

Welsh Korfball Association



Pêl-Corff Cymru

Welsh National League Rules 2018

Draft 1st September 2018

Rules of the Welsh National League

1. Definition

- 1.1. The Welsh National League shall be the primary league competition for senior korfball in Wales.
- 1.2. The Welsh National League shall be administered by the Welsh Korfball Association (WKA).
- 1.3. The Welsh National League shall be shortened to WNL.

2. Administration

- 2.1. Alterations to the WNL Rules specified in the main text of this document shall be made by the WKA Executive Committee following consultation with the WKA Member Clubs.
- 2.2. Alterations to the Appendices to the WNL Rules shall be made by the WKA Executive Committee and notified to the WKA Member Clubs at the Annual General Meeting and at earlier times if necessary.
- 2.3. The WKA shall have the authority to adjudicate on any matters not clearly governed by these rules.
- 2.4. The WKA shall have the power to impose additional sanctions including loss of points, player suspensions, or further fines. This power shall include, but shall not be limited to, instances of repeat infringement of these rules and deliberate intent to circumvent these rules.
- 2.5. All fixtures shall be played according to the Rules of Korfball as laid down by the International Korfball Federation (IKF). As permitted in the Rules of Korfball, competition rules apply as specified in Appendix F.

3. Trophies

- 3.1. The WNL Trophy and any other trophy awarded by the WKA shall remain the property of the WKA unless otherwise stated.
- 3.2. Clubs are responsible for trophies while in their charge or the charge of their members. The cost of any damage or replacement shall be the responsibility of the club in charge.
- 3.3. The WKA shall be responsible for engraving the trophies.

4. Competitions Officer

- 4.1. The Competitions Officer shall control all aspects of the administration of the WNL. In particular, the following functions are identified:
 - 4.1.1. The Competitions Officer shall be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the fixture list and shall ensure that fixtures are played according to the rules of the WNL.
 - 4.1.2. The Competitions Officer shall ensure referees are assigned according to the rules of the WNL.
 - 4.1.3. The Competitions Officer shall ensure disciplinary procedures are carried out according to the rules of the WNL.
 - 4.1.4. The Competitions Officer shall ensure results and other details as required are recorded and made public.
- 4.2. The following functions shall be specifically excluded from the Competitions Officer role:
 - 4.2.1. The Board shall maintain the accounts of the WNL.
 - 4.2.2. In case of any doubt over the rules or their application, the WKA Executive Committee shall adjudicate.
- 4.3. In any of their responsibilities, the Competitions Officer may appoint a designated representative to act on their behalf, after agreement from the WKA Board.

5. League Structure

- 5.1. The number of divisions and the number of teams in each division shall be decided by the WKA Executive Committee as specified in Appendix C.
- 5.2. Clubs shall confirm the entry of their team(s) by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 5.3. There shall be no limit on the number of teams from any one club.
- 5.4. The WKA Committee shall have the power to refuse entry to the WNL provided clear, fair and reasonable grounds are given.
- 5.5. The highest team, from any one club, in the WNL, Western Regional League (WRL), or the English Korfball Association (EKA) National League shall be deemed to be their first team.

6. Promotion and Relegation

- 6.1. The team finishing first in the WNL shall be the Welsh National League Winners.
- 6.2. Promotion from the WNL shall be into the WRL, run in conjunction with the South West Korfball Association (SWKA) and the Oxfordshire Korfball Association (OKA). Details for promotion to the WRL and relegation from the WRL are specified in Appendix D.
- 6.3. No team is allowed to refuse promotion to the WRL unless the club can present, to the satisfaction of the WKA, a case of substantial financial difficulty or a significant loss of players.

