

2024 Floorball Rules and Competition Format – Primary League

- Games are 2 x 10min halves, the referees will provide a 1-minute warning before the game is about to start, to ensure teams are ready on the court to start play. Teams should be arriving 15 minutes prior to the game time.
- A team plays with one goalie and 3 field players in the rink (except for years 1/2 – 4 field players and no goalie is required). Teams are able to play if they are ONE player short.
- A team can have up to 4 additional players on the side-line as subs and can be subbed on/off repeatedly, anytime during the game.
A player coming off the rink needs to be out of the rink before the other player can go on.
- Sticks for field players and helmets/knee pads for goalies are provided.
- The playing area is surrounded by a rink and the ball can be bounced off the sides. If the ball goes out of the rink, a free hit is awarded to the other team.
- A free hit must always be hit, not pushed or flicked.
- Both sides of the blade/stick can be used to play the ball.
- For Primary School leagues the goals are placed about 1m inside from the back line and play continues behind the goal.
- The goalie plays without a stick and can use their hands to catch/block the ball, provided they are touching the area within the goalie box.
- Field players or sticks are not allowed in the goalie box and cannot play the ball while it is in the goalie box. Only the goalie is allowed within the goal box.
- The goalie must not hold on to the ball for more than 3 seconds. When throwing the ball, it must hit the floor before passing halfway. A goal can't be scored from a thrown ball.
- Players can stop the ball with their feet, but can't touch the ball consecutively with their feet. Players can pass with feet, but cannot score.
- The ball must not be played with the hands or head of players (except the goalie).
- The blade/stick must **not be raised above waist level**.
- No form of pushing or physically tackling another player is allowed.
- You are not allowed to jump and play the ball at the same time.
- You are not allowed to put the stick between the opponent's legs or hit their stick.
- After a foul, when a free hit is awarded to the other team (defending team), needs to be 3m away from where the ball is placed, including sticks. Free hits can be a pass or a direct shot at the goal.

- There is no offside and goals can be scored from anywhere.
- To start a game, one player from each team stands opposite each other in the middle of the court. The sticks are placed next to each other on the ground, with the ball placed in the middle. Blades must point straight to the opposing goal and players must stand square. When the referee blows the whistle, the two players both try to win the ball for their team. This is called a **Face Off** and is also used to restart the game after a goal has been scored.
- Overtime (max 2 mins) – in a **semi-final** or **final** a win/loss result **MUST** be recorded. In the instance of a draw at the full time whistle the game will be stopped, the game will be restarted from the middle of the court as if a new game or goal had been scored and a **golden goal rule** is applied. The first team to score after the restart is the winner. If a goal has not been scored in overtime, the game progresses into penalty shooting (3 players each per team).
- If a team is unable to field a full team, they may borrow a player from the opposing team or another team in the same division or a division below. The manager/coach of each team will need to discuss whether the results will stand, prior to the start of the game. If the managers/coaches cannot agree, then the team that is unable to field a full team forfeits the game. A social game may still be played.
- If a game commences after the scheduled start time, the game will be shortened at the referee's discretion. If after 5 minutes a team is not ready to play, that team will be forfeited. If both teams are not ready to play after 5 minutes, the game will result in a draw.
- Interpretation of the rules is at the discretion of the **competition manager** and any decision shall be final.

Unacceptable Behaviour

The Wellington Floorball Junior Committee will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour. Everyone participating has the right to play without being subjected to such behaviour and has an individual responsibility to treat others fairly and play in a way that is as safe as possible.

Examples for unacceptable behaviour are the following - this list is not exclusive and can be extended/interpreted at the organiser's discretion:

- Using the floorball gear in a way it is not designed for. In order to avoid injury, floorball sticks in particular need to be held low and cannot be lifted above waist level or swung around in a weapon like style or to play any other games other than floorball.
- Threatening behaviour or language on or around the rink towards the other team or the allocated referee, before, during or after the game.
- Stepping into the rink by someone else other than players of the teams who are currently playing.
- Challenging decisions of the referee in an aggressive manner. Constructive conversations/discussions with the referee can only be held before or after the game, or in the break between the game halves, if the referee is free and not occupied with another task.

Schools/Teams will be held accountable for their failure to take reasonable steps to prevent unacceptable behaviour by a member of their team or supporters. **This could result in the loss of points, forfeit or further sanctions imposed by the WFJC.**