**Goalball UK rules governing domestic tournaments for the**

**2019/20 season**

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The rules of Goalball are available from the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA – http://www.ibsasport.org)

These rules will be used for all events delivered by Goalball UK and for all levels of ability enabling participation in a safe and orderly environment. For the purpose of this document the following abbreviations will be used:

* Tournament Director – TD
* Competition Committee – CC
* Goalball UK – GUK
* National League – NL

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**Regulation 1. Player Rating.**

**1.1** When registering players, clubs need to assign each player a player rating number (between 1 and 5) depending at what level they are currently playing at:

* Level 1 Novice
* Level 2 Strong Novice / Developing Intermediate
* Level 3 Intermediate
* Level 4 Strong Intermediate / Developing Elite
* Level 5 Elite

**1.2** Any player that is believed to be unfairly taking advantage of the points system will be challenged by the TD.

**1.3** Any club that is believed to be unfairly taking advantage of the points system will be challenged by the TD.

**1.4** Player ratings are decided by the CC, once a player rating level has been changed, players will be allowed to play at their current level for 1 tournament before moving up or down a level.

1.4.1 Any player who considers that their registered player level is not a true reflection of their current ability, may write to The CC to bring it to their attention at their next meeting.

**1.5** **Inappropriate player rating.** The TD will have a copy of the player ratings from each team at the start of a tournament. If a team attempts to field an illegal line-up (see regulation 2) they will be stopped, receive a team delay of game penalty and the TD will ensure that the line-up is legal before continuing.

**1.6** At a tournament, should it appear to any official present that a player is too powerful to play at his/her declared level; such official shall draw the matter to the attention of the TD, who, after consultation with the other official’s present shall be entitled to:

* Require the player in question to reduce the power on their shot.
* Should the incident occur again in the same game, then the player in question will receive an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.
* If the throw happens for a third time during the game then the player in question will receive their second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, which will result in them removed from the field of play for that game.

**1.7** In any case where a team is playing, and it appears to any of the officials that a member of that team is in serious danger of being injured, the official can stop the game. The matter will be drawn to the attention of the TD, the TD will then consult with the teams and officials in question to determine the appropriate next steps.

**Regulation 2. National League Tournaments**

**2.1** The National League will consist of three levels of domestic tournaments:

* Novice
* Intermediate
* Elite

2.1.1 All the above tournaments are:

* Open to male and female players (single sex and mixed gender teams are allowed).
* Open to players of any sight classification (including fully sighted players).

2.1.2 GUK will publish the tournament schedule on GUK social media outlets and will be emailed to the participating teams 24hrs before the start of the tournament.

**2.2 Novice League**. One day competitive club tournaments for players registered level 1 and 2 - ideal for adult and junior players (aged 8+) who are relatively new to the sport.

2.2.1 Clubs can only field a team that has a combined rating (based on the player rating system) of 5 or less on court.

**2.3 Intermediate League.** One day competitive club tournaments for players registered at level 2, 3 or 4, open to adult and junior players (aged 11+).

2.3.1 Clubs can only field a team that has a combined player rating (based on the player rating system) of 6 to 11 on court.

2.3.2If you feel a player at your club can play in the Intermediate League but falls outside of the age recommendations, then please contact The CC to discuss.

**2.4 Elite League.** Two-day competitive club tournaments for players registered at level 4 or 5, open to adult and junior players (aged 14+)

2.4.1 Clubs can only field a team that has a combined player rating (based on the player rating system) of 12 to 15 on court.

2.4.2If you feel a player at your club can play in the Elite League but falls outside of the age recommendations, then please contact The CC to discuss.

**2.5 Individual Entries.** GUK acknowledges that not all players will be attached to a club, and not all clubs will be able to enter a team in every tournament, at every level. The individual entry process is therefore in place to help maximise playing opportunities. Players not attached to a club (or whose club are not entering) can enter individually and will be assigned to a composite team if possible.

2.5.1 Unattached players must make themselves available to GUK on a tournament by tournament basis through the individual entry process 2 weeks prior to the tournament.

2.5.2 The individual entry is for composite sides only and a fee of £5 per person must be received by GUK by the set deadline. All entry fees are non-refundable.

