



The 2014 WAKA® Founders Cup® XVII World Kickball Championship® Tournament October 11th, 2014 Guidelines

WAKA's Founders Cup® World Kickball Championship® tournament provides the ultimate level of kickball competition for players and spectators alike. The tournament starts and ends on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The World Kickball Championship team is crowned that night at an on-field celebration.

TEAM QUALIFICATION

A team must meet the following criteria to be eligible to receive an invitation to play in the tournament:

- 1) Be a properly registered team in a Founders Cup-eligible WAKA League (or Regional Tournament) with properly registered players in the League/Tournament; AND
- 2) Have accrued fewer than 3 forfeits of any kind during the qualifying regular season; AND
- 3) Have not been disqualified from tournament play for any reason including unsportsmanlike conduct, or playing a non-registered or improperly registered person for that specific team, season, and League during an official League game (see WAKA Policies at kickball.com, "Roster Violations" section); AND
- 4) Have completed a standard WAKA regular season and completed a League Tournament (or Regional Tournament) within the 2014 Qualifying Period* (August 4, 2013 to September 1, 2014); AND
- 5) Have qualified for an invitation via any of the following means:
 - a. WAKA League play, according to the Founders Cup Eligibility policy (as stated on the corresponding Season of Play webpage at kickball.com);
 - b. WAKA Regional Tournament play (see Attachment B);
 - c. a special invitation from WAKA (see Special Invitations below).

** If a League's season ends outside the Qualifying Period, the Tournament Selection Committee may consider these leagues for the 2014 tournament on a case by case basis. If the 2014 Tournament is filled to capacity before the cutoff date, all Teams qualifying after that point will be considered eligible for the 2015 Tournament. Teams interested in participating in the World Kickball Championship should email tournaments@kickball.com with eligibility questions.*

TEAM INVITATIONS AND REGISTRATION FEE

Eligible teams will be prioritized for invitation by the Tournament Selection Committee (the Committee). The Committee shall take into account the League Tournament results (including strength and size of League and region, as well as tournament statistics), past performance at Founders Cup, geographical diversity and other factors as necessary. Regular season records and statistics will not be considered in the selection process.

Teams will be invited on a rolling basis beginning in June and continuing through August or until all available spots are filled. All invitations will be extended, received, and processed via email and/or the kickball.com website.

The invitation process shall have two phases:

1. The Team Captains are notified of the invitation via email, and are given a deadline to accept the invitation provisionally by registering themselves and creating a Group.
2. Groups will then have an additional window of time to secure a Team slot in the tournament by registering a minimum quota of players (by gender and in total).

The threshold for promotion from Group (provisional) to Team (confirmed) status is **sixteen (16) players with a minimum of five (5) of each gender**. All deadlines in the registration process will be disclosed in the invitation itself. The registration fee will be assessed on a **per-player basis**, and payable by the individual player upon registration for the Tournament. The registration fee will be announced once finalized (and prior to any invitations being sent), on the Tournament webpages at kickball.com.)

If a Group cannot reach the minimum confirmation threshold by the deadline provided, the players registered to the Group will be refunded and the Team slot will be released. Once a Group reaches the minimum threshold and is promoted to the status of a confirmed Team, all Team player registrations will become non-refundable.

Special Invitations

The two (2) Finalist teams from WAKA's 2013 Founders Cup XVI World Kickball Championship tournament will receive a special invitation to the 2014 tournament provided the following criteria are met:

- 1) The team must register for a WAKA league or Regional Tournament playing within the 2014 Founders Cup Qualifying Period (though they need not qualify for a new invite with that roster); AND
- 2) That roster must include at least 8 players (50% of the minimum roster) from their 2013 Founders Cup roster.

In the event a 2013 World Kickball Championship Finalist meets the special invitation criteria and accepts its invitation, WAKA will waive the registration fee for all returning players from the 2013 Founders Cup roster. Teams accepting special invitations must also secure their Team slot by reaching the minimum roster threshold (see above), and are subject to the same roster restrictions and rights as other teams (see Roster Qualification).

ROSTER QUALIFICATION

All players participating in the tournament must be registered on the team roster for the specific league and season of play from which their team qualified, and for which the tournament invitation was accepted. It is further required that each player be an active participant in the invited league and season, as determined by WAKA. So-called "ghost" players, who appear on the league roster but do not physically play in that season, are not eligible for the invited team's Founders Cup roster. The Committee has final authority on what players are deemed eligible for Founders Cup.

If the same team (as determined by the Committee) qualifies for an invitation in more than one league and/or season of play within the qualifying period, they will be permitted to select the qualifying roster with which to accept; however, they will not be permitted to combine personnel from their various rosters (except as may be allowable via Free Agency – see below).

