

LKA Senior Competition Rules

This document outlines the rules for the LKA Senior Competition.

There is an appendix relating to League structure for the current season

If there is any doubt concerning the rules, clarification must be sought from the League Admin Secretary or Competitions Coordinator as soon as possible.

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1 Overview

- 1.1 The League Admin Secretary shall conduct the day-to-day administration of the Competition and all correspondence regarding the League must be addressed to him/her.
- 1.2 All matches shall be played according to the IKF Rules prevailing at the time, with the alterations made in the Appendix.
- 1.3 The Competition shall start no earlier than 1st September and run until no later than 30th April of the following year.
- 1.4 The structure of the LKA Competition shall be decided by the Competitions Committee based on the number of entrants. The Competitions Committee is made up of one representative from each club. The principle of promotion and relegation to and from divisions shall be maintained. Further details on how this is to be done are given in the Appendix.
- 1.5 Appeals against a decision made by the League Admin Secretary must be made to the Appeals Committee in writing within seven days of notification of the decision to the club(s) concerned. The Appeals Committee shall review the appeal. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- 1.6 All trophies remain the property of the LKA and clubs are liable for the cost of repair or replacement should a trophy be lost or damaged whilst in their charge. Clubs will be asked to sign a receipt for trophies received. All trophies must be returned to the LKA League Admin Secretary by 1st March of the year after they have been awarded.
- 1.7 Clubs with youth players must comply with the conditions laid down in in the Section headed Youth Players
- 1.8 All clubs must be affiliated to the EKA and have sufficient public liability insurance for their home matches.

2 League Entry

- 2.1 All clubs affiliated with the LKA will be invited to enter the Competition. They must complete and return the entry form before the date set by the LKA and enclose the entry fee payable.
- 2.2 As part of the conditions of entry, Clubs are required to nominate the venue or venues where they will play their home Fixtures. A list of provisional bookings must be submitted to the League Fixtures Secretary. The minimum number of bookings to be made shall be specified by the League Fixtures Secretary. Details of the requirements relating to fixtures and venues can be found in the Section headed Fixtures/Venue/Equipment
- 2.3 The home team pays for hall charges, and any hall entry fees for visiting teams and referees.
- 2.4 Changing rooms must be provided.

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- 2.5 The minimum playing area is 30m x 15m and the playing area must be in the ratio of 2x1. Halls differing from these dimensions may only be used with permission from the Competitions Committee.
- 2.6 Synthetic baskets must be used for all LKA League games, and be of the same type and similar quality at each end of the pitch.
- 2.7 Players should wear matching kit and each captain should be designated by some form of an armband.

3 Ranking

- 3.1 If any game is forfeited or awarded to the opponents then a score of 10-0 will be recorded.
- 3.2 Teams will be ranked according to the points schedule outlined in the Appendix.
- 3.3 In the event that two or more teams finish on equal points, the ranking shall be determined by the following tie-breaker system:
 - 3.3.1 points scored in head-to-head results between tied teams
 - 3.3.2 if still equal, goal difference in head-to-head results between tied teams
 - 3.3.3 if still equal, goal difference in all matches
 - 3.3.4 if still equal, goals scored in all matches
 - 3.3.5 if still equal, by the drawing of lots
- 3.4 In the event that three or more teams are tied, if one of the tie-breaker clauses results in the tie being partially broken, then the tie-breaker process shall begin again from the first clause on the remaining tied teams.
- 3.5 The Competitions Committee shall have the power to take a different course of action should any of the matches being considered for determining the rankings be ones which have been forfeited or awarded.

4 Promotion/Relegation

- 4.1 The rules by which promotion / relegation will be determined for the current season are explained in the appendix. Promotion/ relegation will be confirmed only once the number of teams and structure for the following season are known.

5 Restructuring

- 5.1 From time to time the Competitions Committee may choose to alter the size of Divisions, or restructure the league into a different number of Divisions. The purpose of this is to accommodate new teams, allow for knock-on effects of the restructuring of the National League and Regional League, reduce the league size in the event of any withdrawals, and so on.

