



Reviewed: 21/06/2026

If you have any questions, please contact competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk

1. Definition & Responsibility

- 1.1. The Scottish Korfball League ("the SKL") is administered by the Scottish Korfball Association ("the SKA").
- 1.2. The SKA will delegate authority to a Competitions Officer(s) chosen from elected members of the SKA Management Committee to take direct responsibility for the fixtures calendar and the day-to-day coordination and administration of the league.
- 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.
- 1.5. All documents noted in *italics* are accessible at:
<https://scotlandkorfball.co.uk/index.php/resources/>

2. Terminology

- 2.1. Match = a korfball game between two league teams.
- 2.2. Triple Fixture = a set of three matches, 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 score-boarding and other official tasks not undertaken by the referee.
- 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.

3. League Structure

- 3.1. The start and end dates for the league season will be advised by the SKA, no later than 6 weeks before the proposed start, and by the date that league entry forms are sent to clubs.
 - 3.2. The league will be divided into divisions as the SKA deems appropriate.
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3.3. The divisions will be based upon the rankings from the previous season (unless good reason to do otherwise), 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 *SKA Referee Structure* for the forthcoming season who is willing to ordinarily act as referee for the team games (unless otherwise agreed with the Refereeing Co-Ordinator).
- 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 *IKF The Rules of Korfball* and subsequent *SKL IKF Rules Modifications* documents.

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 Officer(s) 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.
- Shirt colour(s) for each team.
- Notes on 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 *SKA Referee Structure* for the forthcoming season.
- Saturday games opt-in preference.

4.4. The Competitions Officer(s) 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 Officer(s).

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(s) will issue a draft fixtures calendar no later than 4 weeks before the proposed start to the season and, following final feedback from clubs, will issue a final fixtures calendar no later than 3 weeks before the proposed start to the season.



5.2. It should be expected that all matches will form part of triple headers, however there may be some exceptions required to fully schedule all fixtures.

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 10:00am.

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 final fixtures calendar.

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 20 minutes playing time.
- 4 minutes half-time break.
- 2x 1 minute time-outs per team (optional).
- 2 minutes administrative time following the end of the fixture.

8. Referees & Assistants

8.1. All referees in Scottish Korfball League matches are appointed by the SKA.

8.2. All referees in Scottish Korfball League matches must be appropriately qualified as described in the *SKA Referee Structure*.

8.3. For a triple fixture match, the non-playing team will be responsible for nominating a referee. They must inform the Refereeing Co-Ordinator and the clubs participating in the



match of the nominated referee at least 7 days before the match. The Refereeing Co-Ordinator will decide whether to appoint the nominated referee.

8.4. If the Refereeing Co-Ordinator chooses not to appoint the nominated referee, they will be responsible for finding and appointing a referee. They will inform the clubs participating in the match of the appointed referee at least 7 days before the match.

8.5. If the non-playing team in a triple fixture match is unable to nominate an appropriate referee, they must inform the Refereeing Co-Ordinator of this at least 7 days before the match. The Refereeing Co-Ordinator will find and appoint a referee, and inform the clubs participating in the match of the appointed referee at their earliest convenience. Any travel costs for this referee will be covered by the non-playing team.

8.6. If the non-playing team in a triple fixture fails to nominate an appropriate referee or inform the Refereeing Co-Ordinator of their inability to do so at least 7 days before the match, the nomination will be marked as late. After a club has made 2 late nominations, they will receive a formal warning, and any further late nominations by the club will be subject to a fine.

8.7. For single fixtures, the Refereeing Co-Ordinator will be responsible for finding and appointing a referee. The Refereeing Co-Ordinator will inform the clubs participating in the match of the appointed referee at least 7 days before the match. Any travel costs for this referee will be covered by the SKA.

8.8. For a triple fixture match which requires a shot clock, the non-playing team will be responsible for providing a shot clock operator. For single fixtures which require a shot clock, the home team will be responsible for providing a shot clock operator. All shot clock operators should be properly trained to operate a shot clock during periods where their club has possession of a shot clock.

