

England Korfball League (EKL)
SEASON 2015/16
Updated: October 2015



GENERAL

1 Terms of Reference

England Korfball have exclusive naming right of the England Korfball national league; this league shall be known as the 'England Korfball League' or 'EKL' or referred to as the National League. In no way shall this name be tarnished or alternate products be advertised at any event or related event sponsored by England Korfball (including the EKL play offs), without prior approval of the EKA. The same applies for the England Korfball logo and all associated promotional material. Any such incident which is reported against a member club could result in Disciplinary action being taken.

All rights and properties received as a member club of the National League, remain the property of the EKA and not the member club unless otherwise specified. Any damage or loss will result in the EKA charging the club in question the amount of monies to replace the product or bring it up to its previous standard. By virtue of playing in the National League, clubs must abide by the league rules and thus consent to all the terms and conditions laid out in this document.

The National League consists of the EKL Premier Division and the EKL Promotion Divisions (South & East Zone and North & West Zone). Approved Regional Leagues (SERL, WRL, CERL and LRL) shall be the feeder leagues to the National League. Approved Local Leagues shall be feeder leagues to the Regional Leagues.

The EKA Competitions Sub-Committee shall administer the National League. The Administration of Regional and Local Leagues will be the responsibility of the respective Area Associations.

The Rules of the Competition, as stated herein, shall apply only to the National League.

The EKA Competitions Sub-Committee (hereafter referred to as the "Committee") shall consist of members invited by the National Executive Committee plus the EKA Executive Officer for Competitions as Chairman, and the National League Coordinator.

2 The National League Coordinator shall conduct the day-to-day administration of the National League and all correspondence must be addressed to him/her.

3 All decisions made by the Committee shall be binding, subject to any appeal to the EKA National Executive Committee as per rule 4.

4 Any appeal against a decision of the Committee must be made to the EKA Administrator in writing within seven days of its notification to the club(s) concerned. A deposit at the rate set out in the EKA Disciplinary and Appeals Policy and Procedure (and in the Appendix to these Rules) must accompany such an appeal. Under that Policy, in the event of the appeal being disallowed, this deposit may be forfeited and all reasonable expenses incurred in the hearing will be payable by the club losing the appeal. An Appeals Panel shall be appointed in accordance with the EKA Policy concerning appeals.

5 All trophies will remain the property of the EKA and clubs are liable for the cost of repair or replacement should a trophy be lost or damaged whilst in their charge. Unless specifically stated, no trophy may be won outright. All trophies must be returned to the Committee by January 31st of the year after they have been awarded. Failure to return a trophy by January 31st may lead to a fine as set out in the appendix.

6 Unless told otherwise, all monies due to the EKA must be paid to the EKA Finance Officer.

- 7 All matches shall be played according to the Rules of the Game as laid down by the IKF including any experiments with the rules approved by the IKF and the Committee. With respect to the options allowed in the playing rules, the following shall apply to matches in the regular season:

Substitutions – up to eight substitutions per team shall be allowed without the referee's permission and substituted players may return to the game. A player cannot return to the game in the other division at the same time as leaving a division. He/she can only return to the match at the next break in play.

Time out - two time outs per team are allowed

Starting the match - the home team chooses ends, lines up first and starts the first half

Length of match - 2 x 30 minutes plus up to 5 minutes half time

In the play-offs, different conditions may apply with regards to all or any of the above and will be announced with the schedule for those matches.

- 8 Clubs must comply with the conditions laid down in the Appendix concerning youth players and development. Youth players are defined as players under the age of 18 on the day of the fixture.

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

9 Entry

- 9.1 Clubs will be invited to enter the National League and will complete an official entry form and pay their entry fees by the date set by the Committee.
- 9.2 The entry fees for each team will be set by the Committee. Late entries may be accepted by the Committee but may be liable to a surcharge of 50%.
- 9.3 Invitations will be restricted to a maximum of ONE team from any one club.
- 9.4 All clubs in the EKL Premier Division must maintain at least two other independent teams in either their Regional League or their Area Association's Adult League competitions, at least one of which must be in the Area Association's Adult League. All clubs in the EKL Promotion Divisions must maintain at least one other independent team in their Area Association's Adult League. Failure to comply with this may lead to a club not being invited to enter a team in the National League in the following season.
- 9.5 Clubs will be sent National League fixtures before the start of the season and will then be requested to complete and return home information sheets detailing the start time of home matches and the venues by the date specified by the Committee. Failure to meet the requested deadline may result in a fine.
- 9.6 To facilitate fixture setting and refereeing appointments, clubs entering the National League may be allocated time slots for their home matches.
- 9.7 All clubs in the EKL Premier Division will pay a returnable bond to the EKA of an amount set by the Committee in respect of their refereeing responsibilities as set out in the Appendix.

