

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS OF COMPETITION



The Wheelchair Football Association

10th September, 2024

Organisation

The Wheelchair Football Association (WFA)

Address: c/o Birmingham County Football Association,
Ray Hall Lane,
Birmingham
B43 6JF

Email: admin@thewfa.org.uk

Tel: 0121 357 4278

Twitter: @the_wfa

Contacts

1. WFA League Secretary

Name: Jack Humphries

Email: leaguesecretary@thewfa.org.uk

2. National Development Manager

Name: Adam McEvoy

Email: adam.mcevoy@thewfa.org.uk

3. WFA Chairperson

Name: Dean Williams

Email: dean.williams@thewfa.org.uk

4. WFA Vice Chairperson & NLMC Lead

Name: Rob Thompson

Email: rob.thompson@thewfa.org.uk

5. WFA National Secretary

Name: Matthew Stevens

Email: secretary@thewfa.org.uk

6. Head of Referee Development

Name: Geoff Lewis

Email: referees@thewfa.org.uk

6. Head of Classification

Name: Sarah Smith

Email: classification@thewfa.org.uk

7. Player Representative

Name: Jon Bolding

Email: playerrep@thewfa.org.uk

8. Welfare Officer

Name: Cath Gouldsbrough

Email: welfareofficer@thewfa.org.uk

9. Fixtures Secretary

Name: Adam Langley

Email: fixtures@thewfa.org.uk

10. National Development Officer

Name: Ryan Sipple

Email: ryan.sipple@thewfa.org.uk

11. Treasurer

Name: Lee Brennan

Email: finance@thewfa.org.uk

1. Preamble

The WFA 2024/25 National League competition will be run in line with the WFA 2024/25 National League Regulations and will meet the WFA 2024/25 National League Event Requirements (Appendix 1). All FA Rules and Regulations shall apply and in the event of a conflict, FA Rules and Regulations shall take precedence.

The WFA 2024/25 National League competition format will follow the format outlined in the WFA National League Format document (Appendix 2).

All WFA 2024/25 National League competition matches will be played according to the current WFA sanctioned Laws of The Game document.

This includes all equipment regulations regarding powerchairs and playing attachments.

These are available to download from the WFA website (<https://www.thewfa.org.uk>).

The WFA 2024/25 National League competition will be named “WFA Premiership” and “WFA Championship” divisions respectively.

The WFA 2024/25 National League competition will be an FA RESPECT League.


All Clubs, Players, Team Managers, Club Officials and Supporters must have signed up to the RESPECT Code of Conduct.

Any person found to be in breach of this will be subject to the Sanctions outlined by the FA and enforced by the WFA.

These are available to download from the WFA website (<https://www.thewfa.org.uk>).

The Respect Code of Conduct requires Players, Team Managers and officials to show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition Players, Team Managers, officials and spectators. Specifically, Players, Team Managers and officials should not do anything to disrupt matches that are in progress or that seeks to distract others who are taking part in matches during that match. Anyone who causes matches to be disrupted or who seeks to distract others taking part in matches will be subject to sanctions that will be imposed by the NLMC and may include suspensions, fines or exclusions from attending national league matches played by others.

The WFA and all affiliated Powerchair Football Clubs and Competing Teams must ensure these Rules and Regulations are adhered to.



The aim of this competition is to showcase our sport, and also meet the Wheelchair Football Associations mission and objectives. The ethos and credibility of the sport of Powerchair Football must always remain at the forefront of this competition.

2. Finances

2.1. Participating Teams (Clubs)

The following costs shall be borne by the participating Teams:

- WFA 2024/25 Affiliation Fee (£175 per Club). Any Team that is not part of a Club affiliated to the WFA shall not be granted permission to participate in the League.
- WFA National League entry fees (£1,300 per Team).
- Two invoices will be sent during the season; once at the start of the season and mid-way through the season each for 50% of the fee. Payment must be received 7 days prior to the start of competition (Premiership: by Friday 18th October 2024, Championship: by Friday 30th August 2024). Further payment options may be considered but failure to complete payment will result in a suspension and may result in expulsion from the league.
- Any Fines awarded to Teams or Players as outlined in these Regulations.
- Travelling expenses of the Team from home to the place where the competition is held.
- All accommodation and food expenses.
- All expenses for additional health and accident insurance. The organiser cannot be held responsible for accidents or illness, unless caused by negligence. All unofficial participants are responsible for all their own expenses.

2.2. Organisers

The following costs shall be administered by the WFA:

- Cost of venue hire.
- Payment of Referees.
- Cost of Classification.
- Cost of awards.

3. Qualifications of Teams

3.1. Club Affiliation

In order for a Club to enter a Team in the WFA National League, the Club must have affiliated to the WFA for the 2024/25 season. This process ensures the Club is affiliated to their County F.A. and has adequate insurance through the WFA policy.

3.2. Team Registration & Requirements

Teams will automatically be registered using the placing at the completion of the 2023/24 season. New Teams gain entry through the National League qualification process. If you would like more information on this, please contact the National League Secretary.

Any Team wishing to participate in National League competition must also provide a Team of similar ability for participation in their respective regional league. If a Team fails to do so, they will not be permitted to enter the National League the following season.

Only two (2) Teams from any one Club shall be permitted to participate in the competition. This can be across a single division or both divisions.

The WFA withholds the right to suspend any Team from participation in any League fixtures that fails to comply with these requirements.

3.3. Squad Declaration & Player Eligibility

Each Team must declare a definitive League Competition Squad with a minimum of **six (6)** Players which must include **at least two (2) PF1 Players** by (Premiership: by Friday 18th October 2024, Championship: by Friday 30th August 2024). Failure to do so will result in a fine of £200 per weekend. In addition, each Team must attend each National League weekend with a minimum of four (4) Players which must include at least two (2) PF1 Players. Failure to do so will result in a fine of **£200** per weekend.

A Player from another country, who competes in that country's competitions will be permitted to play in the WFA National League subject to the home country's

approval. A Club may register **one (1)** overseas Player per Team, per season. An overseas Player is defined as a Player of whom is born or resides outside of the home nations (United Kingdom).

The match squad must be declared and entered onto the official match sheet fifteen (15) minutes prior to kick off. This is to ensure the correct Players undertake the Speed Testing Protocol.

3.4. Qualification of Team Staff

3.4.1. Team Staff

A Team staff member is defined as being anyone who will be present at the courtside at a WFA National League match. Examples of Team Staff could be:

- Team Managers (Coaches)
- Team Assistant Managers
- Team Technicians
- Parent/Carer/Personal Assistant of a Player

3.4.2. Dual Roles

Team Managers are eligible to coach different Teams in the national league, on the basis they are in different divisions. Should any instance occur whereby both Teams are in the same division, they will only be permitted to coach one Team.

This also applies to registered Players who hold a Team management role with another Team. If both Teams are within the same division, the Player can only be linked to one Team.

This includes any person playing or coaching one Team and holding a position of influence with another Team in the same division. A position of influence is any position that actively helps a Club prepare for fixtures and includes coaching at regional league events. Any person who is actively involved in playing for or preparing more than one Team for matches should seek permission by applying in writing to the NLMC before taking up their secondary position. The NLMC will consider and decide on any requests. Any breaches of this rule may be subject to sanctions by the

NLMC including a possible ban for the Player or fines for the Player or either Club.

3.4.3. Team Manager Qualifications

Team Managers must have relevant qualifications to be present on the sidelines. Team Managers must have an enhanced DBS check completed by local county football associations. Lead Team Managers must have obtained a level one (1) qualification in coaching football, The FA's Safeguarding Children certification and a valid enhanced DBS. Assistant Team Managers must have completed The FA Playmaker course, The FA's Safeguarding Children certification and a valid enhanced DBS.

3.4.4. Player Registration

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

- become a member of The Wheelchair Football Association and completed the online registration process 48 hours prior to selection for any National League fixture. For more information and to register please visit <https://thewfa.org.uk/members/>
- completed FA Player Registration prior to selection for any National League fixture. For further details please contact your local county FA.

A Player database will be set up on the FULL-TIME league website. Please Note FULL-TIME is open to the public to view. Only Player names will be shown on this site. The WFA and FA will only have access to the full database.

3.4.5. Registration Fee

For any Player participating in the WFA National League there will be a fee of £30 to become a playing member for the 2024/25 season.

If any Player begins the season playing at a Regional League level only, whereby the fee is set at £15 and then registers to play within the National League mid-way through the season, they will be required to pay an additional £15 to reach the agreed £30 National League playing fee.

Registrations are valid for one playing season only.

3.4.6. Player Nationality

Teams can register Players of any nationality. As mentioned in section 3.3, Teams can register overseas Players if they have:

- Permission from their home countries powerchair football competition
- The Team hasn't already registered an overseas Player that season.

3.4.7. Age Limit

There is an open age range for Players to be eligible to participate in the WFA National League.

The minimum age for participants to compete in the National League is 11 years old. This should be the Players' age on 31st August 2024.

