



1. Western Regional League

1.1. Definition

- 1.1.a. The Western Regional League is a mid-tier competition in the national league korfball structure in England administered by the England Korfball Association (EKA).
- 1.1.b. The EKA Area Associations of Oxfordshire (OKA) and South West (SWKA) and the National Association of Wales (WKA) shall be the Constituent Associations for the Western Regional League.
- 1.1.c. One Constituent Association shall be the host Association. This will change annually as specified in Appendix A.
- 1.1.d. Local League, as used in these rules, shall be the League of each Constituent Association from which teams are able to gain promotion to the Western Regional League.
- 1.1.e. Any club that is a member of a Constituent Association shall be allowed to participate in the Western Regional League, subject to these Rules. Only clubs from Constituent Associations shall be permitted to participate in the Western Regional League.
- 1.1.f. The official colour of the WRL shall be Blue Violet and specified as Hexadecimal Value #AC2FEE and RGB 172,471238.

2. Short Form

- 2.1.a. The Western Regional League shall be shortened to WRL.

3. Administration

3.1. Alterations

- 3.1.a. Alterations to the Rules specified in the main text of this document shall be by agreement between the Constituent Associations.
- 3.1.b. Alterations to the Appendices shall be by agreement between the WRL Committee.

3.2. WRL Committee

- 3.2.a. The WRL shall be managed by a committee composed of one designated representative from each Constituent Association.
- 3.2.b. No individual shall be the designated representative for more than one Constituent Association.
- 3.2.c. The WRL Committee shall manage the WRL according to these Rules.
- 3.2.d. The WRL Committee shall have the power to adjudicate on any matter not clearly defined within these Rules.
- 3.2.e. All decisions made by the WRL Committee shall be binding subject to appeal as defined under clause 10.3.

3.3. WRL Coordinator

- 3.3.a. The WRL Committee shall appoint a WRL Coordinator, as specified in Appendix A.
- 3.3.b. The Coordinator shall create a set of fixtures.
- 3.3.c. The Coordinator shall maintain fixtures and results using the EKA specified process.
- 3.3.d. The Coordinator shall maintain disciplinary records using the EKA specified process.

3.4. Finances

- 3.4.a. The WRL Committee shall arrange for the receipt and payment of monies as required to manage the WRL and the recording thereof.



- 3.4.b. The WRL Committee shall maintain records of financial transactions and present them annually and on request by a Constituent Association.
- 3.4.c. All monies, including fines levied under these rules, shall be paid to the WRL Committee within 30 days of their being requested
- 3.4.d. Clubs that fail to pay monies, including fines, by the date requested may be subject to an additional fee as specified in Appendix B.
- 3.4.e. Such funds as are raised by the WRL in respect of fines and other activities shall ordinarily be used for development within the Constituent Associations. The WRL Committee shall have responsibility for decisions on such expenditure.

3.5. Trophies

- 3.5.a. The WRL Trophy and any other trophy awarded by the WRL shall remain the property of the WRL unless otherwise stated.
- 3.5.b. 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.
- 3.5.c. WRL shall be responsible for engraving the trophies.

4. Structure

4.1. Entry

- 4.1.a. The WRL shall consist of nine teams unless varied in accordance with Appendix E.
- 4.1.b. Clubs shall confirm the entry of their team(s) by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 4.1.c. No more than two teams from any one club shall participate in the WRL.
- 4.1.d. Clubs shall pay their entry fees, as specified in Appendix A, by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 4.1.e. Clubs must meet the requirements set out in Appendix C.
- 4.1.f. Constituent Associations shall confirm clubs meet the requirements set out in Appendix C by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 4.1.g. Teams shall play each other in two fixtures, one at home and one away, unless varied in accordance with Appendix E.
- 4.1.h. Clubs shall arrange their home fixtures by the date specified in Appendix A.
- 4.1.i. To enable assignment of referees, clubs may be asked to alter the dates and times of fixtures by either the WRL Coordinator or the Constituent Association allocating the referee and such request may not be refused by either team, without good reason.