A team that "re-qualifies" after having already accepted an invitation (or while in the process of accepting), may petition the Committee to transfer their invitation to the later roster. Such requests will be evaluated for validity and accommodated as a courtesy, even beyond the 2014 qualifying period, so long as (in the Committee's judgment) there is still adequate time before the tournament to process the request. Teams using a late-qualifying roster may not also use that roster for 2015 consideration.

Each participating player may only appear on one (1) Founders Cup Tournament roster.

FREE AGENCY

In addition to the active participants on their invited league roster, teams may include on their Founders Cup roster up to four (4) "free agent" players. No more than 3 of a team's free agents may be of the same gender.

A WAKA Player is eligible as a free agent if he/she meets ANY of the following criteria:

- 1) The player was registered for and participated in the same league and season of play as the invited team;
- 2) The player has a demonstrable consistent relationship with the invited team, being absent from the invited roster only due to reasons such as relocation, pregnancy, military duty, illness or injury.

Each free agent may only appear on one (1) Founders Cup Tournament roster. The Committee has final authority on what players are deemed eligible for free agency.

For information on free agency parameters for Regional Tournament qualifiers, see Attachment B.

CHECKING-IN AND RECEIVING WRISTBANDS

All players must check-in for the tournament at the host hotel or specific social events on Thursday or Friday or by 8 AM Saturday on the field in order to participate in the tournament. All players must bring with them a valid government-issued photo ID, and be properly registered on their Founders Cup qualified team.

Teams may not print their own shirts for game day. (See Attachment A of this document.) Players failing to meet any of the guidelines may not be allowed to participate.

All players will be issued a wristband at check-in and **must keep the wristband on for the entirety of the weekend** to ensure game participation, access to the park, and access to specified social events. All team Captains/Co-captains may be asked to assist with roster checks throughout the tournament.

Players must have a valid photo ID with them at all times during game play for possible roster checks. Those players without ID may be removed from game play until proper identification is shown to a tournament representative.

TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

The 2014 WAKA Founders Cup XVII World Kickball Championship Tournament consists of two phases: the Pool Play phase and the Elimination Bracket phase, which culminates in the final championship game. The structure of the pools and brackets will be determined by the Committee and announced once the number of participating teams has been finalized, in August or September. Structure of pool play and brackets are subject to change without notice based on attendance of all Founders Cup participants. WAKA will limit changes as much as possible.

Teams participating in Founders Cup will be required to volunteer some players on their roster for base referee duty during an hour their team is idle. For more information, see Attachment C.

Pool Play Rankings

Participating teams will be ranked and placed into pools by the Committee. The Committee shall take into account such factors as past performance at Founders Cup, performance in WAKA League & Regional Tournaments (including strength and size of League and region, as well as tournament statistics), and geographical diversity. Regular season records and statistics will not be considered. Ranks for pool seeding may not match the ranking for invitation priority.

Determining Home Team

Throughout all tournament games, the team with the higher starting seed has the option to choose Home or Away status. The Away team kicks first, the Home team kicks in the bottom of all innings.

Length of Game and Ties

The following guidelines will apply during the Pool Play phase:

- 1) All games shall consist of 5 innings unless falling into the below categories.
 - a) At the end of the third inning or at the end of any full inning thereafter a team up by 12 or more runs automatically wins the game and the game is over.

- b) The game will be concluded after 3 or 4 complete innings if there is no time to complete another inning within the allotted time of 50 minutes from the start of the game.
 - i. Game-play time will be monitored by WAKA and enforced by the tournament referees.
 - ii. Any inning begun must be completed except as follows, per Rules 7.01b & c:
 - a. The bottom half of the final inning will not be played if the Home team is ahead;
 - b. Games in the bottom of the final inning will end instantly if the Home team takes the lead.
 - iii. Teams deliberately delaying the game may be warned and sanctioned as necessary by the tournament referees.
- 2) Games may end in a tie score during Pool Play.

The following guidelines will apply during the Elimination Bracket phase:

- 1) All games shall consist of 5 innings unless falling into the below categories.
 - a) At the end of the third inning or at the end of any full inning thereafter a team up by 12 or more runs automatically wins the game and the game is over.
 - b) The game will be concluded after 3 or 4 complete innings if there is no time to complete another inning within the allotted time.
 - i. The allotted time will be determined by WAKA and enforced by the tournament referees.
 - ii. Any inning begun must be completed except as follows, per Rules 7.01b & c:
 - a. The bottom half of the final inning will not be played if the Home team is ahead;
 - b. Games in the bottom of the final inning will end instantly if the Home team takes the lead.
 - iii. Teams deliberately delaying the game may be warned and sanctioned as necessary by the tournament referees.
- 2) In the event of a tie score after 5 innings, extra full innings shall commence until a winner is determined or until the allotted time expires. Each extra inning should be played with these modifications:
 - Place the last kicker from the previous inning on second base
 - Only 8 players on the field for the defense consisting of 4 men and 4 women
 - All kickers start with an unmodified count (0 balls, 0 strikes, 0 fouls)

If a winner is not determined at the end of the first extra inning, additional innings can begin up until the 70 minute mark of game play. On-site WAKA tournament staff have authority to determine if time and/or daylight permits additional extra innings to be played.

