

GMWFL Local Rule Amendments To FA LOTG Updated August 2023

Compulsory Equipment

1. A numbered shirt with sleeves. No shirt number or any duplicated number for any number of players prior to the start of play will result in two offences for the team prior to the start of each game.
2. Shorts or track suit trousers.
3. Socks must be worn over the shin pads - unless done so, the player will not be allowed to start the game.
4. Shinguards – these must be of suitable material to provide reasonable protection and be covered by the socks. No shin pads - unless able to replace, player will not be allowed to start the game.
5. Moulded studs or astro trainers only. No metal studs or blades. Incorrect footwear worn by a player - unless able to replace, player will not be allowed to start the game.
6. For each fixture all teams team captains must wear an armband. Failure to do so will result in one offence being put onto your team's offence count at the beginning of each individual fixture where this offence occurs.

Advantage

The referee allows play to continue when the team against which an offence has been committed will benefit from such an advantage and penalises the original offence if the anticipated advantage does not ensue at that time.

If the referee allows advantage for a team and a foul is committed by a player of the opposing team during the course of the advantage, then the referee shall:

At the next break in play, add the committed foul to the personal tally for the player concerned, whether or not a goal is scored. If this takes the individual to their foul threshold, then a blue card will be issued with a 4 minute sin bin for the offender.

In addition the referee shall add the foul to the team accumulation number, if a goal is not scored from the advantage. If a goal is scored then the team foul count would remain unaltered. (This is because the attacking team cannot gain two advantages from one offence, i.e. a goal AND a penalty. The goal would be deemed to be the advantage in this case.) Should a goal not be scored from the advantage, a penalty will be awarded if the retrospective foul takes the team count to four.

Free Kicks

Free kicks indirect only. The ball must be passed to a team mate before a goal can be scored. Deliberately playing a ball against an opponent in an attempt to score from a free kick or dead ball situation is not permitted. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposition if this offence occurs.

If a player whilst taking a free kick, has a direct shot at goal which deflects into the goal off an opponent or the goalkeeper, the goal is disallowed and play recommences with the goalkeeper.

Stopped Play

If the referee has stopped play with a blow of the whistle, play can only resume with a blow of the whistle from the referee, including penalties.

Height Of Ball Restrictions

In making a save, if the ball is deflected overhead height by the goal keeper and goes into the goal, no goal is awarded. If the ball is deflected by the goalkeeper in making a save, a corner kick shall be awarded. However, if the ball is deflected overhead from the save and over the dead ball line, then it shall be deemed 'dead' and returned to the goalkeeper.

Determining The Outcome Of A Match

League & Cup Tournament Deadlocks

If league positions are tied on points, then goal difference will be taken into account. If this is also tied, then positions will be decided on penalties. 3 penalties per team and then sudden death. The same criteria will apply to cup tournament round robin table positions. In the knockout stages of cup tournaments, any draws will go to penalties. 3 penalties per team and then sudden death.

Fouls & Misconduct

Walking Football is a non-contact sport although some contact may inevitably occur, not ALL contact will be judged a foul. Accordingly not ALL contact will be penalised but at the discretion of the referee all contact MAY be penalised and recorded.

Running, Contact & Misconduct

Sliding tackles - red card and penalty.

Abusive or foul language to a referee, or any other red card offence - red card and banned from all age categories for the rest of that months league fixtures and the following months league fixtures.

Running, Physical Contact & Misconduct - any of these offences by a player can be used in the totting up procedure. 1st offence - a warning and free kick, 2nd offence - final warning and free kick, 3rd offence - a blue card and a 4 minute sin bin.

Two deliberate contact offences - Blue Card and 4 minutes sin bin.

If a player receives a blue card for 3 running offences and then another blue card for three further running offences, that second blue card now becomes a red card and that player has no further involvement in that day's fixtures. If any contact offences are involved in any of the two blue cards, then as well as that card becoming a red card, the player has no further involvement in that day's fixtures and is also banned for the following month's fixtures.

