

Rules and Regulations 2016-17

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1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of these Rules and Regulations is to facilitate fair and competitive floorball in the UK. UKFF reserve the right to impose appropriate sanctions on teams that do not comply with these rules.

This document outlines rules and regulations that apply to all UKFF divisions and tournaments. The document will only be revised at a UKFF AGM or EGM.

The current IFF Rules of the Game (Edition 2014) apply in full except as stated in this document.

The anti-doping rules of the UKFF are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping (or its successor), as amended from time to time. Such rules shall take effect and be construed as rules of the UKFF. The current IFF Anti Doping Rules (1/1/2015) apply in full.

These rules apply to the UKFF Senior National League and to UKFF Recreational Divisions. Other Leagues may adopt all or part of these rules and this should be documented appropriately.

2 PRE-MATCH

2.1 TOURNAMENT ORGANISER

One person will be the nominated by the respective UKFF Director or Regional Officer as the Tournament Organiser at every event.

The Tournament Organiser is responsible for all of the following, but any responsibility may be delegated to other individuals. Team and players must comply with the tournament organiser.

Before the event

- Communication of match times and referee / scribe duties
- Ensuring availability of equipment needed on the day (including marking tape, referee tabards, score board, whistles, stop watches, first aid kit)
- Directors organising the events and communication with staff and management is essential when booking and dealing with the venue

On the day

- Communication with venue management and staff
- Availability of match records to be completed by the teams and officials
- Collection of match records and transfer to the results co-ordinator

2.2 RINK

The rink size will be the most sensible size possible in the available venue. A centre line may not be marked on the floor, but all faceoff marks should be marked in accordance of IFF rules. The distance behind the goal can be varied to make the best possible playing area. In most cases where the rink is less than 40m x 20m, the distance between the back of the goalkeeper area and boards

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should be 2m. Positions of the secretary, penalty and team benches may be varied.

2.3 TEAM ATTENDANCE

All teams must play all scheduled matches.

- If a team is late to their fixture by more than one period after scheduled time of the game then the late team will forfeit game 5-0.
- If a team do not turn up at all, having not previously informed the Regional director in enough time to plausibly enact a schedule change, the team will be fined and deducted 1 point. Team will still have to pay the Tournament fee
- If the team can provide proof of an unpreventable accident that caused "no show" (such as a car breakdown etc) then their fine and points deduction may be cancelled

The decision will be taken by the Regional Director (RD). If team would disagree with the decision of RD, they have right to appeal at Disciplinary Committee. Teams must be sufficiently well organised to ensure that last minute issues do not cause major problems.

Proof of an unpreventable accident reasons must not include a small squad size, unavailability of transport or a driver, unavailability of players due to work commitments / holidays or traffic problems due to scheduled road works (i.e. anything that could have been resolved by good organisation).

Irrespective of whether a league match is not played, it is better that some floorball is played in the timeslot allocated to a cancelled match. Every effort should be made by the cancelling team to field as many players as possible in a friendly match where other UKFF registered players can be sourced from any team. Non-UKFF registered players should not be allowed to participate in such friendly games due to insurance cover.

2.4 SCHEDULING

All matches and referee responsibilities will be scheduled before the start of the season or as early as possible during the season. Teams may not alter the schedule of matches or schedule of referee responsibilities, even by mutual consent with other teams involved.

If the tournament has to be cancelled for situations outside UKFF control, then main priority is to replay fixtures on a date mutually convenient for all teams. If not, all teams are awarded a 5-0 win.

2.5 TEAM DEPOSIT

Team will have to pay a Team deposit of £100 paid with first tournament fee. This amount can be used to cover the last tournament of the league. Deposit will also cover any failure to follow UKFF rules. The ultimate decision will be taken by the Disciplinary Committee. Every team will be notified in written before any charges will be issued.

2.6 TEAM REGISTRATION

Teams and clubs are required to register through ukfloorball.org website. New teams and clubs joining UKFF are subject to a promotion. New team or club (contain majority of not previously UKFF registered players) will receive free team registration. Any returning team will have to pay annual membership fee.

