



SOUTH EAST REGIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS OF COMPETITION

2023/24 Season

**Official Regulations
Wheelchair Football Association (WFA)**

www.thewfa.org.uk

South East Regional League **2023/24 Regulations**



Organisation

South East Regional League

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Preamble

The **2023/24 South East Regional League competition** will be run in line with the *2023/24 South East Regional League Regulations* (appendix 1) and will meet the *2023/24 South East Regional League Event Requirements* (Appendix 2).

The **2023/24 South East Regional League competition** format will follow format outlined in (Appendix 3).

All **2023/24 South East Regional League competition** matches will be played according to the current WFA sanctioned ***Laws_of_the_game.pdf*** document. This includes all equipment regulations regarding Powerchairs and playing attachments.

These are available to download from the WFA website (www.thewfa.org.uk).

The **2023/24 South East Regional League competition** will allow the introduction of the new sport specific chairs and introduce the new WFA technical specification requirements for all chairs. Copies will be sent to all clubs.

The **2023/24 South East Regional League competition** will be an **FA RESPECT League**.

All Clubs, Players, Coaches, Team Managers, Club Officials and Supporters must have signed up to the RESPECT Code of Conduct.

Any person found to be in breach of this will be subject to the Sanctions outlined by the FA and enforced by the WFA.

These are available to download from the WFA website (www.thewfa.org.uk)

The Respect Code of Conduct requires players, coaches and officials to show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators. Specifically, players, coaches and officials should not do anything to disrupt matches that are in progress or that seeks to distract others who are taking part in matches during that match. Anyone who causes matches to be disrupted or who seeks to distract others taking part in matches will be subject to sanctions that will be imposed by the LMC and may include suspensions, fines or exclusions from attending league matches played by others.

The **South East Regional League committee**, all affiliated **WFA Powerchair Football Clubs** and their competing teams must ensure these Rules and Regulations are adhered to.

The aim of this competition is to showcase Powerchair Football within the region and provide competitive opportunities for players to gain experience and enjoy playing our sport.

The ethos and credibility of the sport of Powerchair Football must always remain at the forefront of this competition.



2. Finances

2.1 Participating Teams (Clubs)

The following costs shall be borne by the participating teams:

- WFA 2023/24 Affiliation Fee (Any Team that is not part of a Club affiliated to the WFA shall not be granted permission to participate in the League).
- SEPFL League entry fees.
- Any Fines awarded to Teams or Player as outlined in these Regulations.
- Travelling expenses of the team from home to the place where the competition is held.
- All accommodation and food expenses.
- All expenses for additional health and accident insurance. The organiser cannot be held responsible for accidents or illness, unless caused by negligence.
- All unofficial participants are responsible for all their own expenses.

2.2 Organisers

The following costs shall be administered by the [South East](#) Regional League:

- Cost of venue hire.
- Payment of Referees.
- Cost of awards.

Appendix 1

2023/24 South East Regional League Regulations

Club Affiliation

In order for a Club to enter a Team in the South East Regional League, the Club must have affiliated to the WFA for the 2023/24 season. This process ensures the Club has affiliated to their County F.A. and has adequate insurance through the WFA policy.

Team Registration and League Fees

Each Team must have then completed the South East Regional League Registration by **1st October 2023**.

The Entry Fee per Team for the 2023/24 Season will be **£500.00**. An invoice will be sent for full amount which must be received within 30 days of the invoice being sent. Failure to complete payment will result in a suspension and may result in expulsion from the league.

The South East Regional League and the WFA withholds the right to suspend any Team from participation in any League fixtures that fails to comply with these payment deadlines.

Squad Declaration and Player Eligibility

Squad Declaration

Each Team must declare a League Competition Squad. From this squad the Team Management will be able to select a Match squad of minimum of 5 players to compete in each **2023/24 South East Regional League Fixture**.

The squad must be declared and entered onto the official Match Sheet at the start of each league day. This is to ensure the correct players undertake the *Speed Testing Protocol*.

Each Team must declare a definitive League Competition Squad 7 (7) days before the opening round of league fixtures.

Qualification of Players

Player Registration

A Player is one who, being in all other respects eligible, has:

- become a member of The Wheelchair Football Association and completed the online registration process prior to selection for any National League fixture. For more information and to register please visit <https://thewfa.org.uk/members/>
- completed FA Player Registration prior to selection for any National League fixture. For further details please contact your local county FA.

All Players need to have completed the online registration process prior to selection for any South East Regional League fixture. This **MUST** be completed **24 hours** prior to the start of any South East Regional League event.

Any registrations after this time, may not be valid for participation at the event.



A player database will be set up on the FULL-TIME league web site. **Please Note FULL-TIME is open to the public to view. Only player names will be shown on this site. The WFA and FA will only have access to the full database**

Registration Fee

There will be NO FEE for player registrations to the South East Regional League, however there is a £20 player registration fee to the WFA for players that play both nationally and regionally.

Players playing solely at regional league level are required to pay a registration fee to the WFA of £10.

Player Nationality

Teams can register players of any Nationality.

Classification

The 2023/24 South East Regional League fixtures will **not** be enforcing the current FIPFA Classification Rulebook.

Age Limit

There is an open age range for players to be eligible to participate in the South East Regional League.

The minimum age for participants to complete in the South East Powerchair football League is *8 Years Old*. **This should be the players' age on 31st August 2023.**

Dispensation Process

If a club or clubs wish to register a player or players who are under the age of 8 they must apply for dispensation. Details on the application and criteria can be found by contacting the WFA National League secretary.

It is the responsibility of the Club and Team management to ensure adequate steps are taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all players. The safety of all competitors outside the Competition venue is at the responsibility of the Club.

Additional Player Registration/De-Registration

Teams may register a player (given they have not be previously registered for another South East Regional League Team during the 2023/24 Season) at any point during the 2023/24 Season.

De-registration

De-registration shall be deemed to be the same as a Transfer and all rules pertaining to Transfers shall apply.