SIN BIN AREA - Any player sin binned must stand at one of the two netted areas in the middle of the 4 pitches until the end of the 4 minute sanction.

TEAM - A combination of any 4 Running, Physical Contact & Misconduct offences by a team will result in a penalty no matter where on the pitch it occurs. The referee will indicate when 3 team offences have been committed.

If a penalty is awarded against a team for four offences, the individual offences against each player are NOT reset to zero. The penalty is against the team, not against the individual, so the player's offences still stand. The exception would be 3 individual offences, Running, Physical Contact & Misconduct, which also makes 4 team offences - Blue Card and 4 minute sin bin and penalty to the opposition.

Any further offences by a player or team that has been sanctioned will recommence the totting up procedure.

A blue or red card and penalty for contact anywhere on the pitch can be given at any time if the referee feels it warrants it.

“A stand alone” penalty does not affect the teams’ offence count. For example, a penalty awarded because a goalkeeper has left his area, would be a “stand alone penalty”. The existing offence count would remain unaltered and the totting up procedure would stay as it was prior to the offence.

RESPECT

ZERO TOLERANCE of the following:

DISSENT, ABUSE, ARGUMENTATIVE BEHAVIOUR, SWEARING, SARCASM TOWARDS THE REFEREE, OPPONENTS, TEAM MATES, OFFICIALS, TEAM STAFF OR SPECTATORS

The referee has the power to give an automatic 4 minute Blue Card Sin Bin. Any further incidents during the match from a sin binned player on their return from the time sanction will result in a Red Card sending off. The player plays no further part in that day's tournament, that months fixtures and the following months fixtures in any age category.

Any player receiving a red card plays no further part in that day's fixtures and must leave the fenced area and retire to the car park or dressing rooms.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

All players, whether 4 minute blue card sin binned or given a red card during a game will have the details recorded by the referee – the name of the player, team name and the offence which took place.

These will be passed onto the league organisers who will decide on any further action to be taken, apart from from being banned for the next months fixtures. The action taken will be dependent on the severity of the offence and also previous offences by the named player. All players and team managers will be informed of any action to be taken.

This could either be: A final warning to the player or in extreme cases disqualification from all future Greater Manchester Walking Football League or Tournament games. The Referee's

decision is final on any interpretations.

Any players, team officials, managers or spectators receiving a red card will play no further part in that day's fixtures and must leave the fenced area and retire to the car park or dressing rooms. That player, team official, manager or spectator will have a minimum of one month's ban, and will not be able to play or attend the Heywood Sports Village for that month's fixtures and the following month's fixtures in all age categories. If it is a repeat incident or deemed so unacceptable by the league committee a lifetime ban can be imposed on the player, team official, manager or spectator.

Disciplinary Fines

Any player, manager, club official or club spectator who is red carded will pay a fine of £20 payable within 14 days in addition to suspension for the rest of that month's fixtures and the following month's fixtures. This payment will be donated to a named charity. Failure to pay within 14 days will mean the player could face expulsion from the league. The club involved are ultimately responsible for payment, failure to pay means the club would face suspension from the league. Any appeals, please refer to the Disciplinary Procedures, which is available on the league website downloads page.

Score Sheets

Teams failing to hand in the completed score sheet by 13:30 either on the pitch or at the reception desk will be fined £20 which will be donated to a named charity. Failure to pay within 7 days will result in that fine being increased by £20, further failure to pay will mean the team could face suspension from the league.

'D' Area

Ingress & Egress:

No Entry Into Penalty Area 'D' By Any Outfield Player

The exception being by momentum and no advantage gained. Should a defender have inadvertently stepped into the area, but play, or the outcome of play has not been affected, play carries on.