2.5.3Players who are registered with a club can only enter as an individual if their club is not entering that tournament.

**2.6 Playing for more than one club.** Other than in exceptional circumstances, to be discussed and agreed with the CC, players can only play for 1 club per season however they can request permission from The CC to play for a different club at the level above. Should a player participate within a composite team, then they must only play within this region for the duration of the season.

**2.7 Non-UK resident players.** At all levels a team may only have one Non-UK resident player on the court at any one time and a maximum of 2 in a squad. Each Non-UK resident player may only play for one club per season. Except for exceptional circumstances in this case please contact GUK to discuss further.

2.7.1 This rule does not apply to visiting foreign teams that have been invited to play in a GUK tournament

**Regulation 3. Tournament organisation and entry.**

**3.1** All National League tournaments and cups shall be managed by a GUK nominated TD.

**3.2** GUK reserves the right to make the final decisions on the structures of all tournaments, based on the geographical location of the teams eligible to compete at that level.

**3.3** Clubs must complete a club registration form, to be entered in to the GUK National League. This must be sent with payment to GUK before 7th September 2019.

**3.4 Club entry systems.** GUK will send an entry email to all teams that are eligible to compete in that tournament no more than 6 weeks prior to the tournament taking place.

3.4.1 For entry into National League tournaments, GUK uses Go Membership. To help clubs when entering, three options are available. These are;

* Payment through Go Membership
* Individual entry through Go Membership
* BACs payment via GUK

3.4.2 Tournament closing dates will be advertised on the National League calendar at the beginning of each season.

3.4.3 The club entry fee is £25 per team and all teams must pay this to GUK before the set deadline. All entry fees are non-refundable.

**3.5 GUK Team sheets.** Team sheets must be submitted 48 hours prior to the tournament beginning. This must be submitted on an official GUK Team sheet (APPENDIX 1) to the Club and Competitions Officer. The TD must be informed of any on the day changes prior to the start of a tournament. These changes must be accompanied by an updated GUK team sheet available on request from the TD.

3.5.1 Clubs who wish to enter 2 teams at the same level must have a minimum of 7 players across both teams. The 7 players can be distributed amongst the 2 teams however the club sees fit

3.5.2 Clubs who wish to enter 2 teams at the same level must have a designated team manager or coach for each team. This cannot be the same person.

3.5.3 Clubs without the minimum of 7 players, or a team manager or coach for each team, will be barred from entering a second team at the same level for that tournament.

3.5.4 Clubs with more than one team entered in a tournament are not allowed to rotate players between their teams once the GUK team sheets have been submitted. Clubs who are found to have moved players between their teams after the GUK team sheets have been submitted, will have their NL points for that tournament withheld.

3.5.5 Players who are eligible to play at more than one level on the same day (i.e. player rating 2 can play novice and intermediate levels) may enter both. However, no concessions will be made to tournament scheduling to avoid clashes of games.

**3.6** Clubs will be allowed an initial entry of 1 team per club at each level. A reserve list will be created for each tournament for extra (2nd and subsequent teams) teams to enter if the tournament timings are not affected. Teams on the reserve list will be entered into a draw for the available space(s).

3.6.1 Club’s 1st teams will always have priority over composite teams.

3.6.2 Composite teams will always have priority over club’s 2nd teams.

**Regulation 4. Rules of play.**

**4.1** Tournaments will be conducted according to IBSA rules, GUK reserves the right to modify rules in accordance with the allowances permitted by IBSA for Domestic Competition.

These include:

**4.2 Uniforms.** For all events, players must be appropriately and individually numbered (back and front, at a minimum of 18cm high and distinctive) but it will not be necessary for the numbers to be permanently affixed to their jerseys. It is advisable that jerseys are numbered from 1 to 9.

**4.3 Patching and Taping.**

* Novice: Random patching may take place.
* Intermediate: One random round robin game per team plus all placing games when possible.

In addition, clubs or coaches may request patching for the opposing team to the TD 15 minutes prior to game time. In such cases, both teams will be patched.

* Elite: All games will be patched.

