



**FIFA Training Centre**



# **BEACH SOCCER GUIDELINES**

**for member associations  
to organise beach soccer  
competitions**

**BASIC**



# Guidelines for member associations to organise beach soccer competitions (BASIC)

This chapter aims to provide member associations that have limited resources and experience in beach soccer with guidance on how to launch their first competitions in this discipline.

## Infrastructure: the pitch

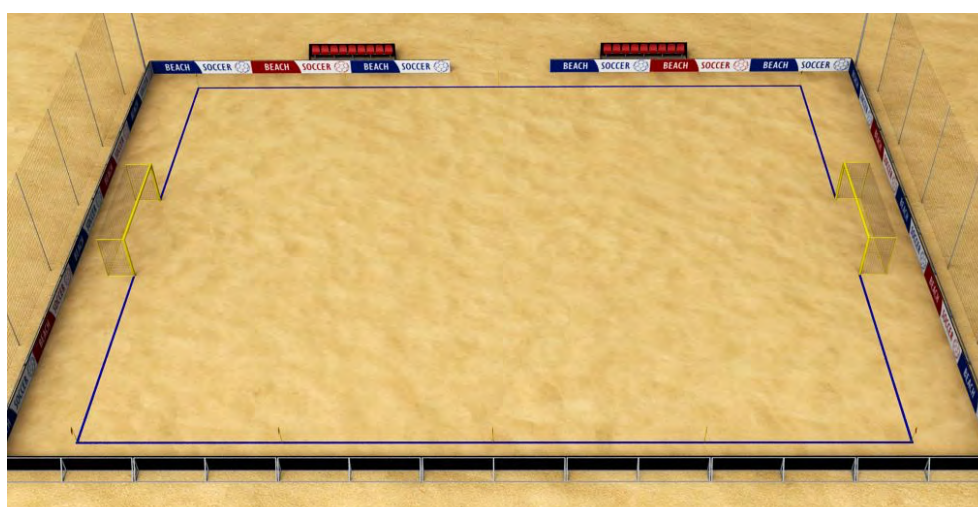
What differentiates beach soccer from any other format of football is the pitch surface and the fact that footwear is forbidden. The infrastructural requirements for a beach soccer pitch are minimal: goalposts, pitch markings and flagposts. However, the set-up can vary depending on geographical factors. The following configurations may be implemented:

**a)** If an area of beach or beach sand is available, the set-up is quite straightforward and involves the following:

- Two sets of goalposts
- Pitch markings
- Flagposts

The pitch dimensions may vary according to the available space and size of the equipment. It is recommended that the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game issued by FIFA be adhered to as closely as possible in the organisational aspects of the game.

It should be noted that a beach is not required to set up a beach soccer pitch. A surface with beach sand (e.g. a river or lake shore) is sufficient, as long as the quality and depth of the sand is suitable for beach soccer.



**b)** If there is no beach or beach sand available, there are various solutions:

- Seek existing beach venues, such as beach volleyball courts. In most cases, three beach volleyball courts are sufficient for beach soccer.
- If no sand pitch is available, a pitch may be set up using a sand box with a minimum sand depth of 25-30cm. The sand box should be made from wooden boards. It is important to use high-quality sand to enable players to perform typical beach soccer moves.

Additional pieces of basic equipment (e.g. a clock, a scoreboard, team benches, umbrellas, tents, etc.) may also feature as part of the set-up if they can be easily sourced at minimal or no cost.

## Beach Soccer Laws of the Game

**We recommend that competitions adhere to the principles of the Beach Soccer Laws of the Game.**

However, with the aim of maximising participation and engagement levels in a competition, several steps can be taken to encourage teams to register and for as many players as possible to compete in the competition for as long as possible. Some of these measures include:

- modifying the duration of matches;
- modifying the pitch dimensions and size of equipment;
- reducing the number of referees required per match (see below); and
- making players' equipment requirements more flexible and relaxed (e.g. allowing bibs to be worn instead of customised shirts).



## Organisation

The organising entity plays a key role in ensuring the professional delivery of the competition, regardless of the available financial resources. While bigger budgets and infrastructure allow for bigger competitions, they also mean more staff and a larger scale of operation to manage. In contrast, incipient competitions that are smaller in scale can be easily managed by fewer people and involve more straightforward operations.

In short, the organising entity must:

- contact local beach soccer organisations or clubs to generate interest and seek potential participants;
- contact schools to recruit volunteers;
- draw up a competition schedule and rules, considering local laws and regulations, playing facilities and the number of participating teams;
- promote the competition through social media, local media and word of mouth to generate interest and attract spectators (having fans and the media at matches adds value to the competition in the eyes of stakeholders and increases engagement with potential future participants);
- contact and engage referees;
- organise and lead a pre-tournament meeting to explain the rules and regulations to participating players, referees and coaches; and
- prepare awards, prizes, certificates or other forms of recognition for winners and participants to recognise their efforts and encourage participation in future competitions.

## Competition format

In a further effort to maximise the number of participating teams, a series of additional steps can be taken to encourage teams to register and continue to compete in the competition for as many editions as possible.

In addition to adopting the most common competition formats, specific tournament formats may also be implemented with a view to pursuing the aforementioned goal.

In this regard, consideration should be given to the following ideas:

- Condensed competition formats where a team plays several matches on the same day. To allow for more games, the duration of each match may also be reduced.
- Round-robin format, followed by a final round.
- Teams are divided into two groups, with the group winners contesting a final round.
- Round-robin format, followed by a knockout stage from the quarter-finals onwards.

## Referees

Each match is officiated by two on-pitch referees (the referee and the second referee). A third referee supervises the substitution zone and is positioned off the pitch, level with the imaginary halfway line, and a fourth match official is responsible for timekeeping. This configuration should be adhered to as closely as possible across all competitions.

Nonetheless, if the number of referees available in the country is limited, or the competition budget does not cover the cost involved in having four match officials for each match, fewer referees may be used in amateur competitions. In descending order of priority, the following options may be considered:

**a) the third referee may be dispensed with;**

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**b) the timekeeper role may be fulfilled by a representative from the organising entity, a local football referee or an appointed team delegate to be agreed by both participating teams; and**

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**c) one of the two on-pitch referees may be dispensed with.**

Another cost-saving measure involves organising the referees' schedule in such a way that a small number of referees are able to officiate several matches in a single day, alternating more physically demanding roles with less physically demanding roles and ensuring a minimum rest period between games to guarantee high performance levels.

## Financial resources

The following list features a number of potential external funding sources that could provide additional financial resources for a beach soccer project and subsequent activities and development:

**1. FIFA Forward Programme**

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**2. Confederation**

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**3. Public sector (i.e. central/regional/local governments)**

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**4. Private sector**

- a) Partnerships
  - b) Sponsorship (including value-in-kind)
  - c) Private donors
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**5. Crowdfunding**