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2.7 PLAYER REGISTRATION

Only UKFF registered players may play in any UKFF division or tournament unless the tournament is specifically intended to introduce new teams. Each player must be either a UKFF annual licensed player or a UKFF day licensed player having paid the appropriate fees. Registration must be in place before the tournament day. Registration deadline for each tournament will be set by RD.

If a player is not registered then:

- The player will be awarded a match penalty as soon as the offence is identified.
- Any goals scored by the player will count.
- The team for which the player inappropriately played will lose three points for every game in which the player played against this rule (i.e. win = 0 points, draw = -2 points, loss = -3 points).

All players in a team should wear a uniform kit (shirt, shorts, socks) with individual numbering. The UKFF acknowledges that teams may not have consistent kit, but advises that this is still punishable by IFF rules by a single B2 penalty. Players must wear t-shirt with numbers on backs and chest. Players should retain their squad number if possible throughout the season.

2.8 DAY LICENSE

Day license will be valid for one tournament only. No refund for not attending the fixture will be given. Multiple day licences may be upgraded to a season licence, no refund will be given if an excess was paid.

2.9 AGE BASED CATEGORIES

Players must register in the appropriate category:

Juniors: <16 on 1st September in the year when the season starts

Students: in full time education and holding valid student ID card, a scanned copy of ID required when registering online

Adults: >15 on 1st September in the year when the season starts and not in full time education

2.10 AGE LIMIT

Players should be aged 16 and over to play in any UKFF senior division or tournament. Younger players are also eligible if approved by the respective UKFF Director or UKFF Regional Official, but UKFF transfer rules should be noted. Coach of the player is fully responsible for the decision to include younger player and any injuries related during the game.

2.11 INTERNATIONAL PLAYER TRANSFERS

IFF International Transfer Regulations Edition 2015 apply. Note that IFF penalties for breaking international transfer rules can be very harsh and that UKFF will not take any responsibility for such fees. Proof of international transfer will be required when registering player online.

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2.12 DOMESTIC PLAYER TRANSFERS

Players are free to transfer between clubs and register for any UKFF registered team after the National Finals and before playing for any team at the start of the next season.

Junior team players can transfer to a senior team in their club at any time, but must register and pay the appropriate senior league fee. A senior league player may only transfer to a junior league team if there is a very good reason for the transfer and this will be decided by the respective UKFF Director.

Junior players are subject to the same rules as seniors when transferring to a senior team in a different club.

During a season and after initial player registration, transfers between teams (including transfer between teams within a club *) must be registered. The transfer process is:

1. The player (or their new team) submits a transfer request (free text email) to the respective UKFF Director.
2. The UKFF official handling the case will notify the former club to inform them of the transfer. The former club may then raise an objection or grant permission. Permission will be assumed to be automatically granted if there is no response from the former club within seven days.
3. The respective UKFF Director decides whether the transfer should be approved and communicates the decision as appropriate. Transfers will always be approved unless there is a clear reason why the transfer is against the rules and principles of UKFF.
4. The player database will be updated with the player associated to the new team.

* Not required for National Finals (see National Finals section below).

The entire player transfer process (excluding appeal) will take less than four weeks. Player is allowed only one transfer per season.

If a player does not follow this transfer protocol and plays for a different team, then:

- The player will be awarded a match penalty as soon as the offence is identified.
- Any goals scored by the player will count.
- The team for which the player inappropriately played will lose three points for every game in which the player played against this rule (i.e. win = 0 points, draw = -2 points, loss = -3 points).
- The player remains registered for their original team until the transfer is approved.

If a transfer is declined and any of the parties involved want to protest, the appeal must be delivered in writing to the UKFF President for further investigation.

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2.13 SELECTION OF REFEREES

The Tournament Organiser should allocate independent and appropriately competent referees when possible. Note that in normal league division matches this is often unlikely to be practicable.

