

Management and Rules of Floorball Leagues

Introduction

This document summarises the Floorball competition regulations in Great Britain, it aims to help participants to understand these regulations. It also aims to help organisers by providing guidance to secure consistence among leagues and competitions. These regulations apply to Senior and Youth competitions.

The Great Britain Floorball and Unihockey Association (GBFUA) is the floorball National Governing Body in Great Britain, and it is recognised by the International Floorball Federation (IFF).

In the UK Floorball is played at senior level (players aged 15 before September 1st) in regional leagues in the South East, South West and Northern league (Scotland), and looking to expand to other parts of the country.

At national level there is a Youth league (players not aged 15 before September 1st) and a University and Colleagues championship. New local youth competitions are appearing on different parts of the country. The GBFUA Youth Development Project provides financial advantages and subsidised courses and training seminars to its members, the project is opened to players aged 15 to 19.

Eligibility

A club is an organisation that registers teams in leagues and competitions. A club can register one or several teams in the same league or competition.

A player is an individual registered with the GBFUA as belonging to a club. A player can register in any of the clubs' teams, but can only be registered with one team at any time. The only exception being the University and College competition and the ladies leagues; a player belonging to a club's team can also register with a University and College team or/and a ladies league.

The **individual membership Form** registers or affiliates a player to the GBFUA as belonging to a club. The individual membership is valid from the time is approved by the GBFUA till the end of the season and it is subject to National Transfer Rules.

The **Team Registration Form** registers or affiliates a team to a league or competition recognised by the GBFUA. The team registration is valid till the last game of the league or competition on which the team is registered.

A player taking part in a recognised GBFUA league or competition must have an individual membership form and be listed in a team registration form from the same club; both documents must be approved by the GBFUA.

Senior leagues allow the transfer of players in accordance to the National Transfer Regulations; this includes the transfer to another team in the same or different club. Participation of players within teams (including those in the same club) must comply with GBFUA transfer rules. The National Transfer rules contains a number of exceptions which allow players to participate in other teams without the need of a transfer; please see National Transfer Rules.

Youth leagues do not allow player transfers unless there are mitigating circumstances which are to be decided by the Youth Committee, but they are still subject to National Transfer Regulations.

The team representative is responsible for checking the eligibility of all the players in the team and for checking the match records prior to commencing each match.

If a team includes a player not eligible to participate in the match the league organisers must request the referees to immediately impose a Match Penalty I to the player concerned and check for possible further penalties (see sanctions guidelines).

Teams in the Youth league must have a minimum of 8 players (i.e. a full team and two players present in the team bench) at the start of any match. All players must be registered with the team. Failure to provide these 8 players will result in the match being forfeited, and opposing team shall be awarded a 5-0 win.

As an exception to the general rules National teams may be eligible to participate in competitions (leagues, tournaments and events). Players on these teams will in essence be registered in several teams, their own and the National teams.

Leagues and competitions

All leagues and competitions must be affiliated to or be part of the GBFUA in order to be recognised as an official league or competition. Official leagues and competitions must comply with GBFUA rules and regulations.

An official league or competition is one in which the National Governing Body recognise which in turn the IFF recognise. Those clubs that are not affiliated or are full members of the GBFUA cannot play internationally organised or recognised by the IFF.

All leagues and competitions must pay the agreed affiliation or membership fee prior to commencing, failure to provide this will result in league or competition not being recognised.

Clubs must submit their completed team registration forms to their GBFUA league secretaries at the start of the season and by the specified dates, including all team players and representatives. Failure to submit a fully completed Registration Form by the due date will result in the team not being eligible for entry in the league for the forthcoming season.

A team representative is the primary contact person between the team and the league or competition, and it is nominated in the team registration form. It is the responsibility of the team representative to inform the coordinators of any relevant changes within their team.

Clubs must pay their relevant teams registration fees prior to playing in any league or competition. Failure to provide this will result in non eligibility to play.

The scanning and e-mailing of signed documents to the GBFUA will be deemed as valid and proof of signature. The league or competition organisers can also use ms-Excel files to circulate information as official; but all the relevant paperwork and signatures must have been previously collected and shall be forwarded to the GBFUA when requested.

All leagues and competitions must audit their accounts and provide a copy to the GBFUA within two weeks from being requested and at the end of the season.

All leagues and competitions must send the GBFUA a copy of the match records within 7 days of the match being played, or on request from the GBFUA. Electronic copies will be accepted (i.e. typed or scanned match records). The original copies may be requested and sent to the GBFUA.

The league or competition organisers are responsible for ensuring all the match records are sent to the GBFUA correctly completed and with all relevant signatures, final scoring and any possible comments on the match record must also be forward to the GBFUA.

