# Walking Football Leagues' Alliance Cup Rules 2027

## 1. Competition Format

1.1 The competitions are called the Walking Football Leagues' Alliance League Champions Cup and the Walking Football Leagues' Alliance Inter League Cup.

1.2 The League Champions Cup is by invitation to teams who are the preceding seasons Champions of the top division of leagues affiliated to the Walking Football Leagues' Alliance as of 31st December. If the Champions are unable or unwilling to enter then the Runners Up will be invited to take part.

1.3 The Inter League Cup is by invitation to leagues who are members of the Walking Football Leagues Alliance.

1.4 Applications will only be considered upon receipt of a fully completed entry form and cleared payment.

1.5 Entries will be confirmed by the tournament organisers at least 28 days before the competition commences.

1.6 A team cannot enter an 'active' tournament retrospectively once that tournament has commenced.

## 2. Entry Fees

2.1 All WFLA Competitions will be subject to a nominal non-refundable competition entry fee to cover WFLA administration.

2.2 All tournament entry fees are to be agreed and determined by the Tournament Committee as and when the Tournament Committee deems it prudent to do so.

2.3 In any Regional Area (Regional Round') tournament rounds the costs of pitch hire, referees etc., shall be shared equally between the named teams on the agreed fixture date. In any decision on a suitable venue and date(s), the majority vote will stand. If teams cannot make that date, they will need to withdraw from the competition.

**3. Age Groups & Player Qualification**

3.1 Age groups will represent those leagues who are members of the Walking Football Leagues' Alliance.
3.2 Each team shall enter a squad of players on the day of the competition.
3.3 Each team may register up to eleven players on the Team Entry Form.
3.4 Each registered player shall only play for one team in each age category throughout the duration of the tournament but may represent that team or a different team in different age categories if age eligible.
3.5 Players must be registered with the walking football league that are members of the WFLA that they are representing in the competition.
3.6 Players must be eligible by age on the day of the fixture for each individual category.

1. Womens Mixed Age: 40 or over
2. Over 50s (Mixed): 50 or over
3. Over 60s (Mixed): 60 or over
4. Over 65s (Mixed): 65 or over
5. Over 70s (Mixed): 70 or over
6. Over 75s (Mixed): 75 or over

3.7 In the case of a postponed or replayed tie, only those players who were eligible on the date originally fixed for the round shall be allowed to play, with the proviso that players who were eligible on the original date and who subsequently become disqualified within the terms of this Rule, shall not be permitted to play. Likewise, a player who has been suspended may, if otherwise qualified, play in postponed matches after the terms of their suspension have expired.
3.8 Any team playing an ineligible player will be fined and the team will be removed from the competition.
3.9 Each team shall appoint a manager.
3.10 The manager shall be responsible for their team being registered on arrival at the competition venue, this includes providing players ID's and completion of team sheets.

**4. Duration Of Matches**

4.1 Matches will be of a maximum 40-minute duration and a minimum of 15 minutes duration.
4.2 Half time will be a maximum of 5 minutes duration.

**5. Determining The Result Of A Game**

5.1 All games will be decided by the teams scoring the most goals during normal time. If the game is in a knock-out format, then if the scores are level at the end of normal time, then a penalty shootout will decide the winner. Three penalties each, then sudden death.

**6. Playing Rules**

6.1 The FA's unified Laws of Walking Football apply with no local variations.
6.2 All age categories will be played as 6-a-side.
6.3 All matches must be played on pitches that are barrier free, no caged pitches allowed.
6.4 Substitutes are roll on/roll off from those named on the registration form. A substituted player can return in the same match. The number of substitutions made during a game is unlimited.
6.5 Teams must wear shirts that are numbered.
6.6 In the event of a clash of colours, the second-named team should provide alternative shirts/bibs which must also be numbered.

**7. Players, Officials & Supporters Conduct**

7.1 This competition uses the blue and red card system. (See FA Laws for list of blue and red card offences).
7.2 A player receiving a red card during a game for (S1, S2, S3, S6) will be suspended for the rest of the competition.

**8. Reporting Results**

8.1 The referee/team captains shall be responsible for reporting the result of the game to the result coordinator at the conclusion of each game.

**9. Protests & Appeals**

9.1 All questions of eligibility, qualification of players or interpretation of Rules shall be referred to the WFLA Management Committee.
9.2 No objection relative to the dimensions of the playing area or other appurtenances thereon shall be entertained by the committee unless a protest is lodged with the referee before the commencement of the game at a multi-team event or in all other cases to the WFLA Secretary by email within 48 hours of the match.

**10. Referees**

10.1 Grand Final referees shall be appointed by the WFLA Referee's Appointments Officer.
10.2 For Local or Regional Rounds, they are agreed upon by the competing teams.

**11.Trophies**

11.1 The competition winners and runners up will receive trophies.

**12. Fixtures**

12.1 Fixtures for the WFLA 'Finals' may be subject to change prior to the event due to circumstances beyond the WFLA's control.

**13. Fines (*As per Section 17 of the WFLA Constitution This includes all Regional Rounds and 'Finals'.)***

13.1 Fines will be levied by the WFLA Tournaments Committee for any breach by a club/team of any WFLA Competition Tournament Rule.
13.2 No fine can be less than the tournament entry fee for the tournament in which the breach of the rule was made.
13.3 Any team failing to play a competition 'Regional Round' (tie once agreed will incur a fine to compensate their opponents and the match officials for their full expenses incurred or the shared costs as previously agreed with the event organiser.
13.4 Once notice of a competition 'Final' is given, either in writing or published on the WFLA website, any team failing to play in that competition tie or withdraw prior to the event will incur a fine to compensate the WFLA for expenses incurred.
13.5 Unpaid fines will lead to suspension of entry of future WFLA competitions and/or possible further sanctions.