

## REGULATIONS FOR DISABILITY FOOTBALL IN WALES

### 1. Scope

These Regulations govern the playing of Disability Football in Wales.

### 2. Structure

The Football Association of Wales recognises the following categories of disability:

#### 2.1 **Learning Disability**

Players must have an intellectual disability, as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO). To meet this standard, the player's IQ score must be below 75. Their intellectual disability must have been evident during the developmental period (0-18 years). Players must be in receipt of at least two of the following: special education; special accommodation; special employment, special protection; respite care; financial support. Written proof is required.

#### 2.2 **Blind**

People who take part in blind football are classified, according to their level of sight, as B1, B2 or B3. Players in the B1 classification are considered blind (while those rated B2 and B3 are classified as visually impaired or partially sighted).

2.2.1 B1 - From no light perception in either eye to light perception, but inability to recognise the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.

2.2.2 B2 - From ability to recognise the shape of a hand to a visual acuity of 2/60 and/or visual field of less than 5 degrees.

2.2.3 B3 - From visual acuity above 2/60 to visual acuity of 6/60 and/or visual field of more than 5 degrees and less than 20 degrees.

#### 2.3 **Partially Sighted**

Players whose eyesight is classified B2 or B3 qualify as partially sighted.

#### 2.4 **Deaf/Hearing Impaired**

Players must have an average hearing loss of 55 decibels in their better ear.

#### 2.5 **Amputee**

Outfield players are either above or below knee single-leg amputees. They must play without prostheses on aluminium wrist-crutches. The goalkeepers must be single-arm amputees.

#### 2.6 **Cerebral Palsy**

Players must be ambulant. Eligible participants must have a diagnosis of non-progressive brain damage with motor control dysfunction such as cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or similar conditions.

### 3. Age Grouping

3.1 Players must be over the age of 8 years on the 1<sup>st</sup> September in any playing season in order to be eligible for Disability Football in Wales.

3.2 Disability Football will consist of the following age groupings:

- Under 12;
- Under 16; and
- Post 16.

3.3 A player must be within the relevant age grouping as of the 1<sup>st</sup> September, this being the beginning of the playing season, in order to qualify for that age grouping.

3.4 Under 12 and Under 16 age grouping will be considered as Junior Football.

3.5 Post 16 age grouping will be considered as Senior Football.

#### **4. Mixed Gender**

4.1 Mixed gender matches are permitted at all ages in accordance with FAW Rule 137.

#### **5. Junior Football**

5.1 A player aged Under 16 can only register for one club.

5.2 A junior player under the age of 16 years old shall only play within their own domestic area; any exception to be approved by the Area Association concerned.

#### **6. Senior Football**

6.1 Senior Football will be considered as Recreational Level.

6.2 A player not holding a written contract with their club will only be registered for one disability club at a time in accordance with FAW Rule 59.

6.3 A player not holding a written contract may transfer freely using the prescribed form up until the last Thursday in March inclusive.

6.4 Players with a written contract may only transfer during the registration periods imposed by the Football Association of Wales in accordance with FAW Rule 61.

6.5 These Regulations do not prevent a player with a disability being registered with a Club to play in a league for Players with a disability at the same time as being registered with the same (or a different) Club to play in a league which is not a league for Players with a disability.

#### **7. Clubs**

7.1 All clubs must affiliate to the relevant Area Association.

7.2 All players must be registered with the relevant league catering for players with a disability and Area Association.

- 7.3 All players must complete a standard registration form detailing the category of disability to ensure they meet the minimum eligibility criteria.
- 7.4 Upon completion of the registration form, the player must submit this to the relevant league secretary. The league will process the registration form in line with the Football Association of Wales' registration requirements that they may, from time to time, impose.
- 7.5 All clubs must participate in the FAW Club Accreditation Scheme and its requirements.

## **8. Competitions**

- 8.1 Competitions will be based on a festival structure. A festival structure is defined as a competition which clubs are invited to attend over a period of one or two days.
- 8.2 All leagues and competitions must, in the first instance, be sanctioned by the Football Association of Wales in accordance with FAW Rule 92. Such applications shall be made direct to the Football Association of Wales.
- 8.3 In the case of annual leagues or competitions, the sanction must be renewed annually, and such applications shall be lodged with the Area Association in which the league or competition is situated in accordance with FAW Rule 96.
- 8.4 The Area Association shall forward the application to the Football Association of Wales for their acceptance or rejection. The Football Association of Wales shall have absolute discretion to accept or reject an application for sanctioning of a league or competition.
- 8.5 Upon being sanctioned, the league or competition must provide the relevant Area Association with the proposed dates of the fixtures. The details of the participants in the competition must be forwarded to the relevant Area Association in advance of the fixture date.
- 8.6 Competitions will be organised on a North, West or South basis. North is defined as Clubs within the North Wales Coast FA and the North East Wales FA. South is defined as the South Wales FA and the Gwent County FA. West is defined as the West Wales FA. Clubs who affiliate to the Central Wales FA will be permitted to participate in either North, South or West based festivals.

## **9. Competition Rules**

- 9.1 All games will be small sided and must be a maximum of 8v8.
- 9.2 The format of the game must be that of Under 11 Mini Football as outlined in the Mini Football Regulations.
- 9.3 The Under 12 age group must be non-competitive.
- 9.4 The Under 16 and Post 16 age groups are permitted to use a size 5 football.