



THE RULES OF BEACH KORFBALL

**CHANGES MADE COMPARED TO THE
MOST RECENT VERSION**

2024

Below are the changes made to the text of the Beach Korfball Playing Rules published in 2021.

Key

- = new text
- = deleted or altered text

1 FIELD

1.1 Playing area

The playing area shall be deemed to be the field of play together with its border area, the team area and the jury table (see diagram 1).

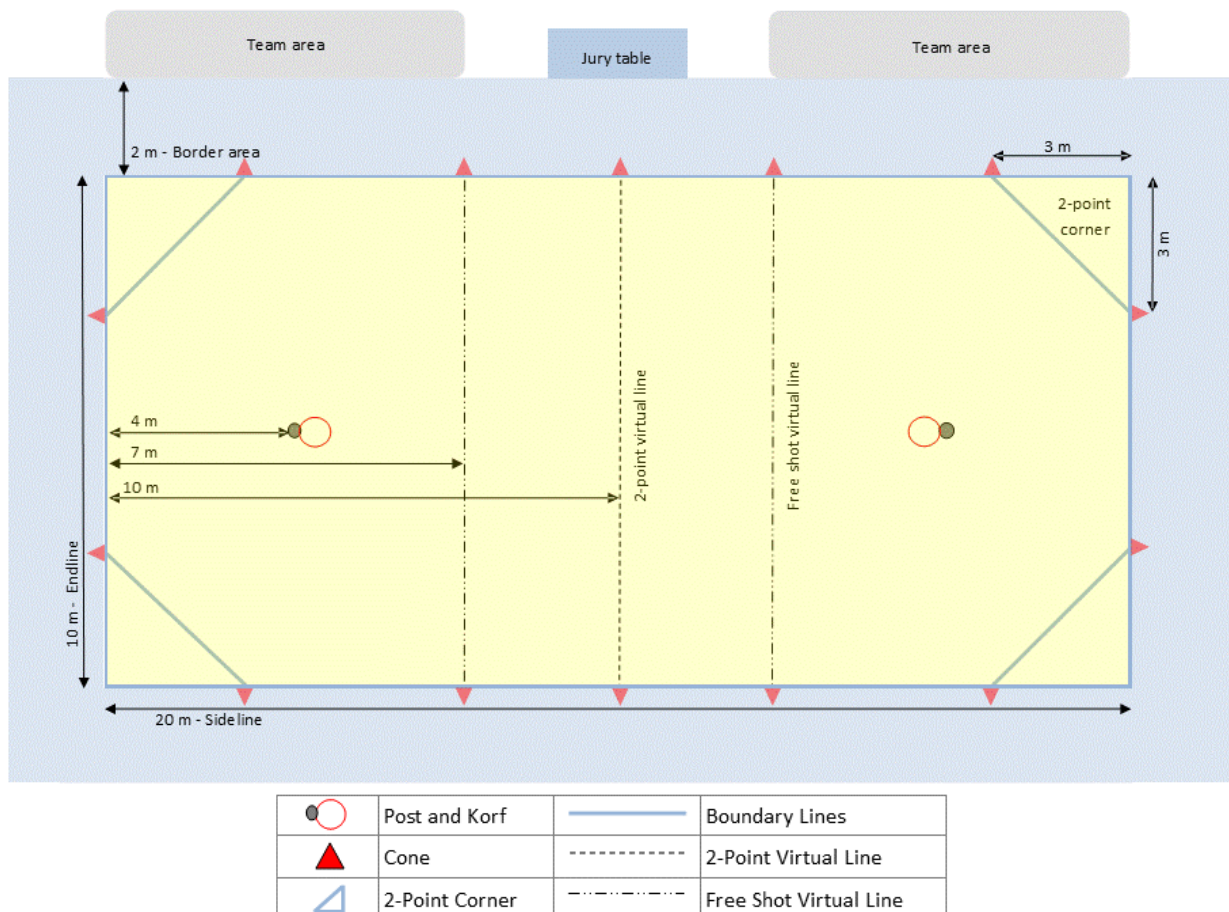


Diagram 1 – Playing Area

1.7 Border area

The border area is at least ~~1 m~~ 2 m wide and surrounds the field of play. It must be kept free from obstacles (see diagram 1).

If a stadium format is used, sidewalls may be used to define the border area. The walls must be sufficiently high as to not be dangerous to a player.

1.8 Team area

The team area extends from the back of the field of play to ~~3 m from the 2 point~~ the free shot virtual line and it is at least ~~1 m~~ 2 m, away from the sideline (see diagram 1).

Teams must change their team area at half time.

3 EQUIPMENT

3.3 Scoreboard

A scoreboard consists of a score display. It must be placed outside the border area or above the playing area in a spot clearly visible from the jury table, the team areas and spectators.

