



# GBAC Football League and Tournament Rules 2024 -

- All Football Association [rules](#) and regulations for the 2023/2024 academic year (AY) apply with GBAC variations.
- Coin flip to determine who has possession at kick-off.
- There is no limit on substitutions. Substitutions can only be made during a break-in-play situation.
- In the event of any dispute, the decision of the League/Tournament Director will be final.
- Coaches are to ensure players display sportsmanship throughout the tournament/league and to discipline players accordingly for rough play.
- Coaches must show respect to all players, opposition coaches, officials and referees.
- *Tournament Rules May Vary - GBAC Committee has the final decision on these.*
- **Mr Bung** can organise referees for you. His number is **+66816842652**. Mr Bung's Line account is linked to that number.
- *Please confirm referees the day before a fixture. Referees are normally paid £500 per league game.*

## GBAC League and tournament scoring system procedures are outlined below.

Win = 3 points Draw = 2 points Lose = 1 point Forfeit = 0 points - Forfeits will result in a 5 - 0 victory to the other school.

\*Postponed fixtures due to pollution will be counted as 0-0 draws until the games are played.

If two or more teams have the same number of points in the league standings or tournament groups, the order of the two teams shall be decided based on the higher game goal difference of the games between those teams (**scored goals – conceded goals**). This is referred to as '**HGGD**'.

If **HGGD** occurs during a **league** campaign and this decides the winner of the conference, then a rematch should be arranged prior to the conference final. If a three-way tie occurs, then a triangular fixture playoff should be held at one school where each school plays each other twice. The duration of these matches will be identical to one-half of the normal league game with no halftime; for example, Under 18 Boys will have a 25-minute total duration with no halftime. Playoff hosts will be drawn out of the hat. This draw will be organised by a committee member whose school is not involved in the triangular fixture.

If **HGGD** occurs during a **tournament** and this decides which teams progress to the medal playoff matches, then a ×3 person penalty shootout will take place to identify the winner.

To save time and reduce the number of additional fixtures when **HGGD** occurs, teams will be awarded joint positions when they are not able to reach the top position during a **league** campaign. In **tournaments**, placements will be decided by a coin toss for those teams not eligible for the medal playoff matches.

| Age Gender |                                             | Under 9 Boys/Girls                                               | Under 11 Boys/Girls   | Under 13 Girls   | Under 13 Boys    | Under 15 Girls                 | Under 15 Boys    | Under 18 Girls   | Under 18 Boys    |  |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|
| Time       | Game Duration (league)                      | 12 minute halves                                                 | 12 minute halves      | 15 minute halves | 15 minute halves | 20 minute halves               | 20 minute halves | 20 minute halves | 25 minute halves |  |
|            | Game Duration (A tournament)                | 12 minute half. No HT                                            | 12 minute half. No HT | 7 minute halves  | 7 minute halves  | 8 minute halves                | 8 minute halves  | 10 minute halves | 10 minute halves |  |
|            | Clock Stoppages                             | Running clock with injury time.                                  |                       |                  |                  |                                |                  |                  |                  |  |
|            | Extra Time Tournament knock out stages only | Duration: U9/U11 - 3 minute half ×1                              |                       |                  |                  | U13/U15/U18 - 5 minute half ×1 |                  |                  |                  |  |
|            | Penalties                                   | Best of 3 players, then sudden death until a winner is declared. |                       |                  |                  |                                |                  |                  |                  |  |
|            | Break interval                              | Half-time 3 minutes.                                             |                       |                  |                  |                                |                  |                  |                  |  |

|                |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Safety apparel | Shin pads | All players must wear shin pads that are fully covered by socks. If a player does not have the correct equipment, they will not be allowed to play. Both goalkeepers and outfield players are encouraged to wear baseball caps. Coaches of their own school teams are responsible for upholding this H&S standard. |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



