



brulex winter league

rule book

a. general principles

1. The rules laid out hereafter (the **rules**) shall govern all games within the framework of the brulex winter indoor football league among law firms or notary firms (or combinations thereof in accordance with the rules; also referred to as a **team**) having an office in Belgium (the **winter league**).
2. The rules have been established, and the winter league is being organised, by an organising committee constituted of at least three members who must be lawyers in a law firm having an office in Belgium (the **brulex organising committee**). Currently, the brulex organising committee consists of Michel Bonne, Roel Valkenborgh, and Christoph Weling.
3. All games shall be played, and all teams shall at all times behave, in compliance with the rules, in a general spirit of fair-play, and in accordance with brulex tradition.
4. Any dispute in connection with the application or interpretation of the rules shall be addressed in writing to the brulex organising committee only, copying in the parties involved, and definitively settled by the brulex organising committee, in consideration of the general spirit of fair play and in accordance with brulex tradition.
5. The rules may be amended from time to time by the brulex organising committee, and such amended rules will be communicated to the team captains of all teams that are mentioned on the list established by the brulex organising committee and containing the contact details of the team captains of all law firms or notary firms that expressed their interest, on behalf of a given law firm or notary firm, in participating in the winter league in writing to a member of the brulex organising committee (the **brulex distribution list**). Expressing such interest will imply acceptance of the rules.
6. The brulex organising committee may, at any time, (i) check the compliance with the rules, and (ii) exclude from (any given edition of) the winter league any team having manifestly infringed the rules, the general spirit of fair play or the brulex tradition.

b. applicability of official indoor soccer rules

1. The official rules of indoor football shall be applicable, without prejudice to any of the rules and any adjustments due to brulex peculiarities.

2. fouls - free kicks

Physical contact between players must respect the below rules and the principles of fair play.

A direct free kick shall be awarded to the opposing team if a player commits any of the following infringements:

- kicking, or attempting to kick, an opponent in a careless, reckless or forceful manner;
- tripping, or attempting to trip, an opponent in a careless, reckless or forceful manner, either by sliding or by bending down in front of or behind an opponent;
- holding a gear;
- jumping on an opponent;
- charging an opponent;
- striking, or attempting to strike, an opponent in a careless, reckless or forceful manner;
- pushing an opponent;
- holding an opponent;
- touching the opponent before the ball when attempting to win possession (e.g. from behind the back of a player);
- carrying, striking or throwing the ball with one's hands or arms, except for the goalkeeper in his own penalty area; or
- preventing the goalkeeper from catching, throwing, clearing or releasing the ball with his hands, or trying to play a ball with his feet when the goalkeeper is catching, throwing, clearing or releasing the ball; or
- restricting the goalkeeper's movements in an unsporting manner at a corner kick.

A penalty kick shall be awarded if a player commits any of the aforementioned infringements inside his own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball but provided that it is in play.

However, a penalty kick shall be immediately awarded if a player spits, or attempts to spit, at an opponent, even if this takes place outside his own penalty area.

All free kicks are direct free kicks.

3. rules applicable to goalkeepers

For the time being, the brulex organising committee does not apply the rules applicable to the goalkeepers (4-seconds rule, prohibition to pass the ball multiple times to the keeper, prohibition for the goalkeeper to touch the ball with the hands following a pass...). However, the brulex organising committee may decide to apply these rules in the future as well.

4. shielding the ball

It is not an offence if a player, with the ball under control within playing distance, shields the ball from an opponent without using his hands, arms, legs or body in an unsporting manner.

5. sending off a player

A player has to be sent off in the following circumstances:

- **serious foul:** a player is guilty of serious foul play if he uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for the ball when it is in play. Any player who lunges at an opponent when challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs with excessive force and endangering the safety of an opponent is guilty of serious foul play;
- **violent conduct:** violent conduct can occur on or off the pitch, regardless of whether the ball is in play or not. A player is guilty of violent conduct if excessive force or brutality is used against an opponent, without either of them challenging for the ball. The player is also guilty of violent conduct if excessive force or brutality is used against a team-mate or any other person. Finally, there is violent conduct in case of spitting, as stipulated in rule b.2 above, or in case of a sliding tackle (i.e. a tackle whilst sliding over the floor); or
- **preventing an obvious goal scoring opportunity:** a player has to be sent off if he intentionally prevents an obvious goal scoring opportunity by using his hand. This punishment is not for the deliberate handball, but rather for unacceptable and unsporting behaviour that prevented a goal from being scored.