Rock-Paper-Scissors [RPS]

If the game is still tied when time elapses during an Elimination Bracket game, regardless of the number of innings played, play must stop and a winner must be determined using the RPS procedure. RPS shall be played out as follows: 3 representatives from each team shall pair off and play head-to-head best 2 out of 3. The team that wins two rounds of these pairings shall win the kickball game and advance in the tournament.

Advancing from Pool Play

The winner of each pool will advance from Pool Play to the Elimination Bracket. The winner is the team with the best Pool Play record, using the same Win/Loss/Tie/Forfeit ranking weight used to determine standings for League Tournaments according to the WAKA League Tournament Guidelines.

In the event of a Tie within a pool, the following steps shall be taken:

- 1) The team that won the head-to-head match shall advance.
- 2) If criterion #1 is inconclusive, the team with the fewest total runs allowed in their pool games shall advance.
- 3) If criterion #2 results in a tie, the team with the most total runs scored in their pool games shall advance.
- 4) If criterion #3 results in a tie, the team with the higher starting seed shall advance.

In the event of a 3-way tie (or more) for an Elimination Bracket spot, the above criteria will be applied until any one team can be advanced or eliminated from the tie. If 2 or more teams remain tied, the process will be restarted from the top of the applicable criteria list.

Depending on the final number of participating teams, and resulting structure of the pools and brackets (see Tournament Structure), pool runners-up and/or additional "wild card" teams may be advanced to the Elimination Bracket.

Forfeits and Mutual Forfeits

In the event of a forfeit, the result shall be recorded as a **5-0** win for the opposing team, in addition to the “standings points” lost by the forfeiting team. If BOTH teams forfeit the game for any reason, both teams record a 5-0 loss. A mutual forfeit during the Elimination Bracket phase results in both teams being eliminated from the tournament and the next opponent in the bracket winning their game by forfeit.

Team Structure and Injury

To further clarify WAKA Rules and Policies regarding Team composition and substitutions (Official Rules, Sections 5 & 16) the following guidelines will apply in Founders Cup play:

- 1) A team without the proper minimum of 4 players of each sex available and ready to play at game start time forfeits the game.
- 2) A team that does not have the proper minimum of 4 players of each sex participating at any time during the game forfeits the game.
- 3) Teams are permitted to play a subset of their participating tournament roster in any given game. Captains must exchange a kicking order that includes all players who will be participating in the current game.
- 4) Additional players "on the bench" for a given game may NOT be added to the kicking order or substituted into that game for any reason, including injury to a starter. If an injury during a game causes a team to be unable to field 4 players of each sex on defense, this will result in a forfeit and loss of that game. Teams that bench players do so at their own risk.
- 5) WAKA reserves the right to refuse play to any injured player and remove that player from the game. Players removed from a game in this manner may not return to or play in any WAKA kickball game that day. A player removed during a game for injury will be skipped in the kicking order.
- 6) Only runners who are injured while traveling to a base, and who successfully make it to a base may be substituted. The substitute runner must appear on the team's kicking order for the game in progress, and be of the same sex as the injured player. A specific runner may be substituted only twice during a game; upon the second substitution, that player will be removed from the game and no longer allowed to participate (see Rule 16.06).
- 7) The WAKA Policy addressing late-arriving players may only be invoked for a given team's first game of the tournament schedule, after which it is not applicable to tournament play (see WAKA Policies, “Late-arriving players” section).
- 8) A team playing a non-registered person, an improperly registered person, or a person not registered on the Tournament roster will immediately be removed from the tournament and may be asked to depart the park (see WAKA Policies, “Roster Violations” section).

