

Scottish Korfball League Rules 2015-2016

Status: Draft

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1. Definition & Responsibility

- 1.1. The Scottish Korfball League is administered by the Scottish Korfball Association ("the SKA").
- 1.2. The SKA will delegate authority to a Competitions Committee reporting to the SKA to take direct responsibility for the fixtures calendar and the day-to-day coordination and administration of the league. For the avoidance of doubt, references in this document to the Competitions Committee mean **either** that committee or, where powers have yet to be delegated under appropriate terms of reference, the SKA Management Committee.
- 1.3. The SKA has the power to make decisions on any matter not specifically covered in this document.
- 1.4. Any fees or fines detailed in these rules must be paid by the specified due date, or within 28 days of falling due.

2. Terminology

- 2.1. Match = a korfball game between two league teams.
- 2.2. Triple Fixture = a set of three matches, usually played consecutively at one location.
- 2.3. Team 1 = the league team mentioned first in the fixtures calendar, and ordinarily responsible for hosting the matches.
- 2.4. Teams 2 & 3 = the two league teams mentioned second and third (if relevant) in the fixtures calendar, and visiting the matches hosted by Team 1.

3. League Structure

- 3.1. The league season runs from the 6th September 2015 - 16th April 2016.
- 3.2. The league will be divided into two divisions – Division 1 and Division 2.
- 3.3. Division 1 shall consist of the 8 top ranked teams from the league in the 2014-2015 season, provided they meet the criteria specified in clause A team meets the requirements of clause Division 1 shall consist of the 8 top ranked teams from the league in the 2014-2015 season, provided they meet the criteria specified in clause 3.4. If one of these teams cannot fulfil the criteria by 8th July 2015, that team's place shall be offered to the next ranked team (and so on).. if. If one of these teams cannot fulfil the criteria by 8th July 2015, that team's place shall be offered to the next ranked team (and so on).
- 3.4. A team meets the requirements of clause Division 1 shall consist of the 8 top ranked teams from the league in the 2014-2015 season, provided they meet the criteria specified in clause A team meets the requirements of clause 3.3. if. If one of these teams cannot fulfil the criteria by 8th July 2015, that team's place shall be offered to the next ranked team (and so on).. if:
 - the team can nominate an SKA Level 2 referee (who need not be a member of the club, and may be a member of another club) who is willing to ordinarily act as referee for the team games;
 - the team forfeited no more than 2 matches in the league the preceding season; and
 - the team indicates to the SKA that it is willing to take a place in Division 1.
 - (starting 2016-2017) where the team is not the club's first team, it has used star players from the teams above a maximum of 50% of possible times in the preceding season.
- 3.5. Division 2 shall consist of all other teams entered in the league.
- 3.6. Each team will play every other team in its respective Division the following number of times during the league season, based on the number of teams entered in each division:
 - 1-4 teams: the clubs will be consulted on a format
 - 5-6 teams: 4 times per season
 - 7-9 teams: 3 times per season
 - 10-12 teams: 2 times per season
 - 13+ teams: the club will be consulted on a format.
- 3.7. All matches will be played in accordance with the September 2015 Rules of Korfball and Guidance Notes as laid down by the International Korfball Federation ("IKF").

4. League Entry

- 4.1. Entry to the league is open to teams from all clubs affiliated to the SKA and to any other club who the SKA Management Committee, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate.
- 4.2. The Competitions Committee will issue a league entry form to all its affiliated clubs no later than the 1st July
- 4.3. All clubs wishing to enter one or more teams into the league will return the completed entry form no later than the 8th July indicating the following:

- number of teams the club wishes to enter in the league
 - contact details for each team, i.e. contact name, email address, and mobile telephone number
 - shirt colour(s) for each team
 - availability of each team for each Sunday of the league season
 - (where applicable) compliance with clause 3.4
- 4.4. The Competitions Committee may request proof of viability before admitting a team to the league.
- 4.5. Late entries to the league may be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.
- 4.6. A league entry fee of £100 for each team is payable by each club no later than 1st September.