3.4.8. Dispensation Process


If a Club or Clubs wish to register a Player or Players who are under the age of 11 they must apply for dispensation. Details on the application and criteria can be found by contacting the WFA National League secretary.

It is the responsibility of the Club and Team management to ensure adequate steps are taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all Players. The safety of all competitors outside the Competition venue No Player will be considered eligible for National League competition until this process has been completed.

3.4.9. Additional Player Registration/De-Registration

Subject to these regulations, Teams may register a Player (given they are not already registered for another National League Team at that time). This must be completed a minimum of 48 hours prior to the Player participating at a National League event.

A Player may ask the League Management Committee to approve their deregistration at any time. The Player must do so in writing to the League Secretary. An administration charge of £20 will be payable by the Player and their deregistration will not take effect until this is paid. When writing to the League Secretary the Player must copy in the secretary of the Club they are seeking deregistration from.



The secretary of the Club to which the Player is currently registered has seven (7) days to either agree to or object to the deregistration. If after seven (7) days have elapsed there has been no objection received it will be assumed the deregistration is agreed. Any objection must be in writing to the League Secretary setting out the grounds for the objection. If an objection is received the League Management Committee will consider the matter and adjudicate. When adjudicating the League Management Committee may ask either party for more information to help them reach a decision. The League Management Committee's decision on the matter will be final.

A Player who has been deregistered may not normally register for another Team until the next transfer window opens. However, if the deregistration takes place during a transfer window the Player may register for another Team immediately. The League Management Committee may agree to a registration outside of these limitations only in exceptional circumstances.

No Player may play for more than two Teams during the same season and a deregistered Player may not be registered for a Team they have previously been registered with during that season.


A Player that has been deregistered who then signs for another Team shall be considered to have been transferred between those Teams when considering the regulation that states 'No more than two Players may be transferred from the same Team in the same season ...'. A Player that has been deregistered may not be registered by another Team if two Players have already been transferred to that other Team from the Team the Player was deregistered from in that season.

3.4.10. Classification

All 2024/25 National League fixtures will be enforcing the current FIPFA Classification Rulebook with the extension of a PF2a classification.

All Players will have completed the WFA Classification process (outlined in the FIPFA Classification Rulebook). Any Players that do not meet the Powerchair Football Classification criteria will not be eligible to compete in both the Premiership and Championship competitions.

The WFA have set the criteria that Teams can field a **MAXIMUM of two (2) PF2** Players on court at any time.



Any Player, who has not completed the Classification Process, will be initially classed as a PF2. The WFA Classification Team will work to classify all new Players within 2 weekends of their first participation. Any Player that does not fully cooperate with the classification process may be subject to sanctions at the discretion of the National League Management Committee ('NLMC').

The PF2a classification functionally acts the same as a PF2. The PF2a classification will be used when a Player with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy may traditionally be unclassified but may eventually be classifiable. They can play in any WFA competitions, however, they may not be eligible for the FA Talent Pathways, other competitions not sanctioned by The WFA and International Tournaments.

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager or individual Player to arrange a classification appointment. In order to arrange a classification appointment the Club and/or Team Manager are requested to contact WFA Head Of Classification to arrange the nearest possible appointment.

It is the responsibility of the 'Team Manager'/representative to make sure that during games their Team is compliant with the rules of classification and that all Players meet the classification criteria on the field of play. All communications relating to Team classifications should be directed to the match officials.

During substitutions the Team Manager / representative must ensure that at the end of the substitution all Teams are still classification compliant on court.

If a Team knowingly misrepresents a PF2 Player as a PF1 Player and through this action does not adhere to the rules of classification then the following sanctions will be applied:

- A walkover will be awarded to the opposition Team.
- The Club will be fined **£100**.

4. Transfers

4.1. Transfer Procedure

Transfers may take place between Teams only if all proper protocols have been observed. A transfer form must be completed by both Team Secretaries and submitted to the WFA League Secretary.

An administration fee of £20.00 will be applied for each transfer request. The transfer fee shall be made payable by the Player's new Team. Payment must be made before the transferred Player can play.

Player transfers must also be registered with The FA Player Registration system.

Where a Player has already registered with another Team in the national league an approach can only be made between the Secretaries of the Member Teams concerned.

No Player shall be transferred more than once during a season, or outside of the Transfer Window. The WFA League Management Committee reserves the right to waive this rule for extenuating circumstances. Any extenuating circumstances or special cases for transfer will be reviewed and voted on by members of the WFA League Management Committee

4.2. Transfer Window

Once the season has commenced, Teams shall only be allowed to transfer a Player into their Club between 09:00 on 1st December 2024 and 17:00 on 10th February 2025. These dates apply for both divisions.

Please note that unregistered Players can be registered at any Team during the season.

No more than two Players may be transferred from the same Team in the same season, although the NLMC reserves the right to waive this rule in special cases.

Once Players register and become members via the WFA website they are deemed to have 'signed and registered' with that Club for the full season. If a Player wishes to move after this point then they must follow the transfer or deregistration regulations above.

This must be completed a **minimum of 48 hours prior** to the Player participating at a National League event.

4.3. Player Association with Other Teams

Players may train with other member Teams other than their own; only with prior agreement of the Manager of their official Club and also that of the WFA League Management Committee and only if seven (7) days' notice in writing has been given to both parties. Any member Team that does not follow these procedures will have been deemed to have made an illegal approach and shall be subject to the penalties incurred for that offence.

Players may train with other Teams providing both Teams are members of the same Club. A Player may also train with another member Team providing that this training occurs after the final day of the season (see the National League Format document for this date (Appendix 2)) and as not to cause an illegal approach.

4.4. Illegal Approach

Teams suspecting an illegal approach to one of their Players shall report the incident to WFA. Any Club appealing against a decision can do so within seven (7) days and a fee of £25 will be required, which will be returned if the decision is upheld. If a Team or person is found to have made an illegal approach they will be subject to the following penalties:

1. Warning and up to a three (3) point penalty
2. £100 fine and up to a six (6) point penalty
3. £250 fine and up to a nine (9) point penalty
4. Nine (9) point penalty and a possible expulsion from the league

4.5. Ineligible Players

If a Team is found to have fielded an ineligible Player or Players during a WFA National League fixture, they shall have all points deducted for that fixture and the opposition Team will be awarded a walkover. The Team will be deducted five (5) points and will have to pay a £25 fine. The Team shall also be answerable to the NLMC who will decide any further action.

5. Playing Equipment

5.1. Club Colours

All Teams' must provide both Home and Away playing strips and register the colour of their shirts during the affiliation process.

Home and Away kits must be of contrasting colours. Shirts and sleeves will be considered when assessing a clash. The away Team will change if there is a clash.

Goalkeeper shirts should contrast to outfield Players on both sides and the opposition Goalkeeper. The use of a bib is prohibited. Goalkeepers must wear a shirt with, at minimum, short sleeves. Failure to do so will result in a fine of £50.

Please see additional guidance on goalkeeper shirt modifications / options

5.2. Player Numbers

5.2.1. Player Numbers

All Players must display a Squad Number in two (2) places whilst participating in a match.

These numbers must be displayed on:

- The Rear of Chair
- Visible position on the shirt (if no visible position on shirt is available then a visible position on front of chair may be used)

All Players Numbers must be in between the range 1 – 99.

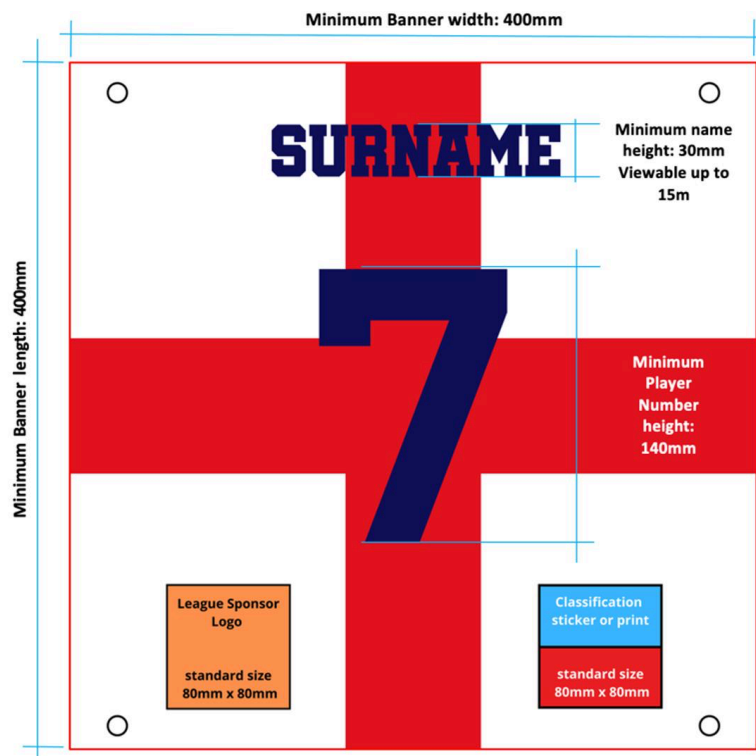
The front and rear number must be the same.

