

SACKL League Rules

STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE KORFBALL LEAGUE RULES (from 2018/19)

The STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE KORFBALL LEAGUE (SaCKL) follows England Korfball (EK) rules and regulations for playing korfball; these can be found on the EK website. In addition, the following rules are specific to the SaCKL.

League Entry

1. An entry fee (set by SaCKA) for each team entered in the SaCKL is payable by each club to SaCKA before the 1st November of each year, as set by the Treasurer at the preceding AGM. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in the offending club being fined £10.
2. Each team shall be required to complete and return to the SaCKL Competitions Officer an entry questionnaire providing a contact name, telephone number, and e-mail address for the current season by 30th September of each year. If the club contact details change the club shall inform SaCKA of the new contact details.

Player Eligibility

3. Only players registered with England Korfball (EK) are eligible to play in SaCKL matches. A list confirming the registration details of each player must be sent to the Competitions Officer prior to those players competing in the league. Each player, including students, must be registered on Fixtures Live.
4. Squad lists from each SaCKL participating team are to be provided to the SaCKA Competitions Officer prior to the start of the season. If a club has a Regional or National League side please also provide squad lists for these teams for information purposes. For teams who do not provide a squad list, those players listed on the first match form of the season will be deemed to be the squad list. Clubs will always endeavour to turn a team out whose members reflect the level of the participating squad. E.g. it may not be expected to see 1st team players playing for the 3rd team, as this would be to the detriment of Korfball as a whole.
5. The rules on player eligibility are based on the number of appearances made for a team; i.e. if a player has played for a higher ranked team a specific number of times then they would be ineligible for the lower ranked team. This is determined as follows (*NB*: there is no restriction on the first match of the season):
 - a. 1 appearance out of 2 fixtures for the higher ranked team;
 - b. 2 out of 3 fixtures;
 - c. 2 out of 4 fixtures; and
 - d. 3 out of 5 fixtures.
 - e. *NB*: Penalties for infringing these rules are detailed in rule 32b.
6. Guest players from other clubs are eligible to play only as a last resort, provided that they meet the above criteria.
7. The lowest placed team of any club within SaCKL, except where that club only runs one team, shall be designated a Development team. Development teams may only play in the lowest SaCKL division. Development teams for any given season may not be promoted to a higher division.
8. Players under the age of 16 require a signed parental consent form and the agreement of the SaCKL Committee prior to competing in the SaCKL. Players under the age of 14 will only be allowed to compete in the SaCKL under exceptional circumstances as decided by the SaCKA Committee.

Match Fixtures

9. All fixtures are set on a specified date and must be played on this day. The SaCKL Competitions Officer needs to be informed of the time of each fixture prior to the 15th October of that year. Once the fixture list is live these times and dates will not be altered without permission from the Competitions Officer.

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10. The fixture list is provisional and will remain so until the 15th October of that year. If any of the dates require alteration this must be carried out 1 month prior to the original fixture date. A new fixture date must be agreed between the home and away teams no more than 1 month from the original date and the SaCKL Competitions Officer must be informed of the new fixture time and date.
11. No match should be started before 19.15 for evening matches unless both team managers agree on an earlier time beforehand. Where the away team has a considerable distance to travel to a match they can request a more convenient fixture date provided this is rearranged prior to 1st November.
12. The home team is responsible for paying all the hall costs and those of the referee. One-leg fixtures are exempted from this rule where the costs shall be shared equally by both teams. The hall costs of Multi Game Venue fixtures are to be taken on by the "home" team.
13. All games must be 60 minutes in length, with at least 15 minutes warming up time. The minimum hall booking required is 1 hour 30 minutes to allow for 5 minutes half time and any time-outs or injuries in the game. For Multi Game Venue games the game will be 50 minutes in length, with a minimum of 3 minutes for half time and a minimum of 6 minutes between matches.
14. Each team is permitted two time-outs lasting 1 minute per time-out. These may be taken at any time during the match, however, they may not be taken consecutively. All time-outs must be communicated to the referee. An additional time-out is permitted at the referee's discretion (e.g. for an injury to a player).
15. Four additional players (substitutes) may be used in a SaCKL fixture with up to eight 'rolling substitutions' permitted, which must be made during a break in play (i.e. a substituted player is allowed to return and may join either division). Any further substitutions may only be made specifically in the case of illness or injury.
16. All matches must be covered on an official SaCKL match form and signed by both team captains and the referee. **All details itemised on the match form, must be completed prior to the start of the match.** Only official SaCKL match forms will be accepted. The signatures of the two captains and the referee confirm all the details on the form are correct. The reverse of the match form can be used by either team or the referee for their comments, such as notification of any breach in the rules. A computerised version of the official match form is acceptable provided the original match form is available from the home side on request in the event of a dispute. No other format of match form is acceptable. **The SaCKL Competitions Officer should receive the match form within 72 hours of the fixture and the match details must also be completed on Fixtures Live within this 72 hour period.** If a team fails to fill in their details correctly they may be subject to an administrative fine.

