

# BELGIAN FLOORBALL FEDERATION



## League Rules

Season 2018 – 2019

(Valid from 1 May 2018)

## Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1. General features of the leagues</b> .....	<b>2</b>
1.1 Age categories.....	2
1.2 League organisation .....	2
1.3 The Cup.....	3
<b>2. General features of the league games</b> .....	<b>4</b>
2.1 Field size.....	4
2.2 Players on the field.....	4
2.3 Game time.....	4
2.4 League game schedule procedure .....	5
2.5 League game fee.....	5
2.6 IFF rules of the game .....	6
2.7 Ethical values and fair play .....	6
<b>3. Ranking of the leagues</b> .....	<b>7</b>
3.1 U8 and U10 leagues .....	7
3.2 Other leagues .....	7
3.3 Trophies .....	7
<b>4. Club, team and player registrations</b> .....	<b>8</b>
4.1 Club registration .....	8
4.2 Team registration.....	8
4.3 Player registration.....	8
4.4 Licensed players list .....	10
4.5 Unsettled payments .....	10
<b>5. Transfers</b> .....	<b>11</b>
5.1 National transfers at the end of the season .....	11
5.2 National transfers between two rounds .....	11
5.3 International transfers.....	11

<b>6. Participating team .....</b>	<b>12</b>
6.1 Players list.....	12
6.2 Players identification.....	12
6.3 Match equipment.....	12
<b>7. Organising clubs .....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Responsibilities.....	14
7.2 Match secretariat.....	14
7.3 Results.....	16
<b>8. Referees .....</b>	<b>17</b>
8.1 Club referees .....	17
8.2 Referee nominations .....	17
8.3 Changes in the personal referee nominations .....	18
8.4 Absent referees .....	18
8.5 Valid licence to referee in the different leagues.....	19
8.6 Referee exam .....	19
8.7 Referee equipment .....	21
8.8 Referee identification.....	21
8.9 Referee tasks .....	21
8.10 Referee compensation .....	22
<b>9. Forfeit.....</b>	<b>23</b>
9.1 Announced at least 48 hours before the start of the league game.....	23
9.2 Announced less than 48 hours before the start of the league game .....	23
9.3 Unannounced forfeit .....	24
9.4 Consecutive forfeits.....	24
<b>10. Rescheduling league games.....</b>	<b>25</b>
10.1 Time frame .....	25
10.2 Foreseen circumstances.....	25
10.3 Unforeseen circumstances .....	26
10.4 Suspended players.....	26

10.5 Switching two games on a league day.....	26
<b>11. Match penalties .....</b>	<b>27</b>
11.1 Match penalty fee.....	27
11.2 Suspension .....	27
11.3 Suspension for players with a mixed licence.....	27
<b>12. Complaints.....</b>	<b>28</b>
12.1 Procedure .....	28
12.2 Validation of the complaint.....	28
12.3 Appointment of a Disciplinary Committee.....	28
<b>13. Disciplinary Committee .....</b>	<b>29</b>
13.1 Procedure .....	29
13.2 Appeal .....	29
13.3 Suspensions in retrospect .....	29
<b>14. Specific rules qualification games, playoff games, and replays.....</b>	<b>30</b>
14.1 Extra time .....	30
14.2 Penalties.....	30
14.3 Specific rule for the semifinals of the playoffs.....	30
14.4 Player registration.....	30
<b>15. Cup-specific rules .....</b>	<b>31</b>
15.1 Organisation .....	31
15.2 Deadline application of organisers .....	31
15.3 Semifinals and final organisers.....	31
15.4 Direct elimination .....	31
<b>16. Structure and organisation of the Adults league .....</b>	<b>32</b>
16.1 Structure .....	32
16.2 Promotion and relegation (end of the regular season 2018/19) .....	32
16.3 Subdivision into divisions (start of the new season 2019/20) .....	32
16.4 Regionalisation of the third division .....	33
<b>17. Specific rules small field .....</b>	<b>34</b>

## Preface

This latest edition of the Belgian Floorball Federation (BFF) League Rules is valid for the season 2018 – 2019.

The BFF League Rules apply to:

- All leagues of the BFF, which includes: Youth leagues (U8, U10, U13, U13 [girls], U16, U19), Adults league, Women's league and the Cup.
- All parties involved in the organisation of the leagues and the games, namely clubs, teams, players, officials, referees, and committee members of the BFF.

The purpose of the following League Rules is to provide the specific administrative and logistical guidelines to the functioning of the leagues.

Questions about the rules or suggestions for improvement can be sent to the BFF by e-mail.

The general e-mail address to be used to contact BFF is: [info@floorballbelgium.be](mailto:info@floorballbelgium.be).

This e-mail address also has to be used: for the club, team and player registrations, forfeit declarations, rescheduling of games, sending the results of games and scans of match records.

Should clubs be required to pay penalty fees, the BFF will contact the clubs by e-mail, and send a payment sheet with the explanation or background of the penalty fee.

The bank account number of the BFF is: BE13 3101 1509 5539.

Recurring terms in the BFF League Rules:

<b>Season</b>	Extends from end of September to mid-May.  The "regular" <i>season</i> refers to the main period of the league competition. Qualifications games and playoffs, which occur after the regular season is completed, constitute a continuum of the regular season.
<b>League day</b>	The games of the league days are played during weekends.  A league day never starts earlier than 09:00 and the last game of the league day is never scheduled later than 18:00 (except with the explicit agreement of the concerned teams).
<b>Organising club</b>	Host of the league day.
<b>Participating club</b>	Club playing a game at a league day.

# 1. General features of the leagues

## 1.1 Age categories

Age determines the league in which a player can play during the 2018-2019 season:

Year of birth	Youth leagues	
2011, 2012	<b>U8</b>	+U10
2009, 2010	<b>U10</b>	+U13
2006, 2007, 2008	<b>U13</b>	+U16
2003, 2004, 2005	<b>U16</b>	+U19
2000, 2001, 2002	<b>U19</b>	
Minimum age	Leagues	
13 years old on the day of the league game	<b>Women</b>	
16 years old on the day of the league game	<b>Adults, Cup</b>	

Players in the Youth league may participate in games of maximum one age category higher than their own.

### 1.1.1 U13 girls

Whereas the Adults and Youth leagues are all mixed, the age category U13 girls is exclusive to female players born in 2006, 2007 or 2008.

