

Scottish Korfball League

Rules 2017-18



SCOTLAND KORFBALL

Scottish Korfball League Rules 2017-18

Status: In Force

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1. Definition & Responsibility

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

2. Terminology

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

3. League Structure

- 3.1 The league season runs from the 1st September 2017 - 15th April 2018.
- 3.2 The league will be divided into two divisions: Division 1 and Division 2.
- 3.3 Division 1 shall consist of the 8 top ranked teams from the league in the 2016-2017 season, provided they meet the criteria specified in clause 3.5.
- 3.4 Should the top 8 teams from the 2016/17 league not all re-enter for the 2017/18 season, any available Division 1 places shall be given to teams at the discretion of the SKA Management Committee.
- 3.5 A team meets the requirements of clause 3.3. if:
 - the team can nominate an appropriately qualified referee as defined in the Referee Structure for 2017-18 from within their club who is willing to ordinarily act as referee for the team games
 - the team forfeited no more than 2 matches in the league the preceding season
 - the team indicates to the SKA that it is willing to take a place in Division 1.
- 3.6 Division 2 shall consist of all other teams entered in the league.
- 3.7 Each team will play every other team in its respective Division three times.

3.8 All matches will be played in accordance with the September 2017 Rules of Korfball and Guidance Notes as laid down by the International Korfball Federation (“IKF”).

4. League Entry

4.1 Entry to the league is open to teams from all clubs affiliated to the SKA and to any other club who the SKA Management Committee, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate.

4.2 The Competitions Committee will issue a league entry form to all affiliated clubs no later than Wednesday 5th July 2017.

4.3 All clubs wishing to enter one or more teams into the league will return the completed entry form no later than Wednesday 19th July indicating the following:

- Number of teams the club wishes to enter in the league.
- Contact details for each team, i.e. contact name, email address, and telephone number.
- Shirt colour(s) for each team.
- Availability of each team for each weekend of the league season.
- (where applicable) Compliance with clause 3.5.
- (where applicable) A nominated appropriately qualified referee as defined in the Referee Structure for 2017-18.
- Saturday games opt-in preference.

4.4 The Competitions Committee may request proof of viability before admitting a team to the league.

4.5 Late entries to the league may be accepted at the discretion of the Competitions Committee.

4.6 A league entry fee of £150.00 for each team is payable by each club no later than 31st August 2017.

5. Fixtures Calendar

5.1 The League Secretary will issue a fixtures calendar based on club availability to all clubs no later than Friday 28th July 2017.

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

5.3 Teams from the same club may be required to play games at different venues on the same date and time.

6. Venue & Time

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

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

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

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

6.5 All venues must be booked, and times and venues confirmed with the SKA at competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk, no later than 1st September 2017.

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 warm up
- 2 halves of 22 minutes playing time
- 4 minutes half-time break
- 2 minutes time-outs (optional)

7.4 The fixture times are as follows:

00:00 Start warm up Team 1 and Team 2

00:10 Start first half Team 1 v Team 2

00:32 End first half Team 1 v Team 2

00:36 Start second half Team 1 v Team 2

00:58 End second half Team 1 v Team 2

2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs

01:00 Start warm up Team 2 and Team 3

01:10 Start first half Team 2 v Team 3

01:32 End first half Team 2 v Team 3

01:36 Start second half Team 2 v Team 3

01:58 End second half Team 2 v Team 3

2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs

02:00 Start warm up Team 3 and Team 1

02:10 Start first half Team 3 v Team 1

02:32 End first half Team 3 v Team 1

02:36 Start second half Team 3 v Team 1

02:58 End second half Team 3 v Team 1

2 minutes to be included in match time for time-outs

8. Referees and Assistants

8.1 The home team in each match is responsible for appointing a referee and paying the referee a match fee of £5. The non-playing team in a triple fixture match is responsible for providing a referee's assistant.

8.2 Where a match is not part of a triple fixture, the home team may seek assistance from the Competitions Committee in appointing a referee and a referee's assistant.