TRANSFERS

Transfers

Transfers may take place between teams only if all proper protocols have been observed. A transfer form must be completed by both team Secretaries and submitted to the League Secretary.



An administration fee of **£20.00** will be applied for each transfer request. The transfer fee shall be made payable by the players new Team. Payment must be made before the transferred player can play.

Where a player has already registered with another Team in the same league an approach can only be made between the Secretaries of the Member Teams concerned.

- In the event of the approached secretary stating that they require the player and providing the player has taken part in any two (2) of the four (4) previous games then the decision is final.
- Should the player not be playing regularly for his/her team then the South East Regional League has the right to transfer the player upon application being made by the player or by his/her Parent or Guardian.
- The South East Regional League have the right to block any transfers that they feel will be detrimental to the league.

Where Secretaries fail to agree on a transfer, a period of four (4) weeks must elapse from the date of the transferred players last appearance on the team sheet of his/her former team before he/she can be included on the team sheet of his/her new team. It will be at the discretion of the South East Regional League to grant approval for the player to become eligible for selection for his/her new team after this period has elapsed.

No player shall be transferred more than once during a season, although the South East Regional League do reserve the right to waive this rule in special cases.

No more than two players may be transferred from the same Team in the same season, although the South East Regional League do reserve the right to waive this rule in special cases.

Illegal Approach

Teams suspecting an illegal approach to one of their players shall report the incident to WFA with 3 copies of the complaint. Any club appealing against a decision can do so within seven (7) days and a fee of £25 will be required, which will be returned if decision upheld.

Ineligible Players

If a Team is found to have fielded an ineligible player or players during a South East Regional League fixture, they shall have all points deducted for that fixture and the opposition team will be awarded a 3-0 win. The team will be deducted 5 points and will have to pay a **£25** fine.

Player Numbers

All players must display a Squad Number in two (2) places whilst participating in a match.

These numbers must be displayed on:

- Rear of Chair
- Visible position on the shirt (if no visible position on shirt is available then a visible position on front of chair may be used)

All Players Numbers must be in between the range 1 – 99.

The front and rear number must be the same.





○ **Rear Numbers**

Player numbers should be clearly displayed on the rear of the chairs, printed onto a suitable substrate such as a PVC banner material. It is advisory that the banner is a minimum of 400mm square.

Example:

Good practice:

- Minimum name height – 30mm
- Minimum number height – 140mm
- Eyelets for attaching to backs of chairs

Playing Kits

All Teams' must provide both Home and Away playing strips. The away team will change if there is a clash. Home and Away kits must be of contrasting colours. Shirts and sleeves will be considered when assessing a clash

Goalkeeper shirts should contrast to outfield players on both sides and the opposition Goalkeeper. In the case of unavoidable clashes, a bib must be used.

Please contact The WFA for additional guidance on goalkeeper shirt modifications/options if required for ease of applying/removing a goalkeeper shirt to/from a player.

Sponsors Logos and Advertising

Any Sponsorship and advertising logos that may be present on Club or Team clothing, kit, playing equipment or wheelchairs cannot be against the legal requirements of the WFA and cannot be considered offensive by any Club/Team involved.

Any such Logos will have to be removed before participation in any part of the SE regional league.

Powerchair Speed Testing

All Powerchairs will be subject to the **WFA Speed Testing Process – APPENDIX (b)**, prior to their participation in any South East Regional League Event. Any changes can be made to the wheelchair, to enable it to pass this test.

Once it has completed the **WFA Speed Testing Process** it is the responsibility of the player and their Club to ensure no tampering takes place.

The Match Officials may request at half time or at the conclusion of the match, any Powerchair to be retested.

The Match Officials also reserve the right to conduct random Speed Testing to ensure the enforcement of these rules.

Failure of Requested or Random Speed Test

If a player's powerchair fails a Match Officials Requested Speed Test after following the testing process (**Appendix B**), the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team, with a score of 3-0.
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

If a player's powerchair fails a Random Speed Test, the following sanctions will be enforced:

- The match result will be forfeited and awarded to the opposing team, with a score of 3-0.
- The guilty player will be awarded a one (1) match suspension.
- The Club may face a financial fine of up to £50 (Fifty pounds).

Powerchair Specifications

The WFA now has a specific guide to the specifications of a powerchair. Please see appendix E

Player Discipline and Suspensions

Yellow Cards

If a player receives a Yellow card, the Club will receive an administration charge of **£10.00**.

This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of the formal letter from the SEPFL. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the player will become ineligible for team selection.

If a player receives Three (3) Yellow cards during the League Season, then they will receive a one (1) match suspension. If a player receives six (6) yellow cards in a season they will receive a three (3) match ban.

Temporary Dismissals

Temporary Dismissals

Also known as "sin bins", temporary dismissals will be used in powerchair football. As well as a yellow card, a temporary dismissal will be issued at the discretion of referees as punishment for dissent.

If a player receives a yellow card for dissent, they will be temporarily dismissed for a 4-minute time period. There is no administration charge for a temporary dismissal.

All other cautionable offences are punished with a caution as normal.

- If a player who has been temporarily dismissed and then receives a caution for a separate offence can continue to play.
- If a player who has received a caution and then receives a temporary dismissal can continue playing after the end of their temporary dismissal period
- If a player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match will serve the temporary dismissal and then takes no further part in the match. The player may be replaced by a substitute at the end of the second temporary dismissal period.
- If a player receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match and has also received a caution for another yellow card offence cannot take any further part in the match and the player cannot be replaced/substituted.
- If a player who receives a second caution (YC) in the same match will be sent off and takes no further part in the match and may not be replaced/substituted

If a team becomes less than 2 players due to multiple temporary dismissals during any game, then the match is abandoned with the opposition team being awarded the game by walkover.

Red Cards

Disciplinary Procedures for Red Card Offences

'Less Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences classified within the table overleaf will be dealt with by the SEPFL under the delegated-authority of the County FA.