4.2. Ranking

- 4.2.a. Ranking positions in the WRL shall be determined by points awarded as follows :
 - 2 points awarded for a win;
 - 1 point for a draw; and
 - 0 points for a loss.
- 4.2.b. Forfeited games shall be recorded with a scoreline of 10-0 against the offending side.
- 4.2.c. League positions shall be decided by using the following criteria until a distinction is reached:
 - The most number of points gained.
 - The results between the teams that are tied on points
 - The largest goal difference.



- The most number of goals scored.
- The fewest number of matches forfeited.

4.2.d. If the teams tied under 4.2.c are still tied, in the event that a promotion or relegation issue is to be decided there shall be a playoff, including Golden Goal and Penalty Shootout as specified in Appendix G, between the teams concerned; otherwise the teams shall be deemed to hold the same position.

4.3. Promotion and Relegation

4.3.a. The team finishing in first place shall be the WRL Champions.

4.3.b. Promotion from the WRL is to the England Korfball League (EKL) and according to the regulations laid down by the EKA. – The top two eligible and endorsed teams will be invited to take part in the EKL Promotion Division – results will only be considered against teams eligible for promotion (1st teams only)

4.3.c. The team finishing in last place shall be relegated from the WRL. They shall return to the Local League of their Constituent Association according to the rules of that Local League. – unless the league is increasing in number, therefore they will enter the playoffs.

4.4. Playoffs

4.4.a. The team finishing in second to last place shall enter a playoff with the nominated teams from each of the Local Leagues. – unless the league is increasing in number

4.4.b. Each Constituent Association that governs a Local League is entitled to nominate a team to enter the WRL Playoffs. This shall normally be the Local League champions as determined by the Local League competition rules. The team that is relegated from the WRL may not participate in the Playoffs. – see 4.3.c

4.4.c. In order to be eligible for Regional League/National League, a club must have the required minimum number of teams in place prior to being considered for promotion.

4.4.d. Should a club wish to enter a 2nd team into Regional League/National League, the relevant ‘1st’ team must have completed a full season (no defaulted fixtures) in the season prior to the play offs

4.4.e. The WRL Playoffs shall be on a date set by the WRL Committee and shall take place after the conclusion of the EKL season including any playoffs for entry to the EKL Premier League.

4.4.f. The order of play shall be determined by the WRL Coordinator as soon as practical once participants in the Playoffs, as detailed in Appendix A, are finalised.

4.4.g. The referees, shot-clock operators and other officials shall be appointed to playoff fixtures by the WRL Coordinator.

4.4.h. Any alterations to the fixture conditions for the WRL Playoffs from those specified in clause 6 shall be specified in Appendix F.

4.4.i. Participation in the WRL Playoffs shall be subject to the requirements specified in Appendix C.

4.4.j. Costs, including venue hire and referee fees, for the Playoffs shall be divided equally between the teams taking part.

4.5. Extraordinary Circumstances

4.5.a. The WRL Committee may approve changes to the criteria for the WRL Structure and Promotion and Relegation to take account of circumstances that occur. Any such changes shall be specified in Appendix E.



5. Player Eligibility and Registration

5.1. Registration

- 5.1.a. To participate in the WRL, players shall be registered with the club and in accordance with the EKA Rules and Constitution, at least 48 hours before the date of their first fixture.
- 5.1.b. Once registered, a player shall not play for any other club in the WRL in the current season until the EKA or WKA has approved their transfer or registration.
- 5.1.c. Any transfer shall be made in accordance with the EKA Rules and Constitution and the WKA Rules and Constitution.
- 5.1.d. Players under the age of eighteen on the day of a fixture shall not play in a WRL fixture unless they are over the age of fourteen and have played in at least six Local League fixtures and the club has completed the relevant paperwork regarding safeguarding young people. Evidence of the six fixtures played shall be provided to the WRL Coordinator.

