

Discipline

- No sending off in Mini Rugby.
- Only compulsory substitutions to ensure same numbers on the pitch at all times.

Start of Match and/or Restarts

- Starts - Drop Kick on half-way must be after the referee’s whistle
- In dead ball situations, the restarts must take place 5m from try-line (kicking zone).

Penalties

- No quick tap penalties allowed.
- Penalties must be taken through the mark designated by the referee.
- A scrum to be awarded to the opposition if persistently done incorrectly.
- Opposition must be 10 m back or behind the goal line.

- To play the ball, it must be first tapped with the foot before being passed off the ground.
- The first receiver must start no more than 2m back from the scrum half/passers.
- Penalties inside the Kicking Zone: The DEFENDING team awarded the penalty may kick directly to touch and are awarded throw in.

Kicking

- Permitted to kick the ball inside own “Kicking Zone” (5m both sides of the try line).
- Pass back into Kicking Zone rule (as per 15-a-side) to apply.
- Players in front of the kicker must be brought outside before they can take part in play.

Scrum

- 6 players (LHP/H/THP - Two 2nd Rows & One Back Row)
- Back row to scrum between the two 2nd Rows
- Uncontested
- All players stay bound until ball has emerged.
- Strike from receiving team only.
- Scrum half to feed the ball into the scrum with two hands and straight.
- No forward allowed to pick up the ball from the scrum.
- Opposition scrum half behind his 2nd Rows no follow around allowed.
- Both back lines 5m back from scrum.
- Always 10m from touchline and 5m from goal line.
- Scrum is over when referee calls “scrum over” or when the ball is in the hands of the scrum half who may break.

Lineout

- 6 players including the Thrower
- Line out 2m from touchline.
- The ball may be contested.
- No lifting allowed
- No quick throw allowed
- A space of one metre (arm’s length) between all players in the lineout.
- Both hookers/throwers must be at the front of the lineout and both scrumhalves behind their forwards.
- Both back lines 5m back from lineout.
- Ball must be thrown straight into the lineout - no over throw.
- Line out is over when the scrum half passes the ball/ makes a break or when team catching the ball catches & drives
- 5 seconds “Use it or Lose it” in driving maul to apply.

Rucks and mauls

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- It is ILLEGAL to COLLAPSE a Maul.

- Players arriving at a Ruck or Maul must do so in a safe and legal manner, e.g. no shoulder charging, diving off feet etc.
- Squeeze ball and Bridging are not allowed.

Dangerous Tackles: High /Swing and Dump Tackles

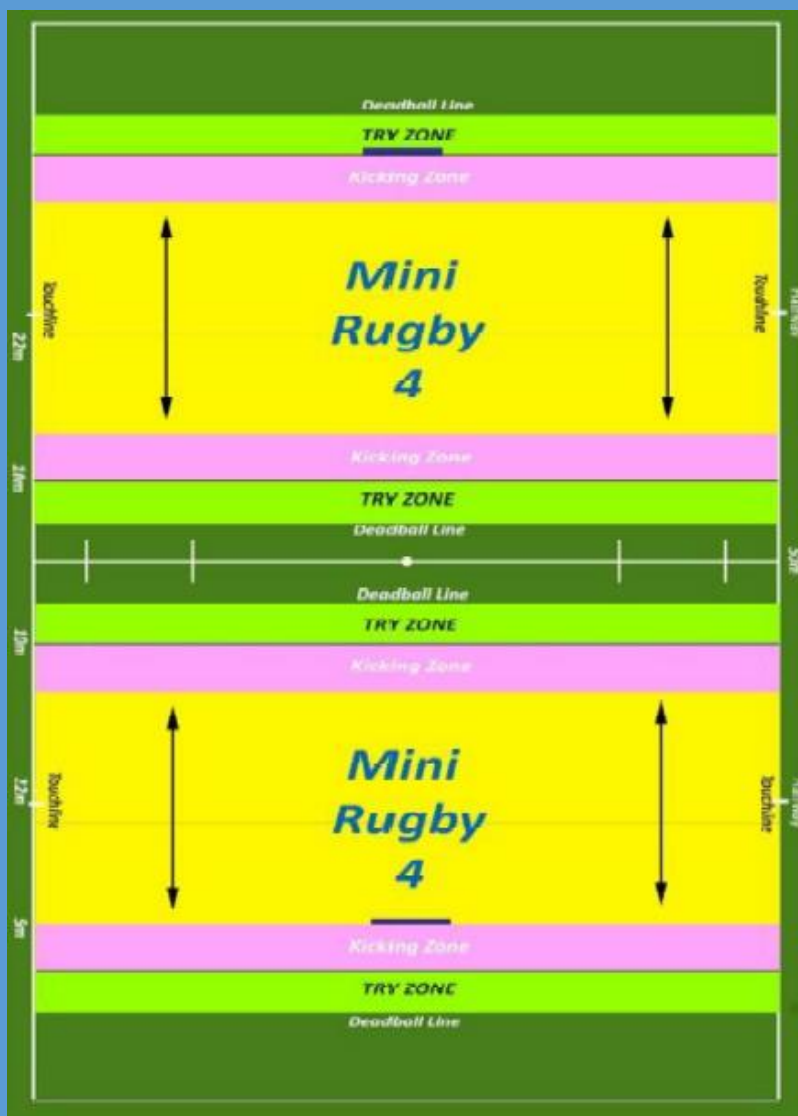
- Player to receive 1 (one) verbal warning from the referee. If the player offends again, compulsory substitution to be made by coach on request by the referee.
- Player is allowed to participate in next match / rest of day's event unless there is a repeat of the offence.