5.2.2. Player Number Specifications

5.2.2.1. Rear Numbers

Player numbers should be clearly displayed on the rear of the chairs and be a minimum of 400mm square, printed onto a suitable substrate such as a PVC banner material.

The following information is to be displayed; the Players name (surname only) a minimum caps height of 30mm. The Player number to be a minimum height of 140mm. It may also be required to display the league sponsor logo and must have the Players classification displayed, both of these are 80mm square and if a Player's classification changes the display should be updated accordingly. There is not a mandatory typeface for the name or number, however choose one which is clearly legible (Not a thin serif type). The colour of the font must be in contrast (clearly visible) to the background. The number should be fixed at the top and additional fixings at the bottom to prevent the number spinning out when the chair is turning quickly. The background/image can be in Team colours and a Club logo can be added alongside the number.



5.2.2.2. Front Numbers

The front number needs to be displayed at a suitable point on the front of the chair or Player so that the referee can easily see it. One suggestion is that it hangs off of the Player's control unit; it can also

be on the Player's shirt or harness as long as it can be seen without obstruction. The number is to be 50mm high and have a suitable colour background so it is visible.

5.3. Sponsors Logos and Advertising

Any Sponsorship and advertising logos that may be present on Club or Team clothing, kit, playing equipment or wheelchairs cannot be against the legal requirements of the WFA and cannot be considered offensive by any Club/Team involved.

Any such Logos will have to be removed before participation in any part of the WFA National League.

All sponsorship and advertising logos must comply with FA Advertising Regulations. More information on these regulations and a guide can be found at <http://www.thefa.com/football-rules-governance/more/kit-advertising>

5.4. Powerchair Speed Testing

All powerchairs will be subject to the WFA Speed Testing Protocol (Appendix 5), prior to their participation in any WFA National League Match. It is a requirement of playing in the National league that any chair that has a numerical setting must play and undergo the speed test on a setting of 5. For other chairs the referee may decide the setting to be used.

Any changes can be made to the wheelchair, to enable it to pass this test.

Once it has completed the WFA Speed Testing Process it is the responsibility of the Player and their Club to ensure no tampering takes place.

The Match Officials may request at half time or at the conclusion of the match, any Powerchair to be retested.

The WFA also reserves the right to conduct random Speed Testing to ensure the enforcement of these rules. A minimum of one (1) Player from each Team may be asked to undertake a Speed Test at the conclusion of every match.

Failure of Requested or Random Speed Test

If a Players Wheelchair fails a Match Officials Requested Speed Test after following the testing process (Appendix 5), the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing Team as a walkover
- The guilty Player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

If a Players Wheelchair fails a Random WFA Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing Team as a walkover
- The guilty Player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

5.5. Powerchair Technical Specification

5.5.1. Powerchair Specification

All chairs playing in the 2024/2025 WFA National League season must meet the chair specification described in the Powerchair Specifications document (Appendix 7).


Prior to the game, alongside the speed test, each Player may be required to drive their chair into the designated area as central as possible. A WFA Official (Technical Committee Member) will firstly identify what category of chair it is from the three categories set out in the Powerchair Specifications document (Appendix 7).

Providing the chair fits within the designated area, the official(s) shall then begin to work their way through the chair sanctioning test sheet, ticking the boxes in the column that apply to the chair they are reviewing.

Once a chair has been checked prior to the game, a Player must NOT alter anything to the chair. When undergoing the sanctioning test, the Player must present themselves ready to play, for example in terms of seating position. This is similar in terms of the speed of a chair must not be altered after speed testing.

A chair failing to meet the criteria will not be allowed to play. A Player may resubmit a chair for sanctioning once any changes or required alterations have been made.

5.5.2. Powerchair Tyres



All tyres must be non-marking to avoid damaging the playing surface. No solutions or sprays are permitted to be added to the tyres, which may result in leaving residue on the surface. If a referee or the WFA League Management Committee believes that tyres are damaging or marking the floor, the wheelchair will be prohibited for use in a game until they are changed and tested.

Failure to comply with this, and if a Player is found to have fallen outside of the chair specification after the game is complete (e.g. has altered their chair position), this could result in loss of the game or a ban. The league management Committee will meet to discuss the outcome of this.

6. Discipline and Suspensions

6.1. Yellow Cards

If a Player or Team Manager receives a Yellow card, the Club will receive an administration charge of £10.00. This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of the formal letter from the WFA. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the Player or Team Manager will become ineligible for Team selection or coaching duties.

If a Player or Team Manager receives three (3) Yellow cards during the League Season, then they will receive a one (1) match suspension. The suspension will be enforced for the next WFA National League fixture that the Team is due to play. If a Player or Team Manager receives six (6) yellow cards in a season they will receive a three (3) match ban and may be asked to appear before the NLMC.

If, during the season, a person receives yellow cards as a Player and as a Team Manager they shall be considered separately for suspension purposes. Any suspension as a Player does not impact their position as a Team Manager and vice versa. If a person who is listed as a Player on the match sheet receives a yellow card it will be deemed to be in their capacity as a Player regardless of the circumstances in which it was awarded.

If a Player or Team Manager receives a ban during the season but does not serve it in full before the end of the season the part of the ban that has not been served must be served at the start of the following season.

Yellow Cards only apply to the competition they were received. National League Yellow Cards do not apply to the WFA Cup, and vice versa.

6.2. Temporary Dismissals

Also known as “sin bins”, temporary dismissals will be used in powerchair football. As well as a yellow card, a temporary dismissal will be issued at the discretion of referees as punishment for dissent. Temporary dismissals can only be applied to Players.

If a Player receives a yellow card for dissent, in addition to the standard yellow card process, they will be temporarily dismissed for a 4-minute period. A yellow

card for dissent that also involves a temporary dismissal, shall be treated the same as any other yellow card for all purposes except the additional punishment of the temporary dismissal.

If a Team becomes less than 3 Players due to one or more temporary dismissals during any game, then the match will not be abandoned as the Player that has been temporarily dismissed will be deemed to be part of the Team for the purposes of deciding whether a Team has three Players or not.

6.3. Red Cards

6.3.1. 'Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences not classified in the table below will be the responsibility of the local County FA. Once the County FA has reviewed the case the Wheelchair Football Association, along with the Player or Team Manager, will be informed of the outcome and any disciplinary action. The match official is required to complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all National League match sheets after the completion of the match and submit a report to the relevant County FA.

6.3.2. 'Less Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences classified within the table below will be dealt with by the Wheelchair Football Association under the delegated authority of the County FA.

The match official is required to complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all National League Match sheets after the completion of the match. The Wheelchair Football Association employs the following disciplinary tariff of suspensions in such cases as outlined below.

If a Player or Team Manager receives a Red card, the Club will receive an administration charge of £10.00. Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, the Player or Team Manager will also be fined in addition to the administration charge:

- Offence resulting in a 1 game ban - £10.00 fine
- Offence resulting in a 2 game ban - £15.00 fine
- Offence resulting in a 3 game ban or greater - £20.00 fine

This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of issue. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the Player or Team Manager will become ineligible for Team selection or coaching duties.

Match Suspension Tariff Table

Offence	Penalty (to be administered by The Wheelchair Football Association)
Receiving a second 'yellow card' in the same match	1 Match suspension
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity	1 Match suspension
Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures	2 Match suspension
Attempting to kick or strike another Player Violent conduct Serious foul play	3 Match suspension

'Serious' Red Card Offences example

Offence	Penalty (to be administered by The Wheelchair Football Association)
Spitting	6 Match suspension
Gross Misconduct	6 Match suspension

Suspensions will be enforced for the Players next WFA National League fixture.

If a Player is suspended for a Gross Misconduct offence the Wheelchair Football Association will exclude the Player for the remainder of the league event, whereby the offence will be reviewed. The number of games missed during the exclusion period will be considered when making a final disciplinary decision.

Red Cards only apply to the competition they were received. National League Red Cards do not apply to the WFA Cup, and vice versa.

7. Match Outcome and Results

7.1. Match Outcomes and Results

After the forty (40) minutes of match play have been completed, the Team with the most goals scored will be awarded three (3) points and the opposing Team will be awarded zero (0) points.

If the number of goals is equal between the Teams, then both sides will be awarded one (1) point.


At the end of the League Season, the Team with the greatest number of points will be crowned Champions. The Team with the second most points as the Runner up. The remaining Teams will be ranked in this way. If two or more Teams are tied for the same number of points, a determination must be made as to which is the higher placed one(s), the following criteria will be used:

1. The highest position shall be awarded to the Team with the greater goal difference against all other Teams during the tournament (goal differential).
2. If the Teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the Team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other Teams during the tournament (total goals).
3. If the Teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be based on head-to-head competition during the season.
4. If the head-to-head outcome is a draw the highest position shall be awarded to the Team with the fewest Team disciplinary points (cautions (yellow cards) are one (1) disciplinary point, send offs (red cards) are three (3) disciplinary points).
 - a. If the Teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by a Penalty shoot-out. This Penalty shoot-out will take place immediately after the final League game.