5. Fixtures Calendar

- 5.1. The League Secretary will issue a provisional fixtures calendar for feedback to all clubs no later than 22nd July 2015.
- 5.2. Clubs will be able to provide feedback on the provisional fixtures calendar until 5th August 2015.
- 5.3. The League Secretary will publish the final fixtures calendar no later than 15th August 2015.
- 5.4. Most matches will form part of triple headers, however there will be some exceptions.
- 5.5. Teams from the same club may be required to play games at different venues on the same date and time.

6. Venue & Time

- 6.1. All matches are played on the Sunday specified in the fixtures calendar, unless agreed in advance with the Competitions Committee and the other teams.
- 6.2. Team 1 decides on the venue and the time of play.
- 6.3. Team 1 is responsible for booking three hours of consecutive hall time, and for all costs associated with that booking.
- 6.4. All venues must be booked, and times and venues confirmed with the SKA, no later than 1st September 2015.

7. Match Structure

- 7.1. The order of play in a triple header is as follows:
- Team 1 v Team 2
 - Team 2 v Team 3
 - Team 3 v Team 1
- 7.2. The first-mentioned team has the choice of which direction to attack first, and starts with the ball.
- 7.3. The match structure is as follows:
- 10 minutes warm up
 - 2 halves of 22 minutes playing time
 - 4 minutes half-time break
 - 2 minutes time-outs (optional)
- 7.4. The fixture times are as follows:
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 00:00 | Start warm up Team 1 and Team 2 |
| 00:10 | Start first half Team 1 v Team 2 |
| 00:32 | End first half Team 1 v Team 2 |
| 00:36 | Start second half Team 1 v Team 2 |
| 00:58 | End second half Team 1 v Team 2 |
| 2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs | |
| | |
| 01:00 | Start warm up Team 2 and Team 3 |
| 01:10 | Start first half Team 2 v Team 3 |
| 01:32 | End first half Team 2 v Team 3 |
| 01:36 | Start second half Team 2 v Team 3 |
| 01:58 | End second half Team 2 v Team 3 |
| 2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs | |
| | |
| 02:00 | Start warm up Team 3 and Team 1 |
| 02:10 | Start first half Team 3 v Team 1 |
| 02:32 | End first half Team 3 v Team 1 |
| 02:36 | Start second half Team 3 v Team 1 |
| 02:58 | End second half Team 3 v Team 1 |
| 2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs | |

8. Referees and Assistants

- 8.1. Unless the SKA appoints a referee, the non-playing team in a triple header is responsible for providing a referee and referee's assistant.

- 8.2. Where a match is not part of a triple header, the Competitions Committee shall appoint a referee and referee's assistant.
- 8.3. All referees should hold a qualification and experience commensurate with the level of the match (in accordance with the SKA's Referee Development Notes), or be shadowed by such an individual. If a club is responsible for providing a referee, and feels unable to provide a suitable person, they must notify the Competitions Committee at least 21 days before the match. The Competitions Committee shall make an appropriate appointment.
- 8.4. Where a referee is appointed under rule All referees should hold a qualification and experience commensurate with the level of the match (in accordance with the SKA's Referee Development Notes), or be shadowed by such an individual. If a club is responsible for providing a referee, and feels unable to provide a suitable person, they must notify the Competitions Committee at least 21 days before the match. The Competitions Committee shall make an appropriate appointment. the team ordinarily responsible for providing a referee shall pay the SKA's appointed referee any reasonable travel expenses incurred. The SKA shall pay such expenses for referees appointed under rule Where a match is not part of a triple header, the Competitions Committee shall appoint a referee and referee's assistant..
- 8.5. The teams will notify each other and the Competitions Committee of the appointed referee and referee's assistant at least 10 days before the match.
- 8.6. A referee or referee's assistant may be a member of the same club as one of the teams participating in a match.
- 8.7. The appointed referee is responsible for bringing a whistle, stopwatch, red & yellow card, and pen & paper.
- 8.8. The referee's assistant is responsible for updating the scoreboard, keeping time, monitoring substitutions, and any other duties that are appropriate in the circumstances.

Discipline

- 8.9. Referees are instructed to be strict on discipline, and to issue an official yellow or red card where necessary.
- 8.10. Referees are instructed to be strict on foul language and swearing, even when not directed at any person in particular.
- 8.11. Following any yellow or red cards being issued, SKA guidelines for all disciplinary matters will be followed.
- 8.12. The referee will report any disciplinary matters to the Competitions Committee no later than 48 hours following the fixture.
- 8.13. The SKA may take action following a match, regardless of whether a red or yellow card was issued.