A manual score recorder must be on the jury table whether there is an electronic one in the venue.

4 PERSONS

4.1 Players

The players of each team must:

- ✓ be dressed in numbered matching sports outfit that is sufficiently different from that of the other team;
- ✓ be permitted to wear regular (cloth made) sport socks or support bandages. All other types of footwear or any objects that might be considered dangerous (e.g., synthetic, rubber etc.) are not permitted; ~~not wear shoes or any objects that might be considered dangerous, unless they are taped or fixed in a way that they are no longer dangerous;~~
- ✓ have closely cut and smooth fingernails.

Examples of dangerous objects include: rimless glasses, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, wristwatches and rings.

Because it is a mixed sport, slight differences between men's and women's clothes are allowed on the same team outfits as long as they look similar and have the same colours.

Players are allowed to wear sun-caps and sports sunglasses.

4.2 Substitute players

The maximum number of substitute players is four (two males and two females). They must remain seated or kneeling in their team area during the match, ~~except to warm up prior to substitution~~. A player that has been substituted should remain with the other substitutes following the same conditions.

All substitute players, when in the team area, must remain seated or on their knees and can only stand prior to a substitution. Failing this can be considered misconduct.

4.5 Referee duo

~~The control of the game is his and his alone. He must wear an outfit that is sufficiently different from the competing teams. He mainly officiates from outside the field of play.~~

~~His tasks are:~~

The control of the game is an exclusive task of the referee duo. Both referees are equally empowered to execute this task. They must wear an outfit that is sufficiently different from the competing teams.

They mainly shall be positioned outside the field of play along its sidelines of the field of play.

Their tasks are:

a) to decide the suitability of the field of play, material and equipment and evaluate the weather conditions

Before the match, the referee ascertains that all conditions (according to 1, 2 & 3), satisfy the requirements and those conditions are maintained during the game. He must not tolerate non-compliance in this respect. If the conditions are no longer suitable for play, then the game should be cancelled.

The main reason for cancellation could be outdoor weather conditions, in particular thunderstorms.

A time lag of less than 30 seconds between lightning and thunder is considered dangerous for beach/outdoor conditions.

The referee must be aware of his ~~his~~ **their** responsibility as regards to injuries and illnesses that ~~the~~ players might incur as a result of unfavourable conditions ~~of~~ **in** the playing area. ~~He~~ **They** can assume that the players are in good health.

b) to indicate the starting, stopping and restarting of the game

To start, stop or restart the game the referee blows his whistle, except for re-starting the game after:

- ✓ a re-start;
- ✓ a free shot;
- ✓ a throw off after a goal;
- ✓ an out-ball.

The referee **duo** must stop the game whenever:

- ✓ action must be taken owing to changed circumstances such as weather, material or equipment (according to 1, 2 & 3);
- ✓ a goal has been scored;
- ✓ an infringement must be punished;
- ✓ an unfair advantage occurs (according to 4.5 e));
- ✓ a player is bleeding;
- ✓ misbehaviour or interference by the public occurs;
- ✓ both teams intentionally play passively in turns (see 6.9);
- ✓ it is not possible to continue the match owing to changes in the line-up (according to 5.1).

c) to enforce the rules

The **referee duo punishes** infringements of the rules unless ~~he~~ **they choose** to play on (according to 7.2).

~~He~~ **They** may punish any infringements of the rules at any time during the match, even when play has been stopped.

The referee running along the sideline next to the team areas ensures that the substitutions are properly carried out.

d) to use the official signals and ~~his~~ **their voices to clarify ~~his~~ **their** decisions**

As described in the “Referee signals”.

After blowing his whistle for an infringement, the referee will normally first indicate whether it is a free shot or a re-start and which was the non-offending team by signalling the direction. Following this, the signal for the type of infringement should be indicated.

e) to take action when one side obtains an unfair advantage from circumstances outside the game

After blowing his whistle to stop the game, the referee allows the players to get back to their position and gives the ball to the team that should have had ball possession.

Examples of unfair advantage are:

- ✓ the referee hinders a defender so that the attacker obtains a scoring chance;
- ✓ the defender falls as a result of an accidental collision between attacker and defender when neither player has committed a foul. In these cases, the referee stops the game and allows the defender to take up his position;
- ✓ a player is prevented from catching the ball because the public has crossed a boundary line. If, in the opinion of the referee, the player would normally have caught the ball, then the **duo** referee will give the ball to the player concerned.

f) to take action against misbehaviour

(according to 7.5).

This includes players, coaches, substitutes, **and** other persons attached to the team.

g) to take action against interference by the public

When it appears necessary to **the two referees, they** ~~him, he~~ can let the public be warned, or ~~he they~~ can cancel or terminate the match.

In the case of interference by the spectators, the referee **duo** will ask the captain to have this stopped. In the case of repetition, the referee **duo** may adjourn or terminate the match, as circumstances require.

h) To check players for dangerous items

(according to 4.1).