The match official is required complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all SEPFL sheets after the completion of the match.

The Wheelchair Football Association and subsequently, SEPFL, employ the following disciplinary tariff of suspensions in such cases as outlined on the next page.

'Serious' Red Card Offences'

Offences not classified in the table below will be the responsibility of the local County FA. Once the County FA has reviewed the case the Wheelchair Football Association, along with the player, will be informed of the outcome and any disciplinary action.

The match official is required complete a Disciplinary Report, as part of all National League Match sheets after the completion of the match and submit a report and the relevant County FA.

If a player receives a Red card, the club will receive an administration charge of **£10.00**. Depending on the nature and severity of the offence, the player will also be fined in addition to the administration charge:

Offence resulting in a 1 game ban - **£10.00 fine**

Offence resulting in a 2 game ban - **£15.00 fine**

Offence resulting in a 3 game ban or greater - **£20.00 fine**

This fee MUST be paid within 14 days from the date of issue. If this fee is outstanding after this date, the player will become ineligible for team selection.

Match Suspension Tariff:

OFFENCE	PENALTY (TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE WHEELCHAIR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION)
Receiving a second 'yellow card' in the same match	1 Match suspension
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring	1 Match suspension
Use of offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	2 Match suspension
Attempting to kick or strike another player Violent conduct Serious foul play	3 Match suspension

'Serious' Red Card Offences example:

Spitting Gross Misconduct	6 Match suspension
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Suspensions will be enforced for the players next WFA SEPFL fixture. This also includes.

If a player is suspended for a Gross Misconduct offence the Wheelchair Football Association will exclude the player for the remainder of the league event, whereby the offence will be reviewed. The number of games missed during the exclusion period will be considered when making a final disciplinary decision.

Match Outcomes and Results

After the forty (40) minutes of match play have been completed, the team with the most goals scored will be awarded three (3) points and the opposing team will be awarded zero (0) points.

If the number of goals is equal between the teams, then both sides will be awarded one (1) point.

At the end of the League Season, the team with the greatest number of points will be crowned Champions. The team with the second most points as the Runner up. The remaining teams will be ranked in this way. If two or more teams are tied for the same number of points, a determination must be made as to which is the higher placed one(s), the following criteria will be used:

- a) The highest position shall be awarded to the team with the greater goal difference against all other teams during the tournament (goal differential).
- b) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be awarded to the team scoring the greatest number of total goals against all other teams during the tournament (total goals).
- c) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position shall be based on head to head competition during the season.
- d) If the head to head outcome is a draw the highest position shall be awarded to the team with the fewest team disciplinary points (cautions (yellow cards) are one (1) disciplinary point, send offs (red cards) are three (3) disciplinary points).
- e) If the teams are still equal in the standings, the highest position in the standings shall be determined by a Penalty shoot-out. This Penalty shoot-out will take place immediately after the final League game.

Forfeits

A forfeit counts as a loss with the winning team getting three (3) points and a three (3) goal score, per game. If a team should leave the competition for any reason, all teams get three (3) win points and three (3) goals; previous results are automatically cancelled.

For game time forfeiture this rule may be waived by the South East Regional League based on circumstances out of the control of the team or caused by the South East Regional League. Rescheduling of the game can be permitted.



South East Regional League Cancellation

Should the South East Regional League cancel or forfeit any matches during the Season, the South East Regional League will decide on the best course of action to resolve any outstanding fixtures.

This may result in the alteration of the format of a League division or the Voiding of matches.

The South East Regional League decision will be final and cannot be appealed against.

Game Defaults

If a team becomes less than 2 players (due to Red Cards or insufficient number of replacements) during any game, then the match is abandoned, and a three (3) nil (0) win to opposition is awarded.

If the team doesn't attend the fixture day the following sanctions are applied:

1st Missed day – 3-0 walk over to opposition

2nd missed day – 3-0 walk over and points deducted from league table

3rd missed day – 3-0 walk over, points deducted and a financial penalty (£50)

Results of games terminated before time and not as a result of a forfeit or default are referred to the South East Regional League. The decision of the South East Regional League is final and cannot be appealed against.

Maximum Number of Games per team per Day

There shall never be more than three (3) games per team in one day. No team will play consecutive games on the same day. There will be a minimum of thirty (30) minute break between games.

I.e. the Final whistle of one game and kick off time of the next fixture.

Official Match Sheets

For all regional league fixtures, paper match sheets will be used. A SEPFL volunteer or the Match Official will be responsible to the completion of the Match Sheet

It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to provide all required information for entry onto the Match Sheet. They must also check and sign to ensure all information is correct at the conclusion of the match.

Team Managers must submit their squad information at the start of a Regional League Event and before the Speed Test can be started.

Teams must declare the starting four (4) players and can name up to another four (4) players from the squad that can be used as Substitutes during the match.

Any further squad members, may sit in the team technical area, but cannot be used during the match.

Pre Match Routine

Match Sheet information

Team managers must submit all information to the Event Officials and gather the team ready to be called for Speed Testing. All players should be ready and on court 10 minutes prior to the kick-off time. (Teams maybe held off-court if previous matches have been delayed.

Speed Test

All team members will be called to be Speed Tested prior to their first match of the day. **(APPENDIX (b)) Each** player must be accompanied by the Team Manager (or other identified person) to support the Match Officials with the Speed Testing process.

Prior to any additional matches on the day, one player from each team will be selected by the Match Official to be Speed Tested.

One player from each team will also be selected at the final whistle to be Retested.

The Match Official reserves the right to test any player at half-time during a match.

Warm Up

All teams will have the opportunity to warm up for at least five (5) minutes, (time permitting) if required by the teams before the kick-off of their game. Teams will be restricted to the half of the field where their technical area is located. Teams will not be allowed to strike balls in the direction of the other team's area during warm-up.

Coin Toss

Both Team Captains will be called to the centre by the Match Officials where they will participate in a coin toss to determine field position and Kick-off.