7. Positions

- 7.1. Positions will be decided on points awarded in matches as follows:
 - 5 points shall be awarded for a win;
 - 3 points shall be awarded for a draw;
 - 0 points shall be awarded for a loss;
 - 2 **bonus points** shall be awarded to a losing team that scores 1 or 2 goals less than the winning team;
 - 1 **bonus point** shall be awarded to a losing team that scores more than half the goals scored by the winning team;
 - A maximum of 2 bonus points shall be awarded to the losing team in any fixture.
- 7.2. Forfeited games shall be recorded with a score of 10-0 against the offending side.
- 7.3. Where goal difference or goals scored are used to decide places under Clauses 7.4 or 7.5, the goals of any fixture that was forfeited and the goals of fixtures equivalent to the forfeited fixture are not counted for the purposes of final ranking.
- 7.4. The Welsh National League Winners shall be decided by using the following criteria until a distinction is reached:
 - 7.4.1. The highest number of points, excluding bonus points;
 - 7.4.2. The highest goal difference;
 - 7.4.3. The highest number of goals scored;
 - 7.4.4. In the case of a tie a new table shall be drawn up consisting only of the games between the teams still level, using rules 7.4.1 to 7.4.3, the order of which shall determine positions in the main table.
 - 7.4.5. If the teams concerned are still tied, there shall be a playoff between the teams concerned.
- 7.5. League positions shall be decided by using the following criteria until a distinction is reached:
 - 7.5.1. The highest number of points gained, including bonus points;
 - 7.5.2. The highest goal difference;

- 7.5.3. The highest number of goals scored;
- 7.5.4. In the case of a tie a new table shall be drawn up consisting only of the games between the teams still level, using rules 7.5.1 to 7.5.3 the order of which shall determine positions in the main table.
- 7.5.5. If the teams concerned are still tied, in the event that a promotion issue is to be decided there shall be a playoff between the teams concerned, otherwise the teams shall be deemed to hold the same position.

7.6. In the event that three or more teams have gained the same number of points, the criteria listed under Clauses 7.4 or 7.5, as relevant, shall be used until a distinction between some or all of the teams is made. The positions of the teams still tied shall then be decided by returning to Clauses 7.4 or 7.5, as relevant, and starting again.

8. Team registration

- 8.1. Entry to the WNL shall be open to teams from any club that is affiliated to the WKA.
- 8.2. Applications for entry into the WNL shall be made by the date specified in Appendix A19.4.
- 8.3. Applications for entry shall normally be accepted. The Competitions Officer must state clearly reasons for any applications that are refused.
- 8.4. A team's entry to the WNL shall only be deemed valid once their club affiliation is paid.
- 8.5. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Officer.

9. Player Registration

- 9.1. All players who play for a club in a fixture in the WNL, WRL, EKL or other recognised competition shall be registered for that club.
- 9.2. Where a club fields a player not registered to that club, they shall be liable to a fine as specified in Appendix B.
- 9.3. In order to confirm that no ineligible players have been used, clubs shall submit a complete list of players and scorers to the Competitions Officer for each fixture played in the WNL. Submission must be no later than 48 hours following completion of the fixture. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as specified in Appendix B.
- 9.4. By the date specified in 19.4, clubs shall name eight players (four males and four females) for each team participating in the WNL, WRL, and EKL. These shall be known as named players.
- 9.5. No player shall be a named player for more than one team.
- 9.6. Any player who is a registered member of a club and who is not a named player for a team above the club's lowest team shall be automatically named for that club's lowest team.
- 9.7. Fielding Players:
 - 9.7.1. In any league weekend, a player is expected to play for the team for which they are a named player.
 - 9.7.2. Players named in a team shall not play any part in a fixture for a lower team.
 - 9.7.3. Players named in a team may play in a fixture for a higher team.
- 9.8. Transfer of Named Players:
- 9.9. A club shall be allowed to transfer players into a team on eight occasions. This applies to each team, so eight transfers into the 1st team shall be available, eight into the 2nd team shall be available, and so on.
 - 9.9.1. A switch of two players between teams shall count as one transfer into each team, so two transfers shall have taken place.