5.2. Eligibility

- 5.2.a. Unless stated otherwise, clauses 5.2.a to 5.2.i shall only apply to teams playing fixtures in the WRL or higher competitions. Clauses 5.2.a to 5.2.i do not apply to competitions below the WRL.
- 5.2.b. No player shall start in more than one fixture in one league weekend, unless it is for the same team playing in WRL.
- 5.2.c. No player who starts in a higher team fixture shall be a substitute for a lower team in the same league weekend.
- 5.2.d. No player who starts in a lower team fixture shall be a substitute for a higher team in the first twenty minutes of the higher team fixture in the same league weekend. In the case of injury to a starting player, an early substitution of a player who started a lower team fixture shall be permissible.
- 5.2.e. At the start of the season, a club shall name at least eight players, four female and four male, for each of its teams above its lowest team entered into the WRL or higher competition. Where a club has one team in the WRL or higher competitions, they are not required to name players.
- 5.2.f. Where a club is required to name players under 5.2.e, they shall maintain at least four female and four male players in the team.
- 5.2.g. The club shall be permitted to transfer players between named teams. There shall be a maximum of eight such transfers into each team, including those forced under clause 5.2.h. The WRL Committee shall monitor such transfers and may permit further transfers if deemed necessary and proper.
- 5.2.h. If a player named under clause 5.2.e does not start for the named team for three consecutive fixtures, they shall be removed from the named team and must be replaced with another player. The replacement player must have started in at least one of the previous three fixtures for that named team.
- 5.2.i. No player named in a team under 5.2.e shall play for a lower team where the lower team plays in the WRL or higher competition.
- 5.2.j. Where a club plays a player in a WRL fixture who is not registered or otherwise eligible to play, the club may be deducted points and fined as specified in Appendix B and the fixture may be forfeited.

5.3. Playoffs

- 5.3.a. A player shall be eligible to play in a playoff fixture if they have been a registered member of the club since the date specified in Appendix A.



- 5.3.b. A player shall not be eligible to play in a playoff fixture if they have started fixtures for higher teams in more than 50% of the preceding five league weekends where a higher team has played.
- 5.3.c. The names of players in the squad for the Playoffs shall be registered to the team in Playwaze and shall be submitted to the WRL Coordinator at least 10 days before the date of the Playoffs to enable their eligibility to be confirmed. (13th/14th April 2022)

6. Fixture Conditions

6.1. Playing Rules

- 6.1.a. All fixtures shall be played according to the Rules of Korfball as laid down by the International Korfball Federation. As permitted in the Rules of Korfball, competition rules apply as specified in Appendix D.

6.2. Hall Standards

- 6.2.a. In accordance with EKA Policy on Venue Standards, WRL fixtures should be on a pitch no smaller than 36 x 18m and in the ratio 2:1. Where Clubs have no local venue available to meet this condition at reasonable cost, they may play on a smaller pitch of no less than 30m x 15m subject to approval from the WRL Coordinator.
- 6.2.b. The home team shall ensure the pitch is marked correctly, including all lines and a measured penalty spot and free pass circle.
- 6.2.c. The away team's zone must be marked and post positioned first as a matter of courtesy to the away team.
- 6.2.d. 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.
- 6.2.e. The home team shall provide and control a scoreboard.
- 6.2.f. The home team shall provide and control a shot clock. The shot clock shall be controlled by a qualified operator. The operator shall have no other part in the fixture, including as a player, substitute or coach.
- 6.2.g. 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.

6.3. Fixture Times

- 6.3.a. Hall bookings must be for at least 1 hour 30 minutes and preferably for 2 hours.
- 6.3.b. Teams shall have a period of at least ten minutes immediately prior to the fixture start with access to one zone. The pitch must be marked and post positioned prior to this period commencing, wherever possible, to minimise interruptions.

6.4. Arrangements

- 6.4.a. A Provisional fixture list shall be prepared and released by the WRL Coordinator. This shall state the nominal date for each fixture.
- 6.4.b. Following review by clubs, the WRL Coordinator shall publish the Final fixture list.
- 6.4.c. The home team is responsible for venue costs.
- 6.4.d. The nominal date for a fixture shall be the Sunday.
- 6.4.e. Fixtures shall normally be arranged for the Saturday or Sunday of the weekend of the nominal date. Clubs may arrange fixtures for a date three days either side (from the preceding Thursday to the following Wednesday) of the nominal date with agreement from the other team.