4.6 Assistant referee

~~In each match there is one assistant referee who must wear an outfit similar to the referee.~~

~~He shall be positioned outside the field of play between the two team areas to better ensure substitutions are properly carried out.~~

~~His duty it is to assist the referee in controlling the game. He shall carry a flag.~~

~~The assistant referee can bring the referee’s attention to:~~

- ~~✓ misconduct of players, coaches, substitute players and any other persons attached to the team;~~
- ~~✓ any foul taking place outside the view of the referee;~~

~~In cases of doubt the referee asks the opinion of the assistant referee regarding decisions to be taken on the field. On the advice of the assistant referee he may change his previous decision provided he has not re-started play.~~

~~He is allowed to enter the field of play for a short period of time but only after he has been given permission to do so by the referee.~~

4.6 Jury

The jury assists the referee in controlling the match protocol, rules and regulations.

The jury instructs and supervises the timekeeper and scorer during the match.

In a situation not covered by the protocol, rules and regulations the jury may advise the referee, who will take the decision regarding the situation.

4.7 Timekeeper

The timekeeper is responsible for the playing time and operates the time clock, according to 5.2.

Each period of the game shall end on the timekeeper's signal.

4.8 Scorekeeper

The scorekeeper is responsible for the game score and operates the scoreboard, according to 5.5.

5 THE GAME

5.8 Substitutions of players

Substitutions may be made at any time as described:

- ✓ the substitution must be done in front of the Team Area (see Diagram 1);
- ✓ the outgoing player is required to leave the field before his replacement can enter;
- ~~✓ the incoming player is required to touch hands with the outgoing player before he may enter the field;~~
- ✓ outgoing and incoming players must be of the same gender.

Infringements during substitutions:

- ✓ if substitution is made **without fulfilling all** ~~missing any of~~ the above requirements, ~~then a free shot is awarded against that team~~ **the incoming player cannot enter the game until the next immediate attack from the opposing team is completed and his team recovers the ball possession.**

A substituted player is allowed to return to the match. The number of male and female players must be maintained, except in the case of yellow or red cards (see 7.5) where less players can be on the field.

6 INFRINGEMENTS OF THE RULES

6.3 To shoot from a defended position

Whenever an attacker player shoots the ball towards the korf while a defender satisfies all the following conditions:

- a) is actively trying to block the ball;
- b) is within one (1) arm's length **in relation to** ~~of~~ the attacker;
- c) is nearer the post than the attacker;
- d) has his face turned towards the attacker.

The rule is based on the desire to encourage players to cooperate together to attain free positions from which shots may be taken and prevent slick hand and arm movements being rewarded by a goal.

When judging the distance of an arm's length between the attacker and the defender, the referee must consider (visualise) the vertical position of both players.

~~Exceptions where a shot must still be considered defended when~~ A shot must still be considered defended when specific circumstances do not allow for one of the four (4) conditions are not satisfied:

Condition a) cannot be deemed when:

- ✓ the attacker is much taller than the defender, and because of that, the defender cannot actually block the ball;
- ✓ the attacker, having jumped up, shoots or taps the ball over the hindering arms of the defender towards the korf;
- ✓ the attacker has received the ball while he has his back to the korf and the defender is behind him.

Condition b) cannot be deemed when:

- ✓ the attacker standing in a defended position steps, or jumps backwards, without infringing 6.1 (to run with the ball) and shoots. If the defender tries to follow his movement and actually tries to block the shot, even if the attacker is out of an arm's length.

Condition c) cannot be deemed when:

- ✓ the attacker is so close to the post that the hindering defender cannot stand nearer the post and the defender and the attacker are on opposite sides of the post.

A shot cannot be considered defended if:

- ✓ the defender doesn't actually try to block the shot (the simple raising of the arm is insufficient);
- ✓ the body of the defender is further from the post than that of the attacker. It is not sufficient when the defender's hand or arm is nearer the post. The reference must be most of the torso (upper body) being closer to the post;
- ✓ the defender is unaware the attacker has the ball in his possession (very fast shot, tapping);
- ✓ during an underhand shot against a tall defender or when the defender jumps up, the ball is touched but the defender was not within an arm's length at the instant the shot is taken.

7 SANCTIONS & DISCIPLINARY

7.3 Re-start

When referee whistles for a re-start, if the offending team has possession of the ball, then the ball has to be dropped immediately to the ground and if this is not done then a yellow card will be shown with the consequences mentioned in 7.5 a) applying.

a) Place of the re-start

The re-start is taken from the spot where the infringement was committed.

If 6.14 (to play outside one's zone) is violated then the re-start is taken outside the field of play near the point where the offending player touched the ground or hindered the opponent player.