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- 5.2 The method for doing this is as follows:
- 5.2.1 All teams are ranked in the order that they finished in the league, beginning with the LKA First Division, followed by the remaining divisions in order, with the following alterations:
 - 5.2.2 teams that are automatically promoted are ranked above the automatically relegated team from the division above
- 5.3 The new Divisions are drawn up according to this list

6 Fixtures/Venues/Equipment

- 6.1 Fixtures are to be played on Sundays between 9.30am and 8pm. Sundays during bank holiday weekends are excluded. Matches may be played at other times, but only with the agreement of both teams, the referee and the League Fixtures Secretary.
- 6.2 If the venue or the start time is different from that first published at the start of the season, the home team should confirm the new venue and/or start time with the opposing team and referee at least one week before the fixture..
- 6.3 All throw off times as set out in the fixture lists should be adhered to as far as possible with sufficient time to allow for a reasonable changeover period between matches.
- 6.4 Where a match starts late, the remaining allotted time shall be divided equally into two halves, and the length of the half-time break reduced, so that the match does not overrun. The referee shall inform both team captains of the revised timings. This rule may be waived, and the match still played to its full duration if both teams and the referee agree, and there is no impact on subsequent matches or hall bookings.
- 6.5 A team that is not ready to play a match within 10 minutes of its allotted start time shall forfeit the match. This rule may be waived at the discretion of the opposing captain, provided the length of the match is at least 40 minutes and there is no impact on subsequent matches or hall bookings.
- 6.6 If neither team is ready to start within 10 minutes of the allotted start time, the referee may declare the game Void. This rule may be waived and the match still played to a minimum of 40 minutes duration if both teams and the referee agree, and there is no impact on subsequent matches or hall bookings.
- 6.7 Clubs repeatedly failing to field a team may be liable to fines and/or action after review by the Competitions Committee.
- 6.8 No fixture may be rescheduled by any club without prior approval of all parties concerned. Exceptional circumstances will be considered by the Competitions Committee.
- 6.9 In certain circumstances, a team may apply to the Competitions Committee to have a fixture postponed. Such circumstances include weekends where two or

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more players from a team are involved in International matches. Both teams participating in the postponed fixture must submit a dummy match report form for the original fixture (as per Rule 7.2 below). A postponed fixture must be rearranged between the clubs concerned, including the refereeing club. The club postponing the game must inform the League Fixtures Secretary before the rescheduled game is held. If the clubs cannot mutually agree to a date and time the game shall be declared a non-result.

- 6.10 The home team is responsible for ensuring the equipment is of a reasonable standard. This includes but is not limited to posts, ball, playing surface and pitch size. The referee shall decide on the acceptability of equipment at the match.

7 Match Report Forms

- 7.1 The team captain must provide a full list of their team's players and registration numbers on the official match report form (provided by the LKA) to the referee before the match starts. EKA Registration cards or copies thereof for participating players must be produced on request by the referee or League Admin Secretary.
- 7.2 In the event that a team does not have a match in a particular round (e.g. due to a bye, postponement or cancellation), when a lower team is playing, a match form must be submitted by e-mail to the League Admin Secretary containing a list of the starting lineup that would have played had there been a match (a "Dummy Match Report"). The lineup in such a report must be legal according to the rules set out in Player Eligibility, below.
- 7.3 Clubs with higher teams entered in National League competition are required to submit starting line-ups for these teams for every round of the LKA Competition. For rounds in which National League games were played, this information will be obtained by the League Admin Secretary from the EKA Website. National league teams which did not play during an LKA round must submit a dummy match report to the League Admin Secretary.
- 7.4 All match report forms, with any dummy forms required, should be returned to the League Admin Secretary by the home team within 96 hours of the completion of the match.
- 7.5 In addition, match results must be entered into the EKA website. This must be done before the end of the day of the match concerned. The results entered onto the EKA website must mirror the result on the Match Report Form. The only person who can alter the EKA website is the League Admin Secretary after an infringement of the Rules has incurred, and then only after informing the teams involved.
- 7.6 Match report forms may not be falsified. For dummy match report forms, players named must have been available to play had there been a game (and not injured, suspended etc). In addition, named players must have played within the previous 4 match weekends.

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8 Player Eligibility

- 8.1 These rules apply to all matches scheduled to take place over the same weekend.
- 8.2 Clubs should follow the spirit of the competition when dropping players to lower teams, they may not deliberately strengthen a lower team in the event a higher team has no game or due to the importance of the lower team's game. The following rules seek to try to prevent this.

9 Starting line-ups

- 9.1 Once a player started for a team (or been listed as a starter on a dummy match report), that player becomes assigned to that particular team.
- 9.2 A player may start for a different team to which they are currently assigned, subject to the following restrictions:
 - 9.2.1 A player may not play for a team of a different club
 - 9.2.2 A player may only play for the team immediately below the one to which they currently belong ("dropping" a player)
 - 9.2.3 No more than two players per team per round may be dropped
 - 9.2.4 A player may start for a higher team than the one to which they currently belong, with no restrictions ("promoting" a player). However, a player may only be promoted to a dummy line-up if they have played for the team immediately below.
 - 9.2.5 A player who is dropped or promoted is re-assigned to his/her new team. A promoted player is therefore subject to the restrictions on dropping after having been promoted.
- 9.3 A higher team must always take priority over a lower team (ie a higher team must not cancel or play short whilst a lower team is fielded with a full complement of players).
- 9.4 It is accepted that circumstances can arise in which the above 3 rules are too restrictive (for example injuries or illness to more than 2 players). In such circumstances permission must be obtained from the league secretary. Permission should usually be sought before the game is played. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, the League Admin Secretary should be contacted immediately after the game. The club should clearly explain why they will not be able to comply with rules 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 or the rules in the appendix for the game in question.
- 9.5 Infringements of eligibility rules will be reviewed by the Competitions Committee mid-season and at the end of the season. Recurrent offences may affect a team's entry into the league for the following year.

