

***Special  
Olympics***  
*Munster*



**Special Olympics Munster  
7-a-side Football League**

**2018 Season Rules**

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## **1. NAME AND DURATION OF COMPETITION**

The competition shall be known as the 2018 Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League. All league fixtures must be completed by the **28<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER**

The 2018 Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League shall be composed of teams who meet the entry criteria as outlined in the Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport (Section 6).

## **3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

Competing Clubs in the Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League competition agree to be bound by:

- a) the Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League competition rules;
- b) the Special Olympics Summer Sports Rules – Football;
- c) the FAI Rules;
- d) the Rules of F.I.F.A. and U.E.F.A;
- e) the Laws of the Game;
- f) the Codes, Rules and Regulations of Special Olympics Ireland;
- g) each of the aforesaid as altered, revoked or added to from time to time.

## **4. FORMAT**

The Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League format shall be as follows:

- a) All fixtures to be played on a blitz day format (i.e. one team hosts, and all other teams within that division attend, and play two fixtures.) All games shall be fixed on a play or concede basis.
- b) The host team for each round of fixtures will be allocated by S.O. Munster, along with the fixture lists. Host team must comply with section 5, below.
- c) Three points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- d) In the event of equality on points, then the following procedure shall be used to separate the teams in order of sequence:
  - i. Goals conceded;
  - ii. Goal difference;
  - iii. Most goals scored;
  - iv. Most points in the fixtures played between the Clubs;
  - v. Goal difference in the fixtures between the Clubs;
  - vi. Most goals scored in the fixtures between the Clubs;
  - vii. Play-off on a neutral ground if promotion or relegation is at stake.
  - viii. Otherwise, a draw of lots.
- e) The above criteria are also used if three or more teams are equal on points.
- f) Teams who fail to fulfil a league fixture, except the reasons outlined in section 7(c), forfeit points with award to their opponents. In the event of a team being granted a walkover, a score of 1-0 will be registered.

- g) All leagues shall be 7 a side. If "Team A" is unable to field 7 players, 5 or 6 a side may be played, if all opposing teams agree to play the same number of players (e.g. 5v5 or 6v6), but in this case, "Team A" concedes points (score of 1-0 will be registered) with award to their opponents. "Team A" can, if they wish, compete for points and take to the field with a minimum of 5 players (as per SOInt. Rules), against an opposing team of 7 (plus subs).

## **5. VENUE FOR HOME FIXTURES**

Each host club is responsible for securing a suitable venue, to include the following:

- a) Appropriately marked pitch– see section 6, below.
- b) Appropriate goals – see section 6, below.
- c) Appropriate changing facilities, to include hot showers.
- d) Appropriate 1<sup>st</sup> Aid cover.
- e) The provision of a suitably qualified match referee. In the event of the appointed referee failing to attend a fixture clubs may agree on a suitable replacement. Failing any such agreement teams must toss a coin for the right to supply a referee. Failure to comply will result in the loss of points for the team refusing to play.

## **6. FIELD OF PLAY**

- a) The 7-a-side field shall be a rectangle: maximum dimensions of 70 meters by 50 meters, minimum dimensions of 50 meters by 35 meters.
  - a. Men's Divisions 1 and 2 should use the maximum size (i.e. 70m x 50m)
  - b. The smaller pitch size of 50m x 35m is recommended for all other divisions.
- b) The goal size shall be 5 meters by 2 meters.
- c) The goal area shall be 8 meters by 20 meters.
- d) The recommended playing surface is grass. It is the host team's responsibility to notify participating teams if the surface is other than grass.
- e) Any objections to ground, goal posts, goal nets or ball, must be lodged with the Referee before the game is started. The Referee shall have the power to consider the objection, make a decision regarding the objection and, if appropriate, have such matter rectified before the game is started.

