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**23<sup>rd</sup> WAH YAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**  
**2024 - 2025**

**This League is created to encourage participation and sharing of friendship and fun among past and current students of Wah Yan as well as their families and children. All participants should demonstrate the spirit of Fair Play and Friendship throughout the games. Managers and Captains should review the Rules & Regulations and ensure that their team members adhere to the guidelines below.**

**Important: Waiver and Declaration**

- (I) All players and/or participants should confirm and agree that they are physically fit to take part in the Wah Yan League Football Tournament (the ‘Tournament’) and shall bear their own risks;
- (II) Wah Yan League Football Tournament Organizing Committee (the ‘Organizing Committee’), Wah Yan College Hong Kong (‘WYCHK’), Wah Yan College Kowloon (‘WYK’), Wah Yan College Hong Kong Past Students’ Association Ltd. (‘WYHKPSA’), and Wah Yan College Kowloon Past Students’ Association Ltd. (‘WYKPSA’) including their officers, agents, volunteers, workers and/or members, shall not be liable for any death, injury or loss of properties arising from the Tournament;
- (III) All players and/or participants agree to indemnify and hold the Organizing Committee, WYCHK, WYK, WYHKPSA and WYKPSA harmless against all liabilities and losses caused by such players and/or participants. For safety reason, the Organizing Committee strongly discourages any players and/or participants to bring along their young kids and infants to the football pitch area when the games are taking place.

**Format**

The Tournament will adopt the rules and regulations attached. Matches will take place on Saturdays, Sundays and/or public holidays. The Tournament will be held at the Artificial turf soccer pitch in Wah Yan College Kowloon.

The Organizing Committee will maintain separate divisions (Senior Friendly League Division (“Senior League”), League A, B and/or C for the Tournament, subject to a tentative maximum of 8 teams per division on a first come first serve basis.

## **RULES & REGULATIONS FOR 11-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT**

### **1. Date, Time and Venue**

- a. Date : Saturdays & Sundays and/or Public Holidays, tentatively commencing not earlier than December of 2024
- b. Time : Saturdays / Sundays afternoon, and Public Holidays morning & afternoon
- c. Venue : Artificial turf soccer pitch, Wah Yan College, Kowloon

### **2. Format**

- a. There will be three separate divisions:
  - i. Senior League: Participants MUST all be past Wah Yan students of Class 1997 or before<sup>1</sup>;
  - ii. League A,B and/or C: Grouping will be discussed at the captains and managers' meeting, but the methodology will be very similar to previous seasons;
- b. The Tournament uses a Single Round Robin System
  - i. If two teams end up with the same points, the ranking will be determined as follows, in order of priority:
    - Number of red cards for the whole season, lesser will be ranked higher
    - Number of yellow cards for the whole season, lesser will be ranked higher
    - Match result(s) between the two teams
    - If the match between the two teams results in a draw whilst all of the above are identical, both teams will have the same ranking
  - ii. Winner gets 3 points, no point for the loser. If the match ends in a draw, both teams will get 1 point.

\* Organizing Committee reserves the final decision on the of promotion and relegation of teams.

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<sup>1</sup> As older aged goalkeepers are more prone to bodily injuries than younger goalkeepers, to minimize injuries, younger past students from the Class 1997 or after are allowed to participate in the Senior League as goalkeepers, but not in other positions. The younger goalkeepers from the Class of 1997 or after are not allowed to cross the mid field line at any time during matches in order to prevent teams from using these younger goalkeepers as offensive players. For the avoidance of doubt, these younger goalkeepers are also forbidden to shoot penalty kicks.