Kick Off

If a team (minimum of two (2) players) is not ready to kick off 15 minutes after the official kick-off time of the match, the match may be forfeited, this is at the discretion of the referee.

MATCH OFFICIALS

Referees

Number

A minimum of one (1) referee per match is required. This Referee will be assigned as the Match Referee.

The South East Regional League request that participating Clubs provide one (1) volunteer that will be assigned as Assistant Referees for the match. These volunteers will be under the control and direction of the Match Referee. The team volunteer shall be registered by The WFA as having successfully completed the online assistant referee's course or completed the classroom Referee's course.



The team volunteer Assistant Referee shall:

- Respect the code of conduct
- Assist the referee only in decisions of the ball leaving play and "3 in the box"
- Not coach the team they represent (if applicable)
- Not question referee's decisions.

Allocation

Match Officials will be allocated by the South East Regional League.

Certification

All referees must have the appropriate WFA certification.

Referee Rating

At the conclusion of the match, the Team Management must rate the Referee's performance out of 100.

*Please see **Appendix D** for guidance on how to calculate a rating.*

PLEASE NOTE: Any rating of 40 or less will require the Team Management to submit a report explaining the reason for this low rating.

Protest Procedure

During the South East Regional League, a Team may wish to lodge a protest regarding an event that has taken place.

A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged, if it is alleged that a REGULATION or LAW was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee. However, a referee's judgement cannot be questioned, but his application of the law can be.

Any Team wishing to lodge a Protest, must follow the *Protest Procedure* outlined in Appendix (c)

All protests will be dealt with by the South East Regional League. Appendix (a)

Responsibilities of the South East Regional League

The South East Regional League will be responsible for the running and organisation of all South East Regional League events. They shall be responsible for ensuring the necessary standards in all technical matters during the league season including:

- a) the field and its marking;
- b) the conduct of the tournament;
- c) scheduling and evaluation of referees;
- d) ratification of score sheets and production of official results;
- e) Game equipment, excluding individual players equipment;

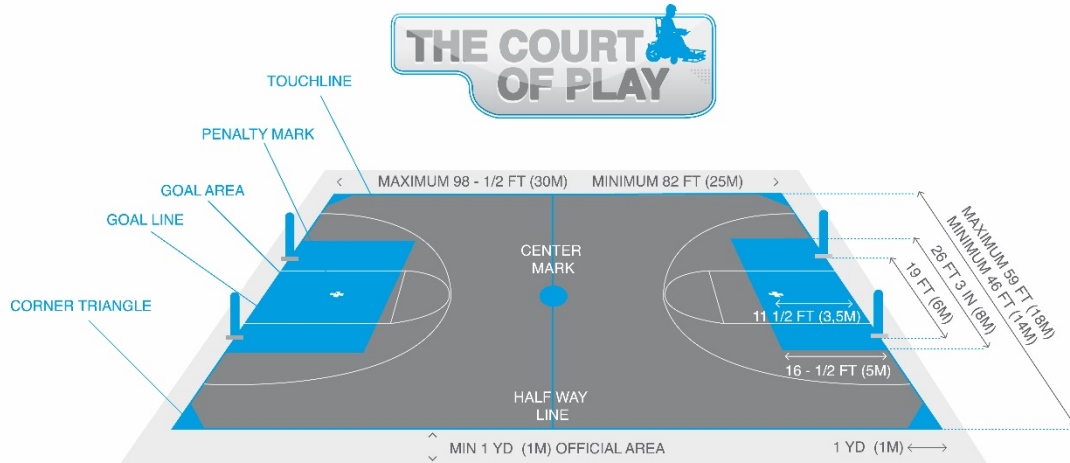
EXCEPTIONS

Any exception that arises during the South East Regional League Season will be referred to the South East Regional League (See Appendix a). The South East Regional League will deliberate, and a ruling will be made within 7 days.

The South East Regional League decision will be final and will not be able to be appealed against. However, any such rulings will all be reviewed at the conclusion of the season. The resulting rulings will then be submitted to the WFA and may be included in the Regulations for subsequent seasons.

Appendix 2

South East REGIONAL LEAGUE EVENT REQUIREMENTS 2023/24 Season



Technical Areas

The technical area will be located and identified in an appropriate area within the sports hall.

Coaches

A maximum of two (2) coaches from each team are permitted on the side lines during a game and they should be on the same side of the pitch, opposite from the opposing coaches.

Spectators Area

All spectators must be restricted to clearly defined areas. Spectators are not allowed on or around (within 1m) of the field of play.

Score Board (if available)

For the benefit of spectators and coaches, a visual scoring system must be maintained. The score board must be visible at all times from the team technical area.

Clock (if available)

For the benefit of the spectators the score board must include a game clock (unofficial).

INSURANCE

All teams will be covered by the following insurance at all South East Regional League Events:

- Civil liability Insurance to the value of £10,000,000.
- Teams will be insured for all league fixtures.
- Cover is provided by Bluefin on behalf of Catlin Underwriting Agencies Ltd
- Personal Accident Insurance – provided by Aviva Insurance Limited

Players may wish to take out their own Insurance policy, on top of the insurance that the WFA has put in place.

AWARD SPECIFICATIONS

Divisional Champions
Divisional Golden boot
Player of the Season
League Fair play

Appendix 3

South East REGIONAL LEAGUE FORMAT 2023/24 Season

League Structure

Divisions

The 2023/24 Season will be run as two (2) divisions.

1. Division 1
2. Division 2

Division 1

- 6 league days, both Saturday and Sunday
- 7 teams.
- Teams play each other two (2) times

Division 2

- 6 league days, both Saturday and Sunday
- 5 teams.
- Teams play each other two (2) times

Promotion and Relegation

The winners of Division 2 will move to Division 1 should they wish to accept promotion. This provision is included to ensure that appropriate development of new teams can occur. The team finishing bottom of Division 1 will be assessed in relation to their suitability to remain in Division 1 or Division 2.