10 Ranking

- 10.1 Ranking positions in the National League shall be decided on points awarded according to the results of matches played:-2 points will be awarded for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. The EKL Premier Division will be played on a home/away league format followed by playoffs to decide the Champions. The EKL Promotion Divisions will be played on a home/away league format followed by playoffs to decide who will play in the EKL Premier Division the following season.
- 10.2 If any game is forfeited, or awarded, to the opponents, then a score of 10-0 will be recorded.
- 10.3 In the case when two teams finish with equal points the ranking positions shall be determined by the goal difference in the games between the teams with equal points. If this does not rank the teams then the overall league goal difference shall be used, followed, if necessary, by the number of goals scored. If the teams still cannot be separated a coin toss will decide the eventual placing. The 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 that have been forfeited or awarded to their opponents.
- 10.4 If three teams finish equal on points – the ranking shall be determined by applying the conditions below in order. If at any time whilst applying these conditions one team can be ranked but the other two teams are still equal, then the condition above for ranking two equal teams shall be used.
1. A new ranking table based on the matches between the equal teams shall be drawn up. Points scored, and then, if equal, goal difference according to the new table shall be used.

2. If after applying the goal difference in the prescribed matches above the three teams are still equal, then the same prescribed matches shall be used with goals scored instead of goal difference being used.
 3. If teams can still not be ranked then overall goal difference in the whole league shall be used.
- 10.5 If four or more teams finish equal on points – similar principles shall be used and in the same order as for three teams. If at any stage one team is ranked but the others are still equal then the next stage is used until either: - all of the teams are ranked or two teams remain, in which case the condition for two teams shall be used.
- 10.6 At the end of the home/ away league format, the top 4 ranked teams in the EKL Premier Division will take part in semi-finals and finals to determine the overall National League Champions. The top 2 ranked teams in each EKL Promotion Division together with the 7th placed team in the Premier Division will take part in playoffs to determine who will play in the EKL Premier Division in the next season.
- 11 Promotion and relegation**
- 11.1 This will take place at the end of each season using the format as indicated in the Appendix.
- 11.2 If promotion/relegation and final ranking positions are not determined in accordance with the provisions of rule 10 then the Committee shall decide how the matter is to be resolved.

FIXTURES

12 Match Conditions

- 12.1 When booking hall time for a fixture the home club shall ensure that the start and end times are reasonable when taking into consideration the anticipated travelling time of their opponents. For matches which involve travel of more than 100 miles each way, they should be scheduled to start between 12 noon and 4pm, unless both teams and the Committee agree otherwise. The Committee reserves the right to order a start time to be changed if they consider the timing of the match to be unreasonable. Matches are normally played on a Sunday, but may be played on an alternative day of the week if agreed between both teams and the Committee.
- 12.2 If the approved venue or the start time is different from that first published at the start of the season, the home team must confirm the new approved venue and/or start time with the opposing team at least two weeks before the fixture. Any changes within 2 weeks of the fixture, will result in an administration fee of £20 becoming payable by the offending team. Changes prior to 2 weeks before the fixture may also incur an administration fee, subject to the circumstances.
- 12.3 The home team **MUST** gain confirmation from the appointed referee that they are a) able to undertake the commitment, and b) are aware of the start time and venue. This confirmation must be gained no later than 3 x 24 hours before each fixture. If the confirmation is not requested from the appointed referee and results in the appointed referee not refereeing the match, the home team will be fined as set out in the Appendix.
- 12.4 At multi-game venues, a Local League, Regional League or National league match starting late may not be extended into the time allocated to a subsequent National League match, unless the hall time can be extended.
- 12.5 If a match does not start within five minutes of the scheduled throw-off time, the team responsible for the late start may be ordered to forfeit the match and/or have a fine imposed, at the discretion of the Committee.
- 12.6 The National League shall take place during such period as set out in the EKA centralised calendar. Playoffs and other such matches may take place outside these dates. No fixture will be scheduled over the Easter weekend or Christmas/New Year holiday period. Should circumstances prevent the completion of the National League within this period, the Committee may order matches to be played outside of the stated period.
- 12.7 Matches should also comply with the conditions set out in Conditions of Play 1 and 2 in the Appendix.

13 Postponements

- 13.1 Any team with two or more players involved in an international match or match series approved by the EKA Internationals Committee as officially selected players, officially appointed referees, coaches or officials, on the same weekend as a scheduled fixture is entitled to apply to have their team's fixture postponed.

- 13.2 An application for postponement under 13.1 must be done as soon as it is known that such players, are known to be involved and certainly no later than 14 days before the event concerned.
- 13.3 Once the definitive fixture list is published, except as provided for here, in rule 13.1 and 13.2 above, due to rule 30, or due to dangerous weather conditions affecting travel to a venue, no club may postpone a fixture. In exceptional circumstances a team may apply to the Committee for a postponement provided at least 14 days' notice is given. If a postponement is granted then an administration fee of £20 shall be payable by the applying team and this team shall also pay any irretrievable hall costs of the opponents.
- 13.4 For any granted postponement, the Committee shall advise both teams of the date by which the postponed match must be played (normally within 28 days but the Committee reserves the right to shorten or lengthen this period should circumstances warrant it). Clubs shall then have 14 days to mutually agree a revised date for the fixture. As a start towards mutually agreeing a date, the home team shall give the away team two alternative dates during this set period when they would be able to re-arrange the postponed match and the away team shall then mutually agree one of these dates as the date for the re-arranged game. Both teams shall then advise the Committee of the new date. If the Committee is not advised of the re-arranged date within 14 days of the postponement being granted then it may impose a date on both teams.
- 13.5 In order to facilitate fixture completion, the Committee shall have the power to state when and where a game will be played.