For critical matches, the selection of referees should be made and communicated to the two team captains in good time. Any objections to the selection of referees should be made before the start of the match. This is the only opportunity for teams to object to selection of referees and any objection during or after the match is invalid. The selection of referees should only be changed before the match in extreme cases where there is a valid reason for the objection that is accepted by the Tournament Organiser. If the Tournament Organiser does not accept the reasoning or if there is no possibility of change due to logistics etc, then the teams must accept the selected referees. The referees should never be changed during a match due to objections from either of the playing teams.

2.14 REFEREE AVAILABILITY

Each team must make all reasonable efforts to have two competent referees and two competent scribes available from their team, for every tournament day in which they play. If the team does not have competent officials available, then the team must organise to have referees available from elsewhere. This is the responsibility of the team and not the Tournament Organiser. It is suggested that a payment of £10 per referee per game should be made to individuals who are willing to help out. This payment is the sole responsibility of the team and may be in addition to any UKFF referee payments.

3 DURING MATCH

3.1 REFEREES

UKFF qualified referees should wear their full UKFF referee kit when refereeing any match.

UKFF currently has a shortage of qualified referees and this can cause significant issues, especially during highly competitive matches. It must be understood that all referees make mistakes and that inexperienced referees may make a lot of mistakes. The over-riding rule is that the referees are in charge of the match and all referee decisions must be respected.

The Tournament Organiser and the UKFF Management Committee members must not get involved in refereeing decisions during a match. Any complaints about referees must be made in the first instance on the match record.

IFF Rule 304 (2) must be followed "Only the team captain is entitled to speak to the referees. He is also obliged to assist them." If a referee considers that this rule has been broken, then the relevant player can be given an appropriate penalty.

Payments may be made to UKFF qualified referees in any Division at the discretion of the respective UKFF Director. This decision will be made for each division (ideally) prior to the start of the season and will influence tournament fees. Tournament fees will only be changed after team registration if a clear

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majority of teams in the division vote for the change in a special divisional meeting chaired by a UKFF director. There will be one vote per team and no casting vote.

3.2 REFEREE OBSERVER

A qualified and experienced referee observer should ideally be present at critical matches. The observer role is to provide advice to the referees – generally before or after a game. The observer has no right to over-rule referee decisions.

3.3 GAME TIME

Game time may be reduced before a match, or at the final period interval, by the Tournament Organiser in order to accommodate a tight daily schedule.

Time-outs may not be allowed at the discretion of the Tournament Organiser.

3.4 MATCH RECORDS

Match Records must be completed in accordance with the UKFF Match Record Instructions provided with the Match Records. Each team is responsible for providing accurate list of players for match record before each game.

3.5 FIRST AID

UKFF do not provide first aid cover and it is the responsibility of each club to deal with their player injuries. Venue staff may provide some basic first aid, but if in doubt call for an ambulance. Any qualified First Aider may volunteer to provide assistance and they should identify themselves quickly if they can help. The Tournament Organiser and UKFF President must be informed immediately of any serious incident or accident. After each incident, an Incident Report must be completed by RD and submitted to both clubs and UKFF committee.

4 POST MATCH

4.1 LEAGUE POSITIONS

Points are awarded as follows:

Win =	3 points
Draw =	1 point
Loss =	0 points

League positions will be decided according to the following method, the higher place being awarded to the team with:

Highest total points, then
Highest points in matches between tied teams, then
Highest goal difference in matches between tied teams, then
Highest goals scored in matches between tied teams, then
Highest overall goal difference, then
Highest overall goals scored.

If positions are still equal, then a play-off may be played within two weeks of the season end if agreed by both teams;



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Otherwise lots will be drawn by a neutral person nominated by the UKFF Management Committee – the first team drawn will take the higher league position.

5 PROMOTION / RELEGATION

There is currently no protocol for promotion and relegation. If any team wishes to play in a different Division next season then they should make this clear to the respective UKFF Director. The primary objective is for all teams to play at a competitive level.

6 PLAY-OFFS

Play-offs may be used to decide qualification for the National Finals. Play-offs will generally be of a one day league format and follow these rules. If there is a tie between two teams for a qualification place, then the position will be decided by a penalty shoot-out immediately following the game when the tied position is confirmed.