6. scoring a goal - ball out of play

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line.

A goal may not be scored directly from a kick-in or from a goal clearance. The players of the defending team shall be at least 5 m from the place where the kick-in, the corner, the penalty kick, the goal clearance or the free kick is taken.

The ball shall be deemed out of play when it completely crosses the goal line or touch line, whether along the ground or through the air, or when it hits the ceiling.

c. leagues

1. The winter league shall be divided in three leagues, the brulex premier league, the brulex second league and the brulex third league (together, the *leagues*). The composition of the first edition of the leagues has been settled during the 2003-2004 edition of the winter league on the basis of a general ranking (the *ranking*). The brulex organising committee will update the ranking from time to time.
2. All newly (re-)inscribed teams automatically start in the brulex third league.
3. In case a team (i) does not participate in a given edition of the winter league or (ii) is excluded during, or not invited for, a given edition of the winter league by the brulex organising committee for any reason whatsoever mentioned in, or based upon, the rules, it will have to start again in the brulex third league in case it participates in a subsequent edition of the winter league.
4. In case the number of participants for a given edition of the winter league is not sufficient or requires a modification of the number of teams in the leagues, or in case the winter league must be re-organised for any reason whatsoever, the brulex organising committee shall have at all times the right to review the composition of the leagues.
5. In case various law firms or notary firms (or both) co-operate to form one team, the merged team may start in the highest relevant brulex league if one of the co-operating law firms or notary firms (or both) was already entitled to participate in the given edition of such highest relevant brulex league. Otherwise, the merged team shall start in the brulex third league.

In case the co-operating law firms or notary firms (or both) decide to stop their co-operation, the law firm or notary firm that initially participated in the highest relevant brulex league may remain in such highest relevant brulex league (if it is still entitled to do so), and the other co-operating law firm(s) or notary firm(s) will have to start again in the brulex third league.

In case the merged team ascended from a lower brulex league to a higher brulex league, or in case several co-operating law firms or notary firms (or both) were entitled to play in the highest relevant brulex league, and the co-operating law firms or notary firms (or both) decide to stop their co-operation, the law firm or notary firm that was ranked higher in the ranking may remain in the highest relevant brulex league (if it is still entitled to do so), and the other co-operating law firm(s) or notary firms (or both) will have to start again in the brulex third league. If the co-operating law firms or notary firms (or both) have the same ranking in the ranking (e.g. because they only played games as a merged team), the law firm or notary firm that provided the highest number of players for the merged team will be entitled to remain in the highest relevant brulex

league (if it is still entitled to do so), and the other co-operating law firm(s) or notary firms (or both) will have to start again in the brulex third league.

In case no agreement can be reached on the above between the co-operating law firms in case they decide to stop their co-operation, the brulex organising committee will settle the dispute.

d . g a m e s

1. All participating teams will receive a calendar of games (the *calendar*) from the brulex organising committee prior to the start of the winter league. The calendar will mention the date and hour of each game of each league of a given edition of the winter league.
2. All games are played at the Sint-Pieters-Woluwe Sports Centre, Salomélaan 2, 1150 Brussels, unless otherwise notified by the brulex organising committee.
3. It is common that the first game can only start around 20.05. In line with official futsal rules, games shall last for two periods of 25 minutes each, with a half time of 5 minutes maximum and changing of ends, except if jointly agreed otherwise by both teams prior to the game. Prior to starting a game, the team captains shall agree upon the half-time hour and the final hour of the game, thereby taking into account the reasonable expectations of the teams that play the subsequent hour. Failing such prior agreement, and unless the team captains agree otherwise during the game, the game will be deemed to have started at 20.05 or at 21.05, half-time will be after 25 minutes (e.g. at 20.30 or at 21.30), and the final hour of the game will be at the hour (e.g. at 21.00 or at 22.00).

