

## **WTGF GENERAL FOOTBALL RULES**

The training and “exhibition” matches are open to all recipients of life supporting allograft (heart, intestine, kidney, liver, lung, pancreas) and hematopoietic cell (bone marrow) transplants from other individuals or species which require or have required the use of immunosuppressive drug therapies.

Recipient football players must have been transplanted for at least 1 year, with stable graft function, be medically fit and have regularly trained. If a recipient is at least 6 months post-procedure, with stable graft function, has been training and has, by the WTGF medical form, permission from his/her own doctor.

Competitors are expected to understand and be familiar with the WTGF General Football Rules. At all times, participants must respect the etiquette and traditions of their sport/discipline. This includes being properly dressed and equipped. Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. All participants must be reviewed by the trainer or team manager prior to submission. Mixed trainings and team of male and female are allowed.

### **1. WTGF General Football Rules beside of the FIFA rules for training sessions and exhibition matches.**

- a. Medical certificates for training sessions and exhibition matches are required for all participants.
- b. Participants may wear body protection if determined necessary by his/her doctor or if the participant feels it's necessary to protect his/her organ graft.
- c. All matches to be played on grass (not on artificial grass).
- d. All participants must wear shin guards and football shoes.
- e. Referees and linesman will receive special instructions.
- f. There will be a safety briefing before every match by coaches and referees.
- g. Slide tackling will NOT be allowed. If it occurs, it could result in an immediate red card.
- h. Arm/elbow contact with the chest will NOT be allowed. If it occurs, it could result in an immediate red card.
- i. Participants may NOT shoot free kick shot into “walls” of players.
- j. There will be unlimited substitutions during side outs.
- k. In the event that matches become dangerous, defined as falling outside of the objective of protecting the health and welfare of other participants, a RED CARD will be given.

### **2. The trainer/coach**

The trainer/coach is appointed by the National Transplant association/hospital/city/region/country.

### **3. WTGF General Football Rules different from FIFA rules for WTGF tournaments**

- a. Medical certificates are required to participate in each Tournament.
- b. Participants may wear body protection of their own choice or if demanded by the doctor.
- c. All matches to be played on grass (not on artificial grass).
- d. Everybody must wear shin guards and football shoes.
- e. Specially instructed referees and linesman.
- f. Safety briefing before every match by referee.
- g. No slide tackling.
- h. No arm/elbow contact with the chest.
- i. No free kicks shot in "wall".
- j. Unlimited subs.
- k. In case of dangerous, unfair play or unsafe play, with the objective of protecting the health and welfare of other participants, a RED CARD will be issued which will also apply for the next match during the tournament.
- l. Maximum of 2 matches are allowed per day with a minimum of 1,5 hour between.
- m. No play should occur if the temperature is above 30°.
- n. Extra breaks for drinks are allowed.

### **4. Medical forms**

The medical form is for approval with signature of the transplant doctor to allow participation of his/her patient in the National training sessions or in the International Tournament and sent to the organizing organisation.

The Medical forms are developed and approved by the WTGF Medical committee and can be found at <https://wtgf.org/>

The **WTGF GENERAL FOOTBALL RULES** represent "best practices" and are provided to assist in the establishment or additional development of transplant football programs throughout the world.

For more information visit the WTGF website <https://wtgf.org/> or email us at [football@wtgf.org](mailto:football@wtgf.org)