Player transfers that appear to be solely for the purpose of strengthening a team for the play-offs are unlikely to be approved.

7 NATIONAL FINALS

The UKFF Senior National Floorball League is a national league consisting of regional divisions and culminating with the National Finals to determine the top positions. The winner will be eligible to play in the next IFF EuroCup competition.

All qualifying teams are obliged to play in the National Finals. The date and qualification criteria for the National Finals will be set before the start of the season.

If a club has two+ teams that qualify for the National Finals, then the club can choose to either: (a) enter two+ teams or (b) combine their teams. This decision must be taken and communicated to the National Finals Tournament Organiser within 7 days of the certain qualification of the teams due to their league standing and ideally this intention should be communicated as early as possible during the season. If one or more teams are removed from the National Finals qualification in this way, the UKFF Management Committee will decide which other team should qualify. This decision will be made on the basis of (a) including an appropriate number of teams from each region and (b) including the best possible teams from the UK. The decision of the UKFF Management Committee will be final.

If a club has two+ teams, but only one team qualifies for the National Finals, then the qualifying team may include any UKFF registered players from their club in their National Finals squad.

Each player at the National Finals must be Annual Member of UKFF and must have played at a minimum of two league tournaments on separate dates for the team/club they represent at the National finals. Cancelled fixtures will count towards attended tournaments. The purpose of this rule is to avoid any team gaining unreasonable advantage by recruiting players just for the National Finals. If any team that qualifies for the National Finals struggles to organise a team,

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then the National Finals Tournament Organiser may show some leniency if the team has a valid reason why they need additional players in their squad in which case the UKFF / IFF transfer rules must be followed. The National Finals Tournament Organiser has the right of veto. Note that bad organisation is not a valid reason for needing additional players.

8 DIVISION SPECIFIC RULES

8.1 DIVISION TYPE

UKFF will operate two different types of division and the UKFF Management Committee will decide which type is appropriate for each division.

Type A (Competitive)

Intended for established teams who want to play in a fully competitive league. Rules will be strictly applied including no borrowing of players.

Teams should have a squad size of at least 10 (ideally 12+ including 2+ goalkeepers) to ensure that a team is available for every scheduled fixture.

All teams playing in Type A divisions are expected to have a minimum of 2 (ideally 3-4) UKFF qualified referees by the end of the 2013-14 season.

All teams playing in Type A divisions will have the opportunity of reaching the National Finals and Team Registration Fees include a contribution toward the cost of the National Finals.

Type B (Recreational)

Intended as an introduction to competitive floorball for new teams, junior teams or teams with a majority of new players.

Teams playing in Type B divisions will be able to borrow players with the emphasis on fulfilling all scheduled fixtures with a team of similar ability to other teams in the Division.

Teams playing in Type B divisions will not have the opportunity of reaching the National Finals and Team Registration fees will not include a contribution toward the cost of the national Finals.

8.2 GUIDELINES FOR BORROWING PLAYERS

Applies only to Type B Divisions

Player borrowing is intended to be for the purposes of fielding a reasonable team and not for the purpose of creating a team that is more likely to win games. A player may not play for two or more UKFF teams except in the following circumstances:

1. Goal keepers registered for a team in a Type B Division may play for any team in that Division.
2. Any UKFF registered player who does not normally play in goal for their team may play in goal for any team in a Type B Division.

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3. If a team has seven or less players available for a match then they may include up to two additional UKFF registered players from any teams(s) in any division(s).

Note that these additional players (including goal keepers) must not be selected to play in preference to other registered team players who are available.

No player may play for more than two teams on any one day.

If players are to be borrowed, then the opposing team should be notified in advance of the game and be given the opportunity to discuss any perceived unfairness. Note that the opposing team does not have the right to refuse the additional players.

9 COMPLAINTS

The deadline for any complaints is one week (7 calendar days) after each incident, committee has 30 calendar days for investigation. Complaints may still be raised after that time, but may not be treated formally by the UKFF board.

10 DISCIPLINARY ISSUES AND GUIDELINES

This document describes how Disciplinary Issues will be consistently treated by UKFF. It should be noted that UKFF reserves the right to take appropriate action against any club, team, player or official for any relevant misconduct.