### 1.1.2 Regular U13 and U16

There are two exceptions to point "1.1 Age categories" above:

- Girls born in 2005 can (but do not have to) register for the regular U13 league (and the U16 league). If registered for these categories, they cannot be registered for the U19 league.
- Girls born in 2002 can (but do not have to) register for the regular U16 league (and the U19 league). If registered for these categories, they cannot be registered for the Adults league.

## 1.2 League organisation

### 1.2.1 Adults and Women's league

The Adults league and the Women's league are divided into a first and second round, meaning that all teams play each other twice.

The divisions of the Adults league and the Women's league depend on the number of teams registered for the leagues 2018-2019 (see section 16. below).

Qualification games and playoffs are organised at the end of the regular season to determine the champions of the Women's and Adults leagues, and for promotion/relegation reasons in the case of the Adults league.

## **1.2.2 Youth leagues**

The Youth leagues consist of one single round.

If at least 12 teams register for one age category, that category will be regional, meaning that the category will be subdivided into multiple geographical divisions. If two teams of the same club are represented in a league that is divided into geographical divisions, both teams will be attributed to the same regional division.

## **1.3 The Cup**

The rules of the Adults league (with regard to referees, match secretariat, forfeit, etc.) also apply to the Cup. For more information, see section 15. below.

### **1.3.1 Team registration**

The registration has to be submitted together with the regular registration of the team for the regular competition. Only teams that have signed up for the Adults league can sign up for the Cup. There is no extra registration fee for the Cup.

### **1.3.2 Clubs with multiple Adults teams**

At the moment of registration, clubs with multiple teams in the Adults league have to communicate which of their Adults team(s) want(s) to participate in the Cup.

The club can also choose to merge two or more teams for the Cup. In case a club has three teams, the following applies:

- The A, B and C teams can be merged.
- The A and B teams can be merged.
- The B and C teams can be merged.
- The A and C teams cannot be merged.

### **1.3.3 Player registration**

The player licence for the Adults league is also valid for the Cup. There is no extra registration fee per player. For merged teams, the licensed players lists of the concerned teams are also merged.

Players who transfer between two rounds are not allowed to participate in the Cup with their old nor new teams.

## 2. General features of the league games

### 2.1 Field size

Leagues	Field size	Goal cage
U8 U10	Small pitch Maximum: 27 m x 15 m Minimum: 25 m x 14 m (See section 17. below)	Small (60 cm x 90 cm)
U13 girls	Small pitch	Large (115 cm x 160 cm)
U13 U16 U19 Women Adults Cup	Normal pitch 40 m x 20 m Minimum: 36 m x 18 m	Large (115 cm x 160 cm)

### 2.2 Players on the field

Leagues	Number of players
U8 U10	4 field players (no goalie)
U13 (girls)	3 field players (+ goalie)
U13 U16 U19 Women Adults Cup	5 field players (+ goalie)

### 2.3 Game time

Leagues	Game time	Breaks	Effective time
U8 U10 U13 U13 (girls)	3 periods x 15'	5'	Last 3 minutes of the game
U16 U19 Women Adults	3 periods x 20'	10'	Last 3 minutes of the game
Cup semifinals and final D3 qualification games Playoffs	3 periods x 20'	10'	Full game time

## 2.4 League game schedule procedure

### 2.4.1 Booking of regular season games

After the deadline for the club and team registration at the beginning of May, the BFF will prepare the calendar for the new season. The clubs can communicate which league days they would like to organise:

- Until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, all teams can book two league days per registered Adults league team and Women's league team, and one league day for each other team of the club. The "first come, first served" principle will be applied.
- Between 15<sup>th</sup> of July and 31<sup>st</sup> of July, a club can only book two league days per category.
- After 31<sup>st</sup> of July, all teams can book additional remaining dates without any restrictions, until all organisers are found.

When booking a league day, organising clubs have to communicate the correct time schedule. They have to foresee the possibility of a 30-minute warming up before the start of the first game of the league day. The league schedule will be published on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August:

- If an organiser of a league day decides to change the timing schedule after 31<sup>st</sup> of August, a 50 € penalty fee will be applied. In case an organiser changes the time schedule less than one month before the league day, a Disciplinary Committee will decide the consequences.
- If a club decides to cancel the booking of a league day after 31<sup>st</sup> of August, a 150 € penalty fine will be applied.

### 2.4.2 Booking of playoffs games

The principle of "first come, first served" will not be applied for the qualification and playoffs games (semifinals and finals). The clubs can, however, express their interest in the organisation of these games. The BFF Central Board will appoint the organising clubs of these games during the season.

## 2.5 League game fee

Teams have to pay the league game fee before the start of the match, mentioned below, to the organising club.

League	Fee
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	35 €
U13 U16	40 €
U19 Women Adults Cup	50 €
Cup semifinals and final D3 qualification games Playoffs	75 €

## **2.6 IFF rules of the game**

The games in the above-mentioned leagues are played according to the valid International Floorball Federation (IFF) rules (Edition 01/07/2018), which can be found at [www.floorball.org](http://www.floorball.org) under "Regulations".

As an exception, the following IFF rule will not be applied in the U13 and U16 leagues: "*a player marked as goalkeeper must not participate as a field player, with a stick, during the same match*". The "goalie-player" change must:

- Happen without losing time.
- Be noted correctly on the backside of the match record by the match secretariat.

## **2.7 Ethical values and fair play**

Every person participating in the Federation's competition activities undertakes to observe the ethical values of the sport and its fair play principles: respect and equal treatment of all others (opponents, fellow team members, referees and audience), integrity, responsibility, fairness, and respect for the environment.

In severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct, violence (physical and psychological, on and off the field), use of doping and drugs, bribing or match fixing, a Disciplinary Committee determines the consequences (see section 13. below).

### 3. Ranking of the leagues

#### 3.1 U8 and U10 leagues

There is no ranking for the U8 and U10 leagues.

#### 3.2 Other leagues

Two points are awarded for a game won, one for a game tied, and zero for a game lost.

##### 3.2.1 Ranking (during the season)

The ranking is determined on the basis of:

1. Points; 2. Games won; 3. Goal difference; 4. Goals made; 5. Goals conceded.

##### 3.2.2 Final ranking (end of the regular season)

The final ranking is determined on the basis of:

1. Points; 2. Games won; 3. Mutual results; 4. Replay.

**Mutual results** are taken into account when two or more teams have the same number of points at the end of the regular season and the same number of games won at the end of the regular season. Their final ranking shall be determined as follows:

1. Points from mutual games; 2. Mutual games won; 3. Goal difference of mutual games; 4. Goals scored in mutual games; 5. Goals conceded in mutual games.