14 Unfulfilled matches

- 14.1 If a club fails to field a team it may forfeit the match. If both clubs are at fault, the fixture may be declared void and no points awarded. Offending teams may also be liable to a fine as set out in the Appendix.
- 14.2 Clubs causing a fixture to be unfulfilled on the published date shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the opposition; these shall include irrecoverable hall costs, referee's fees and expenses (if the referee attended the hall) and reasonable, accountable travelling expenses or telephone calls. Claims must be made in writing within 10 days of the fixture and shall be determined by the Committee. The guilty club shall pay the innocent club any agreed sum within 14 days of the claim being determined by the Committee. If the Committee has to get involved to get the claim paid, an administration charge may be payable by the guilty club.
- 14.3 If the referee abandons a match the reason for the abandonment shall be reported to the Committee by the referee within 48 hours. After consideration of the report, the Committee may take any action that they consider appropriate including, in cases of misconduct, referring the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.

15 Withdrawal from the League or playoffs

- 15.1 In the event of a team withdrawing from the National League, all fees paid, or due to be paid, by that team shall be forfeited. If less than 75% of the team's scheduled fixtures have been completed at the time of withdrawal, all results of these matches will be declared void and shall be deleted from the records. If 75% or more of the scheduled fixtures have been completed, then the remaining fixtures will be forfeited to the opponents.
- 15.2 In the event of a team withdrawing from the EKL Premier Division after 31st March for the next season, the bond as set out in Rule 9.7 will not be returned. The team will also be liable to pay the league fees for the next season. For how the team will be replaced see the appendix.
- 15.3 If a team from an EKL Promotion Division gains a place in the playoffs and withdraws before the event, the team will be liable to pay any fees or costs of competing in the playoffs. For how the team will be replaced see the appendix.
- 15.4 For any withdrawal of a team from the EKL Premier Division after the playoffs for the next season, the team will be liable to pay the league fee for the next season. See the appendix for how the withdrawing team will be replaced.
- 15.5 Any team withdrawing under Clause 15 will also be reported to the EKA Disciplinary Committee for further action. (This may include a fine and/or a ban from competing in a Division of the National League for a set number of years in the future).

16 Colours

- 16.1 Clubs must specify the colour of their playing kit to the National League Coordinator at the beginning of the season. Clubs will then be notified of all clubs home team colours.
- 16.2 Where two teams play in similar colours, the away team shall change in all National League

- fixtures. If the away team does not provide an alternative colour, they will be fined as set out in the Appendix.
- 16.3 In play-off matches the Committee shall decide which team is designated as "away".
- 16.4 If the home team wishes to play in an alternative kit to that specified at the beginning of the season, they must inform the away team at least 7 days before the fixture is due to take place.

COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

17 Match Form

- 17.1 The captain of each team shall be responsible for furnishing a full list of his/her team's starting players on the official match form. Only those players named on the match form may start the game. For EKL Premier Division matches, the match form must also show one male and one female substitute players. Any other substitutes used should only be added to the form if they participated in the match and their entry on the pitch side list shall be checked after the match by the referee.
- 17.2 The match form shall show the players, substitutes, coach and assistant coach plus the name of the match officials – referee, shot clock operator, etc. and shall be made available for verification by the referee at least 15 minutes prior to the game. (see also rule 29.2)
- 17.3 For EKL Premier Division matches, the substitute players as listed in advance on the match form have to be changed into playing kit and be fit and available to play at the start of the match. These players must be visible, i.e. in the bench area, and not performing another role e.g. score board operator, shot clock operator.
- 17.4 Failure to comply with the above match form rules could lead to a fine as set out in the appendix.

18 Team Composition for Play-offs

- 18.1 Each team squad must consist of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 players of each gender (i.e. squads of a minimum of 12 and maximum of 16 players)

19 Short teams

No team may intentionally play short. A higher team must always take priority over a lower team playing in a Regional or Local League. Teams failing to field a full team shall be liable to a fine, as set out in the Appendix, for each and every player short. Any club failing to field a full team must notify the reasons for the failure to the National League Coordinator within 7 days. The Committee may take further action against the club, if deemed necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS FOR PLAY OFF MATCHES

20 Eligibility

- 20.1 For any play-off match a player must have been registered for the club before 31st January in the current season and have been in the starting line-up in at least four of the club's National League, Regional League or Local League matches in the current or preceding season.
- 20.2 The names of players in the squad for the playoff match must be submitted to the National League Coordinator at least 14 days before the match is due to take place to enable their eligibility to be checked. Due note to rule 18.1 should be made.

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS

21 Registration Requirements

- 21.1 Any player wishing to take part in the National League must be registered with that club on FixturesLive in accordance with the EKA Rules and Constitution 48 hours before the first fixture in which he/she intends to take part. The date of the registration shall be the date that the registration is approved by EKA Registrations Administrator.
- 21.2 Each player must be registered and approved by the EKA Registrations Administrator. Once approved the team manager must retain a copy of each of their teams members (on the pitch side list). This must be available for inspection by the referee prior to each game. (See rule 17.2).
- 21.3 Players under the age of 18 on the day of the fixture shall not take part in the National League without fulfilling the underage requirements as set out in the appendix and the necessary documentation being sent to the National League Coordinator at least 14 days in advance.

