



# NWF Rulebook

## 2024



# FORMAT:

## Group Stage:

- ⚽ 12 teams are divided into 2 groups: Group A and Group B.
- ⚽ Each group consists of 6 teams.
- ⚽ Each team will play one match against every other team in their group.
- ⚽ Group stage matches are 9 minutes long.
- ⚽ The top 2 teams from each group will advance to the knockout stage.

## Semi-Finals:

- ⚽ **Starting Order:** To determine the order of play, the top players from Group A and Group B will participate in a coin toss.
- ⚽ **Match 1:** 1st place in Group A vs. 2nd place in Group B.
- ⚽ **Match 2:** 1st place in Group B vs. 2nd place in Group A.
- ⚽ **Match Duration:** Each semi-final match is 15 minutes long.

## Final:

- ⚽ **Match Duration:** The final match is 20 minutes long.



## PLAYING RULES:

- ⚽ There is ZERO tolerance for physical and verbal abuse. Teams will be disqualified IMMEDIATELY and banned from all future tournaments and events.
- ⚽ Sliding is strictly prohibited. The first offense will result in a warning; a second offense will lead to a sending-off. Players may be sent off after the first offense at the referee's discretion.
- ⚽ Penalties are limited to a single step. Whether or not a penalty was taken correctly is subject to the referee's judgment. Retakes are not permitted.
- ⚽ Goalkeepers are allowed outside of their penalty area.
- ⚽ No back-passes are allowed. A back-pass will result in a penalty kick for the opposition.
- ⚽ No throw-ins are permitted.
- ⚽ If the ball goes behind the net, a goal kick will be awarded. Teams deliberately attempting to earn goal kicks will concede a free kick to the opposing team.
- ⚽ Free kicks are direct.
- ⚽ Players are allowed inside both their own and the opposing team's penalty area.
- ⚽ A maximum of 3 substitutes is permitted for 5 and 7-a-side tournaments.
- ⚽ Time-wasting through fouls or goal kicks will result in a sin-bin penalty.
- ⚽ The duration of a sin-bin penalty is 4 minutes.
- ⚽ All rules are enforced at the referee's discretion.



## REFEREE RULES:

- ⚽ Multiple sliding offenses by any team will result in the offending player being removed from the game. Referees have the discretion to send off a player for a single sliding offense.
- ⚽ Any dissent towards the referee will result in a sending-off.
- ⚽ Any physical altercation will lead to immediate disqualification from the tournament.



## EQUIPMENT RULES:

- ⚽ Teams are required to bring their own balls for use off the pitch. NWF will only provide match balls.
- ⚽ While shin pads are recommended, they are not mandatory.
- ⚽ Appropriate footwear is advised; metal studs are strictly prohibited (No Exceptions).
- ⚽ Players are not permitted to wear any jewelry during matches.
- ⚽ Please dress appropriately for the occasion.

**These rules are designed to ensure a fair, safe, and enjoyable tournament for all participants. Compliance with these regulations is mandatory.**

**NWF reserves the right to permanently ban and remove players/teams from present & future tournaments.**