8.9. For a triple fixture match, the non-playing team will be responsible for providing table officials. For single fixtures, the home team will be responsible for providing table officials. Table officials may perform administrative duties such as scorekeeping, timekeeping, monitoring substitutions and time-outs, or anything else which the referee deems appropriate.

8.10. The referee for an SKL match will control the match, as defined in the *IKF's The Rules of Korfball* and the *SKL IKF Rule Modifications*, from the beginning of the 1 hour slot for that match until either the following match begins (if one exists) or match forms have been fully completed (if this is a single fixture or the final match in a triple fixture).

8.11. The referee will be responsible for bringing a whistle, stopwatch, yellow and red cards, means for tracking the score/substitutions/time-outs, and a device able to submit the *Scottish Korfball League Referee Match Form*.

8.12. Disciplinary matters arising from incidents during SKL matches will be handled according to the *SKA Disciplinary Policy*.

8.13. The Refereeing Co-Ordinator shall be responsible for paying the referee a match fee as described in the *SKA Referee Structure*.



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, one of which should be made available to Teams 2&3 during the warmup periods of their respective matches, if requested.

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 Team 1 will be responsible for setting up the host venue pursuant to rules 10.8-10.10.

10.8. The venue should be arranged so that there are clear bench areas designated for each team in a fixture. These bench areas should be alongside one of the long sides of the venue. Coaches, officials and substitutes for each team should remain seated in their designated bench area unless warming up. The non-playing team in a triple-fixture should vacate these designated areas.

- *Should benches not be available at a venue, there should still be designated areas assigned to each team.*
- *Additional areas for the non-playing team and spectators should also be considered.*

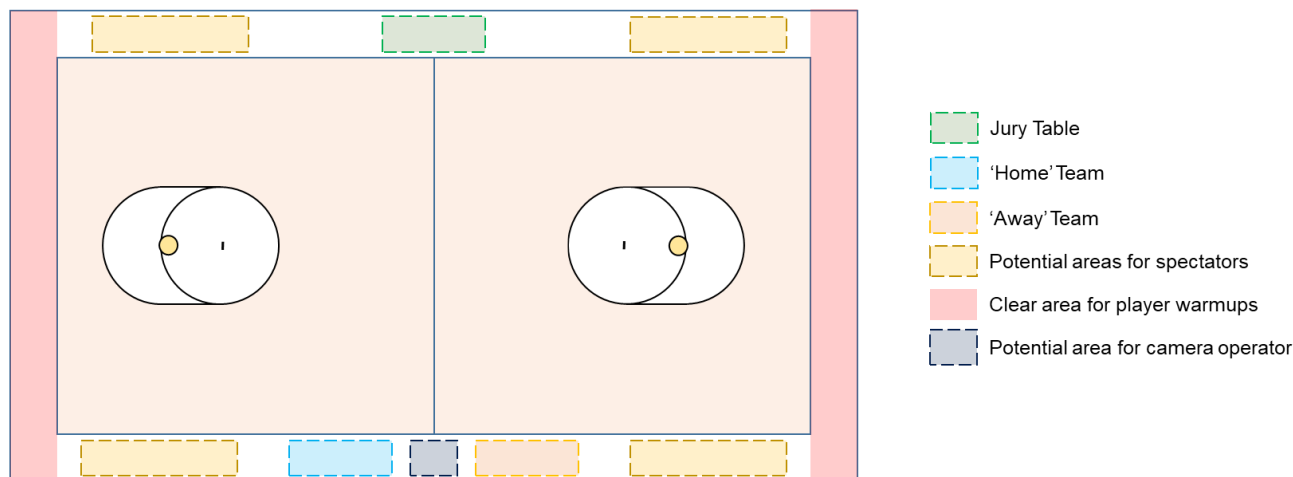
10.9. The short sides of the venue should remain clear so that players may warm up, and shot clocks can be placed.