Venues

Crawley – K2 sports centre - Pease Pottage Hill, Crawley RH11 9BQ

Herts Sports Village - De Havilland Campus, Mosquito Way, Hatfield AL10 9EU

Stoke Mandeville Stadium - Guttman Rd, Aylesbury HP21 9PP

Fixture Dates

Sunday 22nd Oct 2023 - K2, Crawley

Sunday 28th Jan 2024 - Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury

Saturday 23rd March 2024 - K2, Crawley

Sunday 21st April 2024 - Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

Sunday 5th May - Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

Sunday 26th May - Herts Sports Village, Hatfield

Pitches

All games will be played across 2 pitches (Referred to as Pitch 1 and Pitch 2).

Kick off times: Will be notified to teams prior to the event as venue bookings for this season mean different start and finish times.

APPENDIX (A)

The South East Regional League

The South East Regional League will be administered by a panel that consists of the following (5) people:

1. Steve Kelly - Chair
2. Adam McEvoy - Secretary
3. Himesh Shah - Treasurer
4. Mel Bolt - Welfare officer
5. Kai Shah - Player Rep

This Panel will use its understanding and experience of Powerchair Football to resolve any matters that are referred to it. For any decisions to be made by this Panel a majority vote must be achieved.

If any of the Panel may have a personal interest in the outcome or decision of this Panel, the remaining members will select a suitable replacement until the particular matter has been resolved. For a replacement member to be selected onto this Panel, the remaining members must reach a Unanimous decision.

Any decisions by this panel will remain in place until the conclusion of the 2023/24 Season.

APPENDIX (B)

Speed Testing Protocol – “Rolling Road”

In order to ensure the consistency and to level the playing field for all official WFA Events and Competitions it is necessary to ensure that the Powerchairs used do not exceed the maximum speed of 10kmph (6.2 mph) as stated in the Official Rules and Regulations of the game. Some divisions may reduce the maximum speed for players.

This Rule applies to both the forwards and backwards speed of the chair and all Powerchairs used in any given game are to be tested prior to the game commencing. All players must present themselves for speed testing at the start of a league event.

PROTOCOL – Pre-Match

- Rolling Road Test
- The chair must be secured at front and back (if required) on the rolling road equipment so that it does not move but not so tight as to slow the chair during the test.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controller forward fully and measures the speed.
- The referee conducting the speed test pushes the controlled backwards fully and measures the speed.
- RPM must not exceed **884RPM** otherwise the test has failed, being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.

RECORDING

- The referee conducting the speed test will record the score once a successful speed test has been completed. The referee will also mark on the sheet/electronic media the number that the player plays at.
- After a successful speed test, the player who has passed the test will be guided towards a point on court away from the players waiting to test.

SPEED ADJUSTMENTS

- Powerchairs that have failed the test must be adjusted prior to retaking the test.
- A retest is allowed only one (1) time after the initial fail. If the player fails after the retest, then the player will miss the first half. It is possible for the player to rejoin the team in the second half following a successful test at the beginning of half time. If this test is failed, the player will miss the whole game.
- After a Powerchair has completed the test it is forbidden for the program to be adjusted in any way.
- During the game the actual Program Controller must either be placed on the Score table and left for the duration of the game or given to a member of the crowd who is not part of the team / technical delegation.

PROTOCOL – Post-Match (or Match Official requested)

- Protocol is the same as the protocol for pre-match testing except for the allowable speed.
- Post match the RPM must not exceed **973** RPM being an average taken from the two wheels that are read.
- If a spare chair is to be tested Post-match, it needs to be tested with the same user as was in it for the Pre-match test.

- If a player fails, the initial post-match test speed they will be allowed a further 15 minutes cool down period and will be retested after this period
- If the chair fails, the test after the further 15 minutes they will be allowed 1 hour in order for the chair to return to a suitable state.
- At this stage the chair must not exceed the original speed of **884** RPM
- Failure after the 1-hour time limit will result in the player and club facing further sanctions as stated in the speed test protocol.

APPENDIX (C)

South East Regional League Protest Procedure

Ineligible Player Protests

- A.** A protest concerning an ineligible player:
 - (1) may be made at any time, and
 - (2) does not require the payment of the £25.00 protest fee.
- B.** If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
- C.** The forfeit penalty applies not only to the game which originated the protest, but to all games which have involved the ineligible player during the tournament.
- D.** If it is determined that there has been an ineligible player, the WFA may elect to fine the Team. This fine should be no more than £50.00 for the first offence.

Protests

1. There can be no protests or challenges relating to in-game interpretations/ applications of the Laws of the Game. Only breaches of competition rules may be challenged.
2. **A protest concerning a particular game and any incidents which occurred during that game may be lodged** by the Head Coach, or his (or her) assistant when the head coach is not present, **ONLY if it is alleged that a REGULATION or LAW was incorrectly applied or enforced by the referee.**

Protest Procedure:

- A.** An informal verbal protest may be made to the referees by the Head Coach, or his (or her) assistant when the head coach is not present, at (preferably) or close to, the time of the incident; but, in all cases, it must be made **before** the referees have left the playing field.
- B.** A simple or vague complaint about a call or calls will not suffice - the word "protest" must be used, and the reason for the protest must be made clear. (If this is done **at the time of the incident**, a mistake by a referee can often be easily rectified without the need for any further action.)
- C.** The opposing coach should be notified of the protest by the referee immediately after the final whistle.
- D.** The informal verbal protest must be followed by submission of a formal, written protest:
 - (1) Made by the Team representative to the [South East Regional League](#),
 - (2) Within 1 hour of the completion of the game,
 - (3) Accompanied by a fee of £25.00, which will be refunded if the protest is allowed, and retained if the protest is disallowed.
- E.** The decision must be made within 24 hours of reception and the decision submitted in writing to both coaches.
- F.** Protest decisions by the South East Regional League are **FINAL** and may not be appealed.

APPENDIX (D)

Guidance for assigning Referee marks

All WFA clubs are required to adhere to the Football Association marking scheme with marks from 1-100, which was introduced in 2006.

