

Tom Palmer's top 10 rugby reads for kids

Traditionally there have not been as many rugby books for children as there are football books. But that is changing. With several fiction authors writing and more reference books becoming available you can now build a respectable rugby union library.

1. [World Rugby Records](#) by Chris Hawkes

A colourful and attractively laid out blend of rugby facts, statistics, history and photographs that delivers the stories behind the games as much as the facts and figures. Includes all forms of the game, including rugby union, rugby league and sevens.

2. [England Rugby Annual 2015](#)

An annual for children who support England with pages of facts, quizzes, competitions and player profiles. It's got lots of photographs, cartoons and information in a very accessible format.

3. [Pride and Penalties](#) by Chris Higgins

Charlotte's dad wants Charlotte's brother to be a rugby star. But her brother wants to be a star of the stage. Charlotte, however, wants to be a rugby player – almost as much as she needs her father's approval. In the end she gets both. A great read about girls playing rugby at a time where the England women's team are world champions.

4. [The Rugby Zombie series](#) by Dan Anthony

Three boys go into the woods in south Wales one night. They meet 15 zombies, all wearing Welsh rugby tops. But these are not zombies bent on killing: they need help. And the three boys deliver. These books are funny, slightly scary and full of feeling. There are three books in the series: The Rugby Zombies, Number Two and The Last International.

5. [The Rugby Spirit series](#) by Gerard Siggins

Eoin begins attending a Dublin school that is obsessed with rugby, although he has never played it. Before long he becomes obsessed with the game

thanks to the influence of a forgotten family link to the game and the ghost of a former player who helps him develop his skills. Rugby Spirit is the first in a series of three (so far). The other two titles are Rugby Warrior and Rugby Rebel.

6. [Winger](#) by Andrew Smith

This book for older readers is about Ryan, a rugby playing boy, in the USA. But Winger is more about how Ryan treats his friends, male and female (badly in the beginning). This is more a novel about friendship than about sport but steeped in rugby all the same.

7. [Jonny: My Autobiography](#) by Jonny Wilkinson

There are a lot of rugby autobiographies. Many of them are written for adults – not children – and contain “what goes on tour stays on tour” type tales. But Jonny Wilkinson’s book is certainly good for older children. It is deeply inspiring and includes a lot about Wilkinson as a child and how he had to fight against himself to become the legend he became.

8. [Know the Game: Rugby Union](#) by the RFU

A short easy-to-understand guide to the often confusing rules of rugby union. This is a perfect introduction to those who are new to the game and it’s good for those who need a bit of clarity too.

9. [Rugby Union Manual: the Official Guide to Playing the Game](#) by Howard Johnson

A far more complicated and thorough book about the rules of the game with every position and every rule examined. It’s enhanced by a focus on great players and matches that illustrate each rule and aspect of the game. Although it’s a very intense book, it can be useful as precise reference work.

10. [World Rugby Yearbook](#) by Karen Bond

If you have a statistics obsessive sports fan in your house then this is the book for you. With a focus on the last year’s action in the world of rugby union, this yearbook also includes copious lists, tables and stats from the entire history of the game. There are several excellent essays by major

names from the game interspersed through the pages. It's the size of a breezeblock.