10.11 A jury table with seating should be set up opposite to the playing bench areas so that the Table Official and Shot Clock Official have sufficient space to operate.



10.12. The referee will check the lines and the position and stability of the posts before starting the match.

Diagram to illustrate the intended venue set up in section 10:



11. Match Forms

11.1. Match forms will be available on the SKA website.

11.2. The SKA preference is that clubs use online forms, but all further references to match forms could relate to printed paper match form / online pdf match form / online Google Form versions.

11.3. Each team involved in a fixture is responsible for bringing and completing a match form for each match.

11.4. The captains of both teams should sign each match form immediately after the match.

11.5. Each team is responsible for submitting their completed match form within 24 hours of the completion of the match, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. In this case, as soon as possible is acceptable.

11.6. 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.

11.7. Submission after three weeks, or not at all, will result in a fine (additional to that specified in clause 11.6) of £20.

11.8. The referee will complete the separate *Scottish Korfball League Referee Match Form* online, including the score, referee ratings for each team, and any disciplinary details.

11.9. The referee should also submit their match form within 24 hours of the completion of the match.



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. Substitutions are to be made in accordance with the *IKF The Rules of Korfball 2025*.

13. Time-Outs

- 13.1. Each team will be allowed two time-outs per match.
- 13.2. A time-out can only be requested by the coach or the captain.
- 13.3. A time-out will be 1 minute and to be made in accordance with the *IKF The Rules of Korfball 2025*.

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 Officer(s) 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 Officer(s).
- 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.
- 14.7. The Competitions Officer(s) 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 Officer(s), 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 warmup 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 30 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 Officer(s) 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 a 11-0 walkover win.

17.3. The Competitions Officer(s) 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 Officer(s), 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 Officer(s) 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 Officer(s), at their discretion can decide if this results in teams forfeiting matches.

18.4. Players can only be registered with one club and may not be registered with other clubs outside of Scotland.

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 Officer(s). 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

19a. Applicable to SKL1 (Division 1) only

19a.1. In SKL1, players cannot play more than 25% of fixtures for more than one team.

19a.2. The 25% will be rounded to the nearest multiple of two to account for triple fixtures e.g. if playing 18 fixtures 25% would be rounded from 4.5 to 4 fixtures. If the figure falls between two multiples of two e.g. 5 fixtures, this will be rounded up.

19a.3. If a player plays in more than 25% of fixtures for two teams, the results of the lower team in which that player appeared will be voided and given as a walkover win to the opposition.

19b. Applicable to lower divisions only

19b.1. There will be no restriction on players for the league positioning in divisions below SKL1.

19b.2. Restrictions will apply for promotion/relegation playoff eligibility. Any player who has played more than 25% of fixtures for a higher team will be considered as 'playing down'. In the event that more than one male and one female player are 'playing down' in any fixture this will not count towards point standings when working out playoff eligibility.



Working example:

- *Team X – A 2nd team finishes the league season with 20 points but one of the fixtures they won featured two male players ‘playing down’.*
- *Team Y – A 2nd team finishes the league season with 19 points and has no occurrences of players playing down.*

In this instance: Team X would be awarded the Divisional title, but Team Y would be the eligible team for the promotion playoffs.

19c. Mitigation

19c.1. In the event a club make a reasonable change which will likely see these rules broken, they can apply for an exemption by emailing the Competitions Officer(s) with a brief justification.

Working example:

- *Player X starts the season in Team 1, Player Y starts the season in Team 2, but the coach(es) decide that these players should swap squads.*
- *Player A is injured midway through the season and Player B is brought up a team to fill the spot.*

19d. Playing Down

19d.1. The SKA seeks to give guidance for what should be expected for players ‘playing down’:

- Should look to help develop the players around them, both teammates and opposition players.
- Should play according to the level they are playing at and note that lower levels are likely to be playing for recreation rather than competition.
- It should be expected that players ‘playing down’ can shoot and score *e.g. in order to teach other players how to make good assist passes.*
- Whilst players ‘playing down’ can be a normal part of a squad/rotation of players, coaches should be mindful not to take away playing opportunities from regular players to the team or giving excessive playing time to those players in order to be more competitive.