7.2. Forfeits

If a Team should leave the competition for any reason, then all of their scheduled fixtures will be void to avoid any issues with goal difference.

All Teams in the National League are required to have at least 5 registered Players in their squads and should travel with sufficient time (allowing for hold-ups) to meet the schedule of games on any given match day. Teams are expected to play



with 3 Team members, in the event that their squad becomes depleted on any given match day, or during a weekend.

In the unfortunate event of a Team unable to attend a scheduled National league fixture, the NLMC will meet to discuss the best possible solution.

If it is indicated that a set of unusual, uncommon and/or unpredictable events has led to the request to reschedule then the Team who missed the fixture will be encouraged to rearrange the game at a suitable time for both Clubs. In order to facilitate this the “home” Team will be requested to offer three (3) reasonable dates (allowing travel Teams and with consideration for the opposing Teams circumstances) for the travelling Club to attend. It is the Team who missed the scheduled fixtures' responsibility to travel to the opposing Team and cover all the relevant costs in order for the game to take place. If the travelling Club cannot attend one of the three offered dates the match will be forfeited and the points awarded to the home Team.

A failure to offer 3 reasonable dates will result in the matter being referred to the League Management Committee who will then make a final decision on a match resolution with no right to appeal.

All games relating to this regulation are required to be completed by 31 May 2025. If a fixture cannot be completed by this time the 3 points will be awarded to the home Team.

In the event of a forfeit, three (3) points will be awarded to the opposition Team. A forfeit will also result in a two (2) point deduction per match (up to a maximum of five (5) points per weekend) and fine of Forty (40) pounds per match. The NLMC may make adjustments to any Teams' goal difference in the event of a forfeit with a view to ensuring that no Team suffers a disadvantage from their opponents forfeiting a match, or a Team gains an advantage by forfeiting a match.

7.3. WFA Cancellation

Should the WFA cancel any matches during the WFA Season, the NLMC will decide on the best course of action to resolve any outstanding fixtures and will always do its utmost best to fulfil the fixtures before cancelling them.

This may result in the alteration of the format of a League division or the Voiding of matches.

The NLMC decision will be final and cannot be appealed against. The WFA will ensure any decisions are as fair as possible on all Clubs and Teams.

7.4. Game Defaults

If a Team becomes less than three (3) Players (due to Red Cards or insufficient number of replacements) during any game, then the match is abandoned and with the opposition Team being awarded the game by walkover.

Results of games terminated before time and not as a result of a forfeit or default are referred to the NLMC. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appealed against.

7.5. Maximum Number of Games per Team per Day

There shall never be more than three (3) games per Team in one day. No Team will play consecutive games on the same day. There will be a minimum of a one (1) hour break between games. This time is measured from the final whistle of one game till kick off time of the next fixture.

7.6. Official Match Sheets


For all National League fixtures, electronic Match Sheets will be used. A WFA volunteer or the Match Official will be responsible for the completion of the Match Sheet.

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to provide all required information for entry onto the Match Sheet. They must also check and sign to ensure all information is correct at the conclusion of the match.

Team Managers must submit their squad information 15 minutes prior to kick-off and before the Speed Test can be started.

Teams can declare a maximum squad of eight (8) Players per game, with four Players starting the game. The remaining Players can be used as Substitutes during the match.

The Match Sheets must be checked, agreed and signed by the Team Manager, at the Full-Time whistle. Failure by any Team manager to sign and complete the match sheets/electronic media may result in a fine or loss of the game. It is the



responsibility of the Team Managers to ensure Match Sheet information has been correctly recorded and must sign to confirm this.

8. Match Protocols

8.1. Pre-Event Management Briefing

All Club secretaries will be sent a briefing email before each weekend. Teams are responsible for checking their emails and making sure we have the correct contact information. Teams are also responsible for making sure they pass on any important information as well as making sure that Teams turn up on time for their games.

Any email updates may be sent up until twelve (12) hours before the kick of the first game. Club secretaries must remain observant with digital communication.

8.2. Pre-Match Routine

8.2.1. Match Sheet Information

Team managers must submit all information to the Match Official and gather the Team ready to be called for Speed Testing. All Players should be ready and on court 15 minutes prior to the kick-off time. (Teams may be held off-court if previous matches have been delayed.

8.2.2. Speed Test

All Team members will be called to be Speed Tested. Each Player must be accompanied by the Team Manager (or other identified person) to support the Match Officials with the Speed Testing process.

The Home Team will be given priority for speed testing and will be completed first unless in the opinion of the match referee adequate opportunity has been given then the away Team will be tested to avoid any possible time delay.

Should a Player fail their first speed test before the game, they will be allowed one (1) further retest prior to kick off as per The WFA Speed Testing Protocol (Appendix 5). If a Player registers within the required speed test readings on their retest, they are permitted to play.

Should a Player fail their initial speed test and their allocated retest before the match, they will not be allowed to participate in the first half of that match but they will be permitted a further retest at half time of the game.

8.2.3. Warm Up

All Teams will have the opportunity to warm up for five minutes after both Teams have been speed tested. Teams will be restricted to the half of the field where their technical area is located. Teams will not be allowed to strike balls in the direction of the other Team's area during warm-up.

8.2.4. Coin Toss

Both Team Captains will be called to the centre by the Match Officials where they will participate in a coin toss to determine field position and Kick-off.

8.2.5. Kick Off

If a Team (minimum of three (3) Players) is not ready to kick off 15 minutes after the official kick-off time of the match, the match may be forfeited; this is at the discretion of the referee and NLMC.

8.3. Match Officials

8.3.1. Referee Numbers

A minimum of one (1) referee per match is required. This Referee will be assigned as the Match Referee. A further two Referees will be assigned as Assistant Referees. This will allow each match to have 3 independent Match officials.

If Assistant Referees are not available, the WFA may request that participating Teams provide one (1) volunteer that will be assigned as Assistant Referees for a match. The Team volunteer shall be registered by The WFA as having successfully completed the online assistant referee's course or completed the classroom Referee's course. Each Team will inform the Head of Referee Development the names of at least two (2) such individuals, seven (7) days before the first event of each division.

The Team volunteer Assistant Referee shall:

- Respect the code of conduct
- Assist the referee only in decisions of the ball leaving play and “3 in the box”
- Not manage the Team they represent (if applicable)
- Not question the referee's decisions.

In the instance that the requested Club does not provide an appropriate Assistant Referee, they will be fined.

The fine for the first failure to provide an appropriate Assistant Referee will be £50. The fine will increase for each match instance thereafter to a maximum of £200. There is no right of appeal for fines relating to failure to provide an appropriate Assistant referee. Teams can only appeal to individual match fines above £50.

In addition, the Head of Referee Development will contact the Club and agree a resolution to help stop further instances.

Each Team that does not have an active, certified referee must endeavour to provide a candidate on the next available Referee course in their region. The Head of Referee Development will contact such Teams to facilitate participation. It is the intent that appropriate penalties will be implemented in season 2024/25 and thereafter for Team's that do not participate in this development to increase The WFA's referee capability.

8.3.2. Allocation

Match and Assistant Referees will be allocated by the WFA Head of Referee Development. Allocations will usually be made available on Full-Time by 9am on the Monday before each event.


8.3.3. Certification

All referees must have the appropriate WFA certifications as well as valid Safeguarding Children certification and a valid enhanced DBS check.

8.3.4. Referee Rating

At the conclusion of the match, the Team Management must rate the Referee's performance out of 100.

Please see the Referee Feedback document (Appendix 8) for guidance on how to calculate a rating. Any rating of 40 or less will require the Team



Management to submit a report explaining the reason for this low rating. This report must be sent to the WFA Head of Referee Development or the League Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture finishing. If this is not received within that time frame, then no further action will be taken.

8.4. Protest Procedure

During the WFA National League, a Team may wish to lodge a protest regarding an event that has taken place.

A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged, if it is alleged that a REGULATION was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee.

There can be no protests or challenges relating to in-game interpretations/applications of the Laws of the Game. Only breaches of competition rules may be challenged.

Any Team wishing to lodge a Protest, must follow the Protest Procedure outlined in the Protest Procedure document (Appendix 6)

All protests will be dealt with by the NLMC.

All decisions of the NLMC in relation to protests are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals. Any rulings will be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. The resulting rulings will then be discussed by WFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent seasons.

9. Exceptions

The NLMC will apply these regulations but may make adjustments to their implementation if they are satisfied that special circumstances arise. When considering any adjustments the NLMC will take note of paragraph 4.1 of the FA Disciplinary regulations that states that in the interest of achieving a just and fair result, procedural and technical considerations must take second place to the paramount object of being just and fair to all parties.