The mark awarded by a club must be based on the referee's overall performance, It is most important that the mark is awarded fairly and not based upon isolated incidents or previous games. The Referee's performance should be determined by the table below which should act as a guide for the overall mark which should fall within the mark range for each standard of performance.

A mark of 91-100 would be regarded as 'excellent'. A mark between 71 and 80 would represent the standard expected.

Mark Range	Comment
100-86	The Referee demonstrated very accurate decision-making and controlled the game very well using management and communication skills effectively to add value to the game.
85-76	The Referee demonstrated accurate decision-making and controlled the game well using management and communication skills to contribute positively to the game.
75-61	The Referee demonstrated reasonably accurate decision-making and despite some shortcomings generally controlled the game well.
60-41	The Referee demonstrated shortcomings in the accuracy of decision-making and control which affected the game.
40 and below	The Referee demonstrated a inability decision-making and was unable to control the game. Any score in this range will require a report to be written by the team

Notes

- Club officials should use the full range of marks within each category to help distinguish between different performance levels, e.g. within the 85-76 category a mark of 84 indicates a better performance than a mark of 77.
- While some Referees may have below average performances, there will usually have been some positive aspects of their performance, so extremely low marks should be very rare.
- When club officials are marking a Referee, they should always look on the game as a whole and not isolated decisions. The result of the match should not influence the mark and disciplinary action should be judged objectively.
- When a mark of 40 or less is awarded, a report must be provided to the Referee coordinator. The purpose of this is to assist Referees to improve their performance levels, so the comments should be as helpful as positive.

How to decide on the Referee's Mark

The following questions focus on the key areas of a referee's performance. They are intended as a "guide", are not necessarily comprehensive and need not be answered individually. It is, however, worth considering them before committing yourself to a mark for the referee.

CONTROL AND DECISION MAKING

- How well did the Referee control the game?
- Were the players' actions recognized correctly?
- Were the Laws applied correctly?
- Were all incidents dealt with efficiently/effectively?
- Were all the appropriate sanctions applied correctly?
- Was the Referee always within reasonable distance of incidents?
- Was the Referee well positioned to make critical decisions, especially in and around the penalty area?
- Did the Referee understand the players' positional intentions and keep out of the way accordingly?
- Did the Referee demonstrate alertness and concentration throughout the game?
- Did the Referee apply the use of the advantage to suit the mood and temperature of the game?
- Was the Referee aware of the players' attitude to advantage?
- Did the Referee use the assistants effectively?
- Did the officials work as a team, and did the Referee lead and manage them to the benefit of the game?

COMMUNICATION AND PLAYER MANAGEMENT

- How well did the Referee communicate with the players during the game?
- Did the Referee's level of involvement/profile suit this particular game?
- Did the Referee respond to the changing pattern of play/mood of players?
- Did the Referee demonstrate empathy for the game, allowing it to develop in accordance with the tempo of the game?
- Was the Referee pro-active in controlling of the game?
- Was the Referee's authority asserted firmly without being officious?
- Was the Referee confident and quick thinking?
- Did the Referee appear unflustered and unhurried when making critical decisions?
- Did the Referee permit undue questioning of decisions?
- Did the Referee deal effectively with players crowding around after decisions/incidents?
- Was effective player management in evidence?
- Was the Referee's body language confident and open at all times?
- Did the pace of the game, the crowd or player pressure affect the Referee negatively?

Final Thoughts

- Always try to be objective when marking. You may not obtain the most objective view by marking immediately after the game.
- Judge the performance over the whole game. Don't be too influenced by one particular incident.
- Don't mark the Referee down unfairly because your team was unlucky and lost the game or some disciplinary action was taken against your players.

APPENDIX (E)

Chair Specification

The WFA have identified 3 “categories” of Powerchairs for use in competitions in England:

1. Medical wheelchairs (usually used by grassroots players at beginner level, but can be used by players with more complex needs at all levels).
2. Medical wheelchairs modified to play Powerchair Football.
3. Custom built sports chairs for the sole purpose of playing Powerchair football. All three categories of chair have been passed for use in the National League. Regional leagues will decide on an individual basis which chairs are to be used based on the level of competition.

Chair Dimensions and the ‘The Box’

- The overall dimensions of the chair base (including attachment, seating and any side protection) shall not exceed 1400mm in length and 825mm in width. This will include any anti-tip wheels. No part of the chair, seat or player should exceed the dimensions set above. This includes any essential equipment the player needs in order to participate, e.g. oxygen cylinders, voice equipment and additional restraints. The WFA has the right to review any special cases and agree exceptions to ensure players’ safety or specific needs.

Overhang

- No part of the chair, seat, headrest or player should overhang the front and rear of the chair base. This is to avoid injury to the players from a player reversing into another player. This excludes the back wheels on a mid-wheel drive chair and anti tip wheels that may stick out beyond the back of the chair. If a player was to reverse into another player or the wall, the base of the chair should be the first thing to make contact and not a player’s backrest or headrest. See diagrams 1 and 2.

Playing Attachments

- The player should be using a bumper or guard that has passed the WFA testing process and as supplied by the manufacturer. It should also be securely attached to the chair. The Strike Force guard by Power Soccer Shop can only be used on the Strike Force Powerchair and no other chair.
- Guards currently tested and passed for use are; strike force guard, the striker (with rubber), predator and the Invacare cage bumper.
- The front bumper/guard on all chairs should have a clear definition of where it starts and ends. Where the bumper and side guard are continuous the front bumper length is to be set at 330mm (13 inches) when measured from the front of the chair (see diagram 3). This will only currently apply to strike force chairs where there should be



a clear definition between the front bumper and side of the chair. For example, the bumper painted a contrasting colour to the side guards. An alternative to this is to cover the side of the chair in brightly coloured tape, leaving the bumper as black. Please note a simple strip of tape or paint at this distance is not considered a clear definition. This is to mainly aid referees, as bumper to bumper contact is different to a player making contact with the side of chair when determining fouls.