22 Transfers

- 22.1 Once registered, a player may not play for any other club in the National League in the current season until the Committee has approved his/her transfer of registration. A player will be eligible to play for his/her new club immediately after the transfer has been approved.

- 22.2 Any transfer must be made in accordance with the EKA Rules and Constitution including , if required, the payment of a transfer fee, if the transfer is after 1st October.
- 22.3 After 31st January, a player who transfers to another club may only play for that club's National League side, if the circumstances are exceptional (e.g. the player has moved house / job by more than 100 miles) or they have not played for any other club in the current season. The new club must apply to the National League Coordinator for permission to play the transferred player.
- 22.4 A player who, in the current or previous season, was a registered member of another club must have written authorisation from the club concerned, to transfer their registration to the new club. If the club was in a different National Association, that National Association must be given the opportunity to object. To avoid misunderstandings, a copy of all correspondence must be forwarded to the EKA Registrations Officer.

23 **Unregistered or ineligible players**

- 23.1 Where a club plays a player when he/she is not registered for that club or is not eligible to play then that club shall be fined and may be ordered to forfeit the game(s) concerned.
- 23.2 In the case of a club playing a player who has, in the same season, played for a different club in the National League without being transferred, or who is ineligible under rule 21 to play in the promotion play-offs, the offending team shall automatically forfeit the match and a fine may also be imposed.

REPORTS

24 **Forms**

- 24.1 All details on the match form must be completed before the form is signed by the referee. It is the duty of the referee to ensure that the entered score on each form is the same.
- 24.2 If required, each club shall complete the form reporting on the referee via the EKA website within 3 days of the match.

25 **Reporting results**

- 25.1 By 6 p.m. on the day of the match (or immediately afterwards for matches ending after this time) both clubs shall ensure that the result of the match is entered correctly on the EKA website. This can be either done via the FixturesLive SMS service(EKL Premier Division only) or directly into FixturesLive. If the result is entered incorrectly by one team, the other team must inform the National League Coordinator by text, immediately. Failure to do so will render the club liable to a fine.
- 25.2 Each club must, within 2 days of the match, enter the names of the all participating players (including substitutes), all goals by type and time of the substitution on the EKA website. Any cards received must also be input. Failure to do so will render the club liable to a fine.
- 25.2 If a match is not played both clubs must inform the National League Coordinator explaining the circumstances.

26 **Falsification**

Any falsification of a Match Report Form may render the club concerned liable to be fined at the rate set out in the Appendix.

REFEREES

27 **Appointments**

- 27.1 Referees will be appointed in conjunction with the EKA Referees Committee.
- 27.2 Where possible, appointments will be made to individual Grade 1a referees in EKL Premier Division.
- 27.3 If for any reason the number of referees available for appointment from the list of Grade 1a or 1b or R level, referees held by the EKA Referees Committee is limited (for example due to clashes of match times or an excessive demand for referees from other competitions or other individual causes of unavailability), in such exceptional circumstances the EKA Referees Committee shall have the power not to appoint a referee by name but instead to devolve the appointment of a referee for a particular match to a neutral club who shall then be required to supply a fully qualified referee to the match in question.
- 27.4 Clubs in the EKL Premier Division must adhere to the requirements regarding qualified referees set out in the Appendix. Clubs in the EKL Promotion Divisions must have at least 2 fully qualified referees within one season of being invited to participate, i.e. by 15th May.

28 Fees

- 28.1 The home team shall pay the referee the prescribed fee, as set out in the Appendix, prior to the game (in cash if the referee so desires). Failure to pay the referee on time may result in a fine being imposed as set out in the Appendix.
- 28.2 By completion of the appropriate form, referees may claim any excess travelling expenses or meal allowances from the EKA. The rates for these are set out in the Appendix.
- 28.3 If assistant referees are appointed for play-offs or in other matches the EKA Referees Committee feels necessary to make an appointment, then their fees shall be paid by the EKA. In all other cases there will be no official fee unless the appointment is requested by one of the competing teams, in which case they will be responsible for payment.

29 Other Referee Requirements

- 29.1 All referees must make themselves available for at least twenty minutes before, and ten minutes after the end of, each match to comply with the completion of the match form.
- 29.2 The referee is required to check the home team's shot clock operator is entered on the match report form correctly.
- 29.3 Referees are required, within 1 day of the match, to forward both teams' official match forms for all National League matches, together with details of any misconduct occurring during or immediately after the match, to the EKA Competitions Secretary. Cards must also be reported to the EKA Disciplinary Committee Coordinator.
- 29.4 Within 3 days the referee shall also complete his/her referee's report form .

30 Non-appearance

In the event of the non-appearance of the appointed referee, a substitute referee should be found, if possible, but if this cannot be done then the match shall be postponed. If the appointed referee had not been properly confirmed by the home team, the home team shall pay the expenses of rearranging the match, including the reasonable travel expenses of the away team.

MISCONDUCT

- 31 In all cases where the referee either
- (a) sends from the playing area a player, coach, substitute or other person attached to the team (red card)
 - or (b) formally warns a player, coach, substitute or other person attached to the team (yellow card)
 - or (c) formally warns the captain as to his team's behaviour
 - or (d) is aware of misconduct by spectators then he/she is required to submit, within 3 days of the match, a full report of the incident(s) to the EKA Disciplinary Coordinator where it will be dealt with using the EKA Disciplinary Regulations. The referee shall also note on the match form, using the code specifying the offence, that he/she has given a red or yellow card. With respect to misconduct where a yellow/red card was not shown, the referee is obliged to inform the club concerned that the alleged misconduct is being reported.