**4.4 Number of officials.** The minimum requirement for each game shall be:

* Novice: 1 qualified neutral referee and two table officials
* Intermediate: Two qualified neutral referees and three table officials.
* Elite: Two qualified neutral referees and four table officials.

**4.5 Playing Schedules**. Game times at tournaments will be as follow

* Novice: 2 halves of between 3 & 5 minutes, 1 sub & 1 time out per half
* Intermediate: 2 halves of between 6 & 8 minutes, 1 sub & 1 time out per half
* Elite: 2 12-minute halves as per IBSA rules

Unlimited substitutions are allowed at half time at all tournaments, teams must notify the officials table of any alterations.

GUK reserves the right to alter match timings during a tournament to ensure the tournament finishes at the scheduled time.

If a team has back to back matches an appropriate interval will be announced.

**4.6 Coin Toss**. In Intermediate and Elite games, a coin toss will always be required. The coin toss will take place 15 minutes prior to the first game of the day, all subsequent coin tosses will take place at half time of the preceding game, clubs are responsible for administering and bringing the game information sheet (APPENDIX 2) to the official’s table where the corresponding game will take place.

4.6.1 At the commencement of Novice games, the team named first in the fixture list will occupy the court to the left of the official’s table and start with the ball.

**4.7 Suspicion of cheating (eyeshades):** If a referee suspects that a player is manipulating their eyeshades to gain an unfair advantage, the procedure below will be followed:

* The player’s eye shades will be rechecked.
* If doubt remains, the player shall be patched and taped.
* The referee will consult the TD at the end of the game.
* The TD will then talk to both the player and their coach.
* The player will continue to be patched and taped for the remainder of the tournament.
* The incident will be reported to The CC.

**4.8 Hearing aids.** Hearing aids may be used in GUK tournaments.

**4.9 Score sheets.** Immediately after the game a coach from each team, both referees and the scorer will sign the score sheet at the official’s table. If a coach does not sign the score sheet immediately after the end of the game, the coach cannot protest the results of that game. (score sheet is in APPENDIX 3)

**Regulation 5. Tournament Results**

**5.1** The final ranking of teams at the conclusion of a round robin will be determined by the number of points earned. Each team will earn 3 points for every win, 1 point for every tie score, and 0 points for every loss. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams will be separated by using the following methods in this order:

* Goal Difference - subtracting a team’s goals scored against from their goals scored in the total round robin
* Number of Wins – teams will be assessed on the number of wins in the round robin. Teams with the most wins will be given the higher ranking.
* Goals Against– the team with the lowest goals against in the overall competition will be given the higher ranking.
* Goal Difference – The same procedure shall be used again, but this time only the games in the round robin between the teams that must be separated shall be included.
* Head to Head – the result of the game played between the two tied teams will then come into effect. With the winning team being ranked higher.
* Drawing of lots – if there is still a tie after following the above procedures, GUK will draw lots (with a representative from each team present) to determine the winner.

5.1.1Tournament winners will be announced on the day (where possible).

**5.2** **Placing and knock outs games.** All games will be played to a result. Over time and extra throws will be used until a winner is decided.

**5.3** **Regional league points.** Points will be awarded for regional leagues in the following order

* 10 points to League winners
* 8 points to Runners up
* 6 points to 3rd place
* 4 points to 4th place
* 2 points to 5th place
* 1 point to 6th place and below

2nd teams will be awarded a maximum of 1 point irrespective of league position. (see example below)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Club | Points |
| 1st | Panthers A | 10pts |
| 2nd | Steelers | 8pts |
| 3rd | Panthers B | 1pts |
| 4th | Dragons | 4pts |
| 5th | Bears | 2pts |
| 6th | Giants | 1pts |

**5.4** **The final regional ranking** of teams at the conclusion of the regional season will be determined by the number of points earned. If two or more teams have the same number of points, the teams will be separated by using the following methods in this order:

* Points in matches between tied teams
* Overall goal difference in matches between tied teams
* Fewest Goals conceded in matches between tied teams
* Fair play points – Fewest number of unsportsmanlike conducts over the season
* Drawing of lots – if there is still a tie after following the above procedures, GUK will draw lots to determine the winner.