- 6.4.f. When arranging the time for a fixture, the home team shall take into consideration the travel requirements of the away team. Teams should not be required to start their journey before 9am nor arrive home after 9pm, unless agreement is reached between both teams and the WRL Coordinator.
- 6.4.g. When arranging the location and time for a fixture, clubs shall take into consideration other fixtures the opposing team have scheduled for the same weekend. This is to allow teams to play two away fixtures in a weekend, or other arrangements as occur.
- 6.4.h. Except for exceptional circumstances, the date for a fixture shall not be changed once the Final fixture list has been published.
- 6.4.i. The time and venue for a fixture shall not be altered once the Final fixture list has been published, unless agreement is reached between both teams and the WRL Coordinator.
- 6.4.j. The home team shall insure the away team are aware of any covid restrictions/policies of the venue prior to the fixture – eg lateral flow tests, changing rooms closed etc

6.5. Incomplete and Forfeited Matches

- 6.5.a. In the event that a fixture cannot be completed according to clause 6.4 , the fixture may be awarded to the non-offending team if one of the teams is at fault. If neither team is at fault, the fixture shall be postponed – unless official covid issues.
- 6.5.b. In the event that a team forfeits a fixture, they shall pay any reasonable losses incurred by the non-offending team and a fine may be imposed as specified in Appendix B.
- 6.5.c. In the event that a team fails to complete two or more fixtures in the season, they will forfeit their right to compete in the WRL in the following season and the following seasons playoff. A club with a team in such a situation shall have the right to an appeal according to clause 10.3
 - 6.5.c.1. Allowances to be made for Covid outbreaks for rearranging games and failure to complete fixtures

6.6. Fixture Reporting

- 6.6.a. In accordance with EKA policy, clubs shall complete fixture details on Playwaze within 1 week of the conclusion of a fixture. Fixture details include the list of starting players, the list of substitutions made, the time of substitutions made, the list of scorers and goals scored, the name of the Most Valuable Player, and the name of the shot clock operator. Home team must also enter the name of the referee
- 6.6.b. Clubs failing to comply with clause 6.6.a may have points deducted from the offending team and be fined as specified in Appendix B.
- 6.6.c. At the end of each fixture, each team shall select one player from the opposition team as their Most Valuable Player (MVP). The captain shall inform the opposition team of the selection.

6.7. Playing Kit

- 6.7.a. Teams shall register their colours with the WRL. This shall be done prior to the start of the WRL season.
- 6.7.b. All players shall wear matching kit, including tops and bottoms, with numbered shirts and each captain shall wear an armband or tape.
- 6.7.c. In the event of two teams playing in similar strip the away team shall wear a change strip.
- 6.7.d. Any team not playing in their registered colours shall inform their opponents, the referee and the WRL Coordinator at least 7 days prior to the fixture.

6.8. Fielding Teams



- 6.8.a. A higher team, playing in the WRL or higher competition shall take priority over any lower team in any competition. Teams failing to fulfil a fixture, where a lower team does fulfil a fixture may be fined as specified in Appendix B.

7. Postponements

7.1. International Commitment

- 7.1.a. Any club with two or more players involved in an international fixture or fixture series approved by their national association as officially selected players, officially appointed referees, coaches or officials, on the same weekend as a scheduled WRL fixture shall be entitled to apply to have their team's fixture postponed.

- 7.1.b. An application for postponement under clause 7.1.a shall be made as soon as it is known that such players are known to be involved and no later than 14 days before the event concerned.

7.2. Rearrangement

- 7.2.a. If a fixture is postponed, the home team shall rearrange the date, time and venue for the match within 7 days of the date of the postponement decision. The date, time and venue for the rearranged fixture shall be with agreement of the away team and the WRL Coordinator.

8. Withdrawal

8.1. During the Season

- 8.1.a. In the event of a team withdrawing from the WRL, all fees paid, or due to be paid, by that team shall be forfeited.

- 8.1.b. If less than 75% of the team's scheduled fixtures have been completed at the time of withdrawal, all results of fixtures played shall be declared void and shall be deleted from the records. If 75% or more of the scheduled fixtures have been completed, then the remaining fixtures shall be forfeited to the opponents.

