

# Scotland Korfball Association

## Scottish Korfball League Rules

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Changes highlighted in **blue**

### 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.
- 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.

### 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.
- 2.5. Referee = Official responsible for refereeing a match.
- 2.6. Shot Clock Official = Responsible for operating the shot clock in a Division 1 match.
- 2.7. Table Official = Responsible for scoreboarding and other official tasks not undertaken by the referee.
- 2.8. Named Player = see 19.1
- 2.9. "Appearance" for a team (of a player) = playing in an individual game. In a triple-header fixture where a team plays 2 games and the same player is on the match forms for both, this is counted as 2 appearances.
- 2.10. Legal Team = A team consisting of six players including at least two men and two women.
- 2.11. Transfer Window = 1st of August 2025 - 31st July 2026.

### 3. League Structure

- 3.1. The dates for the league season will be as advised by the SKA.
- 3.2. The league will be divided into divisions as the SKA deems appropriate.
- 3.3. The divisions will be based upon the rankings from the previous season, provided teams meet the criteria specified in clause 3.4.
- 3.4. A team meets the requirements of clause 3.4 if:
  - The team can nominate an appropriately qualified referee as defined in the Referee Structure for the forthcoming season 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.
- 3.5. All matches will be played in accordance with the SKA's Version of the 2023 Rules of Korfball with 2024's amendments as laid down by the International Korfball Federation ("IKF") which can be found at <https://scotlandkorfball.co.uk/index.php/resources/>
- 3.6. After playing one "home" and one "away" game against the other teams in their division, teams will be rearranged into playoff groups of 4 or 5 teams (depending on total number of teams in the league), based on the league standings after all matches have been played. This will lead into the playoff set of matches, where teams in the same group will play against each other once, to determine their final standing for the season. Points from the league phase will not carry over into the playoff groups.
- 3.7. The playoff match schedule will be communicated to clubs by the Competitions Committee no later than 2 months after the first match of the season.

#### 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, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate.

4.2. The Competitions Committee will issue a league entry form to all affiliated clubs no later than 6 weeks before the proposed start to the season.

4.3. All clubs wishing to enter one or more teams into the league will return the completed entry form no later than 2 weeks after the league entry forms have been issued, 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 telephone number. 1
- Shirt colour(s) for each team.
- Availability of each team for each weekend of the league season.
- (where applicable) Compliance with clause 3.4.
- (where applicable) A nominated appropriately qualified referee as defined in the Referee Structure for the forthcoming season.
- Saturday games opt-in preference.

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, which will be advised by the SKA at the time of sending the league entry forms, for each team is payable by no later than 2 weeks after the proposed start to the season.

#### 5. Fixtures Calendar

5.1. The Competitions Officer will issue a fixtures calendar no later than 3 weeks before the proposed start to the season.

5.2. Most matches will form part of triple headers, however there will be some exceptions.

5.3. 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 normally played on the Sunday of any given fixture weekend. They can also, however, be played on the Saturday, provided that all participating teams have both 'opted-in' to Saturday games and mutually agreed a particular Saturday date is suitable before any hall booking is made.

6.2 Team 1 decides on the venue and the time of play, fulfilling the requirements of 6.1 where necessary.

6.3 If a team is hosting one or more teams from outside the host city, matches may not be played before 10am.

6.4. Team 1 is responsible for booking the required amount of hall time (at least one hour for each match), and for all costs associated with that booking.

6.5 All venues must be booked, and times and venues confirmed with the SKA no later than 3 weeks after the release of the competition schedule.

#### 7. Match Structure

7.1 The order of play in a triple fixture 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 warmup
- 2 halves of 22 minutes playing time
- 4 minutes half-time break
- 2 minutes time-outs (optional)

#### 8. Referees & Assistants

8.1. The home team in each match is responsible for appointing a referee. The non-playing team in a triple fixture match is responsible for providing a table official, and qualified shot clock official (where appropriate).

8.2 The Competitions Committee shall be responsible for paying the referee a match fee. For matches in Division 2 or 3, this fee shall be set at £5 for any referee qualified under the SKA's Refereeing Structure. For matches in Division 1, this fee shall be set at £10 for any referee qualified to Higher or Elite level, or £5 for any referee qualified to Basic level (only permissible given special dispensation

from the SKA). At the start of the season each team will pay a single 'refereeing fee' based on the number of matches the team are involved in. Each match will be charged at £10 and any fees left over at the end of the season will be set aside for future referee development.