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

- 8.4 The teams will notify each other and the SKA Refereeing Co-ordinator of the nominated persons for refereeing and the referee's assistant at least 10 days before the match. The home team for each match must notify the other teams of the individual they are appointing at least 7 days before the match.
- 8.5 All referees should hold a qualification commensurate with the level of the match (in accordance with the SKA's Refereeing Structure for the 2017-18 season). If a club responsible for nominating or appointing a referee feels unable to provide a suitable person, they must notify the Competitions Committee at least 21 days before the match who may grant special dispensation for a match to be refereed by another individual.
- 8.6 Should the non-playing team not be able to nominate an appropriately qualified individual, in accordance rule 8.3, it will be the responsibility of the non-playing team to cover the expenses of any other appropriately qualified individual appointed by the home team, where expenses are calculated at 45p a mile for petrol costs (capped at £20 for anything up to 70 miles and up to £30 for anything over 70 miles) and any standard fare public transport costs alongside the provision of any necessary accommodation deemed of a reasonable standard by the Competitions Committee. The home team are still responsible for covering the referee's match fee.
- 8.7 In a triple-fixture match, should the home team not wish to appoint the nominated individual from the non-playing team, in accordance with rule 8.3, then the home team shall be responsible for covering a different referee's expenses where are defined the same as in rule 8.5. The home team must also pay the referee the match fee.
- 8.8 In the event of a single fixture match, the Competitions Committee will be responsible for covering the appointed individual's expenses. The home team will be responsible for covering the appointed individual's match fee.
- 8.9 The Competitions Committee may request to the home team that a particular individual be allowed to referee a fixture for the purposes of that individual's development or assessment. It will be at the home team's discretion whether to accept this request. Should the request be accepted, the appointed individual's expenses will be covered by the Competitions Committee.
- 8.10 Where two sides in a triple fixture are from the same club a referee or referee's assistant may be a member of the same club as one of the teams participating in a match. This may also happen when no other appropriately qualified individual is available and with special dispensation from the Competitions Committee alongside the agreement of both teams competing in the match.
- 8.11 The appointed referee is responsible for bringing a whistle, stopwatch, red and yellow card, and pen and paper.
- 8.12 The referee's assistant role is purely administrative. They are responsible for updating the scoreboard, but can also assist the referee with keeping time, monitoring substitutions, and any other duties that are appropriate in the circumstances.
- 8.13 Following any yellow or red cards being issued, SKA guidelines for all disciplinary matters will be followed.
- 8.14 The referee will report any disciplinary matters as required on the relevant match form and will be handled according to the disciplinary procedures.
- 8.15 The SKA will investigate all official complaints following a match, regardless of whether a red or yellow card was issued. Official complaints must be made in writing to the SKA league secretary,

highlighting that an individual wishes to make a formal complaint and open an investigatory procedure.

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

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

9. **Safety**

9.1 The Referee is responsible for the safety of all players during the match.

9.2 Before and during the match, the Referee can summon the Team 1 captain to resolve any situation deemed unsafe. Where a match has been booked by the SKA, a representative of the SKA Management Committee or their designate (an individual present in person, and named at least 10 days in advance) should be summoned instead. If an unsafe situation cannot be resolved within 10 minutes, the Referee may abandon or cancel the match.

9.3 Neither the Referee, nor the SKA can be held liable for any costs associated with the abandonment or cancellation of a match (except that the SKA shall remain liable for any bookings it has made itself).

10. **Equipment & Lines**

10.1 Team 1 will provide posts and at least 2 balls for all matches of the fixture.

10.2 IKF-approved synthetic baskets must be used for all fixtures, and be of the same type and similar quality in each half of the playing area.

10.3 Team 1 will bring 8 bibs in case two teams wear similar shirts. The referee will decide if bibs are to be worn, and by which team.

10.4 Team 1 will make sure that all outside lines and the halfway line are clear and without gaps. If gaps exist, tape will need to be used to fill these in.

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

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

10.7 The Referee will check the lines and the position and stability of the posts before starting the match.

11. **Match Forms**

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

11.2 Team 1 will provide blank match forms in hard copy for all matches to be played.

11.3 The referee and captains of the two teams playing will complete and sign the match form immediately after the match.

11.4 The final score of the match is decided by the referee.

11.5 The referee will not sign the match form until both captains have fully completed and signed their parts of the match form.

11.6 Team 1 will collect the match forms from all three matches, and will email scanned copies (or photographs of readable quality) of the three completed match forms to competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 24 hours of the completion of the match.

- 11.7 Failure to submit match forms within the specified 24 hours will result in a fine of £10 per set of fixtures, per week, for a maximum of three weeks.
- 11.8 Submission after three weeks, or not at all, will result in a fine (additional to that specified in clause 11.7) of £20.

12. Substitutions

- 12.1 Each team will be allowed eight substitutions per match.
- 12.2 A substitution can only be requested by the coach or the captain.
- 12.3 A substitution can only be made when the play is stopped.
- 12.4 Rotating substitutions are permitted. A player who has been substituted off may return to the game but must wait for another stoppage in play before doing so.
- 12.5 If a player has to leave the match because of injury or a red card, and the team has no more substitutions available, then the team will have to play without that player being replaced.