If 6.15 (out-ball) is violated then the re-start is taken from outside the field, near the boundary line where the ball or the offending player crossed the line.

b) When the ball is brought into play

The ball is brought into play when **another player touches the ball**, after the re-start has been taken, ~~it has travelled at least 2.50 m from, measured along the ground.~~

c) How to take a re-start

At the moment the player taking the re-start has, or can take, the ball in his hands he shall, without delay, bring the ball into play as soon as possible. ***This shall be done without a whistle by the referee.***

It is not permitted to hinder actively or passively the player taking a re-start.

Passive hindering is where the opponent prevents the ball from being brought quickly into play by standing within an arm's distance in front of the taker of the re-start, even not hindering the throw by any movement of the arms or body. If there is any movement of the arms or body to attempt to delay or prevent the throw, then the hindering is no longer passive but active.

d) Infringements during the take of a re-start

After the referee has blown his whistle to award a re-start, he should:

Whistle for a re-start in favour of the opposite team when:

- ✓ the taker of the re-start has not brought the ball into play without delay;
- ✓ the taker of the re-start touches the boundary lines or the playing area on the other side of the boundary line in case of an "out ball" (see 6.15) and "to play outside the field of play" (see 6.14), before the ball has left his hands;
- ✓ ~~a player from the team of the taker of the re-start touches the ball before it has been brought into play.~~

Whistle for a free shot for the same team when a player from the opposite:

- ✓ touches the ball before it has been brought into play.
- ✓ tries to actively or passively hinder the taker of the re-start.

7.5 Disciplinary

The referee can consider any unsporting action from a player, coach, substitute player or any other person attached to a team, as misbehaviour, e.g. inadmissible forms of appeal, any kind of discriminatory comments or actions or demonstrative gestures against the referee or any other participant in the match (see 4.1 to 4.9) and spectators.

In the case of misbehaviour, the referee can:

- ✓ informally warn the person that he must change his method of playing or his behaviour;
- ✓ formally warn the person by showing him a yellow card;
- ✓ formally warn the same person for the second time by showing him a second yellow card, followed by a red card;
- ✓ in case of serious misbehaviour, send the person off at once by showing him a red card.

- a) A player receiving a yellow card must leave the field of play. He may return, or be substituted, after a period of two (2) minutes of playing time or after his team has conceded a goal, whichever occurs first.

- b) A player receiving a red card must leave the playing area and stay in the area reserved for spectators. He may only be substituted after a period of two (2) minutes of playing.
- c) In the instance that a person, who is not a player in the field, receives a yellow or red card the team must withdraw a player from the field complying with the same conditions as a player receiving a yellow or red card.

A goal scored from a free shot following the award of a yellow card shall not be the conceded goal that allows a player who has left the field after having received a yellow card to return or be substituted. The player must remain off the field until the period of two (2) minutes of playing time has elapsed or after his team has conceded a goal, in normal circumstances, whichever occurs first.

Returning or substitute players should re-enter the field at the same place as substitutions.

Examples of actions that may be **viewed** ~~treated~~ as misbehaviour:

- ✓ hindering the taker of a re-start or free shot;
- ✓ preventing the preparation or taking of the re-start or free shot;
- ✓ disturbing the person taking the re-start or free shot;
- ✓ throwing the ball far outside the field;
- ✓ kicking the ball when the game has been stopped;
- ✓ any unsporting action as inadmissible forms of appeal or demonstrative gestures against any other participant in the match or spectators;
- ✓ uttering insults, no matter to whom addressed;
- ✓ making remarks to the referee about his knowledge of the rules;
- ✓ leaving the field of play without informing the referee;
- ✓ repeatedly infringing the rules, especially after a warning;
- ✓ striking, punching, kicking or intentionally running down an opponent;
- ✓ deliberately moving the post during a shot;
- ✓ deliberately throwing the ball against the body of an opponent;
- ✓ both teams intentionally passively playing the game in turns or appear to accept the score as it is with no ambitions to change it. The referee shall warn both captains together that this form of play is regarded as misbehaviour and if continued may lead to a formal warning and the game to be stopped;
- ✓ a coach entering the field of play without the permission of the referee;
- ✓ a captain misusing the right to draw the referee's attention to anything he thinks desirable in the interest of the good progress of the match and/or criticism of the referee (see 4.3);

The jurisdiction of the referee, with respect to occurrences of misconduct for which a card can be shown and the occurrence can be recorded on the match form, is from the time the team sheet is handed in (declaring which players will start and which players will be substitutes), until the match form is signed by the captains and the referee.

If misconduct takes place before the match, or during the half time period, then the yellow or red card shall be shown to the aforementioned person concerned at that time and the captain and coach of both teams shall be informed before the next half begins.

A coach or substitute player who has been given a red card may not subsequently take part in the match as a player or stay in the team's area.