All decisions of the NLMC are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals. Any rulings will all be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. The resulting rulings will then be discussed by WFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent seasons.

Schedule A: Fines Tariff

DESCRIPTION	MAXIMUM FEE
FAILURE TO REGISTER MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	£200 per weekend
FAILURE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANT REFEREE	£50-200
GOALKEEPER FAILING TO WEAR APPROPRIATE SHIRT	£50 per weekend
FIELDING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER	£25
KNOWINGLY MISREPRESENTATION OF PF2 PLAYER AS PF1	£100
FAILURE OF REQUESTED OR RANDOM SPEED TEST	£50
ILLEGAL APPROACH OF PLAYER	£100
FORFEITED GAME	£40 per game
FAILURE TO PREPARE FOR A WFA CUP FIXTURE (I.E. NO PAPERWORK, NOT ADEQUATE TIME, NOT ADEQUATE SPACE AND NOT ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT)	£200 per fixture

SEASON 2024/25

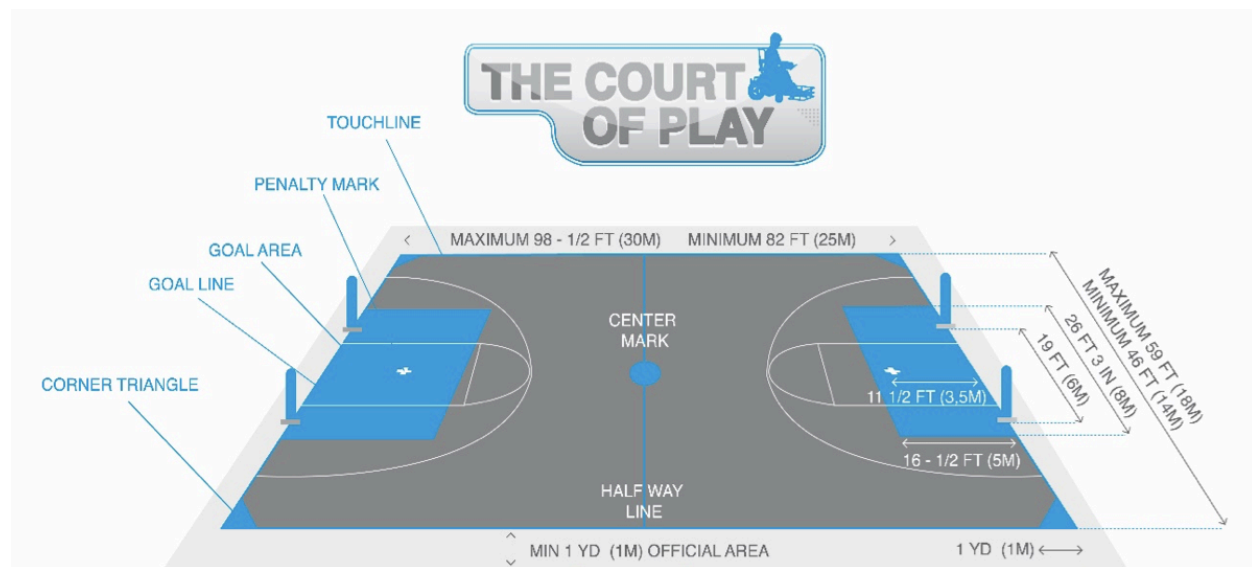
NATIONAL LEAGUE

EVENT

REQUIREMENTS



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024



1. Technical Areas

The technical area will be located and identified in an appropriate area within the sports hall.

2. Team Staff

A maximum of two (2) Team Staff from each team are permitted on the sidelines during a game and they should be on the same side of the pitch, opposite from the opposing coaches.

3. Spectators Area

All spectators must be restricted to the area outside the playing court, on the balcony or downstairs viewing area at Lee Westwood Sports Centre. Spectators are not allowed on or around the field of play.

4. Footballs

All WFA National League matches must only be played using WFA sanctioned footballs. These footballs must carry the printed wording 'WFA approved size & weight'. The

refereeing officials have the authority to switch footballs during the match if there is believed to be a defect that inhibits regular play or causes danger.

5. Score Board

For the benefit of spectators and coaches, a visual scoring system must be maintained. The scoreboard must be visible at all times from the team technical area.

Whilst not a requirement, for the benefit of the spectators the scoreboard should include a game clock.

6. Officials

Each match will ideally have a 4th Official.

This official will keep unofficial time and maintain the Score Board. They control the WFA Match Sheet by recording scorers, cautions etc, as well as ensuring that the Match Sheet is fully completed (signed by the coaches, referee scores, player of the match and signed by referee).

7. Insurance

All teams will be covered by the following insurance at all WFA National League Events:

- Civil liability Insurance to the value of £10,000,000.
- Teams will be insured for all league fixtures.
- Cover is provided by Bluefin on behalf of Catlin Underwriting Agencies Ltd
- Personal Accident Insurance – provided by Aviva Insurance Limited

Players may wish to take out their own Insurance policy, on top of the insurance that the WFA has put in place.

8. Trophy & Award Specifications

8.1. WFA League Trophies

The following agreement shall be signed on behalf of the winners of the cup or trophy:

“We (A) (name) and (B) (name), the Chair and Secretary of [CLUB] PFC, members of and representing the Club, having been declared winners of cup or trophy, and the cup or trophy having been delivered to us by the Competition, do hereby on behalf of the Club jointly and severally agree to return the cup or trophy to the Competition Secretary on or before [DATE]. If the cup or trophy is lost or damaged whilst under our care we agree to refund to the Competition the amount of its current value or the cost of its thorough repair.”

Failure to comply will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Perpetual WFA National League Trophies will also be provided by WFA.

8.2. WFA League Awards

There will be WFA Premiership Winner Medals for Players and Coaches (maximum 10) and WFA Championship Winner Medals for Players and Coaches (maximum 10).

The following awards will be distributed at the conclusion of the season:

- WFA Premiership Top Goal scorer.
- WFA Championship Top Goal scorer.
- WFA Premiership Goal of the Season
- WFA Championship Goal of the Season
- WFA Premiership Coaches player of the season
- WFA Championship Coaches player of the season
- WFA Premiership Players' Player of the Season
- WFA Championship Players' Player of the Season
- WFA Premiership Rising Star of the Season (player inside their first two seasons of National League competition)
- WFA Championship Rising Star of the Season (player inside their first two seasons of National League competition)

The following awards will be distributed for team awards:

- Fair Play Award (decided by the WFA officials)
- Fantasy Team of the Season

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

FORMAT



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Fixture Dates

All fixtures will be played over a series of events on 5 weekends per division. The events will take place on the following dates:

Dates	Event
7th & 8th of September 2024	Championship Weekend 1
26th & 27th of October 2024	Premiership Weekend 1
23rd & 24th of November 2024	Championship Weekend 2
14th & 15th of December 2024	Premiership Weekend 2
10th of February 2025	WFA Cup Round 1 & 2 Fixture Deadline
15th & 16th of February 2025	Championship Weekend 3
1st & 2nd of March 2025	Premiership Weekend 3
31st March 2025	WFA Cup Round 3 Fixture Deadline
5th & 6th of April 2025	Championship Weekend 4
12th & 13th of April 2025	Premiership Weekend 4
11th of May 2025	WFA Cup Quarter and Semi Finals
24th & 25th of May 2025	Championship Weekend 5
31st of May & 1st of June 2025	Premiership Weekend 5
TBD	End Of Season
TBD	WFA Cup Final
TBD	WFA End Of Season Awards Evening

The date which the season shall conclude is at the conclusion of the last competitive league or cup fixture, whichever is later.

2. National League Weekend Layout

At a National League weekend, matches will be played across two courts (pitches). Referred to as Court A and Court B, matches will be played simultaneously at set times during a day.

The kick-off times for a Saturday are as follows:

- 09:30
- 10:40
- 11:50
- 13:00
- 14:10
- 15:20
- 16:30

The kick-off times for a Sunday are as follows:

- 09:15
- 10:25
- 11:35
- 12:45
- 13:55
- 15:05
- 16:15*

*There will be only one 16:15 slot per division during the season

3. National League Structure

3.1. Divisions

The 2024/25 Season will be run in two (2) divisions:

- WFA Premiership.
- WFA Championship.

The Management Committee shall have the discretion to deal with a Team being unable to start or complete its fixtures for a Playing Season,

including, but not limited to, issuing a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

3.1.1. Premiership Structure

There will be five (5) weekends split over ten (10) days. Twelve (12) teams will compete and each team will play each other twice during the season. There will be a total of 132 matches with each team playing 22 matches.

3.1.2. Championship Structure

There will be five (5) weekends split over ten (10) days. Twelve (12) teams will compete and each team will play each other twice during the season. There will be a total of 132 matches with each team playing 22 matches.

3.1.3. Maximum number of Teams In The National League From Any One Club

As per section 3.2 of the National League Regulations of Competition document, only two (2) teams from any one club shall be permitted to participate in the competition. This can be across a single division or both divisions.

