



## 2012 Middle School Division Midi (Elementary School) Rugby “The Lights”

### Rationale

In 2011, iYRA created the Midi Rugby Program to accommodate the many younger or smaller players that joined our Middle School Clubs. It was intended to allow these younger & smaller players (i.e. “Lights” – lighter players; as opposed to the “Heavies” – bigger players) to get some playing time against similar sized opponents until they have grown large enough to join their regular Middle School side. It was a tremendous success. For the 2012 season, these players will compete in their own division.

### How it works

The Middle School Division plays in a Festival Format with multiple clubs convening at a single venue to play their matches. This allows clubs to loan players in order to maximize the playing opportunities for all players. Full Midi teams will play scheduled matches. Midi Players for clubs that do not have a full side will be combined into an iYRA Midi Team coached on match day by volunteer iYRA MS Coaches. Should we find we have an odd number of Midi teams, we’ll play in a three halves format (e.g. one full half each: A vs. B; A vs. C; B vs. C).

**The decision to assign a player to a Midi Rugby Squad rather than a MS side will be made by the individual Coaches, Parents & Player.** iYRA recommends that all players meeting any of the following criterion participate in the iYRA Midi Rugby Program: 1) Younger than 12 years old, 2) Not yet in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or 3) Weighing less than 115 Lbs (50 Kgs; 8 stone).

### Developmental League

The iYRA Middle School Division is a developmental league. The iYRA Midi Rugby Program is intended to allow smaller & younger players to participate and learn the sport in a safe manner. A player may play in both a MS match and a Midi Rugby match. Players **should not be required** to play in two matches during any one day.

Coaches, Parents & Players are expected to carefully decide on how best to proceed **in the best interests of all players.**

While understanding our developmental purpose, we will name 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place champions at the State Championship Tournament from those clubs that field full Midi Rugby sides.