



FIFA® Training Centre

**BEACH SOCCER
GUIDELINES**

**for Member Associations
to organize Beach Soccer
competitions**

BASIC

Guidelines for Member Associations to organize Beach Soccer competitions (BASIC)

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

Infrastructure: the pitch

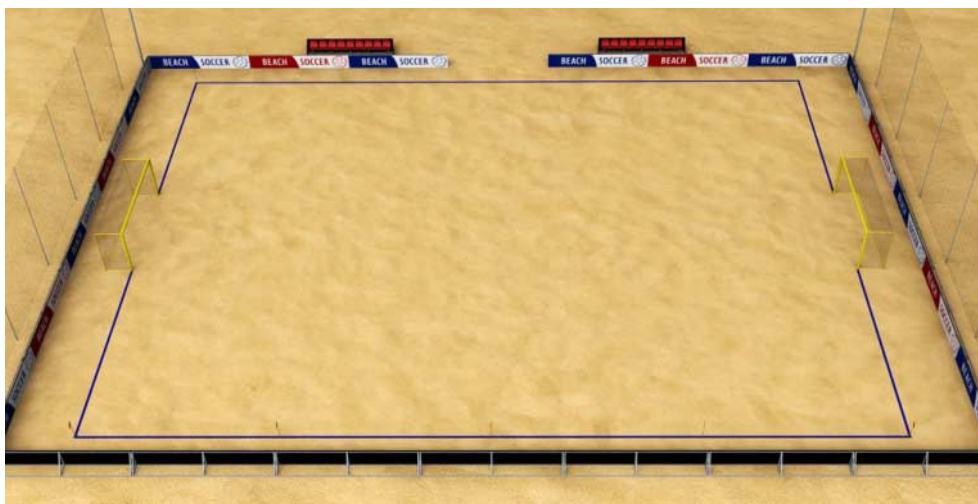
What differentiates beach soccer from any other form of football is the pitch surface and the fact that footwear is not permitted. The infrastructural requirements for a beach soccer pitch are minimal, with a pitch required to have goalposts, pitch markings and flagposts. However, the set up can vary depending on the geographical conditions, and 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 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 [Link to BS Laws of the game](#), be adhered to as closely as possible when it comes to the organisational aspects of the game.

It should be noted that a beach is not required to set up a beach soccer pitch, with a surface with beach sand, such as a riverbank or a lake bank, 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 the purposes of beach soccer.
- If no sand court is available, a court may be built using a sand box with a minimum sand depth of 25-30cm. The sand box should be made from wooden boards. It is important that the sand be of good quality so as to enable players to perform the characteristic moves involved in beach soccer.

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

Beach Soccer Laws of the Game

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

With a view to 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 the requirements in terms of players' equipment more flexible and relaxed (i.e. allowing bibs to be worn instead of customised shirts, etc.).



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;

- create a competition schedule and rules, taking local regulations and laws, playing facilities and the number of participating teams into account;

- promote the competition through social media, local media and word of mouth to generate interest and attract spectators (having fans and 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 competition participants, referees and coaches; and

- prepare award 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 above mentioned goal.

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

- Condensed competition formats in which a team play several matches on the same day. To allow for more games, the duration of each match may also be reduced.

- Each team play against each other, followed by a round of final matches

- Teams are divided into two groups, with the group winners contesting a final round

- Knockout format from the quarter final stage onwards

Referees

Each match is controlled 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. For example, and in descending priority order:

1) The third referee may be dispensed

2) 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

3) One of the two on pitch referees may be dispensed

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 positions with less physically demanding roles and ensuring a minimum period of rest 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 Link to FIFA Forward regulations

2. Confederation

3. Public sector (central/regional/local government)

4. Private sector

1. Partnerships, including value in kind
 2. Sponsorship
 3. Private donors
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5. Crowdfunding