13. Time-Outs

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

14. Rescheduling Fixtures

- 14.1 Rescheduling a fixture after publication of the fixtures calendar must be requested with the other teams involved and with the Competitions Committee as soon as possible and at least 10 days before the scheduled fixture date.
- 14.2 Rescheduling a fixture is only allowed with full agreement of the other teams involved (with the exception of clause 14.7) and with approval of the Competitions Committee.
- 14.3 A fixture should be rescheduled as soon as possible after the original fixture date and no later than the 15th April 2018. Any fixtures not played by this date shall be considered abandoned.
- 14.4 If 7 days before the scheduled fixture date no agreement can be reached or no alternative date can be found, then the fixture will proceed as scheduled in the fixtures calendar.
- 14.5 If a fixture is rescheduled on request of one of the teams, then this team will be responsible for any unrecoverable costs, e.g. hall cancellation fee (with the exception of clause 14.7).
- 14.6 If a fixture is rescheduled due to circumstances for which none of the teams was deemed responsible, e.g. severe weather conditions, then any unrecoverable costs will be shared equally between all clubs in the league. This is in addition to the league entry fee.
- 14.7 The Competitions Committee will attempt to avoid scheduling clashes between league matches and international duty before the start of the season. Any known dates for national and development squad training will be provided in advance and clubs should plan their availability accordingly. In the event of additional international duties arising during the course of the season, any team with one

or more members involved has the right to reschedule an affected league fixture. This is only the case if the international duty (including necessary travel) occurs on the same day as the league fixture.

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

14.9 Any problems regarding the rescheduling of fixtures should be referred to the Competitions Committee, whose decision about the rescheduling will be final.

15. Delayed Matches

15.1 If the start of a match is delayed by ten minutes or less, then the match is shortened so that the remaining matches of the fixture can still be played in full.

15.2 If the start of a match is delayed by 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' (six players including at least two males and two females) is ready to play before this time, the match should start.

16. Cancelled & Abandoned Matches

16.1 If a match is cancelled or abandoned due to circumstances for which one of the teams can be held responsible, then this team will forfeit the match. Where the match is forfeited in such circumstances, the offending team shall be responsible for covering any unrecoverable costs (i.e. hall hire). The non-offending team may offer to have the match rescheduled, in which case the offending team will pay for any additional costs.

16.2 If a match is cancelled or abandoned due to circumstances for which neither of the teams can be held responsible, and less than three quarters of the match has been played (less than 33 minutes of playing time), then the match is rescheduled. If three quarters or more of the match has been played, then the score will stand as that when the match was abandoned.

16.3 In either of the above circumstances, the Competitions Committee must be informed, and their decision about the responsibility for the cancellation will be final.

17. Forfeiting Matches

17.1 If a team forfeits a match, the opposing team will be awarded an 8-0 win.

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

17.3 Any team forfeiting more than four matches in one league season will lose its competitive place in the league, and all its match results will become redundant. That team is still expected to provide referees for its remaining refereeing duties for the season and may choose to play any remaining matches. The results of these will, however, not stand and any player statistics will not count in official figures.

18. Player Registration

18.1 Each club shall register all members playing for that club in the league no later than the 31st August 2017.

- 18.2 Only players registered with the SKA are eligible to play in league matches.
- 18.3 Players can only be registered with one club.
- 18.4 New players joining the club during the league season will need to be registered with the league. A new player can play in a league fixture before registration but their application for player registration must accompany the match form, or follow by e-mail to competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 48 hours of the match having finished.
- 18.5 A player registration fee of £12 shall be chargeable to clubs for any person who plays in 1 or more league games in the season (for any team within the club).

19. Team Selection

- 19.1 Each club with more than one team in the league will nominate (for all but their lowest team) each team's strongest two female and two male players as their "star players" no later than 31st August 2017. The SKA shall publish details of all Star Players on their website on 1st September 2017.
- 19.2 In addition to rule 19.1, each club with more than two teams in the league will nominate (for all but their lowest team) a further two female and two males in each team who will be "named players" no later than 31st August 2017. The SKA shall publish details of all Named Players on their website on 1st September 2017.
- 19.3 Teams can make two changes to their Star and Named Player nominations without consent during the league season, by notifying the Competitions Committee no later than 10 days before a match in which the change is to take effect. If a game is played in the interim, the change shall not apply.
- 19.4 During the winter break, the Competitions Committee will review clubs' Star and Named Players in order to ensure the nominated players are playing regularly in their respective teams.
- 19.5 Teams may make further changes to their Star and Named Players with the consent of the Competitions Committee, providing exceptional circumstances can be shown.

