

DIGS FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2011/12 RULES

Intramural Football League – Rules and Guidelines

Statement of Equality

The Athletic Union and the Digs Football League are multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-ethnic communities. The League prides itself on being able to serve its main purpose to provide association football to all its teams, regardless of race, colour, creed or sexuality.

The League, therefore, looks to all its teams to ensure that no persons are racially or ethnically biased or insulting.

The League will charge any player, manager or official who may pass such remarks and, if proven, will be dealt with extreme severity.

Subscriptions and Fines

1. Each team will, before commencing any matches, have paid the stated entry fees for that competition, signed the declaration and have made sure all players have club sporty cards.
2. Entry fees will be based upon the cost of referees' expenses, equipment (for example match balls, whistles, stop watches, flags), printing expenses, trophies (including engraving), hosting the awards night, administration time and any further additional expenses.
3. Point deductions and fines are implemented to improve the accountability and professionalism of the league and its players. These will be enforced should any of the stated regulations be seen to have been broken. Any team fined by the League will have fourteen days in which to pay the fine or incur a further fine. Fines will only be levied as a last resort after consultation with all parties.
4. All fines will be placed into the Digs account and be used to improved the league through investment in equipment, awards etc.

Registration and Eligibility of Players

5. All players must be registered prior to playing any match and **must have a club sporty card**. Players not registered at least 24 hours prior to the match will be unable to play that particular fixture.
6. Any team found to have fielded an unregistered player or player not specifically registered to that team will forfeit the match. In exceptional circumstances the Management may order the match to be replayed.
7. A Digs team may register an unlimited amount of 'University Football 1st team players' but only TWO may be present on any one team sheet. A 'University Football 1st team player' is any player who has played in 5 or more games for the University 1st team.
8. Players who have been fined or suspended by the Digs league are not permitted to play until the suspension has expired and any outstanding fines have been paid. Any team fielding a suspended player will be deducted points and the player will serve an extended suspension of one match.

9. Any player may transfer once from one team to another and play in any competition match within the Intramural League. However, players may only play in Semi-Finals and Finals if he has played a minimum of three matches for the team prior to that match.
10. FC Phoenix (AU FC 4th XI)
 - *Can only field FC Phoenix Registered DIGS players on a Wednesday.*
 - *Can field a **maximum** of 4 players from any University Football Team except the First Team on Sunday*

Team Name, Team Colours and Players Kit

11. Each team shall distinguish itself by playing in jerseys of similar colours. T-shirts of similar colours are acceptable. If any team is unable to purchase a set of jerseys, a set of bibs will suffice.
12. No team is to play in black (or predominantly in black) in order to distinguish between the Referee and players. A jersey which has an appreciable amount of black on it must be checked and accepted by the Digs officers prior to the season.
13. In the event of a colour clash, one team will change their shirts for an alternative strip. Should neither side have an alternative strip, the first named team shall collect a set of bibs/shirts from the Digs Officer or the Office at the playing fields. These are to be returned in the state they were received. Any team failing to return the bibs/shirts within fourteen days shall bear the cost of purchasing a new set of bibs/shirts plus an additional fine of £5.00. In the event of a dispute over a clash of colours **the Referee's decision is final.**
14. The goalkeeper shall wear a jersey that distinguishes him from all other players on the pitch, excluding the opposing goalkeeper.
15. **ALL players must wear shin guards.** Player's boots or any other piece of equipment taken on to the field of play must not be a danger to himself or any other player participating in the match. Jewellery or any such accessories must be adequately removed or taped up. The Referee's decision on all such matters is final.
16. The wearing of 'Snoods' or any other neckwear is forbidden.

Playing Season, Conditions of Play, Kick-Off Times, Postponements and Substitutes

17. The playing season will commence on Sunday 6th November and cease at the conclusion of all Digs fixtures.
18. Matches will be played on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday afternoons. Kick-off times will typically be at 12.00 and 14.00 on these days. Fixtures will be confirmed three days before matches are due to be played.
19. Digs officials retain the right to schedule fixtures at times and days other than those stated above if they are required.
20. Matches counting towards deciding any official result may only be played between teams when scheduled by a league official. Games may only be played on Blaendolau playing fields unless otherwise stated.
21. Any team causing a match to kick off late (after the stated kick off time) will be warned by the Digs officials. Any team that causes a match to kick off late twice or more are liable to punishment at the Digs officials discretion.
22. Any team causing a match to kick off late by more than 30 minutes will forfeit the match with the points awarded to the opposing team.
23. Any team failing to turn up to a match without good cause will lead to their opposition being awarded the points and may be expelled from the competition. This will normally result in a 6-0 win being handed to the team present also. In

exceptional circumstances the Management may order the match to be replayed at a later date. In this case, the League will not impose any fine and will bear further pitch expenses.