Matches and Rules

The team representative is responsible for ensuring all team members comply with the rules in this section.

All matches shall be played in accordance with the current rules and regulations of floorball as published by the International Floorball Federation (IFF).

All players shall comply with the current International Floorball Federation (IFF) regulations on eligible equipment.

All teams' members and officials shall comply with the current GBFUA codes of conduct.

An official GBFUA team sheet shall be entitled to nominate up to 20 players per for each match this sheet must be completed with all team details, signed by the nominated team representative to confirm that each player is eligible to play, at least 10 minutes prior to the match.

Player details from the Team Sheet will be copied to the Match Record. The Match Record contains match details (including scorers, scores and details of penalties) which shall then be signed by both referees and team representatives at the end of the match. This is required and official GBFUA document.

Only League or competition organisers, GBFUA officials, scribes and referees are authorised to write comments on Match Records. Team representatives or Team Captains can request any of these officials to include their comments on the match record.

League structure, Promotions and Relegations

League positions will be determined by the award of 3 points for a Win, by the 1 for a Draw and 0 for a loss. Where teams are equal on points, their relative positions will be determined first by goal difference, then by goals for, then by the aggregate result of matches between the two clubs with away goals counting double. If the teams are still equal, they share the position with the exception of a championship, promotion or relegation issue, when a play off will be arranged by the relevant league committee on the first available date. If in any play-off match the scores are level at full time, no extra time shall be played, but a penalty stroke competition shall be used to determine the winner.

If a club wishes to withdraw a team during the season or has a team forfeited more than the permitted number of games, then players from that team may play for other teams but normal transfer rules for the season will apply.

Clubs with teams withdrawing from a league will be liable for their team tournament fees as agreed in the terms of registration form.

Discipline and Penalties

All teams whether members or affiliated to the GBFUA will comply with International Floorball Federation (IFF) Judiciary procedures and the GBFUA codes of conduct.

During the duration of a match the referee decisions are final. For appeals see relevant section. The GBFUA also reserves the right to take whatever action is deemed appropriate against any club, team, player, staff member, official or any other person present in an event organised by GBFUA. These actions are likely to be taking effect after the game has finished.

GBFUA Misconducts Guidelines:

Misconducts:

A first instance will lead to a warning to the team with written confirmation. Subsequent misconducts

will lead to point deductions and further punishments to the team and individuals involved.

Some examples of this type of misconduct are:

- Players having a poor disciplinary attitude or using foul language.
- Persistently breaking rules of Leagues.
- Disregard to GBFUA or IFF regulations.
- Bringing the sport into disrepute.
- Treating other participants (including team members and spectators) with disrespect.
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour during or after the game.
- Small violations of the GBFUA code of conduct

Major Misconducts:

A first instance will lead to point deductions and further punishments to the team and individuals involved.

Some examples of this type of misconduct include:

- Violent behaviour or actions in or near premises in used by the GBFUA
- Strong verbal abuse, defamatory comments or threats to any other participant
- Treating the referees or officials with disrespect
- Failing to comply with referees or officials instructions
- Major violations of the GBFUA code of conduct
- Actions escalated to the GBFUA board.
- Playing without being registered with the GBFUA

Sanctions Guidelines

The GBFUA League Organisers will follow these guidelines for imposing penalties. These penalties are on the top of those previously imposed by the referees during the match.

A/ Misconduct leading to Match Penalty II or Match Penalty III.

A player receiving a Match Penalty II or Match Penalty III as a result of one of the misconducts detailed earlier will also receive a ban for the rest of the matches on that day and the following day in the same competition. If the team for which the player normally plays has no fixture for the following competition day, the penalty shall move forward.

B/ Repeated Misconducts leading to Match Penalty II or Match Penalty III.

A player receiving a second Match Penalty II or Match Penalty III on the same GBFUA competition as a result of one of the misconducts detailed earlier will be automatically suspended for the rest of the season from all GBFUA events.

C/ Usage of players not eligible to represent the team

The league organiser should immediately inform the referees in order to impose a Match Penalty 1 to the player(s) concerned.

When a team uses a player registered with the GBFUA but not with the club; the league representative has the right to cancel the game result, award a 5-0 win to the opposite team, deduct three points from the team and impose further penalties.

When a team uses a player registered with the GBFUA and the club but not in the team, the league representative has the right to cancel the game result, award 5-0 win to the opposite team and deduct three points from the team.

When a team uses a player missing from the match record but registered with the team, the league organiser should impose no further penalties.

D/ Administration Faults

The league organisers have the sole judge on these matters and should allow some time when players have participated in a game just before having to take some scribing or refereeing roles.

Not having the Team Sheet ready 10 mins before the game is due to start £10.