Referees

17. All SaCKL matches are to be controlled by a referee arranged by the home club from the accepted Local League referees list published at the start of the SaCKL season and updated halfway through the season. Referees for the SaCKL Division 1 list would need to have passed the theory exam as a minimum requirement. Where possible, the referee should be registered to a club not involved in the fixture being refereed. At MGV fixtures the referee must be independent.
18. Each club requires 1 qualified referee for their highest team entered in the SaCKL. For each subsequent team entered in the SaCKL one additional referee per team is required. A player must referee at least 2 matches to be considered an active referee within the SaCKL. A referee may only be declared for one club i.e. the same person cannot be named as meeting the refereeing requirements for more than 1 club.
19. Where a club does not meet the requirements for rule 18 for the start of the season, players must be nominated to the SaCKL Refereeing Officer to train to fulfil the above requirements. These players will then work with the SaCKL Refereeing Officer to meet the requirements by Christmas of that season. Teams who fail to meet the above requirements will be fined as outlined by EK.
20. The accepted Referees List is that published by the SaCKL Competitions Officer and is subject to alteration only with the agreement of the SaCKL Competitions Officer.

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21. If any team has a problem with the standard of refereeing for any of their fixtures they should refer the matter to the SaCKA Executive Committee in order to address the situation.
22. Referee fees are as follows: fully qualified referee = £10 per match plus transport costs of 10p per mile, after the first 30 miles. Unqualified referee = £3 per match plus transport costs of 10p per mile, after the first 30 miles. Where a match is being used for the practical assessment of a referee the home club should pay the same amount as for a qualified referee i.e. £10. This is split with £3 for the referee being assessed and £7 for the assessor. The assessor may then claim £3 and mileage from the SaCKL Competitions Officer.
23. The referee is responsible for naming the MVP of each team in a SaCKL fixture.

Cancellation of Fixtures

24. If a team cancels or withdraws (unless previously agreed) from a fixture that has appeared on the confirmed fixture list. i.e. the list as it exists after (15th October), within 8 days of that fixture then that team will lose the match 10 goals to nil and may incur an administrative fine. If the match is rescheduled after appearing on the confirmed fixture list prior to 8 days before the original date, then the fixture must be rescheduled on a day acceptable to both teams. Should no date be agreed, then the fixture will be conceded by the team which originally cancelled or withdrew and they will lose the match 10 goals to nil and may incur an administrative fine.

League Administration

25. The SaCKL Championship Trophy is the property of the SaCKA. The winning club is responsible for it whilst in their care. Any loss of or damage to the trophy will result in the club being responsible for the cost of repair to or replacement of the trophy.
26. In the event of a draw on a one-leg fixture (Knockout Cup) the golden goal rule then penalties as defined in the EK handbook shall be applied to determine the winning team. If insufficient hall time remains the result shall be determined by penalties alone.
27. If at the end of the season teams are level on points, the final position will be decided using the following criteria:
 - a. The combined head to head result of the matches between the relevant teams.
 - b. Then goals scored.
 - c. Then goal difference.
28. The winners of the League are eligible to apply for entry to the Regional League (CEKL) play-offs; however, this can only be recommended if the team keeps at least one side in the Staffordshire and Cheshire Korfball League.
29. Promotion and relegation between SaCKL Division 1 and Division 2 will follow the guidelines below (as and when sufficient teams exist to run 2 divisions):
30. If none of the current SaCKL Division 1 sides choose to leave Division 1 or the champion team fails to win promotion to the Regional league, then the winners of Division 2 and the last placed team in Division 1 play-off in a one leg match played at the home venue of the Division 1 team.
31. If one of the current SaCKL Division 1 sides chooses to leave Division 1 (e.g. through promotion), The Division 2 champion team is promoted.
32. Any breach in the SACKL rules will result in the following action being taken by the SaCKA:
 - a. Breaches in administrative rules, e.g. not returning a match form on time: a fine of £5 for the first offense and £10 for subsequent errors will be imposed. Fines should be sent directly to the SaCKL Treasurer within 7 days of the initial notification by the Competitions Officer or other SaCKL representative. Failure to pay promptly may result in the team being suspended or excluded from the league.
 - b. Match related incidents, e.g. ineligible players, will result in the outcome of the match being found in their opponent's favour (i.e. if the offending team loses then the result stands but if they win then the result is overturned).

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33. Any team that withdraws from more than two matches or has had more than 4 points deducted in any one season will incur the following penalties:
34. Division 1 Team: the team will not be invited to participate in the Knockout Cup Competition. The Club must attend the SaCKA AGM to explain why they could not meet their fixtures. The AGM will determine if the explanation is acceptable. If the AGM is not satisfied or the club fails to come to the AGM, relegation or a 6-point deduction the following season could be imposed as determined at the AGM.
35. Division 2 Team: the Club may be invited to attend the SaCKA AGM to explain why they could not meet their fixtures. The AGM will determine if the explanation is acceptable. If the AGM is not satisfied or the club fails to come to the AGM, a 6-point deduction the following season could be imposed as determined at the AGM.
36. The SaCKL reserves the right to eject a team from the league at any point during the season if they are not fulfilling their fixtures.
37. The SaCKA AGM has the final say on any matter of appeal regarding breaches of the rules. This will be managed through the SaCKL Competitions Officer.
38. Insurance is the responsibility of each club and it is strongly recommended for clubs wishing to compete in the SaCKL, especially those with players under the age of 16.
39. All clubs are required to send a minimum of 1 representative to the SaCKA AGM. Each club with two or more representatives present may have a maximum of 2 voting representatives. If a club fails to attend the AGM a £20 fine will be imposed payable prior to the club being allowed to compete in the league.

Last updated: SaCKA Exec Committee, 06/09/18