If the defender has stepped into the penalty area in the process of blocking a shot, shielding the ball, shepherding the ball back to the goalkeeper, playing the ball from within the penalty area, a penalty kick shall be awarded against the defender.

If a defending player enters the penalty area deliberately to gain position to another part of the pitch for any reason, to play the ball back to the goalkeeper, to block a shot on goal, deny a clear goal scoring opportunity, a penalty kick shall be awarded against the defender.

When a defending player enters the penalty area inadvertently, has gained no advantage or does not affect play, no penalty can be awarded and play continues.

If two opposing players come into contact on the penalty area line and the defender enters the

penalty area not by their own volition, no penalty can be awarded.

Should an attacking player step into the penalty area by momentum after a shot from outside the area which results in a goal, the goal shall stand, otherwise for any other occasion where the attacker has stepped into the penalty area, a free kick is awarded to the goalkeeper to be taken where the infringement occurred.

A player pushed into the penalty area will have a free kick awarded in their favour.

No Goalkeeper Egress From Penalty Area

Except by momentum, or if sliding forward whilst making a save and the ball and goalkeeper's upper body have not left the penalty area. The goalkeeper cannot slide forward in making a save and make contact with the ball outside of the penalty area.

If the goalkeeper egresses from the penalty area - a penalty is awarded to the opposition.

If a goalkeeper egresses from the penalty area to intercept a ball, halt a player's progress or deny a clear goal scoring opportunity, a penalty is awarded to the opposition and the goalkeeper receives a red card.

DOGSO (Denial of goal scoring opportunity)

If in the opinion of the referee a DOGSO has occurred, then the following shall apply:

1. The defender, in attempting to get in a position to block, stumbles and accidentally fouls the attacker, still denying a GSO. In this case, a penalty will be awarded, with no further sanction.
2. The defender makes a genuine attempt to cover the attacker or even play the ball but still commits the foul. In this instance, a penalty would be awarded and a blue card will be shown. The defender makes no attempt to play the ball and commits a clear foul. (Tackle from behind/shirt pull/kicks the attacker/running to effect a tackle). In this case, a penalty and a red card would be shown.

Certain criteria should be considered by the referee before the awarding of a penalty kick for a DOGSO offence:

Defenders: Not counting the player committing the foul, there is at most one defender between the foul and the goal. That other defender is generally the goalkeeper. The keeper committing a foul can be sent off for this offense as well.

Distance to the ball: The attacker must be close enough to the ball to continue playing it at the time of the foul.

Distance to the goal: The attacker must be close enough to the goal to have a legitimate chance to score. So being near the opponent's penalty area is more likely to be an obvious goal-scoring opportunity than the attacker being in his/her team's defensive half of the field.

Direction: The attacker must be moving toward the opponent's goal at the time of the foul, not toward a corner flag or away from the goal.

Penalty Kick

The player taking the penalty kick may have a one (1) metre approach to the ball before taking a penalty kick. The referee will indicate the one metre mark. The player taking the penalty must not, at any stage during the process of taking the kick, be more than one metre from the ball.

Outcome of the penalty kick

Kicker steps back behind the one metre mark - no goal and an indirect free kick to the opposition.

The Kick In

No rolls ins allowed.

The Corner Kick

A goal may NOT be scored directly from a corner kick.

Player Eligibility

Team Members

Only players registered for any particular team can be played in league and cup fixtures on that day. On no account can players swap teams during a competition session, once they have registered on the day.

If teams are short of players and borrow players from other teams, they must be registered before the competition starts and will only be allowed to play for that team.

Teams & Players

Within each age category, no player can play for more than one team in any given month.

Player Age Allowances

Ladies 50+ can play in the over 60s, 65s and 70s leagues. Male goalkeepers 60+ can play in the over 65s league. Male goalkeepers 65+ can play in the over 70s league.

Failure To Fulfil Fixtures

In the event that a team fails to fulfil their fixtures, the opposition will be awarded a 1-0 win.