### 3. Rules & Regulations

- a. 11 players are allowed on the field for each team, one of which must be the goalkeeper.
- b. Any team fails to show up 10 minutes after the scheduled time or showing up with fewer than 8 players will be regarded as 'Walkover'. The opposing team will automatically win the match by a score of '2:0'. With two 'Walkovers', the team will be disqualified from the Tournament with immediate effect. The previous results including points scored by other teams over the disqualified team and all the goals scored by all the concerned teams will be cancelled. The Organizing Committee reserves the right on final decision for the 'Walkover' penalty.
- c. In addition, for teams that fail to turn up, the team will be subject to a "No Show" penalty of HK\$1,000 per match.
- d. The enrolment period is from **14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024**. An enrolment fee of **HK\$12,000** and a refundable penalty deposit of **HK\$3,000** must be deposited to the bank account of Wah Yan College Kowloon Past Students' Association Limited at HSBC with account number **808-024525-001** by the end of enrolment period /before the date of captains' meeting, and the proof of payment (e.g. bank-in-slip) must be retained and submitted by each team on the date of the team captain's meeting or upon request of the Organizing Committee. The penalty deposit will be refunded (after deduction of any penalty incurred during the course of the Tournament, if applicable) to each team within 30 business days after its last match in the Tournament. In the case of late submission of any of the above fees, the application will be cancelled automatically and such fees will be refunded within 20 business days upon payment. The deposit from last season cannot be used for the deduction of enrolment fee of current season's application.
- e. The Organizing Committee will try to ensure that each team plays similar number of matches this season compared to previous seasons, i.e. around 8-10 matches including playoff games. Therefore, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to change the enrolment fee (depending on the number of successful applications received), [which the team captain will be informed of] before the date of team captain's meeting.
- f. Referee will officiate the game once both teams have a minimum of 8 players on the field.
- g. Substitution of players is unrestricted. Players who have been replaced are allowed to re-enter the match. The referee and/or assistant referee(s) must first be notified by the pre-assigned representative from each team of the substitutions for identity verification. Then, the referee's consent must be sought before the substitution takes place. The substitute can only enter the pitch at the time when the player being replaced exits the pitch. The substitution must be carried out near the halfway line, at the presence of the assistant referee.
- h. Each match is divided into two equal halves of no fewer than 25 minutes and with a 5-minute rest time in between. Water break may apply depending on weather condition and upon referee's consent.
- i. 'Off -side' rule will apply throughout the Tournament.

- j. All players must wear identical team jersey with bold numbers throughout the match.
- k. All players must wear shin guards and rubber-studded boots. Referees will check these gears before the match, during substitution or at any time during the match and will forbid players without the proper gears from playing.
- l. The goalkeeper shall wear a jersey that easily distinguishes him from other players and the referee.
- m. The team captain should wear an arm-band for identification. The team captain is the only person who has the authority to communicate with the referee during the match.
- n. Wearing of ornaments that may pose bodily harm to players is prohibited. Spectacles are allowed only in the form of unbreakable glasses with a head strap to prevent them from falling off or breaking during the match.
- o. If any team accumulates 3 straight red cards in the Tournament, that team will be disqualified from the Tournament with immediate effect. The past results for that particular team will be cancelled, and the previous results including points scored by other teams over the disqualified team and all the goals scored by all the concerned teams will also be cancelled. To discourage foul play, a penalty system is implemented and illustrated as follows:

Type (for each match)	Penalty
1 <sup>st</sup> Yellow Card	Nil
2 <sup>nd</sup> Yellow Card	Nil
3 <sup>rd</sup> Yellow Card and thereafter	HK\$200 each
2 Yellow Cards → 1 Red Card	HK\$400 each
Straight Red Card	HK\$800 each

If a team's penalty deposit of HK\$3,000 is completely used up, the team will be required to make an additional top up deposit of HK\$1,000 for continued participation in the Tournament. Players who accumulate three yellow cards or receive one red card will result in a one-match suspension.

Match suspension will be carried forward to the following season if it is not executed because of the end of season.

- p. NO illegal or irresponsible parking is allowed including parking anywhere along the school driveway that hinders others from using school driveway or anywhere else that may hinder or create potential safety hazard for others. A fine of HK\$500 will be imposed and deducted from the team's deposit for a first-time parking offense by any of the particular team's members or captain or any associated person or driver of the particular team's participant(s). A second time parking offense may result in a fine of HK\$500 plus a disqualification of the offender from participating in the Wah Yan League. To ensure orderly and safe parking arrangements during the Wah Yan League, only players who have registered their cars' license plate numbers are allowed to use the parking space at Wah Yan College Kowloon car park provided that car parking space is available.