Punching/Kicking of an opponent

- No verbal warning - immediate compulsory substitution and the player is not allowed to participate in next match or rest of the day's event.

15 a side

- Not allowed at U12. Doing so will result in a club sanction from the branch.





FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

The festival schedule along with relevant documentation such as pitch layouts will be available on the tournify app and to access the festival site please use the following address:

www.tournifyapp.com/live/nevillefurlongfestival



Please feel free to share the website with other coaches and parents.

Individual team schedules will be printed on the day and available at the coaches briefing.

Match schedules will also be displayed on a screen near the clubhouse.

Teams will rotate between different pitches. Teams will have the opportunity to play on both grass and All Weather Pitches

The festival organising committee has decided that scores and league standings will not be employed during the festival in keeping with Neville Furlongs ambition regarding the festival.

At the end of play, a member of the Furlong family will make the presentation of the Neville Furlong Trophy to “The Most Sporting Club”.



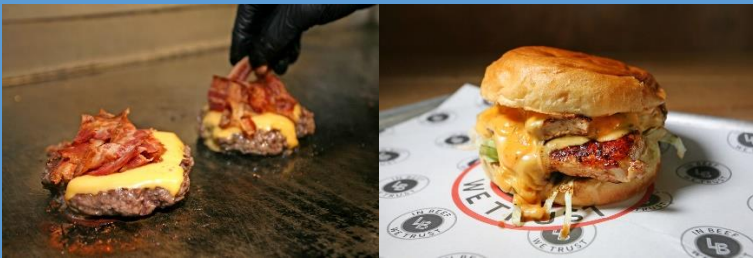
FESTIVAL REFRESHMENTS

Every participating team will receive a food pack for players and coaches and teams that have requested hot refreshments will be notified on the day as to collection.

In addition to this the following will be available on-site in and around the clubhouse.

Burgers and Hot Dogs

Locke Burger will be on-site through out the day serving their delicious burgers and hot dogs. Locke Burger don't just do hamburgers, they do Locke Burger.



Teas and Coffees

“On The Hoof” coffee trailer will be on-site through the day serving their delicious teas, coffees, and those snacks that go down so well with those hot drinks.



Shannon Ices

Do you fancy an ice cream? Shannon Ices will be on hand throughout the festival to serve a variety of ice cream products for all lovers of ice cream.

Club House

The clubhouse will be open throughout the day for teas and coffees as well as snacks. The Italy Vs Ireland match will be shown on the TV screens just as the festival ends and all are welcome to avail of the clubhouse facilities.



FESTIVAL SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability in Action at the Neville Furlong Rugby Festival!

When planning for the 2025 Neville Furlong Rugby Festival we were conscious of our environmental responsibilities and wanted to promote a sustainability action plan. Our requirements to promote a sustainable festival resulted in Mr. Binman coming on board as the official waste management partner.

Mr. Binman were excited to be a part of this year's Neville Furlong rugby festival, not just for the thrilling matches but for the chance to make a positive impact on our environment! As the official waste management partner, they are committed to helping make this event as green as possible.

Their mission is to promote recycling, reduce waste, and lower our carbon footprint. From the clearly marked recycling stations around the site to eco-friendly practices, we want to ensure that every bottle, can, and wrapper is properly disposed of and recycled. Every small action counts toward creating a cleaner, greener future for our kids and the planet!

Let us work together to keep the game strong and the earth stronger!





HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Medics and Ambulance from the Order of Malta will be present, and each pitch manager will advise you if needed. Please bring any injured players (if it is possible and safe to move them) to the Medics for attention.
- In the unfortunate event of any serious injuries, please complete a “Serious Injury form” and submit it to your Club.
- Teams are responsible for the security of themselves, gear and valuables throughout the festival.
- If you are parked off site please exercise caution and supervision when crossing the road, please use the pedestrian traffic lights. At all times be aware of other traffic and pedestrians throughout the site.
- Best of luck to all teams and enjoy the day!