**5.5** **The final National league ranking.** If 2 or more teams are on equal points at the end of the season the award will be shared.

**5.6** **Top goal scorer**. A male and female top goal scorer will be announced at the end of each tournament. An overall regional top male and top female goal scorer will be awarded at the end of season.

5.6.1 Top goal scorers who play at 2 tournament levels, can only win one award; the highest level played at by that player.

**Regulation 6. Misconduct / Bringing the game into disrepute**

**6.1 Clubs.**

All GUK member clubs shall be responsible for ensuring that its players, officials and its supporters or followers conduct themselves in an orderly fashion whilst attending or taking part in GUK tournaments. They shall also be responsible for ensuring that its players, officials and all its representatives do not conduct themselves in a way, or print/have published any material, including on social media platforms which will bring the game into disrepute.

**6.2** Failure to adhere to this regulation may render the club liable to a charge of misconduct for failing to fulfil its said responsibilities, and/or additional charge(s) of bringing the game into disrepute. Examples for which GUK would deem a club liable to a charge of misconduct and/or bringing the game into disrepute are:

* Violent, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative conduct or language;
* Disregarding requests/instructions of TD or appointed officials;
* Encroachment on the field of play by spectators or unauthorised persons;
* Throwing missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at, onto or adjacent to the field of play.

**6.3** The consumption of alcohol or recreational drugs will not be tolerated at any event or tournament. Anyone found to be consuming such substances will be immediately disqualified and may face further disciplinary action under this regulation.

**6.4** Where the conduct in question is solely that of a supporter or follower who is not a current member (whether player, coach, official or other member) of the club, that responsibility shall be absolved if the club can demonstrate to the satisfaction of GUK and, if relevant, the GUK Disciplinary Panel, that it had no reasonable means of controlling or advising on the conduct of the supporter or follower.

**6.5** Charges under regulation 6.1 to regulation 6.4 will be subject to the following process:

6.5.1 In the case of a club wishing to lodge a complaint against another; a written complaint (email or letter) must be sent to the GUK office. Complaints of such a nature shall be regarded as FORMAL and must therefore be treated by all parties with the appropriate regard.

6.5.2 There shall be a time scale of 3 working days for GUK receiving a complaint of this nature. However, dependent on the nature of the complaint, a valid reason for any considerable delay must be provided. If the time scale is deemed unjustified, the complaint may be dismissed.

6.5.3 GUK will acknowledge receipt of said complaint in writing and may seek clarification of details/collection of evidence.

6.5.4 GUK will complete a standardised form summarising the accusation which will be forwarded to the accused club, along with any supporting evidence.

6.5.5 The accused club shall have 5 working days from receipt of the complaint to respond to the allegation.

6.5.6 If an offending club fails to respond within the stated time scale, they shall lose the right to any further appeal.

6.5.7 Disciplinary Panel. The process will be overseen by the GUK Disciplinary Panel, which shall be comprised of:

- GUK Chair of Disciplinary

- 2 CC members subject to them not being from the same club as either team involved in the dispute.

- The GUK CEO will nominate and take responsibility for the disciplinary panel’s formation, this will ensure there is a fair process for all parties involved.

6.5.8 The Disciplinary Panel will convene in a time scale appropriate to the allegations, regarding the impact on future fixtures and the ability of parties to provide written evidence or representation at the hearing.

6.5.9 Decisions reached by the Disciplinary Panel shall be communicated in person, immediately following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision will be emailed out to the clubs(s) within 72 hours of the hearing taking place. Only the decisions of the Panel shall be minuted.

6.5.10 The respondent can request a Final Appeal in order to appeal against one or more of the following:

- The penalty - The process

6.5.11 Clubs wishing to lodge a Final Appeal would then follow the process as stipulated in regulation 7.

**6.6 Individuals**.

All GUK members shall be responsible for ensuring that they conduct themselves in an orderly fashion whilst attending or taking part in GUK tournaments. They shall also be responsible for ensuring that they do not conduct themselves in a way, or print/have published any material, including on social media platforms which will bring the game into disrepute.