**Replays** will only be played at the end of the regular season if one of the following is at stake:

- determining the qualifiers for the qualification games (in case of regionalisation of the Adults league);
- determining the qualifiers for the Playoffs finals (Women's League and Adults League), in accordance with "14.3 Specific rule for the semifinals of the playoffs";
- promoting/relegating the Adults League;
- establishing the champions of the youth leagues.

#### 3.3 Trophies

At the end of the season:

- The first three ranked teams of each league/division receive a trophy.
- All players of the teams winning the leagues receive a medal.
- The top scorer of each league (highest number of goals and assists) receives a trophy.

## **4. Club, team and player registrations**

### **4.1 Club registration**

The club registration fee is 300 € independent of the number of teams registered by the club.

New clubs are exempted from this fee during their first season.

### **4.2 Team registration**

The registration fee for the first team is free. The registration fee of each additional team is 200 €. The registration of U8 and U10 teams is free.

Clubs need to communicate the ranking order of their teams when registering them for the league. Teams in a higher division are automatically ranked first.

There is no regulation imposed by the BFF concerning the number of players per team, but a minimum of 12 players is advised.

### **4.3 Player registration**

#### **4.3.1 Licence**

The player registration fee is determined at 47 € per player (40 € for the licence + 7 € for the insurance). This amount must be paid within two weeks after registration of the player(s) on the BFF bank account.

#### **4.3.2 Licence not applicable**

The licence fee will not be applied to players in leagues in which six or fewer games are played per season. However, if a player is registered for a league where a licence is not applicable (six or fewer games), but the player also plays for a league where the licence fee is applicable, the regular licence fee must be paid for the registration to the league in which the fee is applicable.

#### **4.3.3 Licence – small field (more than six games)**

In specific categories (U8, U10, U13 girls - playing on a small field), the registration fee is 27 € per player (20 € for the licence + 7 € for the insurance) if more than seven teams register for each category.

#### **4.3.4 Deadlines**

Teams have to register new players at least one week before the league game by e-mail:

- The specific deadline for games played on Saturdays: Friday at midnight (one week prior).
- The specific deadline for games played on Sundays: Saturday at midnight (one week prior).

#### **4.3.5 Higher category with multiple teams**

If two or more teams are registered in a category (e.g., A- and B-team), the clubs need to inform the BFF in which team the player will be listed. This must be done at least one week before the game, otherwise the player is not allowed to play. The same specific deadline applies in point 4.3.4 above.

#### **4.3.6 Affiliation to different clubs**

Affiliation to two different clubs is only possible in specific cases:

- If a female player plays in the U16 team of a club, but that club has no Women's team, she may play for the Women's team of another club as well.  
Similarly, if a female player plays in the Women's team of a club, but that club has no U16 team, she may play for the U16 team of another club as well.
- If a female player plays in the U19 team of a club, but that club has no Women's team, she may play for the Women's team of another club as well.  
Similarly, if a female player plays in the Women's team of a club, but that club has no U19 team, she may play for the U19 team of another club as well.
- If a female player plays in the Adults team of a club, but that club does not have a team, she may play in a Women's team of another club as well.  
Similarly, if a player plays in the Women's team of a club, but that club does not have an Adults team, she may play in an Adults team of another club.
- If a player plays in the U19 team of a club, but that club has no Adults team, the player can play for an Adults team of another club as well.  
Similarly, if a player plays in the Adults team of a club, but that club has no U19 team, the player can play for the U19 team of another club as well.

If a player is affiliated to a second club, in a different category, a second licence fee must be paid, while the insurance stays valid.

#### **4.3.7 Mixed licences**

Clubs with multiple teams in the Adults league can request by e-mail a mixed licence for their players (at least one week before the league game).

The mixed licence allows the player to play (besides the games of his or her own team) an unlimited number of games for at most one higher-ranked team of the same club. E.g., a player of the C-team can play with the B-team, a player of the B-team can play with the A-team, but a player of C-team cannot play with the A-team. A maximum of five mixed licences can be requested.

The price for the mixed licence is 25 €. This amount is in addition to the regular licence fee.

A club can change its mixed licences for the first game of the second round.

Every change to the mixed licences in this period is again 25 €.

With regard to the top scorer ranking, the goals and assists of players playing with a mixed licence in the Adults League, will be split over the two teams.

#### 4.4 Licensed players list

The BFF provides an official licensed players list by e-mail before every league day. This list must be used during the league day (see point 7.2.3 below). Only players registered at the BFF (according to point 4.3 above), with a valid international transfer if applicable (see point 5.3 below) will be allowed to play:

- If an unregistered player or a player with an invalid international transfer is on the match record and this is noticed by the match secretariat before the league game, the team will be informed by the referees that the player is not allowed to play.
- If this is noticed during or after the league game, the team will lose the game by forfeit (5-0). In case of forfeit, the player's club will be sanctioned with a 25 € fine and the organising club with a 10 € fine.

#### 4.5 Unsettled payments

All payments (player registrations, penalty fees, etc.) should be paid on time (the due date of the payment is mentioned on the payment sheet sent to the club).

In case of unsettled payments:

- **Two weeks after the due date of the payment**  
The club will receive a payment reminder, and is not allowed to make additional player registrations.
- **Four weeks after the due date of the payment**  
The club will receive a penalty fine of 25 € for unsettled payments.  
If the unsettled payments include a player registration fee, the player concerned will be suspended until the settlement of the fee. If several players were registered at the same time, all players registered at that date will be suspended. The suspension(s) will be communicated by e-mail.

## **5. Transfers**

### **5.1 National transfers at the end of the season**

Youth league players may transfer freely from one club to another at the end of every season. The new club will register the players for the new season according to the normal player registration procedure (see point 4.3 above).

#### **5.1.1 End of the season to 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Players in the Adults and Women's league can, if they wish, transfer freely between the end of the season and 30<sup>th</sup> June. The players must send an e-mail to the BFF communicating their wish to leave their club by 30<sup>th</sup> June (without necessarily naming the new club).

After 30<sup>th</sup> June, the BFF will inform the clubs which of their players have made such a request.

The new club can then register the players according to the normal player registration procedure. Players may also decide to stay with their current club.

#### **5.1.2 30<sup>th</sup> June to one week before the new season**

Players in the Adults and Women's league may only transfer with the authorisation of the giving club between 30<sup>th</sup> June and one week before the first league day of the season. The BFF will validate the transfer if the new club sends the requests of the transfer from the players and the written consent of the giving club to the BFF. Once the transfer is validated by the BFF, the new club can register the players for the new season according to the normal player registration procedure.

