



## Rules

### Participation in the Tournament

To maintain the friendly and inclusive spirit of the Kings Cup, all teams and players must meet the following requirements:

#### 1. Player Eligibility

All players must be either:

- employed by your embassy, organisation, or department, **or**
- an immediate/direct family member of someone who is.

#### 2. Team Composition

Teams must be mixed-gender, with **a minimum of three men and three women on the pitch at all times.**

Failure to meet this requirement will result in **a five-goal deduction per match.**

### Rules of the Game

#### 1. General Play

Standard British Football Association rules apply for fouls, handballs, penalties, and all other areas of play. Fair play is not only expected — it is mandatory.

#### 2. Referee Authority

The referee's decision is final and must be respected at all times.

#### 3. Squad Size & Minimum Players

Each team fields six outfield players and one goalkeeper (seven players in total).

Squad

Teams may register up to 12 players, with a minimum of 5 players required to start a match.

#### 4. Substitutions

Rolling substitutions are permitted and must take place within the designated substitution zones on the sidelines.

#### 5. Restarts

Goal-kicks, throw-ins, and corner kicks follow standard football rules.

#### 6. Scoring

Goals may be scored from anywhere on the pitch.

#### 7. Goalkeeper Handling

Only the designated goalkeeper may handle the ball, and only within the penalty area.

#### 8. Back-Passes

Goalkeepers may not handle a deliberate back-pass from a teammate.



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**9. Offside**

There is no offside rule, but excessive goal-hanging is strongly discouraged in the spirit of fair play!

**10. Safety — Slide Tackles**

For player safety, slide tackles are strongly discouraged.

**11. Goals (Equipment Standard)**

The tournament uses small-sided goals, typically around 12×6 feet (3.7 × 1.8 metres), in line with common 7-a-side formats.

**Tournament Format**

The tournament format will be confirmed once team registration has closed. This ensures that the chosen structure — for example, group stages, round-robin, or knock-out — is appropriate for the final number of participating teams.

The number and length of matches will also be determined following the close of registration to ensure a balanced and fair schedule.

A formal draw will take place to allocate teams to their groups or initial fixtures. The location, date, and appointed officials for the draw will be announced in due course.