



LEAGUE RULES

ABSTRACT

This document lists the rules that determine how the Essex Walking Football League committee is run, details of the AGM, the complaints procedure and the rules governing the league competitions.

Essex Walking Football League committee

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League Rules

1. Nomenclature and Constitution

1.1. This organisation shall be designated the Essex Walking Football League ('EWFL').

1.2. All member clubs must be affiliated to the Essex County Football Association ('ECFA') and the Football Association ('FA').

Affiliation, entry, and player registration fees will be notified to clubs in a separate communication prior to the start of a season.

2. Entry Fee, Subscription & Deposit

2.1. All member clubs must complete and provide to the EWFL League Secretary an EWFL Entry Form prior to competing in the EWFL competitions.

2.2. A club shall not participate in the competitions until the Entry Form has been approved.

3. EWFL Composition

3.1. The EWFL shall comprise the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, League Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Results Secretary, Press and Public Relations Officer, Referees Appointments Officer, Rules Officer, and Referees Committee.

The composition may change during the lifetime of the EWFL.

4. Management, Nominations and Elections

4.1. The competitions shall be governed by a Management Committee ('Committee') who shall be elected at the AGM or other designated meeting in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the FA.

The Committee shall meet when required.

5. Powers of Management

5.1. The Committee shall have powers to apply, act upon and enforce the Rules of all EWFL League and Cup Competitions and shall also have jurisdiction over all matters affecting the competitions, including any not provided for in the Rules.

6. Breaches of EWFL Rules

6.1. All breaches of a Rule resulting in a formal written charge must be issued in writing to the Club concerned.

The Club charged shall be given seven days from the date of notification of the charge to reply to the charge and given the opportunity to: -

(i) Accept or deny the charge;

(ii) Submit in writing a case for mitigation; or

(iii) Put their case before the Committee at a personal hearing.

7. Fines Imposed by the Committee

7.1. All fines shall be levied by the Committee.

The maximum fine permitted for any breach of a Rule is £100 and, when setting any fine, the Committee will ensure that the penalty is proportional to the offence, taking into account any mitigating circumstances.

7.2. All decisions of the Committee shall be final and binding, subject to the right of appeal to the Committee (see Rule 9).

7.3. Decisions of the Committee must be notified in writing to those concerned within 10 days.

7.4. A Club must comply with an order or instruction of the Committee and must attend to the business and/or the correspondence of the Competition to the satisfaction of the Committee.

7.5. All fines and charges are payable forthwith and must be paid within 21 days of the date of notification of the decision.

Any Club failing to do so may be liable to the imposition of a further fine imposed by the Committee.

Further failure to pay the fine including the additional fine within 14 days will result in the Club being placed under sine die suspension until such time as the outstanding fines are paid.

8. Protests and Complaints

- 8.1. All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretations of the Rules shall be referred to the Committee.
- 8.2. All objections relevant to the dimensions of the pitch, goals, goal areas or other facilities of the venue will not be entertained by the Committee unless a protest is lodged with the Referee before the commencement of the match.
- 8.3. Except in cases where the Committee decide that there are special circumstances, protests and complaints (which must contain full particulars of the grounds upon which they are founded) must be lodged with the Committee within three days of the match or occurrence to which they refer (but see also Rule 8.2).

A protest or complaint shall not be withdrawn except by permission of the Committee.

- 8.4. No protest of whatever kind shall be considered by the Committee unless the complaining Club shall have deposited with the EWFL an appeal fee of £35.

This may be forfeited in whole or in part in the event of the complaining or protesting club losing its case.

The Committee shall have the power to order the defaulting Club or the Club making a losing or frivolous protest or complaint to pay the expenses of the enquiry or to order that the costs to be shared by the parties.

- 8.5. All parties to a protest or complaint must receive a copy of the submission and must be afforded an opportunity to make a statement at least 7 days prior to the protest or complaint being heard.

All protests will be dealt with as written correspondence, unless either party requests a Personal Hearing when forwarding the written response.

If a Personal Hearing is requested, all parties must receive seven 7 days' notice of the hearing should they be instructed to attend.

In these circumstances a further appeal fee of £35 will be required to be paid to the EWFL.