**6.7** Examples for which GUK would deem an individual liable to a charge of misconduct and/or bringing the game into disrepute are:

* Violent, threatening, abusive, obscene or provocative conduct or language;
* Disregarding requests/instructions of TD or appointed officials;
* Encroachment on the field of play.
* Throwing missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at, onto or adjacent to the field play.

**6.8** The consumption of alcohol or recreational drugs will not be tolerated at any event or fixture. Anyone found to be consuming such substances will be immediately disqualified and may face further disciplinary action under this regulation.

**6.9** Where the conduct in question is solely that of an individual who is not a current member (whether player, coach, official or other member) of the club, that responsibility shall be absolved if the club can demonstrate to the satisfaction of GUK and, if relevant, the GUK Disciplinary Panel, that it had no reasonable means of controlling or advising on the conduct of the individual.

**6.10** Charges under regulation 6.6 to regulation 6.9 will be subject to the following process:

6.10.1 In the case of a club wishing to lodge a complaint against another; a written complaint (email or letter) must be sent to the GUK office. Complaints of such a nature shall be regarded as FORMAL and must therefore be treated by all parties with the appropriate regard.

6.10.2 There shall be a time scale of 3 working days for GUK receiving a complaint of this nature. However, dependent on the nature of the complaint, a valid reason for any considerable delay must be provided. If the time scale is deemed unjustified, the complaint may be dismissed.

6.10.3 GUK will acknowledge receipt of said complaint in writing and may seek clarification of details/collection of evidence.

6.10.4 GUK will complete a standardised form summarising the accusation which will be forwarded to the accused club, along with any supporting evidence.

6.10.5 The accused individual shall have 5 working days from receipt of the complaint to respond to the allegation.

6.10.6 If an offending individual fails to respond within the stated time scale, they shall lose the right to any further appeal.

6.10.7 Disciplinary Panel. The process will be overseen by the GUK Disciplinary Panel, which shall be comprised of:

- GUK Chair of Disciplinary

- 2 CC members subject to them not being from the same club as either team involved in the dispute.

- The GUK CEO will nominate and take responsibility for the disciplinary panels’ formation, this will ensure there is a fair process for all parties involved.

6.10.8 The Disciplinary Panel will convene in a time scale appropriate to the allegations, regarding the impact on future fixtures and the ability of parties to provide written evidence or representation at the hearing.

6.10.9 Decisions reached by the Disciplinary Panel shall be communicated in person, immediately following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision will be emailed out to the individual(s) within 72 hours of the hearing taking place. Only the decisions of the Panel shall be minuted.

6.10.10 The respondent can request a Final Appeal in order to appeal against one or more of the following:

- The penalty - The process

6.10.11 Individuals wishing to lodge a Final Appeal would then follow the process as stipulated in regulation 7.

**6.11** GUK can bring its own charge of misconduct/bringing the game into disrepute against a club or individual.

**6.12** Clubs may be prevented from entering further tournaments where a disciplinary charge has been brought and the matter has not been concluded.

**Regulation 7. Appeals, Disputes and Disciplinary Procedures**

Please note: CLUBS ARE REMINDED THAT ONLY WHERE A REGULATION HAS BEEN BREACHED SHOULD AN APPEAL BE MADE.

Disclosure: To aid transparency, upon the conclusion of the final appeal hearing, GUK will publish the findings and penalties imposed on its website. The report will not carry the names of any GUK member clubs or individuals.

**7.1** Appellants and respondents are responsible for ensuring their submissions are comprehensive and concise before lodging. Decisions will be based purely on submissions within the appropriate parameters and established precedence. Additional information will be requested by GUKif required.

**7.2** Appeals deemed to be frivolous or not containing adequate information to enable a fair ruling may be rejected, incur fees in addition to the standard lodging fee, and may result in further disciplinary action.

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**7.3 Appeal process.** Should a dispute occur the following procedure will operate:

**7.3.1 Validity.** The reason for the dispute shall be reviewed by the recognised club. This club shall be responsible for checking the validity of the claim.

**7.3.2 Submission.** If satisfied there are reasonable grounds to believe a regulation breach has taken place, the recognised club shall lodge an appeal.

**7.3.4 Submission deadline.** the appeal must be submitted by 17:00 on the next working day following the disputed match.