3.2. Promotion and Relegation

3.2.1. Premiership

The Teams finishing in 11th / 12th positions in the Premiership League Table will be relegated to the Championship division for the 2025/26 season.

The Team finishing in 1st/ 2nd positions of the Championship League Table will be promoted to the Premiership division for the 2025/26 season.

The Team finishing in 10th position in the Premiership League Table will play off against the team finishing 3rd in the Championship League Table for a place in the Premiership division for the 2025/26 season.

Should any other Premiership Team not participate in the 2024/25 season, the next lowest ranked team from the previous season will replace the affected team

3.2.2. Championship

The Team finishing in 1st/2nd positions of the Championship League Table will be promoted to the Premiership division for the 2025/26 season.

The Team finishing in 3rd position in the Championship League Table will play off against the team finishing 10th in the Premiership League Table for a place in the Premiership division for the 2025/26 season.

The Teams finishing in 11th/12th positions of the Championship League Table will be subject to participation in the WFA League Entry Play-off (subject to the number of entries received).

Should a team not be able to participate in the competition, the next lowest ranked team from the previous season will replace the affected team.

3.3. WFA National League Entry Play-off

3.3.1. Play-Offs

A maximum of two (2) teams will be eligible to gain entry for 2025/26 National League competition. They will qualify through the WFA league play-off process.

Teams can nominate themselves for entry into the league play-off process. Nominations from all regions are welcomed. If multiple teams from the same region nominate themselves, they will be graded in the areas listed below.

1. Participation in their regional league
2. League position in their respective regional league
3. England Football Accredited Club status

Priority will be given to the team who fulfil the criteria listed above. If other regions do not have a nominated team, the second team from the region will be considered as their replacement.

If a Team wishes to enter, they must complete their nomination to the WFA by **31st March 2025**.

For more information on the format of this event please contact the National League Secretary leaguesecretary@thewfa.org.uk. The event format can vary, depending on the number of teams registered to take part in the League Entry-play off.

There will be an entry fee of £50 for teams from outside of the National League.

3.3.2. Play-off Process

This section describes the structure of the incoming Championships teams' play-off fixtures. The teams finishing 11th and 12th will participate in the play-offs. Up to six (6) additional teams may participate in the Entry Championship Play-Offs.

A draw shall be made to allocate incoming teams to letters A, B, C, D, etc

If zero (0) incoming teams participate, no play-off match is necessary:

- Teams positioned 11th and 12th shall remain in the Championship division.

If one (1) incoming team, A participates, no draw is necessary.

- Team positioned 11th shall remain in the Championship division.
- Team positioned 12th will play A. The winner takes a place in the Championship division.

If two (2) incoming teams, A and B participate.

- 11th will play A.
- 12th will play B.
- The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If three (3) incoming teams, A, B and C participate.

- 12th will play B.
- A will play C.
- The loser of these matches will play each other.
- 11th will play the winner of A v C
- The winner of the losers match will play the winner of 12th v B
- The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If four (4) incoming teams, A, B, C and D participate.

- A will play B.
- C will play D.
- The 11th will play the winners of A vs B.
- The 12th will play the winners of the other match.
- The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If five (5) incoming teams, A, B, C, D and E participate.

- 12th will play A.
- B will play C.D will play E.
- 11th will play the winner of B vs C.
- The winner of 12th vs A will play the winner of D vs E
- The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If six (6) incoming teams, A, B, C, D, E and F participate.

- 11th will play A.
- 12th will play B.
- C will play D.E will play F.
- The winner of 11th vs A will play the winner of C vs D.
- The winner of 12th vs B will play the winner of E vs F.
- The winner of each match takes a place in the Championship division.

If any circumstances arise that are not covered by these regulations the NLMC will decide the format to be followed.

3.3.3. Play-off Player Registration

Any player registered with a National League team for the 2024/25 season, will be eligible to register for another team for the WFA League Entry Play off event on the basis that they de-register for their National League team during the transfer window.

The WFA National League Secretary must be informed by the National League club and the player themselves (player parent/guardian for under 18's) so their registration can be removed during the transfer window.

A list of de-registered players will be established ahead of WFA League Entry Play- off Player Registration.

A non-National League play-off entry team can only register a maximum of two (2) players that had been registered to any particular National League team at the beginning of the season.

A non-National League play-off entry team will need to provide a squad list in advance of the play-off weekend. This date will be decided by the league management committee and communicated in advance to participating clubs.

All players participating in the play-off weekend are subject to the classification rules set out above.

3.4. Venues

All National League fixtures (Premiership and Championship) will be played at a central venue:

Nottingham Trent University,

Lee Westwood Sports Centre,

Clifton Campus,

Nottingham,

NG11 8NS.

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Contacts

1. WFA Vice Chairperson & NLMC Lead

Name: Rob Thompson

Email: rob.thompson@thewfa.org.uk

2. WFA League Secretary

Name: Jack Humphries

Email: leaguesecretary@thewfa.org.uk

3. Head of Referee Development

Name: Geoff Lewis

Email: referees@thewfa.org.uk

4. Head of Classification

Name: Sarah Smith

Email: classification@thewfa.org.uk

5. Player Representative

Name: Jon Bolding

Email: playerrep@thewfa.org.uk

6. Welfare Officer

Name: Cath Gouldsbrough

Email: welfareofficer@thewfa.org.uk

7. Fixtures Secretary

Name: Adam Langley

Email: fixtures@thewfa.org.uk

8. WFA National Development Manager

Name: Adam McEvoy

Email: adam.mcevoy@thewfa.org.uk

7. WFA Vice Secretary

Name: Alex Dowding

Email: alex.dowding@thewfa.org.uk

2. Responsibilities of the WFA League Management Committee

The NLMC will be responsible for the running and organisation of all WFA National League events. The Management Committee shall have power to deal only with matters within the Competition and not for any matters of misconduct that are under the jurisdiction of The WFA or The FA.

They shall be responsible for ensuring the necessary standards in all technical matters during the league season including:

- A. the field and its marking;
- B. the conduct of the tournament;
- C. scheduling and evaluation of referees;
- D. ratification of score sheets and production of official results;
- E. Game equipment, excluding individual players equipment;

Any Committee will consist of a minimum of three (3) but ideally five (5) of the following people:

- 1. Rob Thompson – WFA Vice Chairperson
- 2. Jack Humphries – WFA National League Secretary
- 3. Geoff Lewis – WFA Head of Refereeing
- 4. Sarah Smith - WFA Classification Representative
- 5. Jon Bolding – WFA Player Representative
- 6. Cath McNicol – WFA Welfare Officer
- 7. Adam Langley – WFA Fixtures Secretary
- 8. Adam McEvoy – WFA National Development Manager
- 9. Alex Dowding – WFA Vice Secretary

This Committee will use its understanding and experience of Powerchair Football to resolve any matters that are referred to it. For any decisions to be made by this Committee a majority vote must be achieved.

If any of the Committee may have a personal interest in the outcome or decision of this Committee, the remaining members will select a suitable replacement until the particular matter has been resolved. For a replacement member to be selected onto this Committee, the remaining members must reach a unanimous decision.

Any decisions by this Committee will be made:

- Within One (1) hour for an incident that directly affects the running or causes delay to a league event
- Within Seven (7) days for all other matters

These decisions will remain in place until the conclusion of the 2024/25 WFA National League Season.

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SPEED TEST

PROTOCOL



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Speed Testing Protocol

In order to ensure the consistency and to level the playing field for all official WFA Events and Competitions it is necessary to ensure that the powerchairs used do not exceed the maximum speed of 10 kmph (6.2 mph) as stated in the Official Rules and Regulations of the game.

This Rule applies to both the forwards and backwards speed of the chair and all powerchairs used in any given game are to be tested prior to the game commencing. All players must present themselves ready for the match and for speed testing a minimum of 15 minutes before the scheduled kick off time.

2. Pre-Match

- Rolling Road Test
- The chair must be secured at front and back (if required) on the rolling road equipment so that it does not move but not so tight as to slow the chair during the test.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controller forward fully and measures the speed.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controls backwards fully and measures the speed.
- Display on the machine must not exceed 10kmph otherwise the test has failed, being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.
- All powerchair control units with numerical profile settings must be configured to profile five (5). For other chairs the referee may decide the setting to be used.

3. Recording

- The referee conducting the speed test will record the score once a successful speed test has been completed. The referee will also mark on the sheet/electronic media the number that the player plays at. This must be '5' where such a setting is available.
- After a successful speed test the player who has passed the test will be guided towards a point on court away from the players waiting to test.