PROTESTS - APPEALS POLICY

- 32 The referee must be advised by the team captain, immediately after the match concerned, of the intention to protest. Notice of such protest must be made on both of the official match form by the captain adding the words "UNDER PROTEST" next to the result and by the referee also reporting the fact. The Club Secretary (or Match Secretary) must follow up the protest by informing the EKA Competitions Secretary, in writing, of the reasons for signing the match form in such a way within 7 days of the match concerned. A fee, as set out in the Appendix must accompany the protest. Failure to follow up such a noting of the match form shall be considered to be misconduct and may lead to a fine being imposed.
- 33 No protest against the hall, equipment or late starting will be entertained unless the referee is told before the game and the official match form is suitably endorsed.
- 34 Any appeals against decisions of the Committee concerning protests must be made in accordance with rule 4 and the EKA's Disciplinary and Appeals Policy and Procedure.

FINES

- 35 The Committee shall have the power to fine clubs to the maximum rates set out in the Appendix for the breach of any part of these competition rules. If these are not deemed to be sufficient, the National Executive Committee may be asked to approve an adequate penalty.
- 36 All fines due to the EKA must be paid within 14 days of their imposition. Failure to do so may mean that the fine is doubled and further action (including suspension) may be taken.
- 37 For any breach of these National League rules, offending clubs will be fined at the Committee's discretion, unless specifically stated otherwise, and the Committee shall be empowered to take such further action as is considered justified.

CONTINGENCIES

- 38 The 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.

APPENDICIES

CHARGES AND FINES APPLICABLE TO CLUBS

- Rule 1 Fine will be decided by the Committee up to the maximum penalty of £500 and/or expulsion from the National League
- Rule 4 Deposit £25
- Rule 5 Failure to return trophy on time = £30 per trophy
- Rule 12.3 £25 for first offence. Forfeit the match thereafter.
- Rule 14.1 Failure to field a team = £50
- Rule 16.2 Not changing kit = £25
- Rule 17.4 Match Forms' rule infringements = up to £25
No pitch side list /"registration card" available = £2 per player
- Rule 17.3 Failure to provide at least one male and one female substitute in a match will result in a £10 fine per player for the first offence, £25 per player per offence thereafter and the possibility of a points deduction.
- Rule 18.1 Failure to provide a minimum squad size in play-off matches will result in a £10 per player short per day
- Rule 19 Team playing short = up to £25 per player
- Rule 20/21/22/23 Not registered / ineligible = up to £50 per player
- Rule 21.3 Playing under age player without permission up to £50 per player
- Rule 25 First offence = £5. Thereafter = £10
- Rule 26 Falsification of match form = £50
- Rule 28.1 Failure to pay referee on time = £10. This may be increased if the referee is eligible for an additional fee under Rule 28.2
- Rule 28.1 Fees shall be £30.
- Rule 28.2 See EKA Referees' subcommittee notes on travel expenses. An additional fee of £20 may be claimed for travel of over 300 miles round trip by car or 2h30 one way by public transport.
- Rule 32 £10
- Rule 35 Maximum fine allowed to be imposed by the Committee without reference to the EKA Board = £50

UNDER AGE PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

Players under the age of 18 on the day of a match may not play in a National League match unless they have attained age 14 and played in at least six area league matches before such a player plays in their first National League match. Evidence of the six matches played must be provided to the National League Coordinator as evidenced by FixturesLive.

FORMAT FOR SEASON 2015/16

The EKL Premier Division shall be played as a single league of eight teams. The league will consist of two parts, the regular season which consists of 14 home and away. After the regular season the top four teams will take part in semi-finals and finals to decide the overall Champion. Positions will be decided according to the National League rule 10.

The EKL Promotion Divisions shall be played as two leagues of four teams in the regular season. The process for promotion from these Divisions is set out below.

PROMOTION/RELEGATION ARRANGEMENTS

At the end of the season, the 6 highest ranked teams in the EKL Premier Division will be automatically invited to re-join the EKL Premier Division for the following season, upon the receipt of their bond, if required, and UNLESS their Area Association fails to endorse their entry.

Subject to the conditions of withdrawals and vacancies mentioned below, the 8th placed team will be relegated to their relevant Regional League and invited to play in the relevant EKL Promotion Division in the following season. The 7th placed team will enter the National League playoffs.

The National League playoffs will consist of 5 teams including:

- The 7th placed team from the EKL Premier Division
- The 1st and 2nd placed teams from each of the EKL Promotion Divisions (South & East Zone and North & West Zone)

The top two teams from the National League playoffs will be invited to take part in the EKL Premier Division for the following season. If the 7th placed team from the EKL Premier Division is not in the top two teams in the National League playoffs, the 7th placed team will be relegated to their relevant Regional League and invited to play in their relevant EKL Promotion Division in the following season.

Team(s) relegated from the EKL Premier Division will be classed as the top ranked eligible team(s) from their relevant Regional League for participation in the EKL Promotion Divisions in the following season.