8.3. Where a match is not part of a triple fixture, the home team may seek assistance from the Competitions Committee in appointing a referee, table official and shot clock (where appropriate).

8.4. In a triple fixture match, it is the responsibility of the non-playing team to nominate an appropriately qualified referee to officiate the fixture. It is at the discretion of the home team as to whether to appoint that individual or not.

8.5. The teams will notify each other and the SKA Refereeing Co-ordinator of the nominated persons for refereeing and shot clock official at least 5 days before the match via [refereeing@scotlandkorfball.co.uk](mailto:refereeing@scotlandkorfball.co.uk).

8.6. All referees should hold a qualification commensurate with the level of the match (in accordance with the SKA's Refereeing Structure for the forthcoming season). If a club responsible for nominating or appointing a referee feels unable to provide a suitable person, they must notify the Competitions Committee at least 10 days before the match who may grant special dispensation for a match to be refereed by another individual.

8.7. If a club is unable to name a referee for a match within the specified timeframe of 10 or 5 days in advance, this will be penalised using a 3-strike system. After 2 late nominations, the club will receive a warning, and any further instances of lateness will be subject to a fine.

8.8. Should the non-playing team not be able to nominate an appropriately qualified individual, in accordance rule 8.4, it will be the responsibility of the non-playing team to cover the expenses of any other appropriately qualified individual appointed by the home team, where expenses are calculated at 45p a mile for petrol costs (capped at £20 for anything up to 70 miles and up to £30 for anything over 70 miles) and any standard fare public transport costs alongside the provision of any necessary accommodation deemed of a reasonable standard by the Competitions Committee. The Competitions Committee are responsible for covering the referee's match fee.

8.9. In a triple-fixture match, should the home team not wish to appoint the nominated individual from the non-playing team, in accordance with rule 8.4, then the home team shall be responsible for covering a different referee's expenses where are defined the same as in rule 8.8. The Competitions Committee shall still pay the referee the match fee.

8.10. In the event of a single fixture match, the Competitions Committee will be responsible for covering the appointed individual's expenses and their match fee.

8.11. The Competitions Committee may request to the home team that a particular individual be allowed to referee a fixture for the purposes of that individual's development or assessment. It will be at the home team's discretion whether to accept this request. Should the request be accepted, the appointed individual's expenses will be covered by the Competitions Committee.

8.12. Where two sides in a triple fixture are from the same club a referee or referee's assistant may be a member of the same club as one of the teams participating in a match. This may also happen when no other appropriately qualified individual is available and with special dispensation from the Competitions Committee alongside the agreement of both teams competing in the match.

8.13. The appointed referee is responsible for bringing a whistle, stopwatch, red and yellow card, and pen and paper.

8.14. The Table Official role is purely administrative. They are responsible for updating the scoreboard, but can also assist the referee with keeping time, monitoring substitutions, and any other duties that are appropriate in the circumstances.

8.15. Following any yellow or red cards being issued, SKA guidelines for all disciplinary matters will be followed.

8.16. The referee will report any disciplinary matters as required on the relevant match form and will be handled according to the disciplinary procedures.

8.17. The SKA will investigate all official complaints following a match, regardless of whether a red or yellow card was issued. Official complaints must be made in writing to the SKA league secretary, highlighting that an individual wishes to make a formal complaint and open an investigatory procedure.

8.18. Upon the referee's suggestion, the SKA may also investigate any incident where the referee feels that the issuing of a red card was not sufficient punishment with regards to any incident.

8.19. Any individual wishing to further pursue any complaint under the laws of the land through the pressing of criminal or civil charges must do so under their own volition. It is not the responsibility of the SKA to offer legal advice to any group or individual.

## 9. Safety

9.1. The Referee is responsible for the safety of all players during the match. The referee should be satisfied with the safety of any spectators.

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 or their designate (an individual present in person and named at least 5 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 in each half of the playing area.

10.3. Team 1 will bring 8 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, tape will need to be used to fill these in.

10.5. Team 1 will bring and use a means for displaying the score prominently at the side of the pitch, in line with the centre line.

10.6. Team 1 will mark the penalty spot and the free-pass circle.

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. All teams will provide the Competitions Officer/Team 1 with their list of playing players up to 24 hours prior to the beginning of the first game in a set of fixtures. Team 1 will be responsible for bringing pre-filled match forms, or blank match forms in the event that a team has not provided notice of their team. This can be done via hard copy, a fillable pdf file [or a Google Form](#).

11.3. The referee and captains of the two teams playing will complete and sign the match form immediately after the match including the referee's rating for each of the teams.