- 9.9.2. A player who does not start for their team in any of their team's previous three fixtures shall be transferred out and must be replaced if necessary to maintain a minimum 4 female and 4 male players.
- 9.9.3. It is expected that the player would be replaced by a player who had started in one of the previous three fixtures. *Though this is not required, for instance the player being named may be returning from injury or is new to the club.*
- 9.9.4. No transfer shall be made into a team for their last three league fixtures of the season.
- 9.9.5. A transfer must be completed no later than 48 hours before a fixture start time.
- 9.9.6. The WKA Committee may allow additional transfers in exceptional circumstances. *For the season 2018-2019, the WKA Committee shall usually treat requests as being acceptable.*
- 9.10. A player may transfer their registration to another club. This shall be done in accordance with regulations regarding the transfer of players.
- 9.11. Where a club fields an ineligible player, the club shall be liable to a fine as specified in Appendix B.
- 10. Arrangement of Fixtures**
- 10.1. The Competitions Officer shall set the dates on which the WNL teams are to play their fixtures.
- 10.2. The Competitions Officer shall inform all teams of the date, time and venue for each fixture.
- 10.3. Where possible, referee appointments shall be made at least two weeks prior to the fixture.
- 10.4. Throw off times:
- 10.4.1. All throw off times, as set out in fixture lists, must be adhered to.
- 10.4.2. No match shall begin after its scheduled throw off time due to a prior match running late.
- 10.4.3. Fixtures may be played from the prior Wednesday to the following Wednesday of the specified weekend of the fixture.
- 10.4.4. Fixtures played on a Saturday shall not start before 1000 hours or after 1700.
Fixtures played on a Sunday shall not start before 1000 hours or after 2030.
Fixtures played Monday-Friday shall not start before 1900 hours or after 2030.
- 10.4.5. Any team not ready to start at the scheduled throw off time may be fined at the rate specified in Appendix B.
- 10.4.6. Any fixture not starting within five minutes of the scheduled throw off time may be awarded, at the Competitions Officer's discretion, against the offending team. If both teams are at fault the Competitions Officer may award no points or goals for the fixture.
- 10.5. Clubs shall inform the Competitions Officer of the date, time and venue of each fixture by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 10.6. The home team is responsible for any hall costs. Where fixtures are played as a multi-game event, the hall costs are shared by the home teams.

11. Postponements

- 11.1. A team with two or more of its named players involved in International Matches is entitled to have its fixture postponed.
- 11.2. In the event that a referee fails to attend a fixture, the teams involved should endeavour to find a suitably qualified replacement. Should this not be possible then the fixture will be postponed.

- 11.3. A fixture may be postponed in circumstances beyond the control of either team. If either team could have circumvented the problem then they shall be at fault. *Thus traffic conditions and double booking of halls are not justifiable reasons for a postponement.*
- 11.4. In the event that a fixture is postponed, notification must be given, where possible at least seven days prior to the scheduled fixture date or as soon as is possible. The teams must then agree on a new date, which must be before the end of the league season. The Competitions Officer shall have the power to set the date and venue of any postponed fixture in order that the schedule is completed on time.

12. Fielding Team

- 12.1. A higher team, playing in the WNL or higher competition shall take priority over a lower team. Teams failing to fulfil a fixture where a lower team plays shall forfeit the fixture and all fixtures played by lower teams in the same league week and be liable to a fine as specified in Appendix B.
- 12.2. No team may intentionally play short. In the situation that a team does intentionally play short, that team shall forfeit that fixture and all fixtures played by lower teams in the same league week and shall be liable to a fine as specified in Appendix B.

13. Playoffs

- 13.1. A playoff shall consist of a single match, held according to the rules of the WNL, between the teams concerned.
- 13.2. In the event that three or more teams are involved in a playoff, there shall be a round robin format with each team playing the other teams once.
- 13.3. The Competitions Officer shall designate the 'home' team.
- 13.4. The Competitions Officer shall designate the venue, date, and time.

14. Standards

- 14.1. WNL fixtures shall be on a pitch no smaller than 32m x 16m and in the ratio 2:1.
- 14.2. The home team shall ensure the hall is marked correctly, including all lines and a measured penalty spot and free pass circle. Where fixtures are played as multi-game event, the host club shall ensure the hall is marked correctly.
- 14.3. When relevant, the away team's zone must be marked and post positioned first as a matter of courtesy to the away team.
- 14.4. As required in the IKF Playing Rules, the home team shall provide two benches which shall be placed near one of the side-lines and, if possible, at least 2 m from the field of play. They should be placed one on each side of the middle line and at least two metres apart.
- 14.5. The home team shall provide and control a scoreboard.
- 14.6. The home team shall provide and control a shot clock. The shot clock shall be controlled by a qualified operator.
- 14.7. The home team shall provide equipment to allow the court to be dried and an individual to do so in the event it is required.
- 14.8. At least 90 minutes shall be available for the period of a fixture.

15. Playing Kit

- 15.1. Teams shall register their colours with the Competitions Officer. This shall be done prior to the start of the WNL season.
- 15.2. All players shall wear matching kit, including tops and bottoms, with numbered shirts and each captain shall wear an armband or tape.
- 15.3. In the event of two teams playing in similar strip the away team shall wear a change strip.