9. Safety

- 9.1. The Referee is responsible for the safety of all players during the match.
- 9.2. Before and during the match, the Referee can summon the Team 1 captain to resolve any situation deemed unsafe. Where a match has been booked by the SKA, a representative of the SKA Management Committee or their designate (an individual present in person, and named at least 10 days in advance) should be summoned instead. If an unsafe situation cannot be resolved within 10 minutes, the Referee may abandon or cancel the match.
- 9.3. Neither the Referee, nor the SKA can be held liable for any costs associated with the abandonment or cancellation of a match (except that the SKA shall remain liable for any bookings it has made itself).

10. Equipment & Lines

- 10.1. Team 1 will provide posts and at least 2 balls for all matches of the fixture.
- 10.2. IKF-approved synthetic baskets must be used for all fixtures, and be of the same type and similar quality at each end of the playing area.
- 10.3. Team 1 will bring 8 decent bibs in case two teams wear similar shirts. The referee will decide if bibs are to be worn, and by which team.
- 10.4. Team 1 will make sure that all outside lines and the halfway line are clear and without gaps. If gaps exist, then tape will need to be used.
- 10.5. Team 1 will bring and use a means for displaying the score prominently at the side of the pitch, on the centre line.
- 10.6. Team 1 will mark the penalty spot and the free-pass circle as shown in Appendix 1.
- 10.7. The Referee will check the lines and the position and stability of the posts before starting the match.

11. Match Forms

- 11.1. Match forms will be available for download on the SKA website.
- 11.2. Team 1 will provide blank match forms in hard copy for all matches to be played.
- 11.3. The referee and captains of the two teams playing will complete and sign the match form immediately after the match.
- 11.4. The final score of the match is decided by the referee.

- 11.5. The referee will not sign the match form until both captains have fully completed and signed their part of the match form.
- 11.6. Team 1 will collect the match forms from all three matches, and will email scanned copies (or photographs of readable quality) of the three completed match forms to results@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- 11.7. Failure to submit match forms on time will result in a fine of £10 per set of fixtures, per week, for a maximum of three weeks.
- 11.8. Failure to submit match forms at all will result in a fine (additional to that specified in clause Failure to submit match forms on time will result in a fine of £10 per set of fixtures, per week, for a maximum of three weeks.) of £20.

12. Substitutions

- 12.1. Each team will be allowed eight substitutions per match.
- 12.2. A substitution can only be requested by the coach or the captain.
- 12.3. A substitution can only be made when the play is stopped.
- 12.4. Rotating substitutions are permitted. A player who has been substituted off may return to the game. There are no restrictions on when a player may return (except as provided for in clause A substitution can only be made when the play is stopped.) or to which division he/she may return.
- 12.5. If a player has to leave the match because of injury or a red card, and the team has no more substitutions available, then the team will have to play short.

13. Time-Outs

- 13.1. Each team will be allowed one time-out per match.
- 13.2. A time-out will be 1 minute. After 45 seconds the referee will blow his/her whistle to indicate that both teams have to retake their positions.
- 13.3. A time-out can only be requested by the coach or the captain.
- 13.4. A time-out can only be awarded when the play is stopped.
- 13.5. During a time-out, players are not allowed to leave the playing area.
- 13.6. After a time-out, the game must be restarted before any new time-out can be given.

14. Rescheduling Fixtures

- 14.1. Rescheduling a fixture after publication of the final fixtures calendar must be requested with the other teams involved and with the Competitions Committee as soon as possible and at least 10 days before the scheduled fixture date.
- 14.2. Rescheduling a fixture is only allowed with full agreement of the other teams involved and with approval of the Competitions Committee.
- 14.3. A fixture should be rescheduled as soon as possible after the original fixture date and no later than the 16th April 2016. Any fixtures not played by this date shall be considered abandoned.
- 14.4. If 7 days before the scheduled fixture date no agreement can be reached or no alternative date can be found, then the fixture will proceed as scheduled in the fixtures calendar.
- 14.5. If a fixture is rescheduled on request of one of the teams, then this team will be responsible for any unrecoverable costs, e.g. hall cancellation fee.
- 14.6. If a fixture is rescheduled due to circumstances for which none of the teams was deemed responsible, e.g. severe weather conditions, then any unrecoverable costs will be shared equally between all clubs in the league. This is in addition to the league entry fee.
- 14.7. Any problems regarding the rescheduling of fixtures should be referred to the Competitions Committee, whose decision about the rescheduling will be final.

