

Bohemians FC

Festival of Football 2026



Match rules

Start to a match: Each game will start and restart with a kick-off from the centre spot. The Home team will kick-off 1st and they must supply the **Match ball**

Match Duration: Matches will be 8 minutes duration one way.(unless stated different on fixture sheet)

Head Height: No restrictions apply

Headers: U7-U10 No heading of the ball as per FA rules if offence committed will result in indirect free kick

Penalty Areas: Players from both teams are allowed into the penalty areas

Substitutes: Any number of substitutions can be made during the match with the permission of the referee.

Offside: There is no Offside.

Goal Keepers: U7,U8,U9 can kick out of their hands.

Goal Keepers: U10 up Cannot kick out of hands.

Goal Keepers: are allowed out of the penalty area. When they do leave the penalty area, they become a normal outfield player subject to the F.A. Laws of the Game.

Free Kicks: All free kicks are direct and the opposing team must retreat 5 Yards (excluding age groups with the header rule)

Back Pass Rule: Will apply, goal keepers cannot pick up the ball from a back pass from a teammate. If this occurs, an indirect free kick will be awarded on the edge of the box at the closest point to the infringement.

Kick-ins: To be taken instead of throw in's the opposing team must retreat 5 yards. Player must pass or dribble on. Pass to be below knee pass **NOT** Free kick **You cannot score direct from kick in!**

Corner Kicks: A corner kick will be taken as normal from the corner mark. All defending players must be 5 yards away from the corner mark.

Penalty Kicks: A penalty kick is awarded if an offence is committed by a player inside his/her own penalty area, irrespective of the position of the ball, provided it is in play.

No player apart from the goalkeeper and the penalty taker are allowed in the area before the penalty is taken. If a player encroaches, the Referee's discretion is final as to whether a retake is required. The goalkeeper must stay on the goal line but is allowed to move along the line prior to penalty kick being taken.

Time Wasting: Deliberate Time Wasting (referees' opinion) will be penalised by the referee with a Direct Free Kick

Tackles: No Sliding Tackles

Equipment: Astroturf or Moulds can be worn, No metal studs!

Discipline: Any player guilty of a RECKLESS Challenge will be issued with a Yellow Card (Caution). Two cautions in the same match will result in a Red Card (Sending Off). This player will not be allowed to be replaced.

TWO cautions received in the festival (whether in the same match or not) will result in that player being banned from playing in any further games.

Any player guilty of an EXCESSIVE FORCE Challenge / VIOLENT CONDUCT will be issued with a RED CARD (Send Off) This player will not be allowed to be replaced. This player will also be banned from playing in any further games.

Sin Bins: Any player on the field of play guilty of Dissent (a challenge to the authority of the match official through the use of language or action) will be shown a yellow card and told to join their coaching team on the sideline for a 3-minute period, the match official is sole arbitrator of time and as to when the player can return. Player cannot be substituted until sin bin has been completed.



Festival Rules

The referee's decision is **final**.

All teams must fill out a team sheet and register on arrival.

No player is allowed to play for more than one team throughout the day. Disobeying this rule will result in both teams being disqualified.

It is the home teams responsibility to provide the **Match ball**.

The team appearing first on the fixture list will be considered to be the home team and in the event of a colour clash the away team will be required to change colours. All teams must have available a change of shirt or bibs.

The referee will fill out a match card with score and keep, you can use App to update your teams score and in the event of any irregularities we will refer to referees score card.

Team managers are responsible for the provision of first aid for their team, holding records of any relevant medical information and must insure an appropriate first aid kit is carried with them in line with normal matchday procedure. As event organizers in addition to this we will have designated first aid coordinators and first aid supplies available at the Referee Station and Information point near the main building.

All clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, managers, coaches, and spectators.