20. Playing Up & Playing Down

- 20.1 Playing Up (e.g. from Team 3 to Team 2, or Team 2 to Team 1 within a club) is unrestricted.
- 20.2 Playing Down (i.e. the opposite) is not permissible for any Star Player. Should a Star Player of any team Play Down, the match is forfeited to the opposition.
- 20.3 Playing Down is permissible for Named Players, provided they only play down to the team directly below them (e.g. from Team 1 to Team 2, or from Team 2 to Team 3 within a club).
- 20.4 Playing Down is unrestricted for any player who is not a Named or Star player for any team within a club.

21. Playing Short & Borrowing Players

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

22. Player Transfer

22.1 A player may request to be transferred to another affiliated club by email to competitions@scotlandkorfball.co.uk giving at least 48 hours' notice and including an email from the player's current club confirming that he/she has fulfilled all financial obligations towards the club. The player can play for his/her new club as soon as the Competitions Committee has approved the transfer.

22.2 A player cannot be transferred more than once in one league season, unless exceptional circumstances can be shown.

23. Point System & Ranking

23.1 The league ranking will be based on the number of points awarded according to the results of matches played: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss.

23.2 In the case of two or more teams having an equal number of points, ranking will be based on 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

23.3 If after applying the rules in clause 23.2 the ranking is still undecided, then these teams shall be deemed to hold the same ranking.

24. Final Ranking

24.1 The highest ranked team in each Division will be declared divisional champions, and will be awarded the respective league trophies for one season.

24.2 The Division 1 champions will be Scottish champions, and will be invited to represent Scotland in the 2017/18 Europa Cup. If that team declines this offer, the next ranked team shall be invited (and so on).

24.3 If the position of the league champions is undecided after applying the rules in clause 23, then there will be a play-off between the teams concerned as specified in clause 25.

24.4 The league trophies remain the property of the SKA and clubs are liable for the costs of repair or replacement should the trophy be damaged or lost while in their care. The trophy must be returned to the SKA on request.

25. Play-Off

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

25.2 In the event that three or more teams are involved in a play-off, the matches will be in round-robin format with each team playing the other teams once.

25.3 A play-off will be held before 30th April 2018. The Competitions Committee will designate the venue, time and referee. The costs for any play-off will be met by the SKA.

26. Promotion and Relegation

- 26.1 At the end of the season the team ranked eighth in SKL1 and the team ranked first in SKL2 will automatically be entered into a play-off. These teams will also be joined by (if not the same teams) the bottom-ranked 2nd team in SKL1 and the top-ranked 1st team in SKL2.
- 26.2 In the play-offs the SKL1 2nd team's club will be required to name a first team squad of eight who will not be eligible to play for their second team during the play-off. This is to ensure clubs have been developing two distinct squads.
- 26.3 Any SKL2 teams are able to decline their invitation to a play-off. If no eligible SKL2 team(s) wish to enter the play-offs, the SKL1 team(s) will retain their places in the 1st division.
- 26.4 If an invitation to a play-off is accepted by an SKL2 team, should they win promotion they will be expected to take their position in SKL1 for the 2018/19 season.
- 26.5 If the top-ranked team in SKL2 is a first team, the next ranked first team will not be invited to the play-offs unless the division winners decline their invitation.
- 26.6 If the bottom-ranked team is a second team then the next higher ranked second team in the division will not be required to compete in the play-offs.
- 26.7 If there are two teams in the play-offs there will be a single match. If there are three or more teams in the play-offs, matches will be played in a round-robin format and SKL1 places awarded to final rankings.
- 26.8 Tournament format will be decided once teams are confirmed.

27. Doubling Up

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

28. Problems & Complaints

- 28.1 All problems and complaints relating to the league should be referred to the Competitions Committee as soon as they arise.
- 28.2 In line with the SKA Service Agreement, the Competitions Committee will reply within 48 hours either supplying a decision or advising a date for a decision to be given. Any member of the Competitions Committee whose club is directly involved in a complaint (as complainer or subject) shall not participate in investigations or discussions. The Competitions Committee must take statements and any other relevant evidence offered, from any club or individual against whom a complaint is made.
- 28.3 Decisions of the Competitions Committee may be appealed to the SKA Management Committee, provided the decision to appeal is notified to secretary@scotlandkorfball.co.uk within 7 days of the decision being announced. The SKA Management Committee shall consider only evidence that was available to the Competitions Committee, and shall give a decision within 14 days.
- 28.4 The decision of the SKA Management Committee is absolutely final.

29. Review

These rules shall be reviewed for the 2018-19 season in early 2018. The revised rules shall be presented for adoption at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the SKA.