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 Transfers

21.1. A player may request to be transferred to another affiliated club by email to 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 Officer(s) has approved the transfer, and they have registered with the league.

21.2. A player cannot be transferred more than once in a single season, 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 division will be declared divisional champions and will be awarded the respective league trophies for one season.

23.2. The SKL1 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.

**Teams should take note of the IKF Competition rules regarding playing kits should they be invited to represent Scotland.*

23.3. If the position of the league champions is undecided after applying the rules in clause 22, then there will be a playoff between the teams concerned as specified in clause 25.

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. Promotion / Relegation

- 24.1. The lowest ranked team in each division, subject to 19b.2., will be involved in a promotion/relegation playoff following the conclusion of the regular league season.
- 24.2. If the lowest ranked team is a 1st team, then the lowest ranked reserve team (2nd/3rd/4th etc.) will also be involved in a promotion/relegation playoff following the conclusion of the regular league season if they are ranked in the bottom three places.
- 24.3. The highest ranked team in each division, subject to 19b.2., will be involved in a promotion/relegation playoff following the conclusion of the regular league season.
- 24.4. If the highest ranked team is a reserve team (2nd/3rd/4th etc.), then the highest ranked 1st team will also be involved in a promotion/relegation playoff following the conclusion of the regular league season if they are ranked in the top three places.

25. Playoffs

- 25.1. The format of the playoffs will vary based on the number of teams that are involved. Other than the length of fixtures, the playoff match(es) will be played in accordance with the rules of the league including player eligibility rules on 'playing down'.
- 25.2. In the event that two teams are eligible, a single fixture per 7.3. will be played between those two teams with the winner of this match being promoted.
- 25.3. In the event that three teams are eligible, a round robin tournament will be played between all teams, with 30 minutes playing time rather than 40 minutes. The highest ranked team(s) from the tournament will be promoted.
- 25.4. In the event that four teams are eligible, there will be two single fixtures played per 7.3. with the winners of each being promoted. The highest ranked team from the higher division will play against the lowest ranked team from the lower division, and the lowest ranked team from the higher division will play against the highest ranked team from the lower division.
- 25.5. Playoff dates will be advised with the issuing of the final fixtures calendar before the start of the season per clause 5.
- 25.6. The Competitions Officer(s) shall designate the venue, time, and a referee will be organised by the Refereeing Co-Ordinator. The cost of venue hire and officials for any playoff will be met by the SKA.

26. Problems & Complaints

- 26.1. All problems and complaints relating to SKL competitions should be referred to the Competitions Officer(s) as soon as they arise.
- 26.2. The Competitions Officer(s) will aim to reply within 48 hours, supplying a decision or advising a date for a decision to be given. If the Competitions Officer(s) whose club is directly involved in a complaint (as complainer or subject) then they shall not participate in investigations or discussions. The Competitions Officer(s) must take statements and any other relevant evidence offered, from any club or individual against whom a complaint is made.



26.3. Decisions of the Competitions Officer(s) may be appealed to the SKA, provided the decision to appeal is notified to secretary@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 7 days of the decision being announced. The SKA shall consider only evidence that was available to the Competitions Officer(s) and shall give a decision within 14 days.

26.4. The decision of the SKA is final.

26.5 The Refereeing Co-Ordinator will oversee the referee's team ratings and refer any issues to the SKA for review.

27. Review

27.1. These rules will be reviewed by the SKA Management Committee at the end of each season to ensure they are fit for continuation.

27.2. Clubs will be notified of any changes for the following season prior to the issuing of league entry forms.