| Age Gender   |                                   | Under 9 Boys/Girls                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Under 11 Boys/Girls | Under 13 Girls | Under 13 Boys | Under 15 Girls | Under 15 Boys | Under 18 Girls | Under 18 Boys |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Player Rules | Name, DOB, age as of 1st Aug 2022 | Under 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Under 10-11         | Under 12-13    | Under 12-13   | Under 14-15    | Under 14-15   | 16-18          | 16-18         |
|              | Number of players on the field    | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 7                   |                |               |                |               |                |               |
|              | Max dressed players               | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 12                  |                |               |                |               |                |               |
|              | Shirt numbers and team wear       | Please see ' <b>Member schools uniforms/kit requirements for GBAC fixtures</b> ' of GBAC Handbook.<br><a href="http://gbacsports.com">gbacsports.com</a> <input type="checkbox"/> More <input type="checkbox"/> Handbook |                     |                |               |                |               |                |               |

|             |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|--|
| Other Rules | Size of Ball                           | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 4         | 4                    | 5         | 5         | 5             | 5         |  |
|             | Offsides                               | No offsides                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Size of goals                          | <b>U9</b> between 1.52m (5ft) - 1.8m (5.91ft) × 91 (3ft) - 1.2m (3.94ft) or <b>U11</b> sized   <b>U11</b> - 1.83m × 3.66m (6ft × 12 ft) or <b>U13, U15 &amp; U18</b> - between 2.10m (6.89ft) - 2.5m (8.2ft) × 5m (16.4ft) - 6m (16.4ft) or 1.83m × 3.66m (6ft × 12 ft) Starting from the <b>2024/2025 AY</b> , all U13, U15 & U18 fixtures <b>must</b> be played in between 2.10m - 2.5m × 5m - 6m sized goals. Failure to do so will result in a 3 - 0 victory being awarded to the visiting school.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Referees                               | Officiated by staff member                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           | One external referee |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Pitch markings                         | The penalty area may be marked by either a semi-circle or a squared penalty box. <b>Example</b> pitch markings.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Minimum pitch size                     | 35m x 20m                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 40m x 35m                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 40m x 35m | 45m x 35m            | 45m x 35m | 50m x 35m | 50m x 35m     | 55m x 35m |  |
|             | Disciplinary Sanctions                 | No temporary timed suspension or 'sin bins' will be played. Blue cards will <b>not</b> be used in any matches. yellow and red cards may be used in line with the Laws of the Game. It is at the discretion of the officials as to when or if yellow/red cards should be awarded.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Multiball system                       | ×9 match balls in total for each fixture. ×1 ball in play. ×8 balls distributed around the pitch. The ×8 balls will ideally be placed on a cone, with ×2 behind each goal and sideline.<br>Alternatively, both coaches must keep a minimum of ×2 balls with them at all times, which they distribute.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Offside                                | No offside rule in both league and tournament play.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Throw Ins                              | Dribble or pass in from floor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | A throw-in will be awarded if the ball goes out of play over a touchline. In U7, U9 and U11 matches, players should be given one chance (and if necessary, taught/demonstrated) by the referee or nearest coach to throw the ball in properly. If players continue to make a foul throw the throw-in should be retaken by the opposition. |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Shooting from Kick Offs and Goal Kicks | No shooting directly from kick off or a goal kick is permitted. The ball must be touched by the team responsible for these two types of set piece a minimum of three times before a goal is scored. Conduct of this nature results in a retake of the set piece and the referee speaking privately to the coach away from pupils/spectators about upholding the integrity of the game.<br>Fixtures which incorporate the 'Retreat Line' have this additional rule when a goal kick takes place: After the kicker has taken the goal kick, the ball must first be touched by another player within the first two thirds of the pitch and not in the final third. This is to encourage player's technical development. In the event of this occurring, the referee will instruct the team in possession to retake the goal kick.<br>Common sense should be used if coaches or pupils are attempting to find loopholes in these rulings, as this is unsporting and undermines the competition, opposition school relationships and the conference. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Mercy Rule                             | If the goal difference reaches a difference of 5 goals, the score remains the same and is the final score, however the game continues until full time. This is the score uploaded to 'GBAC Football Schedule'. Adults responsible for the leading team should rotate more dominant pupils in their squad with less dominant pupils to ensure the teams are more even in ability and to protect the GBAC's <u>aim and vision</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Retreat Line                           | See the separate 'Retreat Line' page for explanation. Please clearly mark using red/yellow cones.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |                      |           |           |               |           |  |
|             | Retreat Line used                      | Retreat to Half way                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes       | Yes                  | Yes       | No        | From AY 24/25 | No        |  |



### **Specific unsportsmanlike conduct**

Whilst all Football Association rules can be found [here](#). Please be aware of these specific GBAC directives.