### **5.2 National transfers between two rounds**

Only players in the Adults and the Women's league can transfer between clubs between two rounds. A transferred player can only be registered for the league if he or she can be registered before the deadline of the first game of the second round. The transferred player will in any case need to complete the first round of the league with his or her old club. The club registering a transferred player also needs to have the agreement of the player (written or by e-mail). The club that registers a transferred player for the league will need to pay the licence fee (without the insurance fee, which remains valid even after a transfer). The other registration rules apply (see point 4.3 above). The goals scored by the transferred players in the first and second rounds are all valid for the top scorer ranking.

### **5.3 International transfers**

International transfers must be done according to the valid IFF regulations. IFF validates international transfers before a club registers the players at the BFF. All games played by players without a valid international transfer will be sanctioned with forfeits.

## **6. Participating team**

### **6.1 Players list**

The "players list" section of the match record must contain the following information:

- Full name of the team.
- Each player's full name, date of birth, listed one per row in numerical order.
- Indication of which of the players is the captain and who is/are the goalkeeper(s).
- The official(s) full name, including the signature of the first official.

An official of the team must provide the match secretariat with the completed "players list" section of the match record no later than 20 minutes before the start of a game.

Electronically entering players on the match record is admissible only in so far as the completed match record is sent to the opposing team four days prior to the game. The opposing team must complete the match record with its players and send it back to the proposing team two days after having received it. The proposing team then prints the match record and brings it to the league day. If the opposing team does not reply to the offer, the proposing team can print the match record with only its own part completed. If both teams bring a match record with only their part completed, the away team has to complete the home team's match record manually.

### **6.2 Players identification**

All players aged 12 and above must show identification documents before the game (i.e., ID card, passport, driver's licence, student card or another official document mentioning the player's name with a photo).

Players who fail to present any identification document will be allowed to play after signing on the back of the match record. The player's club will be sanctioned with a 10 € fine and is required to send a scan of the player's ID card or passport with a visible signature within 14 days after the game by e-mail to the BFF; otherwise, they will lose the game retroactively by forfeit.

### **6.3 Match equipment**

All players must wear correctly numbered match jerseys (see IFF rules of the game edition 01/07/2018). Offences concerning players' uniforms and team captain's armband will be sanctioned with a 10 € fine. The offence(s) shall be reported by e-mail by the organising club or by the referee(s) of the game on the match record.

#### **6.3.1 Field players**

All field players must wear uniform shirts, shorts or skirts, and knee socks. Players will not be allowed to play if they wear non-uniform (e.g., different colours) shirts, shorts or skirts.

### **6.3.2 Mandatory protective eyewear**

All field players (U8, U10, U13, U13 [girls]) must wear protective goggles when entering the field and on the field. If a player loses their goggles during play, he or she may continue playing until the next interruption.

Players who have prescribed glasses are exempted from this rule if they wear their prescription glasses on the field, and the lenses may be considered to be unbreakable (e.g., polycarbonate).

Any tampering with goggles is prohibited.

### **6.3.3 Goalkeepers**

All goalkeepers must wear jerseys and long trousers as well as a face mask approved by IFF and marked accordingly.

### **6.3.4 Away team**

The away team must wear jerseys or equipment of a different colour when playing against a team with similar-coloured uniforms.

## 7. Organising clubs

### 7.1 Responsibilities

The organising club's responsibilities:

- Settling up and dismantling the rink.
- Clearly marking the goal creases, goal lines, goalkeeper areas, face-off dots, centre spot, central line and substitution zones.
- Equipping the substitution zones with benches and penalty boxes with chairs, and providing the match secretariat with a desk and chairs. A secretariat with penalty benches shall be placed opposite the substitution zones, by the centre line (at an appropriate distance from the board). There shall be separate penalty benches for each team (at least two persons each), placed on either side of the secretariat. Placing the secretariat and the penalty benches in divergence from this rule must be approved by the administrating authority, in which case there shall be at least 2 m space between the penalty bench and the substitution benches.
- Reserving changing rooms and shower premises for the teams and the referees.
- Taking care of the match secretariat (see point 7.2 below).
- Sending the results of the games to the BFF (see point 7.3 below).

### 7.2 Match secretariat

The match secretariat shall always be neutral.

The organising club will provide the match secretariat with the following items:

Mandatory items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Licensed players list</li><li>✓ Licensed referee list</li><li>✓ League schedule</li><li>✓ BFF League rules (Edition 2018-2019)</li><li>✓ IFF rules of game (Edition 01/07/2018)</li></ul> <p>The five above-mentioned documents must be on paper or on a laptop and/or tablet (mobile phone not acceptable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Sufficient match records</li><li>✓ Pens and paper</li><li>✓ Sufficient match balls</li><li>✓ Chronometers</li><li>✓ Display for the game time (if there is none in the hall)</li><li>✓ Rope or tape (to repair goal nets)</li><li>✓ Water (one bottle per referee – min. half a litre)</li></ul> <p>The organising club shall be sanctioned with a 10 € fine for each infraction.</p>
Recommended items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Whistles</li><li>✓ Red cards</li><li>✓ Meter for the measurement of the stick</li><li>✓ Jerseys that can be used when teams with similar-coloured jerseys play each other</li></ul>

### 7.2.1 Match record requirements

The match record must be:

- Printed recto verso.
- The most recent version sent by the BFF. If an old version of the match record was filled in by the participating teams, the organising club can refuse the match record and ask the participating teams to complete a new, correct version of the match record.

The organising club shall be sanctioned with a 5 € fine for each infraction.

### 7.2.2 Tasks

#### Before the game:

- Checking the players lists on the match record with the official licensed players list provided by the BFF and the identification documents of the players before the game (and notification of "missing ID" on the backside of the match records, see point 6.2 above).
- Ensuring that both teams' officials sign the match record before the game.
- Listing the following information on the match record:
  - Competition, venue, date, match number (if not already completed by one of the participating teams);
  - Members of the secretariat, referees (and notification of "absent referee" on the backside of the match records).

#### During the game:

- Taking care of the time administration.
- Listing the following information in the match record in cooperation with the referees:
  - Goals, players who scored the goals and players who assisted each goal's scorers
  - Powerplay and shorthanded goals with their respective codes (if applicable)
  - Penalties with their respective codes
  - Penalty shots
  - Time-outs
  - Attendance
  - Score for each period, final score.
- Maintaining the rink in proper condition for playing.