9. Committee of Appeal

9.1. Within 3 days of posting of a written notification of any decision of the Committee, a club, official or player against whom action has been taken may appeal against such decision by lodging particulars with the Committee of the EWFL, including payment to the EWFL of an appeal fee of £35, if they require adjudication by the Committee of Appeal.

The grounds of the Appeal shall be in accordance with EWFL Rules.

9.2. The Committee of Appeal may order the appeal fee to be forfeited and decide if costs are to be borne and the quantum of those costs.

The decision of the Committee of Appeal is final and binding on all parties concerned.

10. Annual General Meeting

10.1. The AGM shall be held not later than 1st September in each year.

At this meeting the following business shall be conducted provided that at least 5 Members are present and entitled to vote to: -

(i) Receive and confirm the Minutes of the preceding AGM.

(ii) Consider any business arising there from.

(iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Report, and Statements of Accounts (as appropriate).

(iv) Elect clubs to fill vacancies (as recommended by the Committee).

(v) Agree the Constitution of the Competition for the following season.

(vi) Elect Officers.

(vii) Confirm Rule changes, if any (of which notice has been given).

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(viii) Fix the dates for the commencement and end of the playing season.

(ix) Conduct other business of which due notice shall have been given and accepted as being relevant to an AGM.

10.2. Each member Club shall be empowered to send to an AGM no more than one delegate.

10.3. Each Club shall be entitled to one vote only.

10.4. Any continuing member Club failing to be represented at the AGM, or any other meeting called by the Committee to which they have been invited to attend, without satisfactory reason being given, shall be fined £30.

10.5. Fourteen days' notice of the AGM shall be given to clubs.

11. General Meetings

11.1. The Committee may call a General Meeting ('GM') at any time.

11.2. Upon receiving a requisition signed by two-thirds (2/3) of clubs the League Secretary shall call a GM.

11.3. Clubs will be given at least 7 days' notice of a GM under this rule and will be provided with an agenda of the business to be conducted at the meeting.

Each club shall be empowered to send up to two delegates to all GMs and shall be entitled to one vote only, as will Officers and Committee members.

11.4. If an Officer or Committee member is also a Club representative, that person's vote will be classed as the Club's vote.

11.5. In the event that a matter being voted upon receives equal shares of the vote, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

11.6. Any continuing club failing to be represented at a GM without satisfactory reason being given shall be fined £30.

12. Dissolution of the EWFL

12.1. Dissolution of the EWFL shall be by resolution approved at a GM by a majority of three quarters (3/4) of the member clubs present and shall take effect from the date of the relevant GM.

12.2. In the event of the dissolution of the EWFL, the members of the Committee are responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Competition.

12.3. The Committee shall deal with any surplus assets as follows :

Any surplus assets, save for a trophy or any other presentation, remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the EWFL shall be transferred only to The ECFA Benevolent Fund or to such other charitable or benevolent object in the locality of the Competition as determined by resolution at or before the time of winding up, and approved in writing by the ECFA.

13. Competition Conditions

13.1. Playing Season and Conditions of Participation

(i) The AGM shall determine the start and end dates of the competitions (the playing season).

(ii) The EWFL shall require all players and club officials to have signed the FA's Respect Codes of Conduct and produce these if so requested by the Committee.

(iii) All clubs will be required to pay the relevant FA and ECFA affiliation fees as and when required.

(iv) The tournament fixtures will be played at Accredited Centres decided by the Committee.

(v) The number of matches/times of games will be determined by the Fixtures Secretary ('FS') in accordance with the number of participating teams.

(vi) All teams must confirm their attendance/non-attendance at tournaments to the FS at least 7 days prior to a tournament.

All fees have to be paid 7 days prior to event.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in the imposition of a financial penalty of no more than £40.00.

(vii) Each competing team will be required to submit to the hosts of the tournament a team sheet on the day of the tournament using the template provided by the ECFA / EWFL.

Failure to comply with this requirement will prohibit the team from playing its matches on the tournament day and will result in the forfeiture of those matches and 3 points being awarded to each of their opponents on the basis of a 0 - 0 score line.