8.2. Prior to the Playoffs

- 8.2.a. If a team accepts a place in the WRL Playoffs and withdraws less than 72 hours before the event (midnight Tuesday for a Saturday event), then their Constituent Association may nominate a replacement and would not be invited to enter the playoffs the following season.

- 8.2.b. If a replacement is not found, the team shall pay their share of any fees or costs of competing in the playoffs that could not be recouped by WRL.

8.3. Prior to the Season

- 8.3.a. In the event of a team that has confirmed its entry to the WRL withdraws from the WRL prior to the start of the following season, and a replacement cannot be found, they shall be liable to pay the league fees for the season as though they had not withdrawn. They would also not be eligible for the playoffs the following season

9. Referees

9.1. Appointment

- 9.1.a. Referees shall be appointed by the appropriate body from the Constituent Association of the home team.

- 9.1.b. Referees from neutral clubs should be appointed

- 9.1.c. Referees for Super Saturday events shall be appointed by the host Association.



- 9.1.d. Referees shall normally be qualified at Regional level or higher. Where a Regional level or higher referee is not available, a suitably experienced and capable referee should be appointed.
- 9.1.e. Referee appointments shall be confirmed with the WRL Coordinator prior to each fixture. This shall normally be done no later than 7 days prior to the fixture.
- 9.1.f. Referee appointments shall be confirmed with the home and away teams prior to each fixture. This shall normally be done no later than 7 days prior to the fixture.
- 9.1.g. The home team must enter the referee details on Playwaze when entering their playing squad following the fixture
- 9.1.h. Referees will follow the EKA guidelines and therefore all WRL games should not be played with dual referees unless agreed with the two clubs involved

9.2. Fixture reporting

- 9.2.a. The referee shall contact the WRL Coordinator immediately, and no later than 24 hours, after the conclusion of a fixture with the result, relevant details of any substitutions made, details of any cards issued, and other relevant details of the fixture.

9.3. Fees

- 9.3.a. As specified in Appendix A the Constituent Association responsible for the appointment of a referee shall ensure payment of any fees and expenses due to the referee are paid according to the regulations of that association.

9.4. Requirements

- 9.4.a. The referee shall make themselves available for at least ten minutes prior to the start and at least ten minutes after the end of a fixture.
- 9.4.b. The referee shall check and approve the position of posts, lines and shot clock equipment.

9.5. Non-Appearance

- 9.5.a. In the event of the non-appearance of a referee, a substitute should be found. If a substitute cannot be found, the match shall be postponed. In this case, hall costs that cannot be recouped shall be covered by the Association of the home team.

10. Discipline, Protests and Appeals

10.1. Misconduct

- 10.1.a. 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 9.2.a, the referee shall submit a full report of the incident to the WRL Coordinator and the EKA Disciplinary Coordinator where it shall be dealt with using the EKA Disciplinary Regulations. The referee shall confirm the code specifying the offence.

10.2. Protests

- 10.2.a. 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.



- 10.2.b. Where a team has made a protest, the referee shall include the fact in their fixture report as specified under clause 9.2.a and provide additional details as soon as practical.
- 10.2.c. Where a team has made a protest, the club shall inform the WRL Coordinator in writing within 48 hours of the fixture.
- 10.2.d. 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.

10.3. Appeal Process

- 10.3.a. Any appeal against a decision made by the WRL Coordinator or WRL Committee shall be made within 7 days of the notification of the original decision.
- 10.3.b. Any such appeal will be heard within 14 days of the appeal being made.
- 10.3.c. An appeal against a decision by the WRL Committee shall be heard and decided by three club Chairs, one from each Constituent Association.
- 10.3.d. The decision of the three club Chairs shall be final.



Appendix A. Information

As specified in clause 1.1.c, one Constituent Association shall be the host Association. For the WRL 2024-2025 season the host Association will be the WKA. As the OKA is leaving the WRL after the end of the 2024-2025 season, hosting will alternate between the SWKA and the WKA in future years.