#### Tasks after the game:

- Ensuring that both referees sign the match record after the game.

The organising club shall be sanctioned with a 1 € fine per match record if the match record is incomplete or filled in incorrectly.

### 7.3 Results

The organising club is in charge of:

- Sending the final results of the games – including the scores per period – by e-mail or by SMS to the BFF at the latest two hours after the last game. The organising club shall be sanctioned with a 10 € fine per missing result.
- Sending a scan of the match records by e-mail to the BFF by the first Monday (at midnight).
  - If the scan is not sent by Thursday (at midnight), the organising club will be sanctioned with a 10 € fine for each infraction.
  - If the scan is not sent by Sunday (at midnight), the organising club will be sanctioned with a 20 € fine for each infraction.
  - If the scan is still not sent by the next day (at midnight), a Disciplinary Committee will determine the consequences.
- Encoding of the games on the BFF app. This should be completed by the first Monday (at midnight) after the game or league day. The organising club will be sanctioned with a 10 € fine per infraction.
- Handing over the original match record(s) to one of the League Committee or Central Board members. The match records should never be sent to the BFF by regular mail.

## **8. Referees**

### **8.1 Club referees**

Clubs must provide referees with a valid licence (see point 8.5 below) for every team that is registered at the BFF.

#### **8.1.1 Adults league**

A club needs at least four referees with valid licences per Adults league team that is registered in the Adults league (e.g., two Adults teams = min. eight referees).

Clubs with multiple Adults league teams must inform the BFF at the beginning of the season with which Adults league team their referees are linked.

A club needs at least four referees with valid licences for all other teams they register (Women's league or Youth league teams). These four referees may be the same as the ones of the Adults team.

#### **8.1.2 Youth leagues**

A club with only Youth league teams needs min. four referees with a valid licence for all teams (e.g., a club with a U13 and U16 team = min. four C referees).

#### **8.1.3 Insufficient number of referees**

A club with fewer referees than required, will be sanctioned with a penalty fee:

- 250 € for only three referees
- 500 € for only two referees
- 1,000 € for only one or no referees

The penalty fee shall be applied once per registered Adults league team and once for all other registered teams.

D1 teams with fewer than two A-referees shall be sanctioned with a penalty fee of 250 € per missing A-referee. This fee is in addition to the fee described above.

#### **8.1.4 Refusal to referee**

If a club announces at the beginning of the season that they refuse to referee in a category, even though they have a sufficient number of referees (according to points 8.1.1 and 8.1.2), a penalty fee of 500 € per category and per league round applies.

### **8.2 Referee nominations**

Each club is responsible for ensuring that the referees are present at the match.

#### **8.2.1 Youth leagues**

For the Youth leagues (U8, U10, U13, U13 [girls], U16, U19), it is indicated on the league schedule which clubs have to referee which games during the season.

## **8.2.2 Women's, Adults and Cup leagues**

The BFF Referee Committee nominates the referees for the games of the Women's, Adults and Cup leagues. The referee nominations are sent by the BFF to the clubs and to the nominated referees at least four weeks prior to the game (only exceptions: the first games of the season, playoffs and the Cup).

## **8.3 Changes in the personal referee nominations**

### **8.3.1 Foreseen circumstances**

If a referee is not available on the league day for which he or she is nominated (Women's, Adults and Cup league), the team responsible must contact the BFF and propose other available referees of the club. The deadline to announce changes is two weeks before the game.

- The team will be fined a 25 € penalty per referee if the BFF is not informed according to the above modalities.
- The team will be fined a 25 € penalty if no available referee is proposed or if the available referee is not judged adequate for the game by the Referee Committee.

All penalty fees are applied cumulatively and per referee, in addition to the penalty fee of 50 € for "absent referees" if applicable (see point 8.4 below).

### **8.3.2 Unforeseen circumstances**

If a referee cannot be present due to unforeseen circumstances (illness, accident or similar situations) and it is less than two weeks before the league or Cup game, he or she must immediately inform the team responsible, which must contact the BFF and the organiser of the league day. The referee will be asked to justify the unforeseen circumstances, otherwise the fees mentioned in points 8.3.1 above and 8.4 below shall be applied. In case of illness or injury, a medical certificate must be presented within 14 days after the game. The Referee Committee has the last call on what can be considered as an unforeseen circumstance.

## **8.4 Absent referees**

If a club's referees fail to arrive on time for a game or refuse to referee a game, the club will be sanctioned with a fee of 50 € per referee.

If a club's referees do not appear at all for a game ("absent referees") for the:

- First time in one category, during the same season, a penalty fee of 50 € (per referee) will be applied.
- Second time in one category, during the same season, a penalty fee of 100 € (per referee) will be applied.
- Third time in one category, during the same season, a penalty fee of 150 € (per referee) will be applied.

**Procedure:**

- In such cases, the organising club must find substitute referees during the league day. The BFF will pay a compensation of 30 € to the substitute referee.
- If the substituting referees do not have a valid licence or belong to one of the teams playing the game, the captains of the teams playing the game must agree on the substitute referees before the start of the game.
- If the captains do not agree on the new referees, alternate referees must be found; otherwise the game must be cancelled and a Disciplinary Committee (see section 13. below) must be formed to discuss the consequences and decide if the match will be replayed or not.
- If the Disciplinary Committee does not consider the arguments sufficient for declining the referees, a 5-0 loss will be given to the team who rejected the referees.

**8.5 Valid licence to referee in the different leagues**

The validity of a licence is determined by two criteria:

- Right licence (A, B or C)
- Minimum age

League	First referee		Second referee	
	Licence	Minimum age on the day of the game	Licence	Minimum age on the day of the game
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	A, B or C	16	/	/
U13 U16	A, B or C	16	A, B or C	15
U19 Women	A, B or C	16	A, B or C	16
Adults D2 Adults D3 Cup	A or B	16	A or B	16
Adults D1 Playoffs Cup semifinals and final	A or B	16	A	16

The referee's club shall be fined 25 € ("invalid licence") per referee for the infraction of these rules.

**8.6 Referee exam**

A successful theoretical exam is mandatory in order to obtain a referee licence. The theoretical exam must be passed on an annual basis.

The BFF organises the theoretical exam and provides the dates for the exam during the season.

