

FOOTBALL: PAN DISABILITY SPORT SPECIFIC RULES 2021-22

These sport specific rules are additional to the general rules which apply to all sports.

1. ELIGIBILITY OF INSTITUTIONS

PDF 1.1

Institutions competing in AoC Sport football competitions must affiliate their pan-disability teams with their County FA (area association for Welsh colleges) prior to the commencement of the season to enable leagues to be sanctioned by the FA. Affiliation numbers must be submitted to AoC Sport 14 days prior to the start of the season.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

PDF 2.1

Although a pan-disability competition, we have been advised by the FA that due to health and safety and issues with playing surfaces, students who are wheelchair users, use mobility aids (crutches, frames etc) or are blind (B1) will be unable to take part in AoC Sport pan-disability football competitions.

PDF 2.2

If requested, institutions must be able to provide the Competition Administration Officer with at least one of the following documents within 10 working days of the match: -

- Education, health and care plan
- UKSA classification number- (a central database that leads and manages classification of any athlete from the UK)
- GP letter/report
- Specialist consultant letter/report
- Educational psychologist letter/report

PDF 2.3

AoC Sport will conduct spot checks throughout the season and players for whom there is no documentary evidence will not be eligible to play.

PDF 2.4

All pan-disability competitions are mixed gender however, the FA only permit mixed football to be played to the age of 18 unless specific permission is requested. Teams may seek permission for women over the age of 18 to compete by submitting their name and date of birth to competitions@aoc.co.uk.

PDF 2.5

Women over the age of 18 who have not been registered as such with AoC Sport will not be permitted to play in pan-disability matches.

PDF 2.6

Students who have competed in mainstream competitions cannot play in pan-disability matches.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

PDF 4.1

Regions can decide if the competition is to be played as a league, with home and away fixtures, or as a series of festivals.

6. ADMINISTRATION OF CUP COMPETITIONS

PDF 6.1

The cup competition will be played as a series of regional qualifying festivals.

PDF 6.2

Where there are four or less qualifying festivals, the winners and runners up of each festival will qualify for the finals.

PDF 6.3

Where there are five or more qualifying festivals only the winner will qualify for the final.

8. FIXTURE CONFIRMATION AND CONDITIONS OF PLAY

PDF 8.1

All matches should be played on well-maintained grass or 3G pitches and all lines should be clearly marked. The pitch length should be a minimum of 60 metres and a maximum of 75 metres. The width should be a minimum of 40 metres and a maximum of 55 metres.

PDF 8.2

All grass and 3G pitches must have at least 1.83 metres between the touchline/goal line and the perimeter.

NB Although not compulsory, the use of spectator barriers as suggested in the FA's Respect Spectator Guidelines is recommended.

PDF 8.3

All 3G surfaces must be on the FA register of approved pitches.

PDF 8.4

Where an approved 3G pitch is used, the opponents must be informed seven days before the match.

PDF 8.5

Under no circumstances can any match be played on a sand-based or sand-filled artificial surface.

PDF 8.6

Matches will be 7 a side, with an unlimited squad, with rolling substitutions.

PDF 8.7

Throw-ins or roll-ins are allowed, but no long kick-ins.

PDF 8.8

There are no off-sides.

PDF 8.9

The ball is allowed to go 'overhead height' as in mainstream 11-a-side football.

PDF 8.10

Goal Areas and Goalkeepers

- Entry into the goal areas: All players are allowed to enter the goal area, with goals scored from anywhere including inside the goal area.
- Goalkeepers can come out of their areas to clear the ball.
- Goalkeepers are allowed to kick out of their hands, use a foot pass or throw/roll to pass.
- The goalkeeper must not handle a back pass received from a team mate.

PDF 8.11

All free kicks to be '**direct**'. Opposition players must not be closer than 2 yards to the ball when a free kick is being taken.

PDF 8.12

Goals measuring 7ft x 16ft or 7ft x 13 ft should be used in all competitions.

PDF 8.13

Duration – all matches will be played over a maximum of 20 minutes (i.e. 10 minutes each way) unless all teams are in agreement that a shorter period can be played.

10. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND TEAM SHEETS

PDF 10.1

A minimum of 10 players for each team must be registered in accordance with rule 10.

11. MATCH OFFICIALS

PDF 11.1

A neutral referee at **Level 7** or above should be appointed to each match.

PDF 11.2

Where teams are in agreement, this may be a qualified member of staff or student volunteer from either team.

NB: We are aware of the difficulty in accessing qualified referees on a Wednesday afternoon and encourage the use of qualified students wherever possible. The lack of availability of referees should not be a reason for cancelling a match.