24. On the morning of each match day, captains should make sure they are available for contact from the Digs Officer for the result of the "pitch inspection" that is performed by the ground staff at Blaendolau playing fields. If a pitch is passed as 'unfit' for play, captains will be contacted to be informed about the cancellation of the game. Should the pitches be passed fit, captains will not be contacted and therefore should assume games are on. Captains should **not** contact Blaendolau themselves.
25. Should any team wish to train or practice on University facilities then that team must book that facility through the Athletic Union either by visiting the AU Office or by emailing Gavin Allen via gaa@aber.ac.uk
26. Any team wishing to postpone a match will supply the League Organiser with a suitable reason fully 72 hours prior to kick off. Postponements past this allocated time is at the Digs officials' discretion. Failure to do so may incur points being awarded to the opposition. If the team does not notify the League Organiser of any postponement at all, the fixture will be treated as above (see 23.).
27. As above, if a team cannot fulfil a fixture due to an unforeseen change in circumstances, the Digs officials will take appropriate action.
28. Any postponed matches will be rescheduled within the rest of the Digs season schedule.
29. Matches will be 45 minutes each way in duration. This may be reduced to 35 minutes each way if both managers and the referee are in agreement- in times of poor weather or light for example. Should less than 75% of a match be played due to circumstances beyond either team's control, the match will be replayed. Should more than 75% of a match be played due to circumstances beyond either team's control, the result will stand.
30. Should either / both teams cause the match to be abandoned, the League Management shall liaise with both managers and the referee to discover why the match was abandoned and will take appropriate action.
31. Teams may make unlimited substitutions during a match. Any player already substituted may play again. All substitutions are to be made during a stoppage and with the referee's permission. Failure to comply will be penalised as in the Laws of the Game.

Deciding the Digs

32. The League will consist of 3 leagues with 8 teams in each league. (Based upon 2010/11 membership. 2011/12 structure to be decided upon number of teams entered).
33. Each team will play every other team in their group once. Points will be awarded for results as follows:

Win = 3 points

Draw = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

34. Should any match not be played and then not rearranged due to neither team being in default, then the match will be left off the final league table. Should any match not be played due to one team being in default, then 3 points will be awarded: however, no goals will be recorded unless the Digs officers decide otherwise in exceptional circumstances. Every possible effort will be made to ensure all fixtures are fulfilled.

35. League positioning will be decided using the following, in order:

- *Number of points;*
- *Goal difference;*
- *Number of goals scored;*
- *Result of the match between the teams in question*
- *Play-off.*

36. On the completion of the three leagues there shall be a series of end-of-season playoff matches to decide upon the overall Digs champions (Champions Cup), Plate, Shield and Wooden Spoon. Entry into these playoffs will be decided upon league standing thereafter following the points noted in Rule 35. Structure of these playoffs is dependent upon league entry numbers and other variables.

37. Should any team withdraw from the League, all fines and fees are to be paid to clear outstanding debts. Failure to do so may be reported to the University. Any team withdrawing from the League shall, if less than 75% of their fixtures have been played, have their record expunged from the League – affecting all teams they played. If the withdrawing team has played 75% or more of their fixtures, their record shall be expunged but all teams who have played them shall keep their results. All other teams shall be awarded 3 points.

Team Sheets and Submitting Results

38. Team Sheets detailing all players who may participate in a fixture must be submitted to the match official prior to the commencement of the game.

- In the event of one team failing to provide a team sheet, they will given 30 minutes (12:30 for 12pm kick off and 2:30 for 2pm kick off) in which to complete one otherwise the team will forfeit the fixture and incur a defeat (Team sheets are available from the Ground staff Office at Blaendolau or the Digs League website).
- In the event of both team failing to provide a team sheet. The above rule will be applied for both teams.
- In the event that neither team submit a team sheet, the fixture will be void with neither team gaining any points nor incurring a +/- goal difference for the fixture.