As specified in clause 3.3.a, the WRL Committee shall appoint a WRL Coordinator. This shall normally be by rotation with the Coordinator being appointed from that season's host Association. For 2024-2025, the WRL Coordinator will be from the WKA.

The final fixtures of a season will be arranged by the host Association.

The playoff will be hosted by the following season's host Association. For the WRL 2024-2025 season, the playoffs will be hosted by the SWKA. As the OKA is leaving the WRL after the end of the 2024-2025 season, hosting the WRL playoffs will alternate between the SWKA and the WKA in future years.

As agreed by the Constituent Associations, the SWKA shall maintain the financial records of the WRL.

Referees for WRL fixtures are entitled to a fee and expenses as determined by the relevant Association. It is recommended that this fee is set at £25.

Start of the WRL 2024-2025 Season 21st September 2024

Final fixtures of the WRL 2024-2025 Season 12th April 2025

EKL Promotion Play Offs 4th May 2025 & 17th May 2025

WRL Play Offs TBC

Deadline for confirmation of entry for 2024-2025 Season 1st July 2024

To be eligible to play in the WRL Playoffs a player must have been a registered club member since

31st January 2025

Deadline for confirmation of Constituent Association clubs to nominate entries to the WRL Playoffs.

28th February 2025

Deadline for Constituent Associations to confirm clubs meet the requirements in Appendix C

31st March 2025

Release of Provisional Fixture List 1st August 2024

Release of Final Fixture List 15th August 2024

Deadline for confirmation of home fixtures 1st September 2024

Deadline for payment of entry for 2024-2025 Season 1st September 2024

Entry Fee for 2024-2025 Season £30



Appendix B. Fines

Clause	Fine	1 st and subsequent infringements	Additional fine for 2 nd and subsequent infringements
5.2.j	Fielding an ineligible player	1 point deduction per player	£50
6.5.b	Forfeiting a fixture	10-0 win recorded to the opposition as determined in 4.2.b. Payment of opposition’s fees as specified in 6.5.b	£100 minus any fees due to be paid under 6.5.b
6.6.b	Failure to update Playwaze	1 point deduction	£50
6.8.a	Higher team failing to fulfil a fixture	£100	n/a
3.4.d	Additional fee for non-payment of monies within as specified under 3.4.c	£25	n/a

Appendix C. Requirements for Participation in the WRL

In addition to any requirements specified by England Korfball for clubs participating in the England Korfball National League, the following requirements shall be met by clubs participating in the WRL or higher competitions:

- a) Have at least 20 (30 if entering 2 teams) active players registered in Playwaze or League Republic and
- b) Maintain at least one other independent senior team competing in a Local League. It is understood that this requires a club to be capable of fielding at least 16/24 different starting players, on any one league weekend.
- c) The ability to use a venue as specified in clause 6.2.a.
- d) Active engagement in referee and coaching development, as required by and endorsed by the Constituent Association.

Appendix D. Competition Regulations

As permitted under The Rules of Korfball Exceptions and Recommendations for Competition Regulations, the following applies in WRL.

Unless specified below the rules as stated in The Rules of Korfball and the IKF Playing Rules apply.



Rule 1.2 Field of Play

Fixtures should be on a pitch no smaller than 36 x 18m and in the ratio 2:1. Where Clubs have no local venue available to meet this condition at reasonable cost, they may play on a smaller pitch of no less than 30m x 15m subject to approval from the WRL Coordinator.

Rule 1.9 Substitution spot

These are not required in WRL.

Rule 4.5 Other persons attached to the team

Any number of other persons may sit on the team bench and around the team bench. The referee may request that persons not directly associated with the team, that is named players, coach and coach assistant leave the bench area. This would apply to both teams.

Rule 4.6 Referee duo

WRL fixtures use a single referee.

Rule 4.7 Jury

There shall be no jury in WRL fixtures, unless specifically arranged by the WRL Committee, e.g. for playoff fixtures.

Rule 4.8 Timekeeper

There shall be no timekeeper in WRL fixtures.
The referee shall control the timing of the game.

Rule 4.10 Scorekeeper

There shall be a scorekeeper in WRL fixtures. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a scoreboard and a scorekeeper. The scorekeeper shall have no other role during the fixture.