15.4. Any team not playing in their registered colours shall inform their opponents, the referee and the Competitions Officer Coordinator at least 7 days prior to the fixture.

16. Referees

16.1. The WKA shall maintain a database of referees. This shall include details of their qualifications and availability.

16.2. Each club participating in the WNL shall maintain a referee capability.

16.3. Referees will conform to the WKA Referees Code of Conduct.

16.4. Referees shall be assigned on the following basis and in this order of preference:

16.4.1. An appropriately qualified referee who is on the database of referees and from a neutral club;

16.4.2. An appropriately qualified referee who is on the database of referees and from the home club;

16.4.3. An appropriately qualified referee or capable person.

16.5. Referees shall be paid by the home team at the rate specified in Appendix A.

16.6. Referees shall be entitled to claim travel expenses according to WKA policy.

16.7. Referees shall make themselves available fifteen minutes before and five minutes after the fixture.

16.8. In the event that a fixture is not played, any expenses claimed by the referee shall be paid by the offending club or, if no club is at fault, by both clubs equally.

16.9. The referee shall record the result, details of any substitutions made, details of any cards issued, and other relevant details of the fixture.

16.10. The referee shall contact the Competitions Officer immediately on the conclusion of a fixture with the result.

16.11. In all cases where the referee is required to take disciplinary action during or immediately after a fixture, they shall forward a report to the Competitions Officer no later than 48 hours following the completion of the fixture.

16.12. After each fixture, the respective captains shall complete a report on the referee. The report shall be submitted to the Competitions Officer no later than 48 hours following completion of the fixture. Failure to do so shall result in a fine as specified in Appendix B.

17. Misconduct

17.1. In all cases where the referee either:

(a) sends from the playing area a player, coach, substitute or other person attached to the team (red card);

or (b) formally warns a player, coach, substitute or other person attached to the team (yellow card);

or (c) formally warns the captain as to his team's behaviour;

or (d) is aware of misconduct by spectators.

then, in addition to the fixture report under Clause 16.11, the referee shall submit a full report of the incident to the Competitions Officer Coordinator where it shall be dealt with using the WKA Disciplinary Regulations. The referee shall confirm the code specifying the offence.

18. Protests

18.1. Where a team intends to protest about any condition of a fixture, the captain shall inform the referee at the earliest opportunity and before the referee has left the fixture.

18.2. Where a team has made a protest, the referee shall include the fact in their fixture report as specified under Clause 16.11 and provide additional details as soon as practical.

- 18.3. Where a team has made a protest, the club shall inform the Competitions Officer in writing within 48 hours of the fixture.
- 18.4. Where a protest is made against the conditions of the playing venue, the equipment, or the starting time, it shall be brought to the attention of the referee before the fixture or as soon as it becomes apparent. Failure to do so shall void the right to protest.

19. Appeal Process

- 19.1. Any appeal against a decision made by the Competitions Officer or the WKA Executive Committee shall be made within seven days of the notification of the original decision.
- 19.2. Where practical, any such appeal will be heard within fourteen days of the appeal being made.
- 19.3. An appeal against a decision by the WKA Executive Committee shall be heard and decided by an independent panel.
- 19.4. The decision of the independent panel shall be final.