The Rest of the Chair – nothing’s changed!

- Side guards are compulsory for all players playing in WFA sanctioned competitions to ensure the ball doesn’t get trapped. These should be positioned between the front and back wheels.
- Ensure that nothing on the chair protrudes so that it can cause injury. An example of this maybe a headrest bar that extends out, which could cause injury when reversing. Any excess bars need to be removed, as well as ensuring there are no sharp edges or fragments if cutting has took place.
- A seatbelt must be worn by all players when playing in WFA sanctioned competitions. A harness can also be worn in addition to a lap belt.
- No part of a chair should be able to trap or hold the ball, ride over the ball or become wedged near the front wheels.
- Ensure that nothing on the chairs can become entangled with another chair when playing, i.e. seatbelts, wires, cables.
- Clubs and players are reminded that any modifications to the electrics must be carried out correctly and safely and are done at your own risk. We shall not be imposing a ban on this as we currently have limited methods of regulation. The technical committee shall monitor, gather data and information on modifications before we can regulate and impose future rules.
- General guidance notes: Is the player controlling their chair ok? Referees have the right to turn the speed down on a players chair if they are deemed not to be safe and in control. Do they look comfortable and secure in the chair? Does the player have a headrest?

Diagram 1: Rear wheel drive chair (Storm, Strike Force etc)

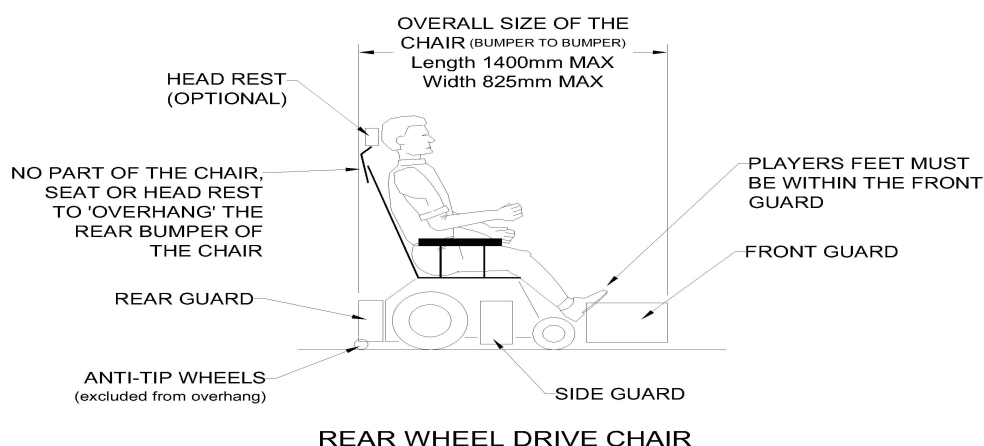


Diagram 2: Mid wheel drive chair (TDX etc)

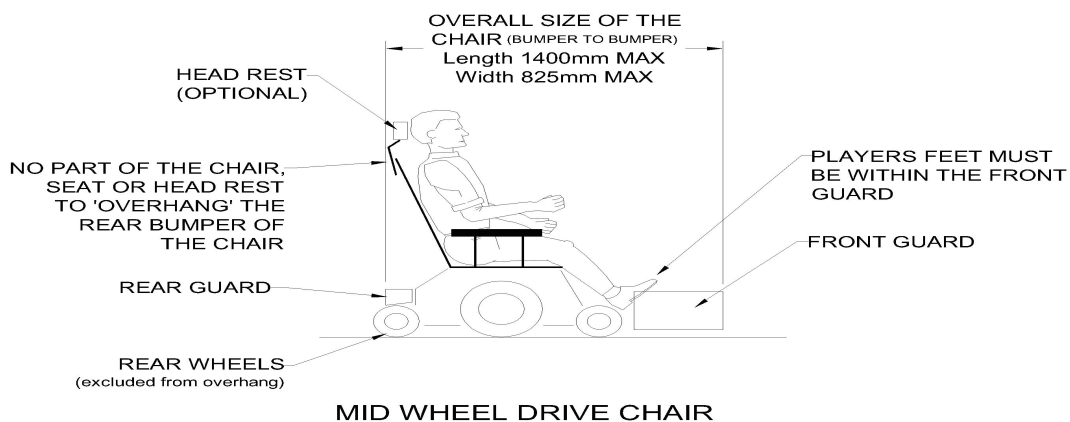
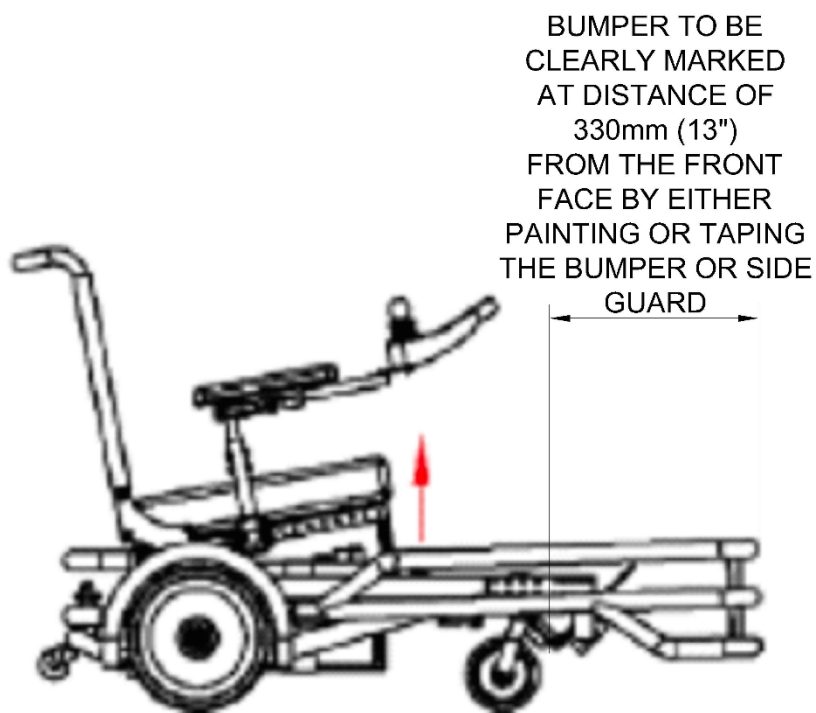


Diagram 3: Bumper markings on Strike Force chair



WFA rules also state that NO part of the chair shall over hang the rear bumper of the chairs – obtaining a flat back .