The top two ranked eligible teams that have been endorsed by their Area Association from each of the following Regional Leagues will be invited to play in the EKL Promotion Divisions in the following season: - South East Regional League (SERL) and London Regional League (LRL) (South & East Zone Promotional Division) - Western Regional League (WRL) and Central England Regional League (CERL) (North and West Zone Promotional Division). Teams invited to play in the Promo Divisions will be asked to confirm their participation in the playoffs and EKL Premier Division in the following season, if successful.

In the event that two teams are relegated from the EKL Premier Division into the same Regional League, and are therefore classed as the top two ranked eligible teams from that Regional League, the 3rd ranked eligible team may also be invited to play in the relevant EKL Promotion Division the following season.

If a team who is invited to take part in one of the EKL Promotion Divisions declines the invitation, their place may be offered to the next ranked eligible team from their own Regional League, or the next ranked eligible team from the other area participating in that EKL Promotion Division.

The Committee shall make any decisions required, should the above arrangements fail to decide the qualifying teams for the following season's National League.

LEVEL SCORES IN PLAY-OFFS OR FINALS

If the aggregate scores are level at the end of normal time then golden goal extra time will be played. This shall operate as follows:

1. After a break of three minutes the teams line up as they were for the end of the match, but including any substitutions that have been made during the break between normal time and extra time.
2. A toss shall be made and the winners shall start the extra time period with a throw off from the centre of the field and shall be referred to below as the home team.
3. If the home team scores in their first attack (i.e. with the away team not having had a possibility to attack) then the away team shall have an opportunity to attack and score. Their attack is deemed to be over when a player from the home team, standing in his/her attack zone has possession of the ball. In this case the requirement that both teams have had an opportunity to attack has been met with the home team declared the winners. If the home team does not score with their first attack then the first team to score is the winner.
4. If the home team scores during their first attack and this is matched by the away team scoring in their first attack following the home team's score, then the game continues with the teams changing ends and the home team restarting the match. The provisions set out in 3 above apply and the game will continue in the same way until a winner is achieved or the allocated time (ten minutes) elapses. However, if at the end of the ten-minute period the away team is attacking, with each team having scored in their first attack after every re-start, then they must be allowed to complete their attack (see iii when their attack is deemed over).
5. If after ten minutes there is no winning score then penalties will be taken as set out below.
To decide a game by penalties the 8 players who were taking part in the match at the end of the extra time period shall take a penalty alternately, with the starting team decided by a toss. The team scoring the most goals will be declared the winner. Should the scores still be level after these players have taken a penalty, then 'sudden death' shall apply with penalties taken by the same members of the teams who took the first series and in the same order until each team has taken the same number of penalties and one team has scored more than the other. If a winner has been determined before the series of penalties has been completed then the remaining penalties need not be taken.

REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET TO TAKE PART IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

The following endorsement must be given by the endorsing area, by the 31st January prior to the playoffs For eligible clubs to participate in the National League the following season:-

- (1) The Area adopts the National League results and registration rules for all clubs in their area, including inputting team lists and scorers on FixturesLive in Regional and Area leagues and fully registering all players participating in those leagues.
- (2) Approval of the eligible club received by the EKA from the Area Association, including comments on
 - (a) ability of the club to meet minimum venue standards the following season
 - (b) the club maintaining at least one other independent senior team competing in a Local League for participating in the EKL Promotion Divisions. For participation in the EKL Premier Division, the club must maintain two other independent senior teams in the Regional and Local Leagues. If an approved Area does not have sufficient teams to form an area Local League, then any team from that area participating in the National League would be expected to have sufficient teams to participate in an adjoining area Local League.
- (3) The criteria an Area uses to fulfil the requirement that each club must take an active role in the Development in their Area Association.

Clubs who do not have their Area Association's endorsement will not be accepted into the National League. Any club who fails to gain their Area Associations' endorsement, may appeal this decision using the EKA Appeals Procedure.

FILLING EKL PREMIER DIVISION VACANCIES

1 Before playoffs weekend

If a team finishing higher than 8th in the EKL Premier Division withdraws from the EKL Premier Division before the playoffs weekend then the 8th ranked team shall not be relegated but shall participate in the playoffs instead of the 7th ranked team. This will mean that 6 teams shall retain their place for the following season and two teams will participate in the EKL Premier Division via the playoffs.

2 After playoffs weekend

A) Following a withdrawal from the EKL Premier Division after the playoffs weekend by a team finishing higher than 8th in the EKL Premier Division, the order of invitation should be as follows:

- 1) The team finishing 7th in the EKL Premier Division if they did not retain their place via the playoffs
- 2) The team finishing 8th in the EKL Premier Division if the 7th finishing team did retain their place via the playoffs
- 3) The team finishing 3rd in the playoffs if the 8th finishing team in the EKL Premier Division did not exist anymore

B) Following a withdrawal by a team gaining promotion to the EKL Premier Division by finishing 1st or 2nd in the playoffs, the order of invitation shall be as follows:-

- 1) The team finishing 7th in the EKL Premier Division if they did not retain their place via the playoffs
- 2) The team finishing 3rd in the playoffs
- 3) The team finishing 8th in the EKL Premier Division if the 3rd finishing team in the playoffs did not exist anymore

3 Once the season has started

If a vacancy occurs after the start of the season then the position will not be filled and rule 15.1 shall apply.