The theoretical exam consists of the following three categories:

- 10 questions about the BFF League Rules and the match record;
- 10 questions about the IFF rules of game (basic difficulty level); and,
- 10 questions about the IFF rules of game including special cases (7 questions of medium level of difficulty and 3 questions of hard level of difficulty).

All candidates take the same theoretical exam. Each question is worth one point (one point is given per correct answer, no point per wrong answer). The global score of the 30 questions will be taken into account in determining the licence:

Score	Licence	Referee experience (season 2017-2018)
Score of 14/30 or lower	Fail	/
Score between 15/30 and 20/30	C	/
Score between 20/30 and 23/30	B	/
Score of 24/30 or higher	B*	If fewer than 5 games were refereed in the season 2017-2018. When achieving the number of 5 games (all categories, season 2017-2018 + 2018-2019), then this licence becomes an A licence.
	A	If 5 or more games were refereed (all categories).
	A+	If A licence was held in the previous two seasons.

### 8.6.1 Minimum age

Candidate referees must turn 15 years of age during the next season in order to be eligible to take the theoretical exam. See point 8.5 for the minimum ages to referee games of the different categories.

### 8.6.2 Downgrading of licence

Referees with a licence in the previous season that do not take the theoretical test for the new season are automatically downgraded by one level:

- A+ becomes A;
- A becomes B, B\* and B become C;
- C licence referees who do not take the test will not have a licence in the next season.

### 8.6.3 Exemption from the referee exam

Instructors of the referee courses and referees with an A+ licence are exempted from the theoretical exam.

## 8.7 Referee equipment

Referees must be properly dressed (BFF referee shirt and BFF black shorts + black socks) 15 minutes before the game starts.

The BFF shirt is available in red, yellow, and grey. Referees may choose in which of these three colours they want to referee, as long as it is the same colour of the uniform of the second referee, and different from the shirts of the teams playing the game.

The official BFF referee uniform is mandatory to conduct a game. An involuntary infraction will lead to an administrative fine of 25 €. A repeated infraction of this rule leads to the suspension of the referee for one month (in all categories).

The referee uniforms are provided by Unihoc-Renew, and can be ordered according to the information sent by e-mail to the clubs during the season.

Referees must bring a whistle, red card, and a meter for the measurement of the stick to the game. The referee's club will be sanctioned with a 10 € fine per referee if any part of this material is missing.

## 8.8 Referee identification

Referees must show identification documents before the game (i.e., ID card, passport, driver's licence, student card or another official document that mentions the referee's name and has a photo). The referee's club will be fined with a 50 € fine for each infraction.

## 8.9 Referee tasks

### Before the game:

- Inspect the rink and the goal (nets);
- Verify that all players present on the field are listed on the match record;
- Check all players with the match record against their identification documents and make sure that the officials of both teams sign the match record before the start of the game.

### After the game:

- Check if the match secretariat completed the match events correctly;
- Sign the match records. The signature of the referees on the match record represents the validation of the match. Once the match record is signed by the referees, it is not possible to make corrections of the match events (e.g., a goal which was assigned to the wrong player) – even with video proof.

## 8.10 Referee compensation

The organising club pays the referees after the league game:

League	Compensation per referee per game
U8 U10 U13 (girls) U13 U16	10 €
U19 Women Adults and Cup	20 €
D3 Qualification games Adults playoffs Cup semifinal, final	25 €

## 9. Forfeit

Forfeits need to be announced to the BFF by e-mail and to the organising club (see club contact list provided at the start of the season). Penalty fees are applied in case of forfeit:

### 9.1 Announced at least 48 hours before the start of the league game

League	Total	Penalty fee	Compensation for organising club
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	170 €	100 €	70 €
U13 U16	180 €	100 €	80 €
U19 Women Adults Cup	200 €	100 €	100 €
D3 qualification games Playoffs Cup semifinals, final	250 €	100 €	150 €

### 9.2 Announced less than 48 hours before the start of the league game

League	Total	Penalty fee	Compensation for organising club
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	370 €	300 €	70 €
U13 U16	380 €	300 €	80 €
U19 Women Adults Cup	400 €	300 €	100 €
D3 qualification games Playoffs Cup semifinals, final	450 €	300 €	150 €

### 9.3 Unannounced forfeit

League	Total	Penalty fee	Compensation for organising club
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	570 €	500 €	70 €
U13 U16	580 €	500 €	80 €
U19 Women Adults	600 €	500 €	100 €
D3 qualification games Playoffs Cup semifinals, final	650 €	500 €	150 €

If a team does not show up properly dressed 15 minutes before the game starts, or cannot start the game with the required number of players (see point 2.2 above), the team loses the game by forfeit, and the final score will be 5-0 for the non-offending team.

Exemption for a late start can be granted if agreed upon by the referees and the opposing team and if it does not affect the other games of the league day. The offending club will be charged with a 25 € fine.

### 9.4 Consecutive forfeits

Three consecutive forfeits lead to a general forfeit. The BFF Central Board will determine the consequences for a club in case of a general forfeit.

## **10. Rescheduling league games**

Games can be rescheduled based on the rules mentioned below. However, a team cannot play more than one game per league day.

### **10.1 Time frame**

All rescheduled games need to be played:

- Not earlier than the first league day of the season.
- Before or on the last league day of the season.

Furthermore, there is an additional time constraint applicable to the Women's and Adults league:

- Rescheduled games of the first round must all be played before 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- Rescheduled games of the second round must be played after 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **10.2 Foreseen circumstances**

If a team wants to reschedule a game, it first needs to agree on a new date, time and location with the opposing team. If the teams cannot agree on a new date, the game will be played as initially scheduled.

#### **10.2.1 Earlier date**

The team must notify the BFF by e-mail at least one month in advance of the proposed earlier date, including the date, time and location of the rescheduled game.

The opposing team must send an e-mail agreeing to the rescheduling of the game.

The players that are registered at the BFF ultimately one week before the league day are allowed to play.

#### **10.2.2 Later date**

The team must notify the BFF by e-mail at least one month in advance of the original game date. This e-mail includes the date, time and location of the rescheduled game.

The opposing team must send an e-mail agreeing to the rescheduling of the game.

The licensed players list for the initial date of the league day will be valid.

#### **10.2.3 Substitute referees**

The BFF attempts to find the substitute referees for the rescheduled games in collaboration with the team which requested the rescheduling of the game. If no referees are found two weeks before the new date, the game will be played as initially scheduled.