- q. NO smoking is allowed in Wah Yan College, Kowloon. All players must keep the facilities (such as the changing room, and the football field) of Wah Yan College, Kowloon clean and tidy. Clear all water bottles, unwanted jersey, shoes and soccer gear before departure. Repeated violations may result in the team being disqualified from playing in the Tournament.
- r. All players are reminded to take care of their belongings as Organizing Committee, WYCHK, WYK, WYHKPSA, or WYKPSA shall not be responsible for any loss of their valuables and personal belongings.
- s. The school only provides the venue of the Tournament and WYHKPSA and WYKPSA do not guarantee its safety and suitability. All players acknowledge that they are taking part in the Tournament at their own risks and they will be responsible for their own loss or damage to property and bodily injury including fatal injury. No first aid facilities are provided at the venue and the teams/players are required to prepare for their own injury treatments.
- t. The referees have been vested with the authority from WYCHK, WYK, WYHKPSA, WYKPSA and the Organizing Committee to send anyone, whether he/she is a staff of the school, a current student, an alumnus or otherwise, out of the football field area, if the referees have reasons to consider that the person(s) has/have or will obstruct the continuation of a match under their supervision.
- u. All individual players are only allowed to play for one single team in the same division. Players, including the young goalkeeper(s) if any, in the Senior League may be allowed to join one additional team with the condition that the additional team must not be in the Senior League division but in another division(s). No player is allowed to transfer to another team or play for another team once the Tournament commences. Players found to have violated this rule are forbidden to continue to participate in the remaining tournament matches. The result of all matches with a 'violating player' or an 'unqualified/forbidden player' will be deemed to be 0:2 or the actual score if the goal difference exceeds two goals in favor of the opposing teams. Actual goals scored by the opposing team will be counted towards the top scorer award. As a penalty, the goals scored by the defaulting team will not be counted.
- v. The latest IFAB Rules and Regulations are the framework of this Tournament and will be used by the referees and this Tournament as much as they suit the situations. For Senior Friendly League Division, sliding tackle and tackle from behind are strictly prohibited. However, when there are unclear, doubtful and dispute circumstances, the ruling of the Organizing Committee and/or the Wah Yan League Football Tournament Disciplinary Sub-committee (the 'Disciplinary Sub-committee') shall prevail.
- w. In case of any incident which are not covered or specified in this "Rules and Regulations" and any dispute on the matches' result, the decision of the Organizing Committee is final.

#### **4. Qualifications of Players**

- a. Past and current students of Wah Yan are allowed to register and participate in the Tournament. A Wah Yan past student means any person who is or was registered as a

student at WYK or WYCHK. For Senior Friendly League, sons and daughters of the past students of Wah Yan between the age of 12 and 18 during the registration period (“second generation players”) are allowed to participate in the League with the maximum number of second generation players for registration being 4 in a team. During the match play, the number of second generation players, who are playing on the pitch, should not exceed 2 per team. For Leagues A, B and/or C, non-Wah Yan players with registration in the past Wah Yan League are allowed to participate in the League with the maximum number for registration being 4 in a team. During the match play, each team can have a maximum of 2 non-Wah Yan players participating in the match. Current registered players of Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) are not allowed to participate in the Wah Yan League, unless that individual is or was a student of Wah Yan.