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10 Substitutes

- 10.1 A player on the starting line-up for a team may not play for a lower team in the same round, either starting or as a substitute. Exceptions currently apply to a club's lowest team, as described in the appendix.
- 10.2 A player who was listed as a substitute for a team may start for a lower team in the same round.
- 10.3 Should substitutes be brought on shortly after the game starts in order to circumvent the restrictions, the competitions committee may review this to verify the club is abiding by the spirit of the rules and not exploiting them to play higher players in a lower team.

11 New players/Transfers

- 11.1 Players are deemed to be transferring if they were registered for another club during the previous season. Players whose registration has lapsed for one or more seasons is not deemed to be transferring and may therefore be registered as a new player.
- 11.2 New players must be registered with the EKA as soon as possible. However they may play up to 3 games before registering, provided they were not registered to play with a different club during the previous season.
- 11.3 A player transferring from another club may not play for their new club until permission has been received from the EKA. A transfer request should be made to the EKA and transfers must be approved by both clubs involved.

12 Youth Players

- 12.1 No player under the age of 13 may play in the LKA Senior competition.
- 12.2 Players between the ages of 13-18 must fill in the form found on the EKA website
- 12.3 It is the responsibility of all clubs fielding youth players to ensure that they are physically and emotionally mature enough to compete in a senior competition. This is not the responsibility of the opposing team or the referee. Teams fielding youth players should not expect their opposition to alter the style of their usual play to accommodate under age players.

13 Cancellation

- 13.1 Clubs responsible for an unfulfilled fixture are also responsible for all costs incurred by opposition. Claims should be made in writing to LKA. The LKA will then pay the non-offending team and fine the offending team for the amount.
- 13.2 Cancellations should be made a minimum of 96 hours before the allotted start time of the fixture. The cancelling team should inform the opposition, referee, and receive positive confirmation from both the League Admin Secretary should also be informed of the cancellation and receive confirmation.

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- 13.3 Any abandonment by the referee shall be reviewed by the Competitions Committee which may take further action.

14 Withdrawal from the League

- 14.1 A team wishing to withdraw from the league after it has started should notify the League Fixtures Secretary as soon as is convenient.
- 14.2 If the withdrawing team has had results returned for equal to or greater than 75% of their matches (whether played or forfeited), then the results of those matches shall stand, and walkover victories awarded for the remainder. Otherwise, all results involving that team shall be annulled and removed from the rankings.
- 14.3 League entry fees are forfeited by any team withdrawing.

15 Referees

- 15.1 Matches will be assigned to clubs to provide a referee. If the assigned club does not provide a referee, that club will be fined £15.
- 15.2 The home team is responsible for paying the referee, prior to the start of the match.
- 15.3 The referee at his/her discretion may enlist the help of an assistant, timekeeper, and/or scorer, provided such extra personnel are still neutral to both the clubs. However, both captains must be informed prior to the start of the game. Furthermore, the referee is responsible for paying for such extra personnel, and no additional payment for extra officiating personnel may be demanded from either team or the LKA.
- 15.4 Should a match be abandoned and the referee is not informed in time to avoid traveling, the team at fault shall be liable for the referee's fee. If both teams are at fault the fee is split.
- 15.5 The Competitions Committee will provide clubs with a list of qualified referees and their grades.
- 15.6 In the absence of a referee, the captains of both teams should try to find an alternative referee who is acceptable to both teams. If this is not possible, the match shall be postponed. In any event, the absence of the designated referee should be noted on the match form, and the designated refereeing club are liable for any additional costs involved.
- 15.7 Match referees should ideally be practically qualified to at least "Q" standard, or should at the minimum have passed the theory examination with a view to becoming practically qualified. LKA Regional League referees should be qualified to level 1a, 1b or 1c.
- 15.8 In the event of misconduct by a player, coach or spectators, referees should submit a report to the LKA describing the incident. Reasons for a card or game

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abandonment should be mentioned. For cards, the appropriate misbehaviour code (as per the EKA guidelines) should be sufficient.

16 Club Colours

- 16.1 As part of the entry process, clubs are to inform the League Fixtures Secretary of their club colours.
- 16.2 The away team is responsible for checking the colours of the home team, and changing if necessary. The away team should also inform the referee of their intended colour change, so that the referee can dress accordingly.
- 16.3 If a club changes its colours during the course of the season the League Fixtures Secretary must be informed at least two weeks before they are used.