## 10.2.4 Expenses

The club that reschedules a game will be:

- Charged with a 25 € administration fee; and,
- Asked to pay a compensation to the organising club if the booking of the hall cannot be cancelled by the organising club:

League	Compensation for organising club
U8 U10 U13 (girls)	70 €
U13 U16	80 €
U19 Women Adults Cup	100 €
Playoffs, Cup semifinals, final	150 €

- Asked to pay other expenses (e.g., referees and transport expenses of the referees).

## 10.3 Unforeseen circumstances

The rules described in 10.1 and 10.2 do not apply if a team needs to postpone a match for unforeseen circumstances. In these cases, a Disciplinary Committee will be formed (see section 13. below), which will always have the last call on what can be considered as an unforeseen circumstance. Non-availability of cars with winter tyres will not be considered as unforeseen circumstances if the overall traffic situation does not justify otherwise. Traffic accidents need to be excused with a police report.

## 10.4 Suspended players

If a player is suspended for a game, rescheduling the game after the Disciplinary Committee has decided the suspension will not affect the suspension. If the Disciplinary Committee decides the suspension after one or more games have already been rescheduled, the rescheduled games will be considered as if they were the next regular games of the team.

## 10.5 Switching two games on a league day

Two games can be switched if the other three teams involved agree on the change in schedule. The deadline to request the switching of the games (with the agreement of the other three teams) must be sent to the BFF at least one month before the league day. The BFF must validate the change, the fee of which is 10 €. The switch will only be possible if it does not cause any problems with the refereeing of the games. If the game is rescheduled on the day itself, but not on the times indicated in the original league file, then point 10.2 applies.

## 11. Match penalties

### 11.1 Match penalty fee

Any match penalty (1, 2 or 3) will be sanctioned with 25 € fine for the club.

### 11.2 Suspension

- A player/official incurring a match penalty 1 (MP1) is suspended for the rest of the match;
- A player/official incurring a match penalty 2 (MP2) is suspended for the rest of the match and will be automatically suspended for the next game in the same category; and,
- A player/official incurring a match penalty 3 (MP3) is automatically suspended for the rest of the match and for the next game in the same category and for all games in any other category until the Disciplinary Committee (see section 13. below) has taken a decision. After having received a MP3, the concerned player or his or her club will have three days to react by means of a written statement.

Suspended persons may only be in the areas intended for spectators and the public:

- **Suspension from playing**  
Suspension from playing means the person is not allowed to participate in a match event as a player or an official.
- **Suspension from official's duties**  
Suspension from official's duties means the person is not allowed to participate in a match event as a representative or official of a club or team, nor act as a referee (in cases of MP2 or MP3, the delay of the suspension will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee).

### 11.3 Suspension for players with a mixed licence

A player with a mixed licence incurring a MP2 will be automatically suspended for the next league day (both possible games) in the same category. A player with a mixed licence incurring a MP3 will be automatically suspended for the next league day (both possible games) in the same category and for all games in any other category until the Disciplinary Committee has taken a decision.

## **12. Complaints**

### **12.1 Procedure**

A team seeking to file a complaint has two options:

1. After the game, the team informs the referees that there is a complaint to write down on the match record. The referees will write down the complaint on the reverse of the match record and inform the opposing team.
2. The teams may also file the complaint by e-mail within two days. The opposing team will be informed of the complaint by e-mail. After being informed, the opposing team will have three days to react by means of a written statement.

### **12.2 Validation of the complaint**

The club filing the complaint will have to deposit 50 € on the BFF account within one week upon filing the complaint. This amount will only be refunded if the complaint is judged to be justified.

### **12.3 Appointment of a Disciplinary Committee**

The appointed Disciplinary Committee members (see section 13. below) will be informed and consult each other to determine if the complaint is justified. If needed, the members of the Disciplinary Committee will ask the involved parties for additional statements before taking a decision.

## **13. Disciplinary Committee**

### **13.1 Procedure**

A Disciplinary Committee will convene:

1. After a match penalty 3.
2. After a complaint, if the complaint is deemed to be justified.
3. In severe cases of unsportsmanlike conduct, violence (physical and psychological, on and off the field), use of doping and drugs, bribing or match fixing.
4. If a game is cancelled due to absent referees (unforeseen circumstances).
5. If two teams fail to find an agreement to reschedule a game (unforeseen circumstances).

A Disciplinary Committee will always consist of three neutral members appointed by the BFF, whereby neutral means not being affiliated with the clubs involved in the issue. If necessary, the members of the Disciplinary Committee will ask the involved parties for additional statements before taking a decision.

The parties involved will be informed of the decision within 30 days after the complaint was filed that caused the start of the Disciplinary Committee.

### **13.2 Appeal**

The decision of the Disciplinary Committee can be appealed. The club appealing the decision will deposit 100 € on the BFF account within two weeks after having received the decision. This amount will only be refunded if the appeal is judged to be justified. The BFF will appoint three other neutral members that were not already involved in the initial Disciplinary Committee to assess the appeal.

### **13.3 Suspensions in retrospect**

If a Disciplinary Committee is formed because of extraordinary circumstances and decides to attribute a suspension to an official or player in retrospect (e.g., based on video evidence), this suspension will be sanctioned with a 25 € fine for the club.

## **14. Specific rules qualification games, playoff games, and replays**

### **14.1 Extra time**

Game time will be effective for all games of the qualification games, playoffs, and the replays.

If a match ends in a tie, it shall be extended with a 10-minute limited extra time. The first goal acceptably scored in the extra time shall end the game (sudden death principle).

There is an intermission of two minutes between the actual game time and the extra time, but no changing of ends shall take place. The extra time will be effective time.

### **14.2 Penalties**

If no goal is scored during the extra time, the match shall be decided by penalty shots. Five field players from each team shall make one penalty shot each. If the score after this is still equal, the same players shall make one penalty shot each until a decisive result is achieved.

### **14.3 Specific rule for the semifinals of the playoffs**

The first-ranked team in the first division can choose to play either the third or the fourth-ranked team in the semifinal.

### **14.4 Player registration**

At the end of the regular season, it is not possible to register new players for the teams that play the qualification games, playoffs, or the replays. Only club members with a valid BFF licence (e.g., because they play for a U19 or a Women's league team) may be registered to compete at the qualification games, playoffs, or the replays for a team of their club.

## **15. Cup-specific rules**

### **15.1 Organisation**

The draw of the Cup is guided: the best Adults league teams of the previous season will not play during the first round of the Cup. The last season's ranking after the playoffs will be taken into account to determine these teams.

The exact number of teams not playing in the first round depends on the total number of registered teams for the Cup.