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 parts 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 [competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk](mailto:competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk) within 24 hours of the completion of the match, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. In this case, as soon as possible is acceptable.

11.7. Failure to submit match forms within the specified 24 hours will result in a fine of £10 per set of fixtures, per week, for a maximum of three weeks.

11.8. Submission after three weeks, or not at all, will result in a fine (additional to that specified in clause 11.9) 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 (who can be a player 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 but must wait for another stoppage in play before doing so.

12.5. If a player has to leave the match because of injury or a yellow/red card, and the team has no more substitutes available, then the referee can, at the request of a coach and after consulting the other coach, permit a change.

## **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 50 seconds the referee will blow their 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 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 (with the exception of clause 14.7) 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 scheduled end of the forthcoming season. 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 (with the exception of clause 14.7).

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. The Competitions Committee will attempt to avoid scheduling clashes between league matches and international duty before the start of the season. Any known dates for national and development squad training will be provided in advance and clubs should plan their availability accordingly. In the event of additional international duties arising during the season, any team with one or more members involved has the right to reschedule an affected league fixture. This is only the case if the international duty (including necessary travel) occurs on the same day as the league fixture.

14.8. In the event of clause 14.7, any unrecoverable costs as a result of a fixture change shall be covered by the SKA.

14.9. 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 ten minutes or less, then the match begins without warm up time 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 more than ten minutes, or if a team does not show up, then the match is abandoned.

15.3. The ten minutes late deadline is decided by the referee. If a legal team (see 2.9) is ready to play before this time, the match should start.

#### **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. Where the match is forfeited in such circumstances, the offending team shall be responsible for covering any unrecoverable costs (i.e. hall hire). The non-offending team may offer to have the match rescheduled, in which case the offending team will pay for any additional costs.

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 three quarters of the match has been played (less than 33 minutes of playing time), then the match is rescheduled. If three quarters or more of 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, the opposing team will be awarded an 11-0 win.

17.2. Clause 17.1 can be reconsidered at the next review, as the score has been calculated based on the average margin of victory of previous seasons.

17.3. The Competitions Committee may deduct a maximum of two points per match forfeited if it is deemed that punitive measures are required in the circumstances.

17.4. Any team forfeiting more than four matches in one league season will lose its competitive place in the league, and at the discretion of the Competitions Committee, all its match results will become redundant. That team would still be expected to provide referees for its remaining refereeing duties for the season and may choose to play any remaining matches. The results of these would, however, not stand and any player statistics will not count in official figures if the Competitions Committee has decided to make that team's matches redundant.



## 18. Player Registration

- 18.1. Each club shall ensure that players register with the SKA before playing in the league each season.
- 18.2. A player can play in one set of league fixtures before registration, but they must complete the digital form and clubs must ensure that this is done before this player's next appearance in a league fixture.
- 18.3. Only players registered with the SKA are eligible to play in league matches. Players who are unregistered are ineligible to play in the league, and thus the team is not legal. The Competitions Committee, at their discretion can decide if this results in teams forfeiting matches.
- 18.4. Players can only be registered with one club.
- 18.5. New players joining the club during the league season will need to be registered with the league.
- 18.6. A player registration fee, which will be advised by the SKA at the time of sending the league entry forms, shall be chargeable to clubs for any person who plays in 1 or more league games in the season for that club (for any team within the club).
- 18.7. Players are allowed to play according to the gender that they are most comfortable with regardless of sex assigned at birth. When registering each season, members should select a gender to participate as, which is able to be changed once per season by requesting a change to the SKA Competitions Committee. Members shall not be required to disclose any trans identity or history to the SKA in order to participate in the sport, unless there is a justified reason requiring them to do so.