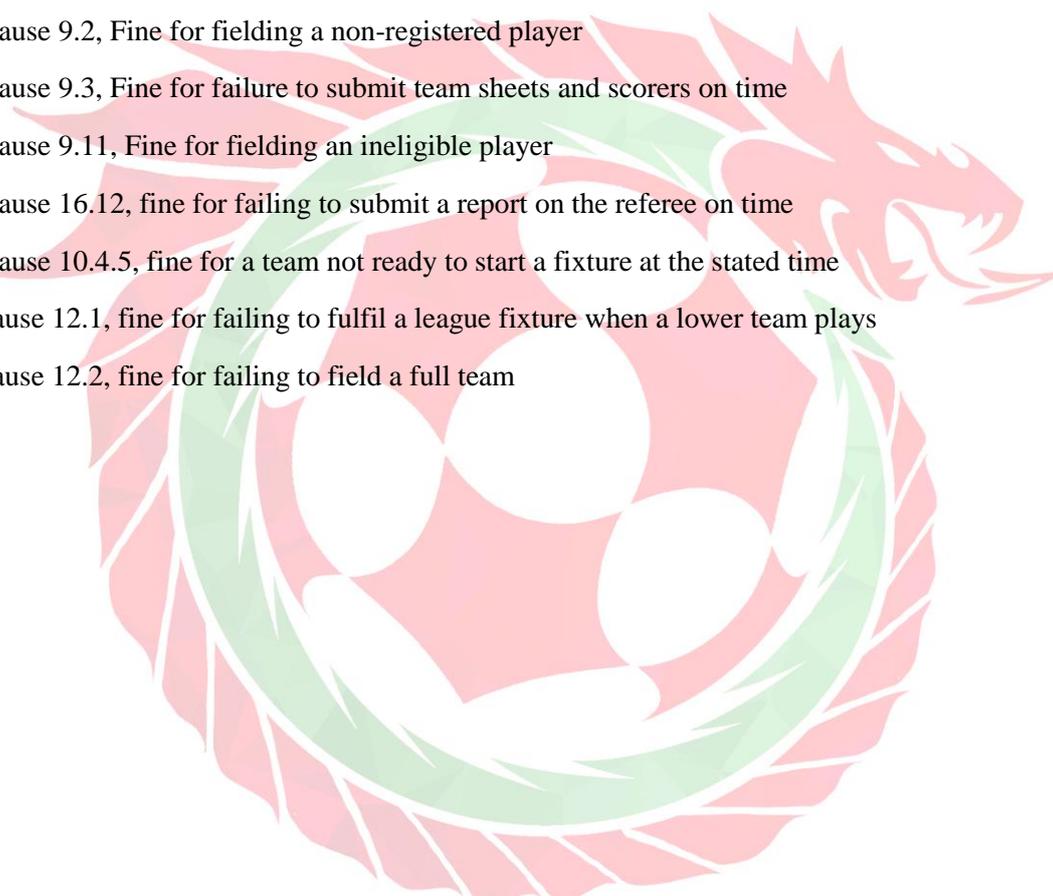
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Appendix A. League Definitions

In regard of Clause 5.2, Deadline for team entry	15 th October 2018
In regard of Clause 9.4, Deadline for player registration	28 th October 2018
In regard of Clause 10.5, Deadline for fixture confirmation	28 th October 2018
In regard of Clause 16.5, Referee Fees	£15
End of the WNL Season	23 rd March 2019

Appendix B. Sanctions

In regard of Clause 9.2, Fine for fielding a non-registered player	£50
In regard of Clause 9.3, Fine for failure to submit team sheets and scorers on time	£50
In regard of Clause 9.11, Fine for fielding an ineligible player	£50
In regard of Clause 16.12, fine for failing to submit a report on the referee on time	£50
In regard of Clause 10.4.5, fine for a team not ready to start a fixture at the stated time	£50
In regard of clause 12.1, fine for failing to fulfil a league fixture when a lower team plays	£50
In regard of clause 12.2, fine for failing to field a full team	£50



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Appendix C. Welsh National League Structure

For the season 2018-2019, the Welsh National League shall consist of a single division, comprising all teams entered and accepted under item 5.

