uae university games

25 - 26

Football

Technical Handbook

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the rules and regulations governing men's and women's football competitions in the UAE University Games.

All participating universities, players, officials, and staff are expected to adhere to these guidelines to ensure fair play, sportsmanship, and the successful execution of the tournament. These rules are based on FIFA regulations, adapted for the university context, and aim to provide a comprehensive framework for the competition.

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1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1.1 The UAE University Games Football Competition is organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports (MOS) and UAE Schools & University Sports Federation (UAESUSF) in partnership with Abu Dhabi Entertainment Company (ADEC).

1.1.2 The competition shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game as outlined by FIFA, AFC and UAEFA, except where specifically stated otherwise in these regulations.

1.1.3 All participants are expected to uphold the principles of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY

Core Values

2.1.1 All participants in The UAE University Games Football Competition are expected to embody the core values of respect, integrity, and sportsmanship.

2.1.2 Fair play and ethical behaviour are fundamental to the spirit of university sports and must be always upheld.

Respect for Officials

2.1.3 Players, coaches, and team officials must respect the authority of referees and match officials.

2.1.4 Team captains can approach the referee to discuss serious decisions. Final Referee decision however, must be accepted without protest during the match.

2.1.5 Any disagreements should be expressed through proper channels after the match.

Respect for Opponents

2.1.6 Teams must show respect to their opponents before, during, and after matches.

2.1.7 Handshakes between teams are encouraged before and after each match.

2.1.8 Excessive celebration that may be seen as taunting or unsportsmanlike is prohibited.

On-Field Conduct

2.1.9 Players must compete fairly and ethically, avoiding intentional fouls or attempts to deceive referees.

2.1.10 Simulation (diving) to gain an unfair advantage is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action.

Bench Conduct

2.1.11 Team officials and substitutes in the technical area must behave responsibly and refrain from interfering with the match.

2.1.12 Verbal abuse or intimidation of opponents or officials from the bench is not permitted.

Academic Integrity

2.1.13 Universities are responsible for ensuring that all participating students maintain good academic standing.

2.1.14 Any attempt to field ineligible players or falsify academic records will be penalized.

Anti-Discrimination

2.1.15 Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person, or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national, or social origin, gender, language, religion or any other status is prohibited.

2.1.16 Any such behaviour will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Fair Play Award

2.1.17 A Fair Play Award will be presented at the end of the tournament to the team that best exemplifies the principles of fair play and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

2.1.18 Criteria for this award will include disciplinary records, respect for opponents and officials, and overall conduct of team members and supporters.

Education and Promotion

2.1.19 Universities are encouraged to conduct fair play workshops for their teams prior to the competition.

2.1.20 The University Games will promote fair play through various initiatives and campaigns throughout the tournament.

Reporting Misconduct

2.1.21 Any participant who witnesses serious breaches of fair play or ethical conduct is encouraged to report such incidents to the tournament organizers on **management@uaeuniversitygames.ae** . Confidentiality will be maintained for all reports made in good faith.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Squad Size

3.1.1 Men's teams: A maximum of 30 players may be registered to represent the university, with a maximum 18 players nominated for match day squads (11 starting players and 7 substitutes)

3.1.2 Women's teams: A maximum of 20 players may be registered to represent the university, with a maximum of 12 players nominated for official match day squads (7 starting players and 5 substitutes)

Match Eligibility

3.1.3 Players eligibility as per outlined in the "University Games Guidelines" document.

3.1.4 Each university must submit a squad list with player details and proof of enrolment prior to the commencement of the competition.

3.1.5 Accreditations and ID's must also be presented to the relevant match officials on match days, failure to present these may render the player ineligible.

3.1.6 Players should carry a valid university ID and government-issued ID and accreditation card before each match.

3.1.7 The team manager and/or coach is responsible for ensuring all players are eligible to participate.

3.1.8 Fielding ineligible players may result in a forfeit of the game or disqualification from the competition.

4. MATCH FORMAT

The competition will be governed by FIFA's Laws of the Game, except where stated.

Men's Football

4.1.1 The Men's Football competition shall be played in official FIFA 11 vs.11 format.

4.1.2 Regular season matches shall consist of two 35-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break

4.1.3 Matches in the knock-out stages will revert to 45-minute halves with a 15-minute half time break.

4.1.4 In case of a draw in knockout stages, two 15-minute periods of extra time will be played, followed by penalty kicks if necessary.

4.1.5 Maximum of 5 substitutions allowed during regular time, with an additional substitution allowed during extra time.

4.1.6 All substitutions may be conducted during a maximum of 3 opportunities, where the match is stopped for the substitution to take place. Substitutions made at half-time do not count towards these opportunities.