## **7. SCHEDULING OF FIXTURES**

- a) A list of fixtures, including host teams, will be circulated at the start of the season, by S.O. Munster. Clubs will agree fixture dates at the league formation meeting.
- b) Fixtures will be scheduled to be played on Saturdays.
- c) All fixtures must be played as scheduled. In exceptional circumstances only the host team may cancel a fixture if such circumstances include:
  - a. A bereavement of a playing member or a mentor of the host team or an immediate family member of a playing member or a mentor of the host team.
  - b. Where the playing surface has been deemed unplayable by 6pm on the day prior to a morning fixture or 9am on the day of an afternoon fixture.
- d) Should a fixture be cancelled for either of the reasons above, clubs must be given appropriate notice and the SOMunster office must be informed at the earliest convenience. All parties should be made aware of rescheduled date ASAP.
- e) The host team must give adequate notice of the fixture to all travelling teams. This must be a minimum of 2 weeks, but preferably longer.

## **8. NON ATTENDANCE**

Teams not ready to start a match 30 minutes after the official start time, without due cause or notice, shall be considered to have failed to fulfil the fixture.

## **9. DURATION OF PLAY**

- a) Divisions 1 and 2 matches will be of two equal periods of 20 minutes duration, with a 5 minute interval at half time.
- b) Divisions 3, 4 and Ladies division will be of two equal periods of 15minutes duration, with a 5 minute interval at half time.

## **10. ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY**

There is no maximum squad size for the league, however a maximum of 12 players may be declared on a match day. All players declared on match day must be given a reasonable amount of pitch time. This is an honour code and all teams are expected to abide by this.

## **11. MATCH CARDS / RESULTS**

- a) The host team must nominate a representative who shall be responsible for supplying match results and any disciplinary reports or referee's reports to all other teams in that division and also to the SOMunster office for publishing online.
- b) Results must be emailed to [munster@specialolympics.ie](mailto:munster@specialolympics.ie) within 48hrs of the fixture.
- c) Match cards should also be submitted and signed clearly by the match referee.

## **12. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- a) Players are deemed to be eligible for league play when both of the following provisions have been completed:
  - i. The athlete is a fully registered athlete with S.O.I, and has completed the minimum training requirements as set out in sections 1 and 5 of the Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport
  - ii. The athlete has been included on an entry form, in accordance with the Special Olympics Ireland Competition Entry Process.
- b) No player shall be eligible to play on another team in a lower division.
- c) Clubs are permitted to register additional athletes over the course of the season, provided they meet the registration and training requirements outlined above.
- d) The request to add additional players, or move an existing player for the remainder of a season, must be made to SOMunster office, and the ability of any players to a team should not be such that it would necessitate the re-divisioning of the team.

## **13. PROTESTS / APPEALS PROCEDURES**

The Protest and Appeals Procedures are as specified in the Regulations Governing Special Olympics Ireland Sport, Section 7.

#### **14. CESSATION OF INVOLVEMENT DURING A SEASON**

If any Competing Club ceases to participate in the League during a season then its playing record shall be expunged from the record. For the avoidance of doubt, expunging the playing record means all points accumulated by and goals for and against recorded by clubs competing against the club that has ceased to participate shall be deleted from the records. Disciplinary matters are not included and records of members, officials, players accruing suspensions, disciplinary points and /or serving suspensions or any other sanction will be retained.

The Club undertakes that by entering into the Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League Agreement it is committed to contribute to the running of the League to the highest possible standards and with the utmost integrity. Accordingly, the Club shall ensure that its players, directors, officers, members, representatives, employees and members of staff:

- a) Behave with the utmost good faith and honesty.
- b) Do not publicly criticise or disparage another club participating in the Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League
- c) Do not publicly criticise or disparage the FAI/SOI.
- d) Seek at all times to maintain the confidence of the FAI/SOI, players, commercial supporters, debtors, creditors, fans, employees and the general public.
- e) Comply with the laws of the game and follow each of the rules contained in these Special Olympics Munster 7-a-side Football League rules in not only to the letter of the law but also to the spirit.
- f) Are persons of good character, consistent with the image and ideals of football and are not persons whose association with the Club does or could bring the game into disrepute.