- b. All players must be registered with the Organizing Committee prior to playing in the tournament matches. To be qualified to join the Tournament, by the end of the first batch of registration period, a team must have at least 11 players who are qualified and have completed the registration process with the Organizing Committee. This rule applies to both Wah Yan and non-Wah Yan players. More registered players per team are encouraged to allow more rotation and substitution, so as to minimize over exhaustion or injuries. The maximum number of players per team for registration is pre-set at **50** for the Senior Friendly League Division and **50** for both Leagues A, B and/or C which should be more than sufficient, but can be also be expanded to over the pre-set number through application to the Organizing Committee in writing if necessary.
- c. Registration priority will first be given to teams in which the registered team members are all past and/or current students of Wah Yan with good disciplinary records. In principle, when filling the team quotas, teams with fewer non-Wah Yan players will be given higher priority. If two or more applying teams have the same number of non-Wah Yan players, allocation of quotas will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- d. Before the match begins, all team captains are responsible to pass the match form to the match supervisor for identity verification. Referee will refuse any players for playing without their names and photos printed on the match form.

## **5. Appeals, Disputes and Disciplinary Matters**

- a. In the event of complaint, this should be made directly to the Organizing Committee no later than 48 hours after the concerned match. Late complaint will **NOT** be entertained.
- b. All complaints shall be dealt with by the Organizing Committee or its Disciplinary Sub-committee. Any decisions including disciplinary actions made by the Organizing Committees shall be final.
- c. Should any player’s identity found to be faulty, the team and the player(s) concerned will be subject to immediate disqualification. The results of the matches involved will be decided by the Organizing Committee or its Disciplinary Sub-committee upon consultation with the captain/manager of the opposing team of that particular match. The decision of the Organizing Committee shall be final.

## 6. Responsibilities of Teams

- a. In case of doubt, team captains can request to check any player's identity cards of the opposing team during halftime or at the end of the match. Any complaint to player's identity should be made directly to the Organizing committee no later than 48 hours after the concerned match. If player's identity found to be faulty, disciplinary action to follow 5c.
- b. The captain of each team should contact the opposing team's captain before each match to avoid clash of jersey color.
- c. The Organizing Committee will provide size No. 5 match footballs during the match. In case of loss or damage of the match ball, the team that caused the loss or damage will need to pay \$1,000 to the Organizing Committee as replacement cost.
- d. Each team is advised to arrive 30 minutes before the match for verifying with the referees the players' identity, the submission of match form, changing uniforms and doing some warm-up exercises.
- e. On the Match Form
  - 1) the captain of each team should circle the squad numbers of the players being eligible for the match. If, for any reason, the match day jersey number(s) of the player(s) is/are different to what is/are indicated on the Match Form, the correct jersey number(s) must be reflected on the form before the match commences.
  - 2) The referees will mark all match-related data, such as result, scorer(s), disciplinary record(s), etc., on the Match Form. The referee and the team captains should verify the accuracy of the data recorded on the Form, and sign the Match Form as confirmation, after full time.
- f. The captains have the sole responsibility for checking the playing and supervising schedule. The Organizing Committee has no obligation to remind the team captains about their matches and supervising dates. Forgetting the matches is not an excuse for the 'Walkover Penalty'.
- g. In the event of violation of any rules and regulations mentioned above, the relevant disciplinary action would be decided by the Organizing Committee or its Disciplinary Sub-committee

## 7. Cancellation of the Match

- a. If typhoon signal No.8 or higher or a black/red rainstorm warning signal or a thunderstorm warning signal is hoisted **three hours** before the first match scheduled, all matches on that day will be cancelled and will be re-scheduled if possible. The matches will not be carried out even when these warnings have been lowered at or before kick-off time.
- b. Matches will continue to be played during rains unless otherwise decided by the referee

- c. The team captains have the sole obligation to check the weather condition and the availability of matches. The Organizing Committee has no obligation to confirm such information for any teams. Failure to turn up for a match due to uncertain weather condition is not an excuse for the 'Walkover Penalty'.
- d. The team captains of the concerned teams will be informed of the re-scheduling of matches due to the unforeseeable reasons. The same will also be announced on the PSA web pages.

## **8. Type of Football**

- a. Size No. 5 match football will be used.

## **9. Prizes**

- a. The Champion, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up of the Tournament of each division will be awarded the Wah Yan League Cup and medals.

Fair play award will be granted to the team with NO RED CARD and the least yellow cards. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to suspend the award for the year if no team qualified.