FILLING PLAYOFF VACANCIES

If a team from an EKL Promotion Division gains a place in the playoffs but withdraws from the playoffs, the order of invitation shall be as follows:-

- 1) the 3rd placed team from the relevant EKL Promotion Division
- 2) The 3rd placed team from the other EKL Promotion Division

The Committee shall have the power to make any decisions required, should the above arrangements fail to decide the qualifying teams for the following season's National League.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY 1

- 1 The playing area must meet the standards stipulated in EKA venue standards. Where this isn't possible, dispensation may be sought in writing to the Committee. The Committee must sanction dispensation for a sports hall before it may be used.
- 2 Matches shall be 2 x 30 minutes duration with 5 minutes break for half time. Warm up time of at least 15 minutes must be provided on the playing area before each match, unless both teams agree to a shorter period
- 3 The home team shall be responsible for paying the hall hire charges but visiting teams shall pay their own hall entry fees where these exist. Changing rooms with showers should be provided for every fixture. The only exception shall be centrally organised multi game venues.
- 4 All players shall wear matching kit, including tops and bottoms, with numbered shirts and each captain shall wear an armband. Female players must all wear skirts or all wear shorts.
- 5 A proper scoreboard, preferably with a time clock, must be provided by the home team for each match and be placed in a position where it can be seen by both teams and the majority of spectators. The home team is responsible for keeping the scoreboard correctly updated.
- 6 Shot clocks must be provided in accordance with the rules of korfbal by the home team. 7 The home team is required to provide a trained and accredited shot clock operator. The appointed person is required to meet the referee prior to the game and ensure that his/her name is entered by the referee onto the match form. A shot clock operator is not allowed to be a substitute and the same person should act throughout the match except in cases of emergency. If an operator is changed the circumstances have to be reported to the EKA Competition Secretary within 3 days of the match.
- 8 The bench area for each venue will be determined by the referee prior to each match. Only substitutes, the coach, assistant coach and bona fide club officials may be in the bench area. There should be a clear space between the bench area and spectators. The coach must remain in the bench area except as laid down in clause 2.2 b of the playing rules. Our competition rules allow the coach to leave his place on the bench temporarily, for a short period of time, in order to give instructions to his team's players. This must be done from the same side of the field as his team's bench whilst remaining outside the field of play. An assistant coach may be designated in accordance with clause 2.2 b of the playing rules. An assistant coach may NOT leave the bench area unless he changes role and becomes the coach.
- 9 Communication Equipment, e.g. walkie-talkie, mobile phone, Wi-Fi, etc., may not be used in the bench area.

CONDITIONS OF PLAY 2

- 1.1 Balls
Only the Mikasa K5-IKF Ball may be used in the National League.
- 2.1 Banner
When provided, each National League club must display their National League banner, making it fully visible to players, spectators and officials at every National League game. This responsibility lies with the home side. In situations where two teams share a venue, it is expected that the home team has responsibility for presenting the banner - however the two teams can co-ordinate between themselves to ensure the banner is available. Failure to display the banner will result in the home team being fined.
- 3.1 Stickers
When provided, each National League club will display two stickers, which are to be displayed on the competitions posts and fully visible to players, spectators and officials at every National League. In situations where two teams share a venue, it is expected that the home team has responsibility for displaying the stickers
- however the two teams can co-ordinate between themselves to ensure the stickers are visible on the posts. Failure to display the stickers may result in the home team being fined.
- 4.1 Referee Attire
All referees shall exclusively wear the approved National League referee attire. They should not wear any other attire.
- 5.1 Post Match Data
Match results must be submitted through FixturesLive within the time stated in the current National League rules. However, in addition the following match stats must also be completed within 48 hours of

the game finishing.

1. Scores and goals by type
2. Starting line-up/One male and one female reserve(Premier Division only)/Substitutions
3. Cards Awarded
4. Match Officials

5.2 Paper based match forms

All National League match forms must be completed and submitted in the same fashion as the current National League rules state.

6.1 Player Registration

All players playing in the National League must be registered with the EKA in accordance with the EKA registration regulations. Any players not registered will not be eligible to play in the National League.

An underage player form is also required to be sent to the EKA Registrations Administrator in order to register an under-age player as an adult player. Approvals will be made by the EKA Registrations Administrator. You will be expected to print off and show your team's approved list to the National League referee.

7.1 National League Website (part of the EKA Website) and associated material

All National League clubs must submit a squad photo (or arrange to have one taken) meeting required standards within one month of an official request made by the National League Co-ordinator or an EKA Executive Committee member. This photo will be used for the purpose of promoting both your club and National League. All players must consent to the use of this photo for the purpose it is intended for. The same applies for individual player photos which must be submitted through the online FixturesLive system.

Similarly, National League clubs must respond promptly to other reasonable requests from the National League Co-ordinator or an EKA Executive Committee member, such as the supply of squad names in order to populate the team lists on the National League website within the EKA site.

The National League and EKA reserve all rights, and any trademarks and copyrights for material produced as part of the National League, including match photos, video and other media. In no circumstance must any of these materials be sold or replicated without first gaining approval from the EKA Executive Committee.