e . c a n c e l l a t i o n o f g a m e s a n d f o r f e i t

1. It is a primary obligation for each of the team captains to comply with the calendar, by duly and timely anticipating all games of his or her team.
2. In the event that a team is 10 or more minutes late for its game, a 10-0 victory by forfeit will in principle be awarded to the other team, except if such other team expressly waives its right thereto. Playing the game will be considered to be such express waiver.
3. In the event that a team cannot play a game scheduled according to the calendar, a 10-0 victory by forfeit will be awarded to the other team. However, upon written request of the team captain of the cancelling team at least 48 hours prior to the game, the other team captain may accept, in its own discretion, to waive its right to victory by forfeit and to reschedule the game. In that case, the rescheduling organisation and costs shall be incumbent on the cancelling team.

4. It is, in any case, not acceptable to postpone a game because (some of) the best players happen to be not available for such given game, even though enough other players are available to play such game.
5. If a team captain is compelled to cancel a game in accordance with the above, he or she shall inform the team captain of the opponent team and the brulex organisation committee as soon as possible. The brulex organising committee shall propose a new date to play a cancelled game. Both teams shall use their best efforts to try to comply with this new date proposed by the brulex organising committee, and inform the latter within 24 hours whether or not they can play on the proposed new date. In the absence of a reply by a team within such 24-hours period, the proposed new date shall be considered to be accepted by such team, unless the brulex organising committee accepts otherwise.
6. If a cancelled game is not rescheduled prior to the end of the competition (e.g. due to omission by both teams), a 10-0 victory by forfeit shall be awarded to the non-cancelling team.
7. The team that cancels the highest number of games during a given edition of a league shall not be invited for the subsequent edition of the winter league, unless the brulex organising committee decides otherwise. The brulex committee shall decide on the composition of the next edition of the relevant league(s) as a result of such team not being invited.
8. The brulex organising committee shall be copied into all requests and replies thereto pursuant to this section e.

f . t e a m s

1. Games are played 5 players against 5, including 1 goalkeeper per team. A team may decide to play with less than 5 players in the event that it is undermanned, in which case the other team may not claim a victory by forfeit.
2. A team should always be made up of (i) members of one or more law firms or notary firms (lawyers or staff) working in Belgium and (ii) jurists, and appearing on the list of players submitted prior to the start of the winter league to the brulex organising committee. Such list (i) must be updated from time to time by the team captain (following arrivals or departures of players), (ii) must be notified to the brulex organising team, and (iii) should mention the law firm or notary firm and position of each player (lawyer or staff member).
3. A team may have no more than 2 non-lawyers or non-notaries (or non-notary clerks) on the pitch at any given time during a game. Any breach of this rule will result in an automatic 10-0 loss.
4. Each team may make as many substitutions as it likes during a game.

5. A player may not play for more than one team during a given edition of the winter league. However, if a player moves to another participating law firm or notary firm during a given edition of the winter league, he or she shall be allowed to play for the participating law firm or notary firm he or she joined for the remainder of that given edition of the winter league.

g. referee - fair play

1. Unless the brulex organising committee deems it necessary, no referee is appointed by the brulex organising committee for the games.
2. Teams may jointly decide to appoint a referee for a given game. In that case, they will unconditionally and without discussion accept the decisions taken by such referee.
3. In the absence of a referee, the team captains or, in their absence, the people designated to this end prior to the game, will act as joint referees. They are, each for their own team, solely responsible for ensuring that their own players behave appropriately and in accordance with the general fair play spirit of brulex. They are also in charge of calming them down or even sending them (temporally) off the pitch if so required. In particular, team captains will refrain their team players from continuous shouting (even at own players) and excessive motivating.
4. To ensure fair play during the game, the team captains will explicitly meet prior to each game, shake hands, remind each other of the fair play spirit of brulex, and, as already stipulated in further detail in rule d.3, agree upon the half-time hour and the final hour of the game. Any decision concerning the game is to be determined jointly by both team captains according to these rules and the general principles of fair play. Only the team captains should engage in discussions on behalf of their team. As a result, in case of a discussion or a dispute, the team captains will consult with each other and come to a workable solution, all in the spirit of good sportsmanship. As a guiding principle in case of a dispute, do not start semantic discussions about a foul but just grant it.
5. If an incident occurs during a game that a team considers being unacceptable, the team captain(s) will raise the issue with the brulex organising committee in accordance with rule a.4.