15. Delayed Matches

- 15.1. If the start of a match is delayed by less than 20 minutes, then the match is shortened so that the remaining matches of the fixture can still be played in full.
- 15.2. If the start of a match is delayed by 20 minutes or more, or if a team does not show up, then the match is abandoned.
- 15.3. The 20-minute late deadline is decided by the referee, and based on both teams having a legal team on court ready to play.

16. Cancelled & Abandoned Matches

- 16.1. If a match is cancelled or abandoned due to circumstances for which one of the teams can be held responsible, then this team will forfeit the match. Alternatively, the non-offending team may offer to have the match rescheduled, in which case the offending team will pay for any additional costs. Where the match is forfeited, the offending team shall be fined £50 which shall be directed to cover any unrecoverable costs (hall hire); any additional monies remaining shall be directed to the SKA.

- 16.2. If a match is cancelled or abandoned due to circumstances for which neither of the teams can be held responsible, and less than half the match has been played, then the match is rescheduled. If more than half the match has been played, then the score will stand as that when the match was abandoned.
- 16.3. In either of the above circumstances, the Competitions Committee must be informed, and their decision about the responsibility for the cancellation will be final.

17. Forfeiting Matches

- 17.1. If a team forfeits a match, then the opposing team will be awarded a 10-0 win.
- 17.2. The Competitions Committee may also consider deducting a maximum of two points per match forfeited if it is deemed that punitive measures are required in the circumstances.
- 17.3. Any team forfeiting more than four matches in one league season will lose its place in the league, and all its match results will be erased.
- 17.4. Player statistics for expunged results shall be retained in the case of the non-offending team (but not the offending team), but shall not count towards team goal tallies.

18. Player Registration

- 18.1. Each club shall register all members playing for that club in the league no later than the 1st September 2015.
- 18.2. Only players registered with the SKA are eligible to play in league matches.
- 18.3. Players can only be registered with one club.
- 18.4. New players joining the club during the league season will need to be registered with the league. An application for player registration must accompany the match form, or follow by e-mail to competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 48 hours.
- 18.5. A player registration fee of £10 shall be chargeable to clubs for any person who plays in 3 or more league games in the season (for any team within the club).

19. Team Selection

- 19.1. Each club with more than one team in the league will nominate (for all but their lowest team) that team's strongest 4 female and 4 male players as their "star players" no later than 31st August 2015. The SKA shall publish details of all Star Players on their website on 1st September 2015.
- 19.2. Teams can make three changes to their star player nominations without consent during the league season, by notifying the Competitions Committee no later than 10 days before a match in which the change is to take effect. If a game is played in the interim, the change shall not apply.
- 19.3. Teams may make further changes to their star players with the consent of the Competitions Committee, providing exceptional circumstances can be shown.

20. Playing Up & Playing Down

- 20.1. Playing Up (e.g. from Team 3 to Team 2, or Team 2 to Team 1 within a club) is unrestricted.
- 20.2. Playing Down (i.e. the opposite) is unrestricted except for star players.
- 20.3. Playing Down for star players is restricted to a maximum of 2 per match.
- 20.4. A player cannot play down more than one team (e.g. a star player cannot play for the third team) without prior permission from the Competitions Committee.
- 20.5. Playing Up takes precedence over Playing Down, i.e. star players can only play for a lower team if no other players of the same sex are available. It follows from this that a star player can only appear as a substitute for a non-star player in the event of an injury or a red card.
- 20.6. In determining whether a player is playing up or playing down, the Competitions Committee will have regard to the team which a player has played for most frequently in the preceding five games.

21. Playing Short & Borrowing Players

- 21.1. A player cannot play for another club than the one for which he/she is registered, i.e. teams cannot borrow players from other clubs.
- 21.2. If a team only has 6 or 7 players at the start of the match, then the match will go ahead and the team will need to play short.
- 21.3. If a team only has 5 players or less at the start of the match, then the match is delayed.