Rule 5.1 Teams

The home team shall arrange their players into attack and defence zones before the away team lays out.

Rule 5.2 Playing time

WRL fixtures shall be played without real playing time.
WRL fixtures are played in two 30 minute halves.
Half time break in WRL fixtures shall be five minutes.

Rule 5.5 Goals

WRL fixtures during the regular season can end with the scores tied. That is, there is no golden goal.

Rule 5.8 Time-out

A time-out request is made to the scorekeeper & shot clock operator. At the next stop in play the shot clock operator shall attract the attention of the referee.
The referee shall control the timing of the time-out and restart of the game.

Rule 5.9 Substitution of players

A substitution request is made to the scorekeeper & shot clock operator. At the next



stop in play the shot clock operator shall attract the attention of the referee. The referee shall indicate the substitution can proceed.

The referee shall maintain a record of substitutions made including the player who left the field, the player who entered the field and the time. The referee shall maintain a note of the number of substitutions made by each team.

Rule 6.17 To shoot when one plays without a personal opponent

This rule as described below shall apply in the WRL.

This occurs when the defence zone has only three (3) players playing against four (4) attackers. The numerical advantage of the attack over the defence may be due to one side not being able to field a full team, or after agreeing with the referee and the other team not to field a full team even when possible (e.g. due to partly injured or large difference in player competences), or due to one or more players leaving the field due to injury or to being sent-off by the referee and not being possible to replace them by a substitute.

In this case the coach of the attacking side must inform the referee and the other coach of which of his attackers will not shoot. The coach is entitled to change his decision during the match, but only after informing the referee and the other coach at a time when play has stopped (i.e. the referee has blown for an infringement, a goal etc.). This change of an attacker is only allowed twice between a change of zones.

A goal can be made from a penalty by an attacker without a personal opponent.

If a player who is playing without a personal opponent throws the ball and it hits the korf, then this shall be considered to be a shot and is penalised under this rule.

If the coach of the attacking side fails to inform the referee, then the referee must see to it that he does so at once.

Rule 7.6 Disciplinary

The jurisdiction of the referee starts when they enter the playing venue for the purposes of being the referee. If the referee is already present at the venue, for instance for a previous match, their jurisdiction shall start when it is clear that they are preparing for the match.

The jurisdiction of the referee ends when they leave the playing venue. If the referee remains at the venue after the match, for instance for a following match, their jurisdiction shall end when they have left the playing area.

Appendix E. Extraordinary Circumstances

Following completion of the WRL League season and prior to the WRL Playoffs, and in normal circumstances, there are two spaces in the WRL that shall be awarded to the teams finishing in the top two places in the WRL Playoffs.

In the event that a team is promoted from the WRL to the EKL Premier Division, an additional space shall be available.

In the event that two teams from the WRL are promoted to the EKL Premier Divisions, two additional spaces shall be available.



In the event that a team is relegated from the EKL Premier Division to the WRL, one fewer space shall be available.

In the event that two teams are relegated from the EKL Premier Division to the WRL, two fewer spaces shall be available.

In the event that there are three places available in the WRL, the team finishing third in the WRL Playoffs shall play in the WRL for the following season.

In the event that there are four places available in the WRL, the team finishing second to last in the WRL shall remain in the WRL for the following season and the team finishing last in the WRL enters the WRL Playoffs. The team finishing third in the WRL Playoffs shall play in the WRL in the following season.

In the event that there is one place available in the WRL, only the team finishing in first place in the WRL Playoffs shall play in the WRL for the following season.

In the event that there are no places available in the WRL, the league shall be expanded by one team for the following season and only the team finishing in first place in the WRL Playoffs shall play in the WRL for the following season. At the end of the following season, the league is reduced by one team.

In the event that the league plays a season with 8 (due to withdrawal), the 2nd from bottom in WRL will not enter the playoff but the team that finishes bottom will enter the playoff and will not be automatically relegated.

For the 2024-2025 WRL season, due to the regional split as outlined by the EKA's CSC guidance, the process for promotion and relegation in the WRL will abide by Appendix H.