4.1.7 Once a player is substituted, he may not re-enter the match.

4.1.8 The offside rule will be applied in men's matches (11-a-side)

Women's Football

4.1.9 The Women's Football matches shall be played in a 7 vs. 7 formats

4.1.10 Matches shall consist of two 30-minute halves with a 10-minute half-time break

4.1.11 In case of a draw in knockout stages, two 10-minute periods of extra time will be played, followed by penalty kicks if necessary.

4.1.12 Rolling (unlimited) substitutions shall be allowed throughout the match.

4.1.13 There shall be no offside rule applied in women's football matches (7-a-side)

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Regional Conferences

5.1.1 The UAE University Games Football Competition shall be played across 3 distinct conferences.

1. Eastern Conference: Northern Emirates including Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah, Um Al Quain.
2. Central Conference: Dubai
3. Western Conference: Abu Dhabi (including Al Ain and Al Dhafra)

5.1.2 Conferences may be merged in some instances for good cause. This will be at the discretion of The UAE University Games organizers and relevant subcommittees and shall be communicated to all participants prior to the commencement of the competition.

Group Stage

5.1.3 All teams are grouped based on their sport, gender, and conference (Central, Western, Eastern).

5.1.4 Each conference forms a single group for each sport and gender.

5.1.5 Teams are ranked from 1 to 3 at the beginning of the season within each sport and gender category to guide scheduling and avoid early matchups between top-ranked teams.

5.1.6 Matches are scheduled randomly, with efforts to avoid matchups between Rank 1 teams (as declared at the beginning of the season).

5.1.7 Each team plays:

a. 8 games if their group has more than 10 teams.
b. 6 games if their group has 10 or fewer teams.
c. Rankings are determined using the following rules:
d. Win = 3 points, Draw = 1 point, Loss = 0 points.

5.1.8 Ties in points are resolved using:

a. Goal Differential (GD) if teams tied.
b. Total Goals Scored between tied teams.
c. Head-to-Head (if applicable).

Pre-Knockout Stage

5.1.9 After the League Phase, the top teams advance to the knockout structure.

5.1.10 Central Conference Qualifier

a. Due to the large number of participating teams, the Central Conference is guaranteed 3 spots to the Quarterfinals.
b. The top 2 teams from Central qualify directly to the Quarterfinals.
c. Teams ranked 3rd to 6th play as follows:
   i. Game 1: Central 3rd vs Central 6th
   ii. Game 2: Central 4th vs Central 5th
   iii. Game 3: Winner of Game 1 vs Winner of Game 2 → Qualifies to Quarterfinals as Central Qualifier

5.1.11 Western & Eastern Inter-Conference Qualifier

a. Western and Eastern Conferences contribute 5 teams to the Quarterfinals.
b. The top 2 teams from Western & Eastern qualify directly to Quarterfinals.
c. Teams ranked 3rd to 6th in Western & Eastern play as follows:
   i. Game 1: Western 3rd vs Western 6th
   ii. Game 2: Western 4th vs Western 5th
   iii. Game 3: Winner of Game 1 vs Winner of Game 2 → Western Qualifier
   iv. Game 4: Eastern 3rd vs Eastern 6th
   v. Game 5: Eastern 4th vs Eastern 5th
   vi. Game 6: Winner of Game 4 vs Winner of Game 5 → Eastern Qualifier
   vii. Game 7: Western Qualifier vs Eastern Qualifier → Winner qualifies to Quarterfinals as Inter-Conference Qualifier

Knockout Phase

5.1.12 The knockout phase includes the top 8 teams.

5.1.13 Includes 3rd Place Playoff.

5.1.14 Quarterfinal Matchups

a. QF1 Central 1st vs Inter-Conference Qualifier
b. QF2 Western 2nd vs Eastern 2nd
c. QF3 Western 1st vs Central Qualifier
d. QF4 Eastern 1st vs Central 2nd

5.1.15 Semifinals

a. Semifinal 1 → Winner QF1 vs Winner QF2
b. Semifinal 2 → Winner QF3 vs Winner QF4

5.1.16 Finals

a. 3rd Place Match → Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2
b. Final → Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2

6. THE FIELD OF PLAY

Men's Football (11 v 11)

The field of play is the area bounded by the goal lines and touchlines. FIFA's recommended field of play dimensions are 105 meters x 68 meters. The field of play must be rectangular and marked with continuous lines. These lines belong to the areas of which they are boundaries. The field of play shall be level and without deviations.