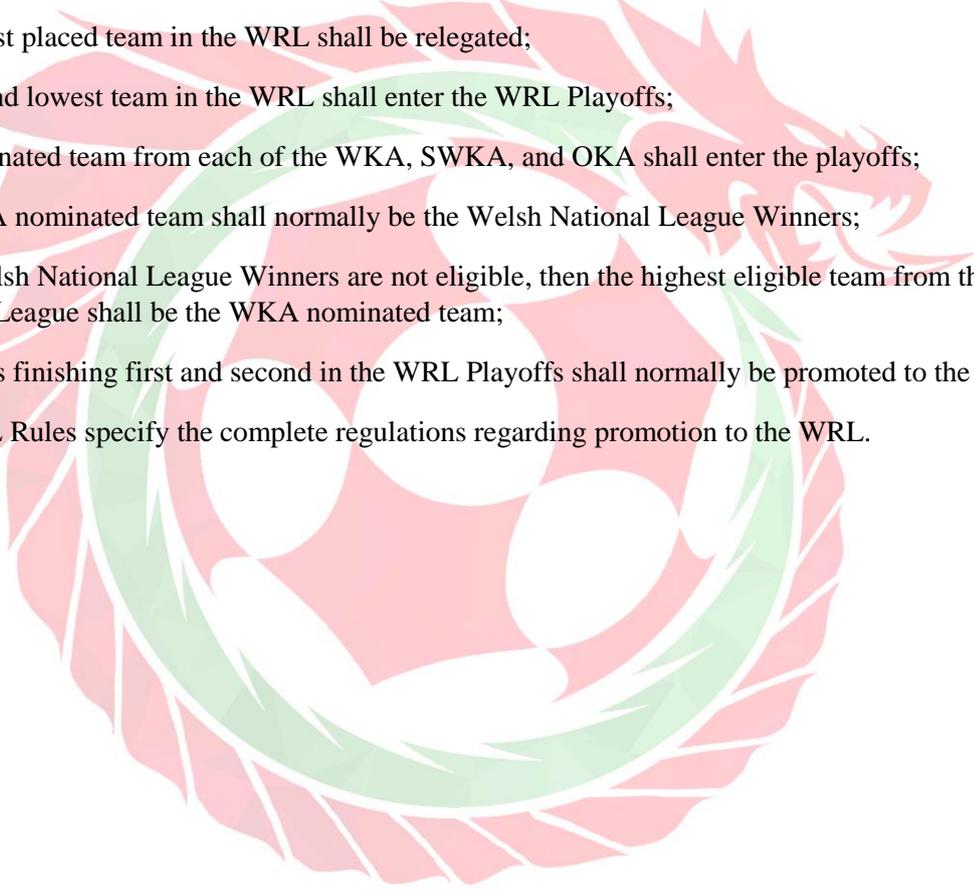
Teams shall play each other home and away in a round robin format.

Appendix D. Western Regional League

The Western Regional League is governed by adopted policy and agreement between the Welsh Korfball Association, South West Korfball Association, and the Oxfordshire Korfball Association.

For the 2018-2019 season, promotion to the WRL is as follows:

- The lowest placed team in the WRL shall be relegated;
- The second lowest team in the WRL shall enter the WRL Playoffs;
- The nominated team from each of the WKA, SWKA, and OKA shall enter the playoffs;
- The WKA nominated team shall normally be the Welsh National League Winners;
- If the Welsh National League Winners are not eligible, then the highest eligible team from the Welsh National League shall be the WKA nominated team;
- The teams finishing first and second in the WRL Playoffs shall normally be promoted to the WRL;
- The WRL Rules specify the complete regulations regarding promotion to the WRL.



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Appendix E. Guidance

The Welsh Korfball Association advocates fair-play and encourages all clubs and players to participate in league competition in a fair manner and within the spirit of sport and korfball. In particular, clubs are encouraged to respect fairness of eligibility.

In regard of team names (Clause 5.5), the names of teams for any club are adjusted at the start of each season to reflect the club's situation at that time. If a club's second team has been relegated and their third team promoted such that the third team would be playing in the higher competition, the names of the teams would be switched such that the second team plays in the higher competition in the following season.

Any new team entered into the WNL will be given the next number in the sequence of team naming, e.g. if Team 1 and Team 2 are entered into the League Proper or higher leagues, then the new team shall be Team 3.

In regard of 2 **bonus points** awarded to a losing team that scores 1 or 2 goals less than the winning team, specified in clause 7.1, the following examples are provided:

- 2 bonus points will be awarded to a team that loses 11-13 or 12-13.
- No bonus points will be awarded to a team that loses 10-13.

In regard of 1 **bonus point** awarded to a losing team that scores more than half the goals scored by the winning team, specified in clause 7.1, the following examples are provided:

- 1 bonus point will be awarded to a team that loses 7-13 or 8-14.
- No bonus points will be awarded to a team that loses 7-14.

In regard of forfeited fixtures being ignored when teams are equal, specified in clause 7.3, the following example is provided:

- Team A has 18 points and has scored 100 goals and conceded 50 goals and has a goal difference of 50.
- Team B has 18 points and has scored 100 goals and conceded 55 goals and has a goal difference of 45.
- Team C forfeited the away fixture to Team A. Team A was awarded the score of 10-0 in the fixture.
- Team B won the equivalent fixture against Team C 10-8.