**7.3.5 Lodging fee.** Lodging an appeal shall incur a £25 lodging fee. This will be returned if your appeal is upheld.

**7.3.6 Response deadline.** Once an appeal has been submitted, the recognised club shall have 5 working days to complete an appeal response and submit any supporting evidence.

**7.3.7 Failure to respond.** Failure to respond in the time specified will lead to a decision being reached based on the facts presented. Should a reply not be received in the time specified the club concerned may not subsequently appeal the decision reached.

**7.3.8 Decision.**A decision based on the 2 clubs’ submissions, information from any other relevant bodies, and on established precedents shall be made. This decision will be communicated in writing to both clubs within 7 working days of the appeal being submitted.

**7.3.9** Should clubs resolve a lodged appeal independently (without requiring a ruling from GUK), prior to the relevant deadline detailed in regulation 6, clubs must inform the GUK office immediately of the outcome. The appeal may then be withdrawn.

**7.3.10** Following the appeal decision of the GUK office, clubs and or individuals are not entitled to a further appeal.

**7.4 Disputes at events.  The referee’s decision is final. Due to the nature and time restraints of GUK tournaments we are unable to accept any game related protests.**

**7.5 Breach of regulations brought by the GUK office against a club.** A charge should normally be brought against the infringing club within 10 working days of receiving the necessary information relating to the breach of a regulation. The appeal process detailed in regulation 7.3 shall apply.

**Regulation 8. Sanctions**

The aim of this document is to provide GUK and specifically the GUK Disciplinary Panel with a guide for sanctioning clubs and Individuals that breach GUK Regulations.

This document, as a guide, identifies a range of sanctions available to be imposed by the GUK Disciplinary Panel. The list of sanctions is not exhaustive, and the GUK Disciplinary Panel has the discretion to impose other sanctions not listed in this document as it deems appropriate on a case by case basis.

**8.2 Range of sanctions**

- **National League points deduction**: This can vary in points depending on the nature of the regulation breach/disciplinary matter.

- **Tournament points deduction**: This can vary in points depending on the nature of the regulation breach/disciplinary matter

- **Invalidation of results**: Invalidating results that were achieved in the event, league or knockout competition in which the regulation breach/disciplinary matter took place.

- **Disqualification from an event**, **league and/or knockout competition**: This will include the removal of any medals, points and other such prizes that might have been associated with results achieved.

- **Ban from GUK competitions/events**: This can vary in length depending on the nature of the regulation breach/disciplinary matter.

- **Suspension**: This can vary in length. The Length of this sentence can range depending on the nature of the regulation breach/disciplinary matter.

- **Sports hall ban**: Usually imposed for a coach or team manager. The length of the ban will be quantified by the number of matches as opposed to a period of time.

- **Educational and restorative sanctions**: Participation in or completion of an activity to build awareness or knowledge relevant to the nature of the regulation breach; attendance at, and completion of, any educational programmes. For example:

* Education programme: This can be for all club members and clubs. Education can be for captains, coaches, players, and team managers
* Rules and regulations familiarisation: This might be for specific groups of people; captains, players, etc.
* Other such activities or programmes that might be deemed beneficial to an institution in order to avoid future regulation breaches.

**Regulation 9. Photographs and videos**

GUK recognises that publicity and pictures / recordings of people enjoying goalball are essential to celebrate the achievements of the participant and to promote the sport. We will therefore only permit the use of photography or filming equipment at GUK organised events by properly accredited users. This content may be used by GUK for publicity purposes and stored electronically for an indefinite length of time. If you do not want to be included in this material, please advise the TD of the names of any players who do not wish to be photographed or videoed. On some occasions, however, the giving of such consent may be made a condition of entry to the tournament.

**9.1** Any other person wishing to use photographic or filming equipment is required to register themselves with the TD prior to using the equipment. This applies to all professional and amateur photographers and spectators with zoom or close-range photographic equipment. (APPENDIX 4)

**9.2** Spectators using standard equipment and mobile phones from the spectator area are exempt.

**9.3** The TD reserves the right to decline permission to any person who fails to meet these conditions or fails to give a satisfactory motive for recording the event.