13.2. Qualification of Players

(i) A registered playing member of a Club is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has signed a fully and correctly completed Competition registration form, and who has been registered on the FA's Whole Game System ('WGS').

(ii) No Club shall be allowed to enter a team into a league competition with fewer than 12 squad members in total.

(See also (v), (vi), and (vii) below).

The Registrations Secretary ('RS') will carry out due diligence checks to ensure compliance.

This will include verification of the FA's WGS system and comparison with a Club's registrations records.

(iii) A player may not represent more than one club in the same competition / age group in the same season without first being transferred.

A player will be allowed only one transfer to another club within the same competition during the course of a playing season.

A transfer application must be duly signed by both the transferor and transferee clubs and must be made to the RS before the player is permitted to play for the new club.

A player may represent two or more teams of the same club but not at the same tournament.

When a tournament is staged over two or more days and a club has two or

more teams playing on these separate days, a player may only represent one of the teams.

(iv) A player is allowed to register to play for different clubs in different competitions / age groups.

(v) An Over 60s team is allowed one player who is 55 or over in their team who may only play as the goalkeeper and therefore cannot play as an outfielder at any time during that competition.

(vi) An Over 65s team is allowed one player who is 60 or over in their team who may only play as the goalkeeper and therefore cannot play as an outfielder at any time during that competition.

(vii) An Over 70s team is allowed one player who is 65 or over in their team who may only play as the goalkeeper and therefore cannot play as an outfielder at any time during that competition.

(viii) A club may include in their overall squad register no more than 2 goalkeepers who are allowed to register for the team by virtue of (v), (vi) and (vii) above.

(vix) Failure to comply with any of the above-mentioned conditions may result in the forfeiture of matches and/or the imposition of other sanctions including financial penalties, which will be determined by the Committee.

13.3. **Appointment of Referees**

(i) Wherever possible, referees will be affiliated to ECFA, validated by the EWFL and appointed by the EWFL.

(ii) The maximum fee payable to a referee for officiating at a tournament shall be notified in a separate communication.

13.4. **Determining the League Competition Outcome and the Results of Matches**

(i) For every EWFL League Competition, the competition winner will be the team that has amassed the highest number of points.

If teams are level on points, goal difference will decide the final positions, then goals scored, head-to-head record and if still level they will share the position.

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(ii) Every match fixture will be decided as follows :

Win - 3 points

Draw - 1 point

Loss - 0 points

(iii) If, during the course of the season, a team is unable to fulfil a fixture its opponents will be awarded 3 points on the basis of a 0 - 0 score line.

(iv) If, during the course of a season, two teams are unable to fulfil a fixture against each other, neither team will be awarded any points and the result shall be recorded as 0 - 0.

(v) If a team is unable to start a match with 6 players, its opponents will be awarded the match on the basis of a 0 - 0 score line.

(vi) If, during the course of match, a team is reduced to fewer than four players as a consequence of three of its players being shown red cards, its opponents will be awarded the match on the basis of a 0 - 0 score line or the score line prevailing prior to the team being reduced to fewer than four players if the goal difference at that time is equal to or exceeds one.

13.5. Team Sheets

(i) Prior to the commencement of any tournament matches, participating teams must hand to the host Club their completed and signed team sheets.

(ii) Any team failing to hand over a team sheet will not be allowed to play any matches and will forfeit those matches on the basis of a 0 - 0 score line unless, in the Committee's opinion, there are grounds for believing that a club has deliberately failed to handover a team sheet so as to affect the outcome of the Competition.

(iii) The host Club will be responsible for submitting the team sheets to the RS within 3 working days of completion of the tournament.

(iv) Club players and officials have the right to challenge the eligibility of any opposing players.

In the event that the player concerned is unable to prove their eligibility they will not be permitted to play.

13.6. The maximum squad size at a league event shall be nine players.

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13.7. Reporting Results

(i) The host club will be responsible for completing a Results Sheet, using the template provided by the EWFL, for all the matches played on the day and for submitting this to the Results Secretary (RS) within 3 working days after the completion of the tournament.

(ii) The RS will endeavour to update the competition results database on the FA Full-Time website within 3 working days of receipt of the Results Sheet.