Appendix F

WFA Powerchair Competition Risk Assessment - Template

Event Name:	
Location Address:	
Venue Name:	
Date(s):	
Activity Manager and contact details:	
Name and contact details of person completing this form:	



Details of Activity:	<p>This risk assessment covers the pitch activity for powerchair competitions and has been produced in accordance with FA and WFA policy and best practice.</p> <p>This risk assessment does not cover safeguarding – this is covered by separate specific risk assessments.</p>
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Emergency Arrangements:	
First Aid:	
Any person discovering a fire:	
On hearing the fire alarm:	
Who will call for the Fire & Rescue service if needed:	
Location of Assembly Point:	

Nearest Emergency Services:	

Event Managers Declaration:
<p>I have read this document and am satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It constitutes a suitable and sufficient risk assessment in respect of the activity and that the precautions identified are sufficient to control the risks.

- Appropriate arrangements are in place to communicate the risk assessment findings and to co-ordinate the safety arrangements of all those affected, e.g. competitors, spectators, venue, volunteers etc.

Name of Event Owner /
Organiser:

Date:

Introduction

These Risk Assessments have been drawn up in accordance with the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999* to identify the significant hazards presented during the event and to describe how the risks arising from such hazards will be controlled.

This document is an over-arching accompaniment to any activity specific risk assessments provided by the participating teams and venue: it is not exhaustive. This assessment covers on-pitch activities and not those associated with the wider event.

The process of risk assessment is on-going, with dynamic assessments being conducted, as required, by competent staff throughout the event. It is possible that the assessments in this document may be amended or augmented as new risks are identified or more refined control systems developed.

Risk Rating

Each assessment identifies two risk ratings; the initial risk which assesses the hazard without any design, engineering or management controls in place.

The residual rating gives an indication of the resulting level of danger once all the controls identified have been implemented. For ease of reading these assessments have not utilised on simple grading of risk from high to negligible.

The risk rating has been drawn from the following table:

		Consequence				
		1 Inconsequential (e.g. No Injury)	2 Minor Injury (e.g. First Aid)	3 Moderate (e.g. Lost-Time Injury)	4 Major (e.g. Extensive Injuries)	5 Catastrophic (e.g. Fatality)
Likelihood	1 Rare	1	2	3	4	5
	2 Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
	3 Possible	3	6	9	12	15
	4 Likely	4	8	12	16	20
	5 Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25

1-7	Low Risk	No additional controls are required.
8-11	Medium Risk	Additional control measures should be considered.
12-25	High Risk	Additional controls must be implemented to reduce the risk to medium/low.

Related Documents

WFA National League/Regional League Rules

FIPFA Classification

Task or Activity:	Powerchair Competition Matches – on pitch activities		
Hazards:	Impact / Collision injuries, Damage to Equipment, Exacerbation of existing medical Conditions.		
Likelihood:	4 – Likely	Severity:	4– Major Injury
Persons at Risk:	Players, Referees & Assistants, Volunteers, Spectators		
Initial Risk Rating:	High		
Existing Controls:			
<p>Players / Chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players will use specialist chairs compliant with WFA Technical specification. • Coaches will ensure that the players are in teams that match their ability and classification rules are observed. • Any medical equipment will be appropriately secured / stashed within the frame of the powerchair. • Speed testing will be carried out. • All players will be appropriately classified in accordance with the FIPFA classification process (National League level) • Appropriate seat belts / restraints will be used in accordance with players classification and medical needs. <p>Ball</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specialised ball meeting the requirements of the WFA National League/Regional League Rules will be used. • Bounce will be minimised by ensuring that the ball is not over-inflated. This will be checked by the referee. <p>Venue / Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity will take place at an appropriate venue which is suitable for powerchair use. • Goal posts will not be fixed and will be of a suitable size and weight to prevent impact injuries. • Pitchside equipment will be kept to a minimum. <p>Referees & Assistant Referees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All referees and assistant referees will have undertaken specific powerchair refereeing training. 			

- Matches will be played in accordance with the WFA National League/Regional League Rules & regulations.
- There will be a 'run-off' area as described in the WFA National League/Regional League Rules & regulations to allow assistant referees suitable room to avoid collisions with players and chairs.
- Referees are responsible for ensuring that all equipment is appropriately maintained and is fit for purpose prior to games commencing.
- Play will be stopped if there is an immediate concern regarding a player's medical condition.

Players Assistants (This definition covers those assisting players with medical conditions / personal care such as carers, parents or any other person accompanying the player to provide aid or assistance)

- Carers are responsible for ensuring players are ok to in terms of medical equipment / health and wellbeing, etc.
- All carers should remain within the vicinity of the venue for the matches in which they have players participating in.

Spectators

- The number of people on the pitch will be kept to a minimum.
- Where possible all viewing should be via a designated spectator area.

Further Action Required:

- All players should undergo the classification process and have received an PF1 or PF2. classification prior to competing (National League level)
- Appropriate restraints should not include bungee straps to secure players or equipment.
- Run off areas should be adhered to and kept clear at all times.
- No child spectators should enter the pitch or run off areas during play.
- Players with long hair should have it secured, so that it cannot get entangled in equipment.
- Players must not wear scarves or any items of clothing that could become caught or entangled during play, for risk of being entangled in equipment. If the neck needs to be covered a snood is a better alternative.

Residual Risk Rating: **LOW (2 x 3)**