However, if exactly 8, 16 or 32 teams are registered for the Cup, all teams will play in the first round.

### **15.2 Deadline application of organisers**

The applications for the organisation of all games of the Cup have to be announced before 15<sup>th</sup> of September, otherwise the Cup will be cancelled.

### **15.3 Semifinals and final organisers**

The BFF Central Board decides between the different club candidates to host the semifinals and the final. The decision is taken by the Central Board, based on the infrastructure (i.e., halls) proposed by the club.

### **15.4 Direct elimination**

The Cup will be played with direct elimination after losing.

## 16. Structure and organisation of the Adults league

### 16.1 Structure

The structure of the Adults and Women's league depends on the number of teams that register for the league:

# teams	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3 (group A)	Division 3 (group B)	Promotion/ Relegation	Qualification games in D3
≤11 teams	≤11 teams	/	/	/	/	/
12	6 teams	6 teams	/	/	/	/
...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	9 teams	8 teams	8 teams	/	Yes	/
26	9 teams	9 teams	8 teams	/	Yes	/
27	9 teams	9 teams	9 teams	/	Yes	/
28	8 teams	8 teams	6 teams	6 teams	Yes	Yes
29	9 teams	8 teams	6 teams	6 teams	Yes	Yes
30	9 teams	9 teams	6 teams	6 teams	Yes	Yes
31	9 teams	9 teams	7 teams	6 teams	Yes	Yes
32	9 teams	9 teams	7 teams	7 teams	Yes	Yes

### 16.2 Promotion and relegation (end of the regular season 2018/19)

- The champion of a division is automatically promoted to the higher division.
- The bottom team of a division automatically relegates to the lower division.
- If there is a regionalisation of division 3, the champion of a regional division does not promote automatically. The two top-ranked teams of both regional divisions have to play qualification games to qualify for the playoffs.

### 16.3 Subdivision into divisions (start of the new season 2019/20)

In the Adults league, where the division of a club's team is dictated by the previous season's performance, first the ranking resulting from the playoffs is taken into account, then the ranking in the regular league (if a team not playing the playoffs needs to be promoted or relegated).

#### 16.3.1 New teams

New teams will start in the lowest division. If the new teams need to be spread over multiple divisions, a draw will be conducted to determine which new team will start in which division.

### **16.3.2 Multiple teams of one club**

When multiple teams belonging to one club are registered, these teams must play each other on the first league day of round 1 and round 2 if they play in the same division:

- Two teams of the same club must play against each other on the first league day (same for the return game).
- Three teams of the same club must play against each other on league days 1, 2 and 3 (same for the return game) etc.

### **16.3.3 Lower division**

For justified reasons, a club may apply for membership in a division lower than the one to which the team would be entitled. Such a request should be made ASAP and at the latest two weeks after the playoffs final.

This request will only be accepted if the next ranked teams accept to take their place in the higher division. First, the ranking in the promotion/relegation playoffs will be taken into account; subsequently, the ranking in the regular season.

## **16.4 Regionalisation of the third division**

If 28 teams or more register for the Adults league, the third division will be regionalised.

### **16.4.1 Subdivision into division East and division West**

The regionalisation implies that the teams of the third division will be split up geographically (see point 16.1 above). Teams most East and West on a geographical map are put in two separate regional divisions. The other teams are divided depending on their geographical proximity to the teams most East and West on the map.

### **16.4.2 Multiple teams of a club in the third division**

If more than one team of the same club competes in the third division, these teams will be attributed to the same regional division (East or West).

### **16.4.3 Qualification games**

Qualification games need to be played to determine the ranking of the third division and to determine the candidates for the playoffs. The following system applies at the end of the regular competition:

- Qualification games day 1:  
N°1 D3W vs. N°2 D3E // N°1 D3E vs N°2 D3W
- Qualification games day 2:  
Winner 1 vs. Winner 2. The winner promotes to the second division. Loser plays the D2/D3 playoffs.  
Loser 1 vs. Loser 2. The winner plays the D2/D3 playoffs.  
Loser does not qualify for the playoffs.

## 17. Specific rules small field

The rink shall be 27 m (length) x 15 m (width) and enclosed by a board with rounded corners, which is approved by the IFF and marked accordingly. The rink shall be rectangular. The smallest rink allowed is 25 m x 14 m.

Goal area measuring 0.9 m (length) x 1.9 m (width) shall be marked 1.8 m from the short sides of the rink. The goal creases shall be rectangular and centred in relation to the long sides of the rink. The goal cage measures 60 cm (height), 90 cm (width) and 50 cm (depth).

A penalty shot dot shall be marked 7 m from the goal line and shall be centred in relation to the long sides of the rink. Face-off dots shall be marked on the centre line and on the imaginary extensions of the goal lines, 1 m from the long sides of the rink.

Substitution zones with a length of 6 m shall be marked along one of the long sides of the rink, 5 m from the centre line, and include players' benches. The substitution zones shall be marked on both sides of the board. The width of the substitution zones must not exceed 3 m, measured from the board. The players' benches shall be placed at an appropriate distance from the board and have room for fourteen persons each.

Each team is allowed to use a maximum of 14 players. These shall be noted in the match record.

During the play, at most four players in each team, but no goalkeeper (all rules regarding the goalkeeper are not applicable), may be on the rink simultaneously. For the referees to start a match, each team shall have at least four field players, or the final score shall be 5 - 0 to the non-offending team. During the play, each team must be able to play with at least three players, or the match shall be stopped and the final score shall be 5 - 0 for the non-offending team, or the result achieved if this is more advantageous for the non-offending team.

All players, except those taking the face-off, shall immediately, without summons from the referees, take a position at least 2 m from the ball, sticks included. Before a face-off, it is the referees' responsibility to check that the teams are ready and that all players have taken position.

A hit-in shall be taken from where the ball leaves the rink, 1 m from the board, but never behind the imaginary extensions of the goal lines. The opponents shall immediately, without summons from the referees, take a position at least 2 m from the ball, sticks included.

The free-hit shall be taken where the offence was committed, but never behind the imaginary extensions of the goal lines, or closer to the goalkeeper areas than 2.5 m.

A penalty shot shall be taken from the penalty shot dot. The player is allowed to touch the ball once.

Not more than one bench penalty per team may be measured simultaneously. Offences leading to a free hit: when a field player is in the goalkeeper area. Offences leading to a 2-minute bench penalty: When a player violates the 2 m rule at a hit-in or a free-hit (915).