### **Players speaking with match officials**

Only one player from a team is permitted to speak to the referee at any given time; ideally, this player should be the team captain.

### **Time-wasting**

Players are not allowed to undermine any fixture by taking the ball into an area of the pitch, for example, the corner flag near the end of the game to 'run down the clock'. Blatant time wasting tactics serve to irritate players, coaches and spectators. This is not befitting of GBAC's Aims and contradicts the feeling of goodwill amongst our community. A free kick will be awarded to the opposition team if this takes place.

The player in possession of the ball when this occurs will receive a caution (yellow card) for this action. The referee will speak privately to the coach, away from pupils/spectators about upholding the integrity of the game.

**The Retreat Rule is for Under U9 Boys/Girls, Under 11 Boys/Girls, Under 13 Boys/Girls, Under 15 Girls and Under 18 Girls only.**

### **Why are we using a Retreat Line?**

The Retreat Line has been introduced to allow our young players to learn and gain confidence in how to play the ball out from the back and play forward to attack, as opposed to the goalkeeper "sending it" aimlessly down the field.

Please remember this is a positive change for the development of the children's learning and improving playing football.

### **Where will the Retreat Line be?**

The retreat Line will be 1/3 distance of the field from each end (see picture below). The Retreat Line will be signified by off-field raised cones or by a permanent marked coloured line.

### **When will the Retreat Line come into effect?**

The Retreat Line will come into effect at two points during the game:

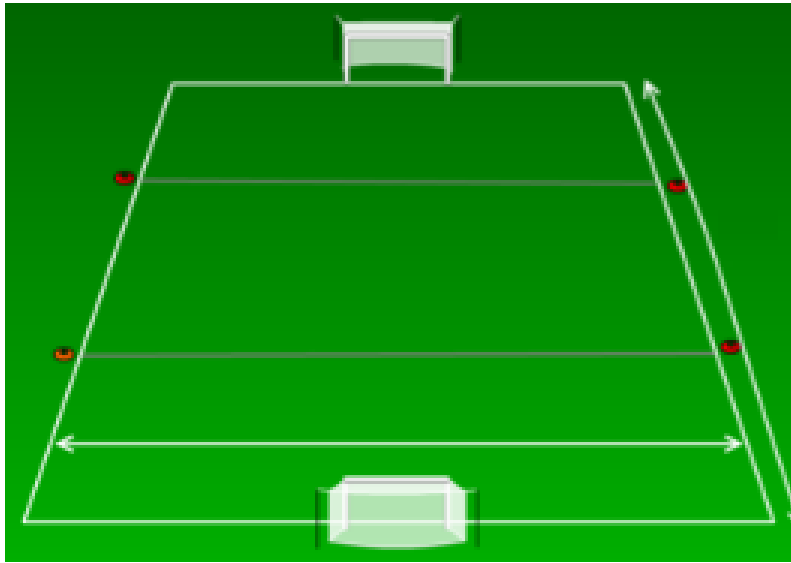
1. At a goal-kick
2. When the goalkeeper has the ball in their hands after a save.

At these times, the "attacking" team is required to drop back behind the Retreat Line. The goalkeeper (who has 5 seconds) can then pass the ball to one of their teammates without the pressure of an opposing player nearby. When the team-mate touches the ball, play will resume as normal, and the "attacking" team can move inside the Retreat Line.

### **When will the play be stopped by the referee?**

Should a member of the 'attacking' team come inside the Retreat Line too soon (and interfere with the play) or touch the ball inside that area before the goalkeeper's teammate, the referee will blow their whistle and the initial distribution re-taken.

Please note that if the goalkeeper puts the ball into play quickly, then regular play resumes as normal.



*Updated 26.02.2024*