## 19. Team Selection & Player Eligibility

- 19.1. Each club is to name a minimum of 10 players (5 male and 5 female) in each team it submits for the season, except its lowest ranking team. The maximum number of players that can be named for a team is 14 (7 of each gender).
- 19.2. Any member not named for a particular team (i.e. an unnamed player) is assumed to play for the lowest ranking team in their club.
- 19.3. Players are permitted to appear for a higher team than the one they are named for ("playing up"), a maximum of 8 times in a season, without requiring an exemption. If this is exceeded, the affected game(s) will be ruled as forfeited to the opposing team(s).
- 19.4. Players are permitted to appear for a lower team than the one they are named for ("playing down"), a maximum of 6 times in a season, without requiring an exemption. If this is exceeded, the affected game(s) will be ruled as forfeited to the opposing team(s).
- 19.5. In the event that a team brings players from a higher team to play in a lower one ("playing down" - e.g. 1st team members playing for the 2nd team due to injury cover/availability to avoid rescheduling a match), only 2 players named for the higher team may appear on the match form. If more than 2 players in the match squad are named for a higher team, the match will be deemed a forfeit to the opposing team.
- 19.6. Teams may have 6 appearances of (i.e. matches played with) higher named players in a lower team per season. If this is exceeded, the team will lose their placement in the league and be automatically entered into the lowest-ranking playoff group to compete for their final league standing.
- 19.7. Coaches are permitted to change which team a player is named for **once** during the season by notifying the Competitions Committee up to 5 days in advance of the next match day.
- 19.8. Clubs must notify the Competitions Committee 24 hours in advance if named players are going to compete for a lower or higher team. This will be enforced on a "one strike" basis where, if a team does not notify Competitions of this for more than one match, the affected game will be deemed a forfeit to the opposing team. If there are extraordinary circumstances preventing the notification being made in time, the enforcement of the forfeit will be at the Competitions Committee's discretion.
- 19.9. If a player switches clubs or changes their playing gender, their named team within their club can be changed once after the switch. Note this does not apply if a player changes teams within the same club, as this is limited to once per season as in 19.7.
- 19.10. Players named for a particular team are expected to be kept updated according to their availability for matches, and their ability to play at the level of their team's division. Teams should name players for the team that they appear most often. The Competitions Committee will monitor all players in each team to ensure that the selected players are appearing in their associated team.

## 20. Playing Short & Borrowing Players

- 20.1. A player cannot play for another club than the one for which they are registered, i.e. teams cannot borrow players from other clubs.
- 20.2. If a club has a legal team at the start of the match, then the match will go ahead and the team will need to play short.
- 20.3. If a team only has 5 players or less at the start of the match, then the match is delayed.

## **21. Player Transfer**

21.1. A player may request to be transferred to another affiliated club by email to [competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk](mailto:competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk) giving at least 48 hours' notice and including an email from the player's current club confirming that they have fulfilled all financial obligations towards the club. The player can play for their new club as soon as the Competitions Committee has approved the transfer, and they have registered with the league.

21.2. A player cannot be transferred more than once in one transfer window (see 2.10), unless exceptional circumstances can be shown.

## **22. Point System & Ranking**

22.1. 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.

22.2. In the case of two or more teams having an equal number of points, ranking will be based on the following (in order):

- 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

22.3. If after applying the rules in clause 22.2 the ranking is still undecided, then these teams shall be deemed to hold the same ranking.

## **23. Final Ranking**

23.1. The highest ranked team in each group following the playoff stage will be declared divisional champions, and will be awarded the respective league trophies for one season.

23.2. The Group A champions will be Scottish champions, and will be invited to represent Scotland in the IKF European Club Competition the following season. If that team declines this offer, the next ranked team shall be invited (and so on), unless the European Club Championship accepts more than one Scotland League Team.

23.3. If the position of the league champions is undecided after applying the rules in clause 22, then there will be a play-off between the teams concerned as specified in clause 24.

23.4. 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.

## **24. Play-Off**

24.1. A promotion/relegation play-off will consist of a single match, held according to the rules of the league, between the teams concerned.

24.2. 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.

24.3. A play-off will be held no later than 3 weeks after the scheduled date for the end of the season. The Competitions Committee will designate the venue, time, and referee. The cost of venue hire and officials for any play-off will be met by the SKA.

## **25. Doubling Up**

26.1. 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.

26.2. 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.

## **26. Problems & Complaints**

27.1. All problems and complaints relating to the league should be referred to the Competitions Committee as soon as they arise.

27.2. In line with the SKA Service Agreement, the Competitions Committee will reply within 48 hours either supplying a decision or advising a date for a decision to be given. 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.

27.3. Decisions of the Competitions Committee may be appealed to the SKA, provided the decision to appeal is notified to [secretary@scotlandkorfball.co.uk](mailto:secretary@scotlandkorfball.co.uk) within 7 days of the decision being announced.

The SKA shall consider only evidence that was available to the Competitions Committee and shall give a decision within 14 days.

27.4. The decision of the SKA is final.

27.5. The Competitions Committee will oversee the referee's team ratings and refer any issues to the SKA for review.



## **27. Review**

These rules shall be under constant review by the SKA and any changes to these will be notified to clubs accordingly.