17 Appeal

- 17.1 Any appeal surrounding a match result must be made within 48 hours of match. The referee should be made aware of the club's concerns as soon as possible and no later than 10 minutes after the completion of the match. This protest can be electronic and should be made to the League Admin Secretary and copied to the Competitions Co-ordinator, who will forward it to the Appeals Committee. In circumstances where the referee has not been informed the club must provide an explanation as to why this was not done in addition to the grounds for their protest.

18 Miscellaneous

- 18.1 The Competitions Committee shall have the power to make decisions on any matter not specifically covered in the rules and to vary the rules concerning the conditions of play should this be necessary for the smooth running of the competition.

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Appendix

League Structure Season 2009-2010

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1 Structure 2009-2010

- 1.1 The League will comprise of four divisions, LKA First, Second, Third and Fourth. The composition of these divisions will be based upon the finishing positions from the previous season subject to promotion, relegation. Additional changes may be made in order to balance the number of teams within the four divisions and to accommodate new clubs/teams. The LKA First Division is the London Regional League.
- 1.2 Should a new club seek to join the league and should the Competitions Committee consider this team to be of sufficient standard they may join the LKA Second Division.
- 1.3 No more than two teams from any club may play in the same division with the exception of the lowest division.
- 1.4 When allocating games and refereeing commitments efforts will be made to consider travelling distance and club commitments on that day (including National League, Regional League, Juniors, LKA). Efforts will be made to provide a fair balance of referee commitments amongst clubs entered into the Competition. Referees in LKA First Division will be National League qualified.

2 Player Eligibility

- 2.1 In circumstances where the LKA league plays on consecutive weekends which do not feature National League matches clubs may not artificially improve the standard of their lower teams. If a club is in any doubt they should contact the League Admin Secretary
- 2.2 **As a last resort**, in order to ensure as many fixtures are completed as possible, a club is allowed to play down two players who have already played for a higher team on that weekend. The two players may either start the game or come on for injured players. This only applies to the club's lowest team. Clubs should note the team would no longer be eligible for promotion and that it's ranking for relegation may be affected. These players are there to help the new players in the lowest team and not to be used to gain unfair advantage.
- 2.3 Teams must make the existence of such players in a team known to the opposition and the referee before they play and they must be clearly noted on the match report form. If this Rule is not adhered to, the team will not be classified as "legal". If these players collectively score 50% or more of the teams goals, the points will be awarded to the opposition.

3 Ranking

- 3.1 Points shall be awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss.
- 3.2 Promotion and Relegation
 - 3.2.1 The champions of each division will be decided using the results of all games.

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- 3.2.2 To be eligible for promotion a team must have legally fulfilled all fixtures during the season and there must not be 2 teams from the same club in the division to which they will be promoted. Use of players who play for a higher team on the same weekend is not legally fulfilling the fixture for purpose of promotion. Also, if a team has used such players for more than 50% of their games, this may be taken into account when deciding on the relegation positions.
- 3.2.3 Promotion and relegation will be provisionally agreed at the end of the season, but confirmation will be dependent on the league structure and number of teams in the following season. Teams may decline promotion but not relegation.

4 National League Clubs

- 4.1 The LKA considers a senior club has an obligation to make best efforts to maintain a legal team within the LKA league. Should a club have a National League team, a Regional League Team but fail to field a legal LKA team in the lower divisions the club may be required to drop a National League, Regional League side in order to meet its commitments to the LKA.

5 Rule differences from IKF

- 5.1 The Competition is designed so that matches can be played within a 60 minute hall booking. Matches are 2x 25 minutes and no timeouts are permitted. LKA First Division matches are 2 x 30 minutes with two timeouts (1 minute) available for each team and 15 minutes warming up time. The hall booking for these matches must be 90 minutes. IKF playing rules will be adhered to, except the use of the shot-clock.

6 New teams

- 6.1 New teams entering the league (with the exception of teams relegated from the National League) will enter into the lowest division, unless a written request is received before 1st July preceding the start of the season. A team wishing to enter the league in a higher division will be required to enter into a playoff usually involving the second or lowest placed team of the division they wish to enter and the second placed team of the division below).
- 6.2 Teams relegated from the National League will be placed in the London Regional League.

7 Summary

- 7.1 The LKA wishes to encourage a friendly, competitive and fair League for all clubs regardless of size or location within the LKA area. To this end when rule infringements occur clubs should make efforts to inform the LKA as soon as possible preferably before the infringement occurs. The playing of friendly matches and dropping of players similar in ability to their opponents will be taken into account when considering punishment.