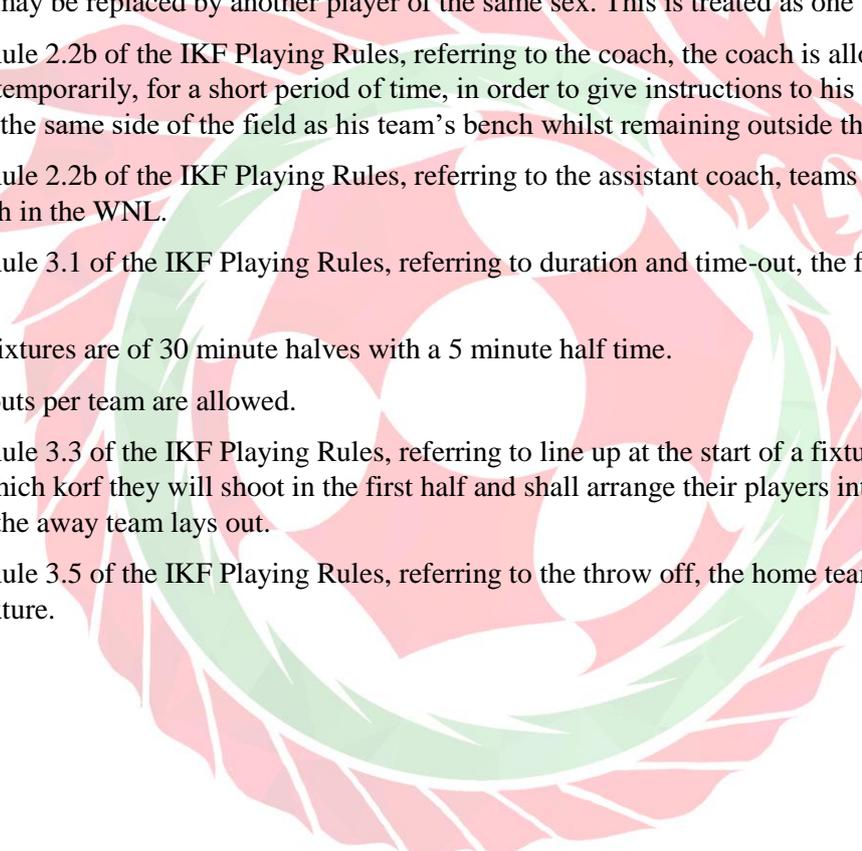
The goals scored in the matches Team A v Team C and Team B v Team C are removed from the table and new table is formed:

- Team A has 18 points and has scored 90 goals and conceded 50 goals and has a goal difference of 40.
- Team B has 18 points and has scored 90 goals and conceded 47 goals and has a goal difference of 43.

Therefore, after having accounted for the forfeited fixture, Team B is placed above Team A.

Appendix F. Playing Rules

- 1) In regard of Rule 1.7 of the IKF Playing Rules, concerning height of shot clock apparatus, the top of the shot clock shall be placed no higher than 2m above the ground.
- 2) In regard of Rule 2.1c of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to substitution of players, Scenario A which specifies that a substituted player may return applies in the WNL.
- 3) In regard of Rule 2.1c of the IKF Playing Rules concerning injury, the following applies in the WNL:
 - a. In the case of injury, a period of 1 minute, starting when the medical attendant or other person attending to the injured player reaches the player, is allowed for the assessment and/or treatment of the injured player. An injured player leaving the field and being replaced by another player will be treated as a standard substitution.
 - b. An injured player may leave the field of play for up to 3 minutes and then return. During that time the player may be replaced by another player of the same sex. This is treated as one substitution, not two.
- 4) In regard of Rule 2.2b of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to the coach, the coach is allowed to leave his place on the bench temporarily, for a short period of time, in order to give instructions to his team's players. This must be done from the same side of the field as his team's bench whilst remaining outside the field of play.
- 5) In regard of Rule 2.2b of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to the assistant coach, teams are permitted to use an assistant coach in the WNL.
- 6) In regard of Rule 3.1 of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to duration and time-out, the following applies in the WNL:
 - c. WNL fixtures are of 30 minute halves with a 5 minute half time.
 - d. 2 timeouts per team are allowed.
- 7) In regard of Rule 3.3 of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to line up at the start of a fixture, the home team shall decide into which korf they will shoot in the first half and shall arrange their players into attack and defence zones before the away team lays out.
- 8) In regard of Rule 3.5 of the IKF Playing Rules, referring to the throw off, the home team shall throw off at the start of the fixture.



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