4. Speed Adjustments

- Powerchairs that have failed the pre-match speed test must be adjusted prior to retaking the test.
- Each player is entitled to 1 pre-match speed test after the initial fail.
- If the player passes after this retest they are deemed as 'match ready'.
- If the retest is failed then the player will be ruled out of the first half of the game, with a further retest being issued at Half-Time. If this test is also failed then the player will miss the whole game.
- After a Powerchair has completed the test it is forbidden for the program to be adjusted in any way. It is also forbidden for powerchairs to be modified, such as using a tilt, recline or riser function until the completion of the match.
- During the game the actual Program Controller must either be placed on the Score table and left for the duration of the game or given to a member of the crowd who is not part of the team / technical delegation.

5. Post-Match

- Protocol is the same as the protocol for pre-match testing except for the allowable speed.
- Post-match the Kmph must not exceed 11Kmph being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.
- If a spare chair is to be tested Post-match, it needs to be tested with the same user as was in it for the Pre-match test.
- If a player fails the initial post match test speed they will be allowed a further 15 minutes cool down period and will be retested after this period
- If the chair fails the test after a further 15 minutes they will be allowed 1 hour in order for the chair to return to a suitable state.
- At this stage the chair must not exceed the original speed of 10 kmph
- Failure after the 1 hour time limit will result in the player and club facing further sanctions as stated in the speed test protocol.

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PROTEST

PROCEDURE



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Ineligible Player Protests

- A. A protest concerning an ineligible player:
 - a. may be made at any time, and
 - b. does not require the payment of the £25.00 protest fee.
- B. If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- C. The forfeit penalty applies not only to the game that originated the protest, but also to all games that have involved the ineligible player during the tournament.
- D. If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the WFA may elect to fine the Team. This fine should be no more than £50.00 for the first offence.

2. Protests

- A. There can be no protests or challenges relating to in-game interpretations/ applications of the Laws of the Game. Only breaches of competition rules may be challenged.
- B. **A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged** by the Team Manager, or their assistant when the Team Manager is not present, **ONLY if it is alleged that a REGULATION was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee.**

3. Protest Procedure

- A. An informal verbal protest may be made to the referees by the Team Manager, or their assistant when the Team Manager is not present, at (preferably) or close to, the time of the incident; but, in all cases, it must be made before the referees have left the playing field.
- B. A simple or vague complaint about a call or calls will not suffice - the word "protest" must be used, and the reason for the protest must be made clear. (If this is done at the time of the incident, a mistake by a referee can often be easily rectified without the need for any further action.)
- C. The opposing coach should be notified of the protest by the referee immediately after the final whistle.
- D. The informal verbal protest must be followed by submission of a formal, written protest:
 - a. Made by the Team representative to NLMC,

- b. Within 1 hour of the completion of the game,
- c. Accompanied by a fee of £25.00, which will be refunded if the protest is allowed, and retained if the protest is disallowed.
- E. The decision must be made within 24 hours of reception and the decision submitted in writing to both coaches.
- F. All decisions of the NLMC are subject to appeal to The FA in accordance with the Regulations for Football Association Appeals.

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

POWERCHAIR

SPECIFICATIONS



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Powerchair Specification

The WFA have identified 3 “categories” of Powerchairs for use in competitions in England:

- 1) Medical wheelchairs (usually used by grassroots players at beginner level, but can be used by players with more complex needs at all levels).
- 2) Medical wheelchairs modified to play Powerchair Football.
- 3) Custom built sports chairs for the sole purpose of playing Powerchair football.

All three categories of chair have been passed for use in the National League. Regional leagues will decide on an individual basis which chairs are to be used based on the level of competition.

2. Powerchair Dimensions and ‘The Box’

The overall dimensions of the chair base (including attachment, seating and any side protection) shall not exceed 1400mm in length and 825 mm in width. This will include any anti-tip wheels. No part of the chair, seat or player should exceed the dimensions set above. This includes any essential equipment the player needs in order to participate, e.g. oxygen cylinders, voice equipment and additional restraints. The WFA has the right to review any special cases and agree to exceptions to ensure players’ safety or specific needs.

3. Overhang

No part of the chair, seat, headrest or player should overhang the front and rear of the chair base. This is to avoid injury to the players from a player reversing into another player. This excludes the back wheels on a mid wheel drive chair and anti tip wheels that may stick out beyond the back of the chair. If a player were to reverse into another player or the wall, the base of the chair should be the first thing to make contact and not a player's backrest or headrest. See figures 1 and 2.

4. Playing Attachments

The player should be using a bumper or guard that has passed the WFA testing process and as supplied by the manufacturer. It should also be securely attached to the chair.

The front bumper/guard on all chairs should have a clear definition of where it starts and ends. Where the bumper and side guard are continuous the front bumper length is to be set at 330mm (13 inches) when measured from the front of the chair (see diagram 3).

All “Custom built sports chairs” must clearly define between the front bumper and side of the chair. For example the bumper painted a contrasting colour to the side guards. We advised against using brightly coloured tape as this can nullify the noise of contact between chairs.

Please note a simple strip of tape or paint at this distance is not considered a clear definition. This is to mainly aid referees, as bumper to bumper contact is different to a player making contact with the side of the chair when determining fouls.

5. The Rest of the Powerchair

Side guards are compulsory for all players playing in WFA sanctioned competitions to ensure the ball doesn't get trapped. These should be positioned between the front and back wheels.

Ensure that nothing on the chair protrudes so that it can cause injury. An example of this may be a headrest bar that extends out, which could cause injury when reversing. Any excess bars need to be removed, as well as ensuring there are no sharp edges or fragments if cutting has taken place.

A seat belt must be worn by all players when playing in WFA sanctioned competitions. A harness can also be worn in addition to a lap belt.

No part of a chair should be able to trap or hold the ball, ride over the ball or become wedged near the front wheels.

Ensure that nothing on the chairs can become entangled with another chair when playing, for example, seatbelts, wires, cables.

All tyres must be non-marking to avoid damaging the playing surface. No solutions or sprays are permitted to be added to the tyres, which may result in leaving residue on the surface. If a referee or the WFA League Management Panel believes that tyres are damaging or marking the floor, the wheelchair will be prohibited for use in a game until they are changed and tested.

Clubs and players are reminded that any modifications to the electrics must be carried out correctly and safely and are done at your own risk. We shall not be imposing a ban on this

as we currently have limited methods of regulation. The technical committee shall monitor, gather data and information on modifications before we can regulate and impose future rules.

General guidance notes: Is the player controlling their chair ok? Referees have the right to turn the speed down on a player's chair if they are deemed not to be safe and in control. Do they look comfortable and secure in the chair? Does the player have a headrest?

Figure 1: Rear-Wheel Drive Powerchair (Storm, Strikeforce etc.)

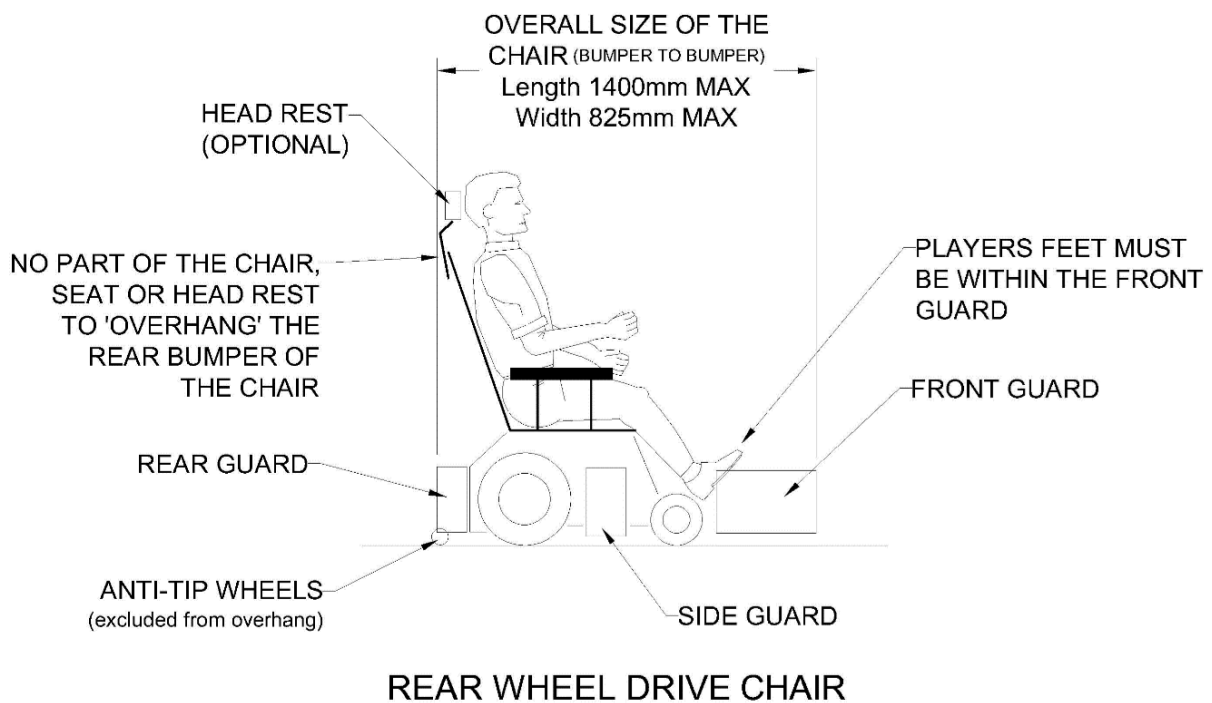


Figure 2: Mid-Wheel Drive Powerchair (TDX etc.)