Thanks to Order of Malta for providing Medics and Ambulance for the Neville Furlong Rugby Festival.





THANK YOU

On behalf of Garryowen, I wish to thank all the teams - both the players and coaches for participating and contributing to making this an enjoyable and successful event.

Thanks to all at Garryowen for their support and hard work preparing for this day – the parents, coaches, referees, house & grounds, Underage Chair & Committee and the Club Executive.

Thank you to the Referees & Pitch Managers for giving their time to ensure the event is a success. After all, without them, the day cannot go ahead.

Special thanks to the parents of our U12's. The Volunteer Army on the day – helpers with food (preparation and serving), and all parents, for their co-operation and support. It is all the work behind the scenes that makes these days a success.

Thanks to the players – from clubs throughout the country – I hope you have a memorable and thoroughly enjoyable day of rugby!

Finally, thanks to the Furlong family and all the friends of Neville Furlong for all their support and encouragement throughout in putting this festival together.

Lastly, we hope that you share this with your Under 11 Groupings and that they will look forward to participating next year.

*Jim Corbett,
Neville Furlong Rugby Festival 2025*



CONTACT DETAILS

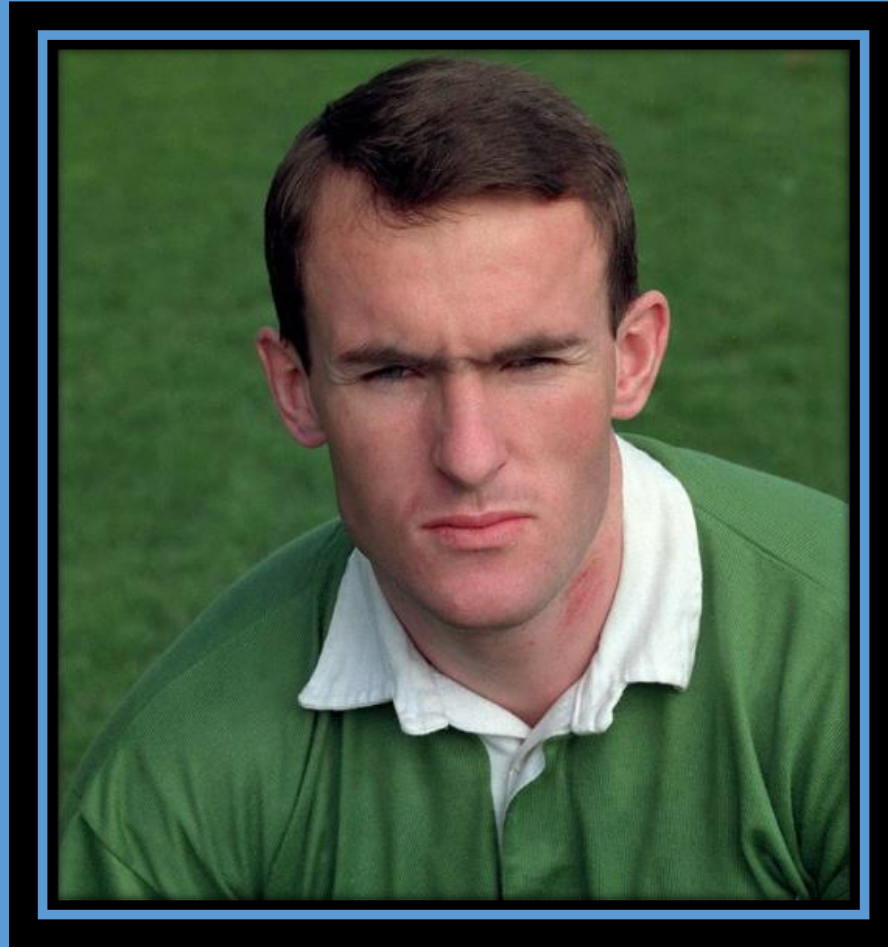
Jim Corbett
Festival Co-Ordinator
Nevillefurlongfestival@gmail.com

John O'Connell
Chairperson of Underage Rugby Garryowen
john.oconnell@senatorwindows.ie

Child Welfare Officer
Nessa O'Hanlon
086 1731482

<https://garryowenrugby.com/>

Neville Furlong 1968 - 2017



"Our hearts so stout have brought us fame
for soon 'tis known from whence we came
where e'er we go they dread the name
of Garryowen in glory"



US 7th Cavalry Association