39. Goal scorers and an opposition Man of the Match must be communicated to the match official immediately after a fixture in order for them to be noted on the team sheets for that match. The match official should also add any cautions and red cards to the team sheet before submitting it to the Ground staff Office.

League Referees

40. Referees will be appointed to all matches. Should no referee be appointed, or the appointed referee does not present himself, the teams will agree a referee between themselves. He shall have all the powers and authorities of a referee for that match.

41. Both teams may appoint an assistant referee for that game if both captains agree prior to kick-off. The appointed linesman will follow the Laws of the Game.

42. Referees will be entitled to expenses at a rate of £15.00 per match after all requirements are met (Requirements specified in Referee Declaration to be signed by each Referee).

43. Referees will submit all results for matches refereed and report any misconduct to

the League. This includes:

- *Cautions (with names and offences)*
- *Dismissals (with names and offences)*
- *Misconduct after the match has ended*
- *Misconduct by substitutes or other team officials*
- *Misconduct by spectators*

Referees may also make further comments to the League Management where appropriate.

44. During the game no appeals against any decision made by the referee will be entertained.

Disciplinary Procedures

45. The League will not allow misconduct to go unpunished and will operate a disciplinary system. This will apply to individual players as well as teams. Punishments will include suspensions, fines and docking points.

46. Offence Disciplinary Points:

- *Cautions (£5.00 fine)*
- *2nd caution in the season (subsequent times) – 1 Match Ban*
- *2nd caution in same match – 1 Match Ban (£10.00 fine)*
- *Straight Red in Match – 1 Match Ban and (£10.00 fine)*

Fines can be paid by cash or cheque at the Athletic Union Office.

If deemed worthy after consultation between the Digs league, Athletic Union and Match Official, serious misconduct may result in an extended ban.

This applies to misconduct (including that of non-players) before and after the match.

47. Suspensions are not League and Cup specific. A suspended player will miss their following fixture regardless of competition.

48. (As Above) All offences will be effective immediately after the match is played. A suspended player will miss the following match (See Rule 48). A player who receives a caution must pay his fine before he can compete in another fixture.

49. Players are not entitled to appeal against cautions except on the grounds of mistaken identity. If a player is sent off, however, he may appeal against the decision. (An appeal deemed frivolous will not be entertained, and may result in an extended suspension).

50. (As above) All appeals must be lodged with the League within 48 hours of the match (5pm Tuesday for Sunday Games and 5pm Friday for Wednesday games) and a deposit of £10.00 paid on the day of the appeal. Appeals will be heard on the following Monday after a Wednesday match or on the following Friday after a Sunday match. The appeal will bring about one of three outcomes:

- *Guilty: the player is guilty of the offence as charged and loses his deposit (deposit becomes the payment of the £10.00 fine).*
- *Not proven: the offence was not proven and the dismissal will be expunged from the player's record and his deposit refunded with no fine payable.*
- *Mitigating circumstances: the player is guilty of the offence as charged but*

mitigating circumstances mean the punishment will be amended and the player will be refunded his deposit with no fine payable.

It should be noted that less than 10% of all appeals bring about a verdict other than "guilty" according to the Aberystwyth and District F.A.

51. In the event of an appeal being lodged, a player is eligible to participate in any fixture until his appeal has been heard.
52. Teams who amass a poor disciplinary record will be punished accordingly.
53. Any accusation reported against a player, manager or official for comments of an ethnic, racial or cultural nature will be treated very seriously. The person(s) in question will be suspended immediately from all Digs football until all allegations are either cleared or proven. Proven cases may mean those person(s) not being able to participate in Digs football again during the season, or beyond that.

Miscellaneous

54. All teams must take responsibility for their own litter. Any team found to have left excessive litter around their pitch will be warned and may be deducted points should it occur again.
55. Any situation not covered by these rules will be decided by the League Management as it arises. The Management reserves the right to change, amend, add or erase any of the above rules. **Their decision will be final and binding.**

Acceptance

If in acceptance with the regulations set out above, one copy of these terms and conditions should be signed by you and returned to the Digs League Officer.

Signature on behalf of Digs League

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(Digs League Officer)

Date.....

I accept the terms and conditions set out by the Digs League

Team Name (Print)

Captains Name (Print)

Date.....