h. notification of results

Subject to section e of the rules, the team captain of the winning team must notify the brulex organising committee in writing, at the latest on the day following the game, of the result of such game, copying the team captain of the other team into his or her correspondence. In case of a draw, the team captains of both teams must take the initiative to notify the result of the game to the brulex organising committee.

i. ranking

1. In the course of the winter league, teams shall be positioned in a ranking by points according to the following rules:

For a win, the winning team shall be awarded three points, whilst the losing team is not awarded any points. For a draw, each team is awarded one point.

In the event of more teams having the same number of points, the number of games won shall determine their respective position.

In the event of more teams having the same number of games won, their respective position shall be determined by their goal average, calculated by subtracting from the total number of goals scored the total number of goals conceded. The better the goal average, the higher positioned the team shall be.

In the event that the goal average does not suffice to determine the position among several teams, the total number of goals scored will be the determining factor.

2. At the end of an edition of the winter league, the forfeit results will be included to obtain the final ranking of each league of that given edition of the winter league.
3. The team that is heading the final ranking of a given edition of its league will be the champion of that given edition of its league.
4. Subject to rule e.7, the teams that are ranked on the last three positions of the final ranking of a given edition of the brulex premier league will be relegated to the brulex second league, and the teams that are ranked on the last three positions of the final ranking of a given edition of the brulex second league will be relegated to the brulex third league.
5. The teams that are ranked on the first three positions of the final ranking of a given edition of the brulex second league qualify for promotion to the brulex premier league. The teams that are ranked on the first three positions of the final ranking of a given edition of the brulex third league qualify for promotion to the brulex second league. If a team (i) qualifies for promotion or is being relegated at the end of a given edition of the winter league, and (ii) does not participate in the next edition of the winter league, then the next team in the final ranking of the relevant brulex league shall qualify for promotion to the relevant higher brulex league.
6. A team always has the right to remain in the brulex second league or, as the case may be, in the brulex third league. In that case, the team that is next in the final ranking of that edition of the relevant brulex league qualifies for promotion to the relevant higher brulex league *in lieu of* the team that waives its right to promote to such higher brulex league. However, if no teams are willing to go to the relevant higher brulex league, the

first team in the final ranking that qualifies for promotion, will promote to such relevant higher premier league.

7. In the event of more teams (i) heading the final ranking of a given edition of a league or (ii) being relegated during a given edition of a league or (iii) qualifying for promotion during a given edition of a league (i.e. having the same number of points, but irrespective of the goal average, the goals scored and the goals conceded), a play-off or test game procedure will be set up amongst those teams by the brulex organising committee to determine (i) the champion of that edition of the league, (ii) the relegated team(s) or (iii) the promoting team(s).
8. A team that has become champion of the premier league is entitled to put a discrete golden five-pointed star (★) on its outfit for every premier league champion's title it has won. A team that has become champion of the second league is entitled to put a discrete silver five-pointed star (★) on its outfit for every second league champion's title it has won. A team that has become champion of the third league is entitled to put a discrete black five-pointed star (★) on its outfit for every third league champion's title it has won. A team that has become winner of the summer cup is entitled to put a discrete golden sun (☀) on its outfit for every summer cup it has won. A team that has won the fair play trophy is entitled to put a discrete golden carved-in diamond (◆) on its outfit for every fair play trophy it has won.

Brussels, 1 August 2010