10.1 MINOR DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

Minor Disciplinary Issues will be handled by the respective UKFF Director who will produce a formal warning that will be copied to the UKFF President. There will be no points deduction or financial penalty. A Subsequent Minor Disciplinary Issue of a similar nature may be considered to be a Major Disciplinary Issue.

Examples of Minor Disciplinary Issues are:

- Frequent swearing (in any language).
- Treating players, team officials or spectators with disrespect.
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour.

The fine line between Minor and Major Disciplinary issues will be decided by the Tournament Organiser or a UKFF Director.

10.2 MAJOR DISCIPLINARY ISSUES

Major Disciplinary Issues will be handled by a UKFF Disciplinary Committee.

Examples of Major Disciplinary Issues are:

- Violent behaviour.
- Strong verbal abuse, defamatory comments or threats.
- Treating referees or match officials with disrespect.
- Failing to comply with referee instructions.
- Bringing the game into disrepute (including the use of social media).
- Abandonment.

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10.3 ABANDONMENT

The only valid reason for a team to unilaterally abandon a match, when they have sufficient players to continue, is if they have good reason to feel that they are in personal physical danger from opposition players who cannot be controlled by the referees. This should only occur in extreme cases where the referees have been asked to take greater control, but have been unable to do so. The penalty for breaking this rule is disqualification from the division or tournament along with the requirement to pay for all scheduled fixtures for the remainder of the season within 14 days of the disqualification. The abandoned match and all remaining fixtures for the disqualified team will be awarded a 5-0 walkover.

10.4 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The UKFF Disciplinary Committee will be nominated by the UKFF Management Committee. The Disciplinary Committee are responsible for investigation of all disciplinary issues and the subsequent decisions regarding sanctions where appropriate.

10.5 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The UKFF Disciplinary Committee will follow this guide:

- Disciplinary Committee members must disclose any relevant relationship with the accuser or the accused.
- The Disciplinary Committee must obtain evidence from the accuser, the accused and any relevant witnesses.
- The Issue should be considered by the Disciplinary Committee as quickly as possible.
- Sanctions should generally take the form of match bans and / or fines for an individual; team points deductions and / or fines for a club.
- Any sanction must be fair and commensurate with the offence.
- Any sanction must be consistent with other sanctions imposed for similar offences in the recent past.
- The formal written conclusion should be communicated to the accuser and the accused as quickly as possible.

10.6 APPEALS

An individual or group may appeal against a Disciplinary Committee decision. To make the appeal a deposit of £25 must be paid to UKFF and this will be returned if the Disciplinary Committee decision is overturned. The appeal will be investigated by a Board of Appeal. The Board of Appeal will consist of at least one UKFF Director and at least two other UKFF Directors, Officials or Referees – none of which were involved in the original Disciplinary Committee.

The decision of a Board of Appeal is final domestically, but as a member of the IFF then a Board of Appeal decision can be further appealed to the IFF using their guidelines.

10.7 REFEREE JURY

A Referee Jury may be appointed at events including the National Finals where disciplinary issues need to be resolved quickly during the event.



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10.8 BOARD OF APPEAL

If a team or player appeals against a Disciplinary Committee decision then the UKFF Management Committee will nominate a Board of Appeal consisting of persons independent from the Disciplinary Committee. The decisions of the Board of Appeal will be final.

11 GLOSSARY

UKFF = United Kingdom Floorball Federation (The operating name of Floorball Ltd.)

IFF = International Floorball Federation

AGM = Annual General Meeting

EGM = Extraordinary General Meeting

Board of Directors = legally named directors of UKFF Ltd.

UKFF Management Committee = Board of Directors (UKFF Ltd.)
plus appointed UKFF Officials

RD = Regional director

12 DOCUMENTS

All documents mentioned above can be downloaded from UKFF website –
ukfloorball.org

IFF Transfer Form – [Link](#)

Domestic Transfer Form – [Link](#)

Youth Player Consent Form – [Link](#)