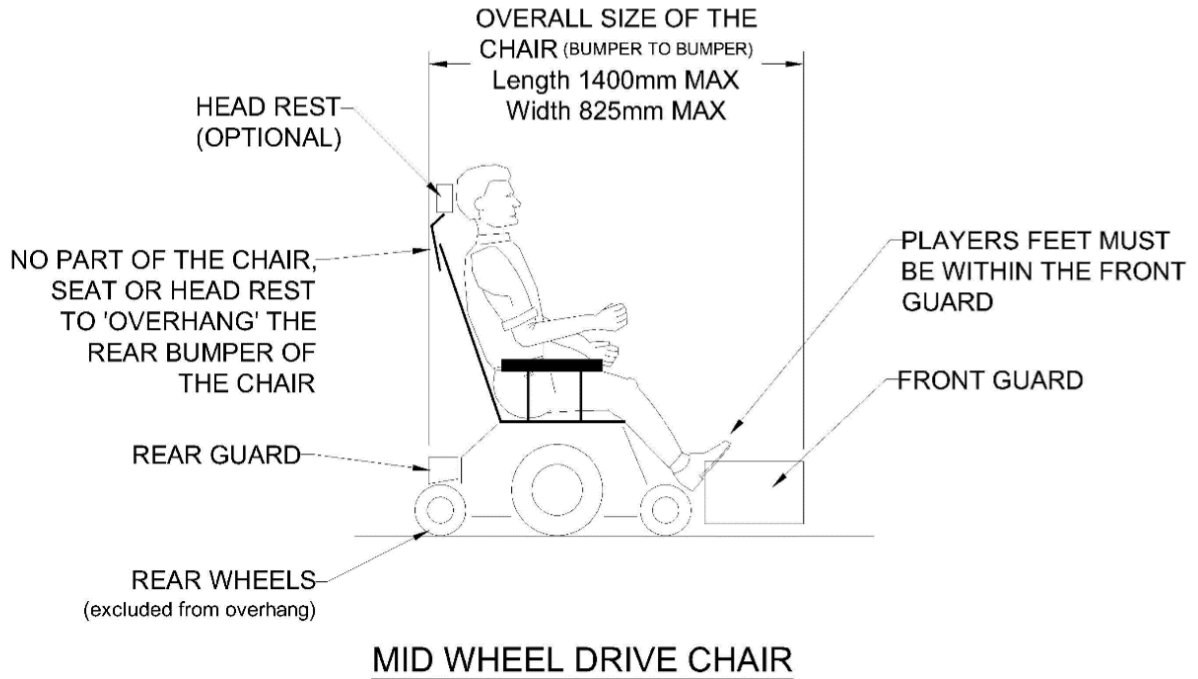


Figure 3: Bumper Markings on a Strikeforce Powerchair

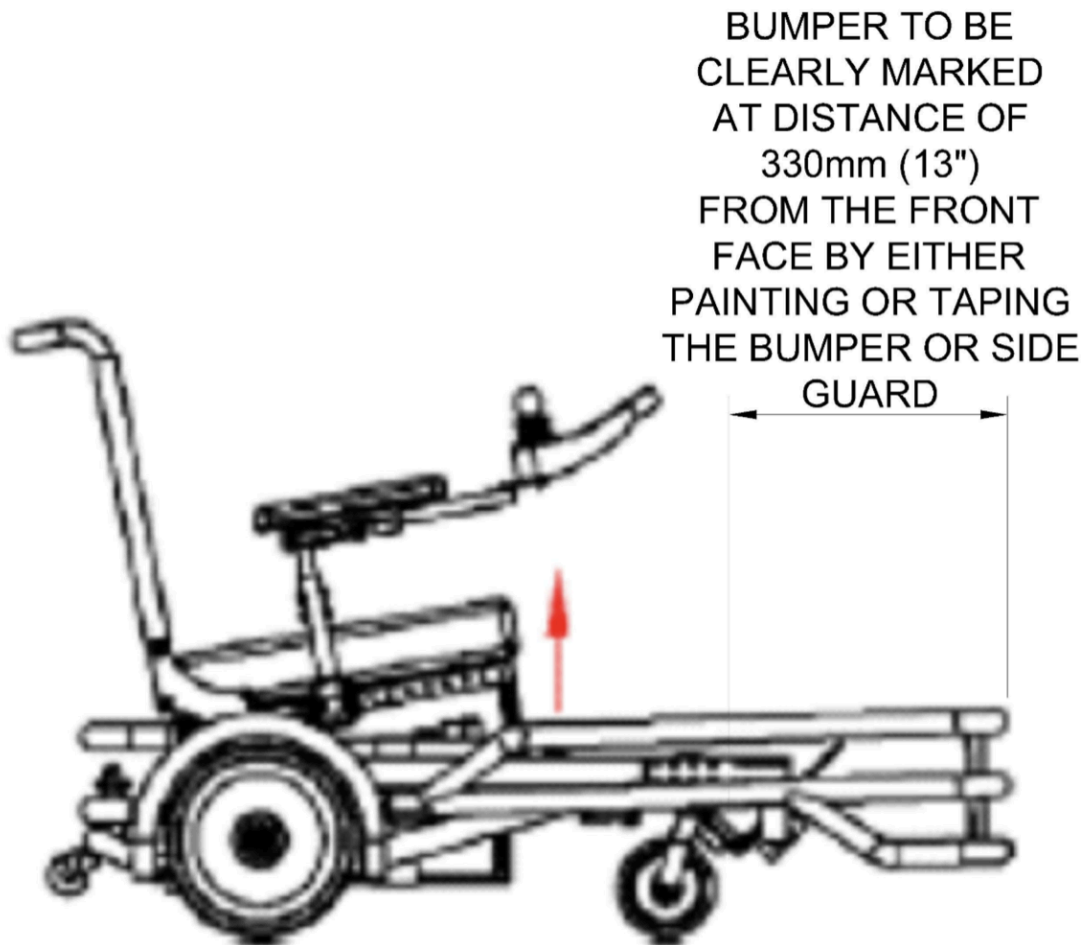


Table 1: Specifications

Specification	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Notes
<p>The overall dimensions of the chair (including attachment, seating and any side protection), shall not exceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1400mm in length ● 825mm in width 				
<p>No part of the chair or player should overhang the rear guard of the chair. If the powerchair is reversed, the base of the chair (excluding rear wheels and rear castors), should make contact first instead of the powerchairs backrest or headrest.</p>				<i>To avoid injury in the event a player reverses and collides with an opponent or official.</i>
<p>Side guards must be fitted to ensure the ball cannot get trapped. <i>These should be positioned between the front and back wheels.</i></p>				
<p>Ensure that nothing on the chair protrudes out so that it can cause injury. An example of this may be a headrest bar that extends out, which could cause injury when reversing.</p>				
<p>The chair must be fitted with a WFA sanctioned playing attachment.</p>				This should be securely attached to the chair and be visually inspected
<p>A lap belt must be fitted and worn. A harness or other</p>				Should be worn when undergoing

APPENDIX 7

restraining belts are also permitted in addition to lap belts.				speed test and warming up
No part of the chair should be able to trap, carry or wedge the football.				
Ensure that nothing on the chairs can become entangled with another chair when playing, i.e. seatbelts, wires, cables.				
*The bumper / guard on all approved chairs should have a clear definition of where it starts and ends. On a strike force chair the bumper is defined as 13 inches and should be clearly marked in a distinctive colour.				
General notes: Is the player controlling their chair ok? Do they look comfortable and secure in the chair? Does the player have a headrest?				

SEASON 2024/25

NATIONAL LEAGUE

REFEREE FEEDBACK



The Wheelchair Football Association
5th September, 2024

1. Guidance for Supplying Referee Feedback

All WFA clubs are required to adhere to the Football Association marking scheme with marks from 1-100, which was introduced in 2006.

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance, It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

A mark of 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'. A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected.

Table 1: Mark Ranges

Mark Range	Comment
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60-41	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.
40 and below	The Referee demonstrated an inability to decision-making and was unable to control the game. Any score in this range will require a report to be written by the team

Notes:

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look at the game as a whole and not make isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 40 or less is awarded, a report must be provided to the Referee coordinator. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as positive.

2. Deciding on the Referee's Mark

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as a "guide", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

Control and Decision Making

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within a reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?

- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

Communication and Player Management

- How well did the referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?• Did the referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the referee pro-active in controlling the game?
- Was the referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical
- decisions?• Did the referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the referee negatively?

Final Considerations

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.