Not having the Scribes ready before the match is due to start: £10

Not having the Referees ready before the match is due to start: £10 per referee

Not having the Team ready when the match is due to start: £20

Not having the team ready 10 mins after the match is due to start: Match forfeited

E/Match forfeit

A team that forfeits four matches in any league will be automatically withdraw from the relevant league or competition and all previous results will be rendered void. Participation of that team in the league in the following season will be at the Leagues discretion.

When a team fails to honour a fixture, the match will be void 5-0 win awarded to the opposition. The defaulting team will additionally suffer a 3 point deduction. If matches are postponed, abandoned or not honoured the league organisers are the sole judge of whether the match should be rearranged or voided.

Appeals

Appeals can be launched against referee or organisation decisions or penalties.

During the duration of the match the referee decisions are final, and only the Team Captains can address the referees. After the match any appeal against a referee's decision or penalty must be made initially on the match record (by any official and by request from the Team Captain or Representative), during or immediately after the game, and further put in writing and sent to the league secretary within two weeks of the original decision or penalty notified to the club. The referee coordinator for that league and/or the GBFUA referee committee should hear such appeals. Appeals against referee decisions are not subject to a fee.

An appeal against an organisation decision or penalty must be in writing and sent to the league secretary within two weeks of original decision or penalty; it must include all the relevant information needed to investigate the appeal.

Whenever possible an appeal against an organisation decision will be determined by the relevant league coordinator, otherwise it will be escalated to the GBFUA management committee. Any appeal against an organisation decision or penalty investigated by the GBFUA is subject to a non-refundable fee of £50 payable at the time of sending the appeal and to the GBFUA by the club launching the appeal; the GBFUA will return the fee at its own discretion in the event of genuine mistakes or inconsistencies.

While an appeal is in progress it should be considered confidential. As such the league committee members and referees involved are requested not to discuss or make any comments on any appeal till the appeal hearing is over.

The outcome of the appeal should be communicated to all the teams participating in the competitions and to everyone participating in the hearing.

Emergency Decisions

When issues arise during the season that requires prompt resolution, such as issues affecting an imminent match, clubs must contact their league coordinator. If escalation of the issue is necessary, this will be done by the league coordinator. In the continuing unavailability of the league coordinator, a club may however contact the league secretary.

Change of Rules

No amendment either to these rules or to the structure of the Floorball Leagues may be made after the start of the season in which either the rules or the structure apply, except that changes arising from decisions of the GBFUA or IFF shall be implemented without delay, and changes already indicated in the wording of a rule may be implemented without delay.

Binding Force of Rules

Each club by its team entry in to a Floorball League or competition shall be deemed to have given its written consent to the relevant Floorball League Rules and any amendments which may from time to time be adopted.

Each club is also responsible for making sure all their participating players are correctly registered with the GBFUA, and are aware that unregistered players may not be covered for insurance purposes.

IFF international transfer rules apply.

The above statements apply also to Leagues and competitions affiliated to GBFUA.

Glossary

Competition: A floorball event in the shape of a league, cup, championship or friendly collection of floorball matches.

Club: A group of people that normally train together and form one or several teams.

Team: A group of people belonging to a club and registered under one name to play in a league.

Player: A person registered in a club.

League: A competition organised by the GBFUA under IFF rules. This term also refers to the organisation managing the league, in effect the league committee.

League Organiser: A person organising a league on behalf of the GBFUA, normally referred as League coordinator.

League committee: A group of league organisers managing a league includes a coordinator, a secretary and other committee members.

GBFUA Official: A person representing the GBFUA, i.e. League Organisers, Scribes, Referee and other GBFUA Organisers.

Team Staff: A none-player person registered in a match record with a team, i.e. the coach.

Team representative: The contact person between the league or competition and the team, as designated on the team registration for the league.

IFF: International Floorball Federation, see www.floorball.org

GBFUA: Great Britain Floorball and Unihockey Association, see www.gbua.org.uk

Binding Force of Rules

Each club by its team entry in to a Floorball League or competition shall be deemed to have given its written consent to the relevant Floorball League Rules and any amendments which may from time to time be adopted.

Each club is also responsible for making sure all their participating players are correctly registered with the GBFUA, and are aware that unregistered players may not be covered for insurance purposes.

IFF international transfer rules apply.

The above statements apply also to Leagues and competitions affiliated to GBFUA.

Acceptance

By signing this document the team representative acting on behalf of the club acknowledges the reading, understanding and acceptance of these rules.

This page should be detached from the main documented, signed and dated by the Team Representative and attached to the Team Registration Form.

Team Representative:
Team Name:
Team Club:
League or Competition:
Season:

Signed (Team Representative):

Date:

Signed (League or competition Coordinator):

Date:

January 2010.

[Management and Rules of Floorball Leagues - Ver 2]