6.1.1 Length: The official field of play shall be no less than 100m and no greater than 110m in length.

6.1.2 Width: The official field of play shall be no less than 64m and no greater than 75m in width.

6.1.3 Goal size: The goal size must remain standard at a width of 7.32m and height of 2.44m

Women's Football (7-a-side)

6.1.4 Length: The official field of play shall be no less than 60m and no greater than 70m in length.

6.1.5 Width: The official field of play shall be no less than 40m and no greater than 50m in width.

6.1.6 Goal size: The goal size must remain standard at a width 5m and a height of 2m.

Field Markings

6.1.7 All fields must be clearly marked according to the Official 'Laws of the Game'

6.1.8 The technical area and substitutes' benches must be clearly defined.

7. MATCH SCHEDULE AND TIMINGS

7.1.1 The competition calendar will be released at least 7 days before the start of the tournament.

7.1.2 Teams must arrive at the venue at least 60 minutes before kick-off time.

7.1.3 Warm-up time on the field will be allocated 30 minutes before kick-off, subject to field availability.

7.1.4 A team that delays the kick-off by up to 15 minutes will be subject to disciplinary action. Beyond 15 minutes, the match may be awarded to the opposing team with a 3-0 score.

8. KIT AND EQUIPMENT

8.1.1 Each team must have a light and dark kit in contrasting colors.

8.1.2 The home team shall wear their light-coloured kit. The away team shall wear the dark colored kit.

8.1.3 All players must wear shin guards covered entirely by socks.

8.1.4 Jersey and short numbers must be clearly visible and correspond to the numbers listed on the team sheet.

8.1.5 No jewelry or accessories are allowed during play.

8.1.6 All matches to be played with a standard size 5 match ball.

9. MATCH PROCEDURES

Team Sheets

9.1.1 Must be submitted to the referee at least 45 minutes before kick-off

9.1.2 Must list starting players, substitutes, and team officials

Technical Area

9.1.3 Only registered team officials and substitutes are allowed in the technical area

9.1.4 A maximum of 3 team officials can be in the technical area at any time

Abandoned Matches

9.1.5 UAE University Games has the authority to determine the outcome of abandoned matches

9.1.6 Generally, if 75% of the match has been played, the result at the time of abandonment will stand

10. REFEREEING

Referee Appointments

10.1.1 Referees will be appointed by the UAE University Games in partnership with UAEFA.

10.1.2 For men's regular season matches and qualifiers: 1 referee, two assistant referees, and 1 fourth official for the national championships.

10.1.3 For women's group matches: 1 referee, 1 assistant referee for regular season matches and qualifiers, and 1 third official for the national championships.

Official's Report

10.1.4 The venue manager must submit a match report within 24 hours of the match completion.

10.1.4.1.1 The referee must submit a detailed report of any incident to the Operations Team, who will then share it with the Organizing Committee.

11. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

11.1.1 Yellow and Red Cards: Two yellow cards in the same match result in a red card, expulsion and automatic one match suspension.

11.1.2 A direct red card results in automatic suspension for the next match

11.1.3 Accumulation of 3 yellow cards across different matches results in a one-match suspension

11.1.4 Serious Offenses: Violent conduct, spitting, or abusive language may result in multi-match suspensions. The disciplinary committee may impose additional sanctions for serious offenses

12. APPEALS AND DISPUTES

12.1.1 Appeals must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the match in question.

12.1.2 Appeals can be made on the following grounds:

a) Misapplication of rules
b) Player eligibility issues
c) Serious procedural errors

12.1.3 Judgment calls by officials cannot be appealed.

12.1.4 The Appeals Committee's decision is final and binding.

12.1.5 Appeals may be submitted via **management@uaeuniversitygames.ae** email, with the **Subject: Appeal – Football Match (Date of Match)**

13. MEDICAL AND SAFETY PROVISIONS

13.1.1 Each venue shall have a qualified medical professional present, a fully equipped first-aid kit, and suitable provisions to ensure rapid emergency treatment if necessary.

13.1.2 A player who suffers a head injury must be assessed by a medical professional before being allowed to continue.

13.1.3 In case of extreme heat, water breaks may be implemented at the referee's discretion unless otherwise specified.

14. FINAL PROVISIONS

14.1.1 Matters not provided for in these regulations will be decided by the UAE University Games, through its Local Organizing Committee and assigned subcommittees where applicable.

14.1.2 These regulations are approved by the UAE University Games, under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports (MOS) and United Arab Emirates Sports Federation for School and University Education Institutions (UAESUSF) in partnership with Abu Dhabi Entertainment Company (ADEC) and UAE Football Association and will come into force immediately.

14.1.3 This remains a live document and the 'UAE University Games' reserves the right to make amendments to these regulations as necessary.