8 Shot Clock

8.1 All National League games will be played using the 25 second shot clock.

8.2 Approved Shot Clock

Molten BBSC 25 Second shot clock with two display screens and a central control panel. No other shot clock can be used unless prior agreement has been granted by the EKA Competitions Officer. More information can be found on the Molten website:
<http://www.moltensports.co.uk/shop/accessories/molten-electronic-scoreboards/molten-bb-sc-basketball-shotclocks.aspx>

8.3 Shot Clock Positioning

Shot clocks shall be positioned as laid out by the IKF playing rules. Shot clock shall be placed at a height of 0.90 - 3.50 m in a clearly visible spot outside the playing area and near to the middle of

both end-lines. The clocks should be controlled from the scorer's table.

8.4 Accredited Users

The shot clock should be managed by one certified shot clock operator. The home team shall provide one independent non-playing official to operate the shot clock for the entirety of the game. The away team has the option to provide an observer. The shot clock operator should prove to the match official at the beginning of the game that they are certified; this operator shall remain for the entirety of the game (excluding exceptional circumstances). The home club shall introduce the operator to the referee prior to the game. The operator's name must be inserted into the match report form by the referee.

Each National League club will be provided with a list of their accredited shot clock operators at the start of each season.

8.5 Unforeseeable Circumstances

If, due to unforeseeable circumstances, Clauses 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4 cannot be met, the Committee may decide to waive the stated fines. In cases where the shot clock becomes damaged during the game or power is stopped/cut off the game will continue without the shot clock.

9 Punishments for infringements

9.1 Failure to meet League Requirements

All punishments/fines are subject to being imposed by the EKA Competitions Sub-Committee (EKA CSC) and are subject to appeal in accordance with the EKA Appeals Regulations.

Punishment relating to above clause	Fine	Terms of Fine
Conditions of play 1 1	£50	Playing in a non-approved venue
Conditions of play 1 5	£25	No scoreboard
Conditions of play 2 2.1 3.1	£30 - £100	£30 first violation; £100 subsequent violation
6.1	n/a	Please refer to current league rules, in addition players will not be able to play in the league and clubs unable to compete or docked points from EKL
8.2	£50	£50 fine for failure to provide a shot clock for first violation. Subsequent violation, 2 point deduction
8.4	£20	£20 for failure in providing an accredited shot clock operator

PREMIER DIVISION CLUB'S REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 A referee bond of £100 must be lodged with EKA by the date set by the Committee by each EKL Premier Division club. This bond will be forfeited if the requirements detailed below in 1.2 and/or 1.3 are not met.
- 1.2 New clubs, within one season of being invited to compete in the EKL Premier Division must have a minimum of 4 fully qualified referees. Failure to do so may lead in the club not being invited to the EKL Premier Division the following season and needing to re-qualify for participation, at which time they must have a minimum of 4 fully qualified referees.
- 1.3 All National League clubs must achieve a 7 point target each season
- 1.4 Clubs forfeiting their bond will be required to lodge a new bond for the next season.
- 1.5 After 2 losses of the bond, across any period of time, the amount doubles to £200 and remains at that level until two consecutive seasons of fully meeting the requirement, at which point £100 will be refunded. (A club always meeting their requirement only ever lodges the Bond once - not once each season).
- 1.6 Points are gained by providing fully qualified neutral referees at EKA events, Regional League Division 1 matches and the BSKA finals weekend in a period commencing on the 1st September and ending on the date of National Youth Day.
- 1.7 The number of points required each 'year' may be varied as a result of more/fewer EKA events/competitions.

How clubs can gain the required 7 points

- 2.1 National League Referees Sub Committee (RSC) appointments are worth 1 point but will be 2 points when involving a round trip of over 100 miles.
- 2.2 All other EKA events are worth 1 point per day. However, the referee must have no other role at the event, e.g. player, coach, etc.
- 2.3 Apart from the National League and Play-Offs, the non-National League EKA events include Senior & Junior Inter-Area and National Youth Day
- 2.4 1 point gained from a non-National League RSC appointment would double to 2 where a round trip of over 100 miles was involved.
- 2.5 Where a National League RSC appointment is offered and accepted less than 72 hours before the event then an extra point will also be gained.
- 2.6 Clubs will be awarded 1 point for each time the club provides a fully qualified neutral referee for a Regional League (first division) match
- 2.7 A club adding a new fully qualified referee during the period will gain 1 point.
- 2.8 A club with a referee gaining promotion to a higher level during the period will gain 2 points.
- 2.9 The maximum contribution any one referee can make towards a club's total is 4 points.

Notes on Appointments

- National League appointments will be made on ability, not on the need for points
- At the beginning of the season, or as soon as practical thereafter, clubs will be sent a list of non-

National League EKA events, with their dates and venues and invited to nominate referees for any of these events in order to help gain the required number of points.

- Non-National League appointments will be offered to nominated referees from clubs and then, if declined, the clubs offer fully qualified referees. However, if the appointments are declined on 2 occasions no further attempts may be made to offer appointments.
- In normal circumstances not less than 4 weeks' notice will be given of appointments. If the venue/date/time information is not known to the Referees Committee until less than 4 weeks before the fixture then not less than 7 days' notice will be given wherever possible
- The EKA Referees Committee will periodically update each club's points earned, the future points scheduled and the projected total communicated. It is the responsibility of each National League club to monitor their own progress.