Appendix F. Fixture Conditions for Playoffs

- 1) The Constituent Association hosting the Playoffs shall ensure the pitch is marked correctly, including all lines and a measured penalty spot and free pass circle.
- 2) WRL Playoff fixtures are of twenty-minute halves with a five-minute half time.
- 3) WRL Playoff fixtures are played with Golden Goal if the scores are level at the end of normal time.
- 4) Ranking positions in the WRL Playoffs shall be determined by points

awarded as follows: 3 points awarded for a win in normal time;

2 points awarded for a win after Golden Goal;

1 point for a loss after Golden Goal; and 0 points for a loss.

- 5) 2 timeouts per team are allowed.

- 6) Teams shall have an uninterrupted period of at least ten minutes immediately prior to the fixture start with access to one zone. The pitch must be marked and post positioned prior to this period commencing.

- 7) The Constituent Association hosting the Playoffs shall provide and control

a scoreboard. 8) The Constituent Association hosting the Playoffs shall

provide and control a shot clock. 9) Teams shall present their starting

divisions to the referee prior to the fixture starting.



- 10) The home team for each Playoff fixture shall be decided by a coin toss and they shall have a choice of ends and first attack at the start of the fixture.
- 11) If required, any period of Golden Goal shall be played according to the rules defined in Appendix G.
- 12) If approved by the WRL Committee, assistant referees may be used in the Playoffs.

Appendix G. Golden Goal and Penalty Shootout

If the aggregate scores are level at the end of normal time, then golden goal extra time will be played. This shall operate as follows:

Golden Goal

At the end of normal time, when scores are level, play resumes (after a 1-minute break) with a throw off by the team that had possession at the end of normal time and the first goal wins. If no team scores within 10 minutes sudden death penalties take place

Penalty Shootout

- 1) If after the extra time period, there is no winning score then penalties will be taken as set out below.

To decide a game by penalties the 8 players who were taking part in the match at the end of the extra time period shall take a penalty alternately, with the starting team decided by a toss. The team scoring the most goals will be declared the winner. Should the scores still be level after these players have taken a penalty, then 'sudden death' shall apply with penalties taken by the same members of the teams who took the first series and in the same order until each team has taken the same number of penalties and one team has scored more than the other. If a winner has been determined before the series of penalties has been completed, then the remaining penalties need not be taken.

Appendix H. 2024-2025 Season Format

After the 2024-2025 season, the OKA will be leaving the WRL to form a new Regional League in agreement with the EKA. As a result, the 2024-2025 season will have different promotion and relegation formats, as outlined below:

Relegation:

No teams will be relegated from the WRL at the end of the 2024-2025 WRL season, via automatic relegation or the WRL playoffs.

Promotion:

To ensure the WRL can continue with reasonable entries both the WNL1 winner and the SWKL1 winner will be offered automatic promotion spots for the 2025-2026 WRL season. A playoff match will also be held, between WNL1 2nd place and SWKL1 2nd place to determine the last promoted team (unless one team chooses not to go for promotion, in which case the spot will be offered to the other team).. This will take the WRL to 9 teams for the 2025-2026 season.

If only 5 teams from WKA/SWKA currently in the WRL enter the 2025-2026 season then promotion will be offered to both second place teams from the two local leagues.

Should Bristol Thunder 1 be relegated from the National League, then there will be no spot offered to

Western Regional League – Rules September 2024



the 2nd place finishers in the two local leagues/

Note: as per rule 4.1.c no more than two teams from the same club can compete in the WRL. If Bristol Thunder 1 are relegated from the NL, and Bristol Thunder 3 win SWKL1, then the SWKA promotion spot will be offered to the SWKL1 second place finisher.

If the WRL competes with 8 teams in the 2025-2026 season as a result of the region split and unforeseen circumstances, then promotion and relegation rules under appendix E will apply for that season to ensure the following season is populated with 9 teams.

The WRL committee, led by the association chairs, reserves the right to offer promotion spaces to teams not listed above to ensure the WRL can continue to run with sufficient number of teams in the 2025-2026 season.