22. Player Transfer

- 22.1. A player may request to be transferred to another affiliated club by email to ian@scotlandkorfball.co.uk giving at least 48 hours' notice and including an email from the player's current club confirming that he/she has fulfilled all financial obligations towards the club. The player can play for his/her new club as soon as the Competitions Committee has approved the transfer.
- 22.2. A player cannot be transferred more than once in one league season, unless exceptional circumstances can be shown,

23. Point System & Ranking

- 23.1. The league ranking will be based on the number of points awarded according to the results of matches played: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss.
- 23.2. In the case of two or more teams having an equal number of points, ranking will be based on:
 - match points between those teams only
 - goal difference between those teams only
 - number of goals scored between those teams only
 - goal difference in the entire league
 - number of goals scored in the entire league
- 23.3. If after applying the rules in clause In the case of two or more teams having an equal number of points, ranking will be based on: the ranking is still undecided, then these teams shall be deemed to hold the same ranking.

24. Final Ranking

- 24.1. The highest ranked team in each Division will be declared divisional champions, and will be awarded the respective league trophies for one season.
- 24.2. The Division 1 champions will be Scottish champions, and will be invited to represent Scotland in the 2017 Europa Cup. If that team declines this offer, the next ranked team shall be invited (and so on).
- 24.3. If the position of the league champions is undecided after applying the rules in clause Point System & Ranking, then there will be a play-off between the teams concerned as specified in clause Play-Off.
- 24.4. The league trophies remain the property of the SKA and clubs are liable for the costs of repair or replacement should the trophy be damaged or lost while in their care. The trophy must be returned to the SKA on request.

25. Play-Off

- 25.1. A play-off will consist of a single match, held according to the rules of the league, between the teams concerned.
- 25.2. In the event that three or more teams are involved in a play-off, the matches will be in round-robin format with each team playing the other teams once.
- 25.3. A play-off will be held at a neutral venue on 30th April 2015.
- 25.4. The Competitions Committee will designate the venue, time and referee.
- 25.5. The costs for any play-off will be met by the SKA.

26. Promotion and Relegation

- 26.1. The team ranked first in Division 2 shall be promoted to Division 1 for season 2016-2017, provided that team meets the league entry criteria specified in clause A team meets the requirements of clause Division 1 shall consist of the 8 top ranked teams from the league in the 2014-2015 season, provided they meet the criteria specified in clause 3.4. If one of these teams cannot fulfil the criteria by 8th July 2015, that team's place shall be offered to the next ranked team (and so on).. if by 1st July 2016. If that team declines promotion, its place in Division 1 shall be offered to the next ranked team in Division 2 (and so on).
- 26.2. The team ranked last in Division 1 shall be relegated to Division 2 for season 2016-2017.
- 26.3. The SKA reserves the right to restructure the divisions for future seasons, and more than one team may be promoted if appropriate.

27. Doubling Up

- 27.1. Fixtures played between university teams may count for both BUCS competitions and the Scottish league, provided the playing rules of the two competitions are analogous. In the event that a dispute occurs in such a game, and that dispute is dealt with under BUCS rules in a manner which is inappropriate under Scottish league rules, then the match may be ordered to be replayed

28. Problems & Complaints

- 28.1. All problems and complaints relating to the league should be referred to the Competitions Committee as soon as they arise.
- 28.2. The Competitions Committee shall have a maximum period of 28 days from receipt of a complaint to gather evidence and to render a decision on the complaint. Any member of the Competitions Committee whose club is directly involved in a complaint (as complainer or subject) shall not participate in investigations or discussions. The Competitions Committee must take statements and any other relevant evidence offered, from any club or individual against whom a complaint is made.
- 28.3. Decisions of the Competitions Committee may be appealed to the SKA Management Committee, provided the decision to appeal is notified to secretary@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 7 days of the decision being announced. The SKA Management Committee shall consider only evidence that was available to the Competitions Committee, and shall give a decision within 14 days.
- 28.4. The decision of the SKA Management Committee is absolutely final.

29. Review

29.1. These rules shall be reviewed for the 2016-2017 season in early 2016. The revised rules shall be presented for adoption at the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the SKA.