Additional Game Play Notes (specific to Founders Cup and Regional Tournament play)

- 1) For the purposes of the tournament, any and all athletic gloves are considered performance-enhancing and are not allowed per Rule 2.03.
- 2) If the 3rd and final out of an inning is recorded due to improper positioning of a base runner (such as in Rule 10.03 or 1.06d), that will conclude the plate appearance for the player at kick, and the subsequent kicker will lead off that team's next inning of kicking. This directive is not applicable to the 1st or 2nd out of an inning.
- 3) Special Tournament rule on 4-pitch Walks. During a single plate appearance, if a kicker is walked on exactly four pitches, without being pitched any strikes (see Rule 11) or any resulting foul balls (see Rule 13.02), the kicker will be awarded a walk of two bases. Base runners shall only advance as far as they are forced by the kicker proceeding through 1st base to 2nd base.
- 4) Special Tournament rule on Encroachment. For all Founders Cup games, these rule variances modify and supersede section 8.02 of the official WAKA Rules:
 - a) no Warnings will be issued for Position Infractions (of any kind);
 - b) for any pitch taken while a Position Infraction is occurring, the kicker will be awarded first base, or the kicking team may elect to continue with the plate appearance, with the pitch counted as a Ball;
 - c) for any pitch kicked while a Position Infraction is occurring, the play will proceed as live. Once the play is concluded, the kicking team will be given the option to accept the outcome of the play, or to nullify the resulting play in favor of the kicker being awarded first base;
 - d) for b and c above, the Captain of the team at kick will speak for the team and communicate the chosen option to the head referee.

RESOLVING CONTROVERSIES OVER RULES

Regardless of the high emotions that tournament play can instill, proper civility and respect must be observed by all players and referees toward one another at all times. Only Captains and Co-Captains may discuss calls with the tournament referees, and all players must accept the final ruling of the referees. Referees may seek clarifications from WAKA Field Managers at their own discretion.

In the event a tournament referee consults a WAKA Field Manager but remains uncertain of the correct final ruling for a situation, the referee will issue a final ruling using his/her own best judgment (see Rule 3.05). Under no circumstances should a rules issue cause a game to be suspended or replayed, nor should a result be overturned due to subsequent clarification. Tournament game results will stand as they are determined on the field at the scheduled time.

SPIRIT OF THE GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

WAKA intends all tournament participants and spectators to enjoy themselves through the experiences in this specially created fun environment. Proper sportsmanlike conduct is required of all participants throughout the entirety of the tournament. Similarly, proper conduct is required of all spectators throughout the entirety of the tournament. Please contact your WAKA Customer Service Representative if any of these regulations are unclear. If necessary, WAKA will address any inconsistencies, discrepancies, and misunderstandings in accordance with the spirit of these regulations. These regulations are subject to change without notice. All other rules governing game play are defined at kickball.com.

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ATTACHMENT A

Tournament Clothing and Accessory Policy

All clothing and accessories brought and/or worn at the tournament park on the day of the tournament is subject to review by WAKA. Any attendee displaying unapproved sponsors, organizations, logos, phrases, words, graphics, pictures, etc. may be banned from the games and/or park without refund.

Tournament participants must properly wear and display official WAKA team shirts during game play.

These are the official WAKA team shirts:

- a) the team shirt purchased with the league registration in the color assigned to the player on the qualifying roster
- b) the performance athletic dry fit shirt purchased with the league registration in the color assigned to the player on the qualifying roster
- c) a cotton shirt or performance athletic dry fit obtained through the WAKA store in the color of the invited team

Game play shirts may be reasonably altered but must properly retain and display all text and graphics as originally issued. As with all clothing and accessories at the tournament park, altered team shirts are subject to review and approval by WAKA.

Teams are responsible for obtaining a shirt of the team's color for any "free agent" players (see Free Agency).

Questions pertaining to game shirt colors or other details may be made to tournaments@kickball.com no later than 15 days before the tournament date.

ATTACHMENT B

WAKA Regional Tournaments

The Regional Rounds of the Founders Cup, A.K.A. WAKA Regional Tournaments, are considered a preliminary round and extension of the Founders Cup World Kickball Championship. All Guidelines and Rules expressed in the rest of this document shall also apply to Regional play, except where specified here or on the Regional Tournament webpages at kickball.com.

Team/Roster Qualification

WAKA Regional Tournaments are open to all people eligible for WAKA League play, regardless of prior or present WAKA affiliation. No invitation is required for Regional play.

To ensure eligibility under Founders Cup roster guidelines, a minimum roster of sixteen (16) players with five (5) of each gender is required to secure a Team slot. Each participating player may only appear on one (1) Regional Tournament roster, and all team members must be at least 21 years or older on the day of the tournament.

Only players that are checked in as physical participants in the Regional are eligible to be on the Founders Cup roster of an invited team. So-called "ghost" players, who appear on the tournament roster but do not physically play in the tournament, are not eligible for the invited team's Founders Cup roster. The Committee has final authority on what players are deemed eligible for Founders Cup.

Free Agency

Teams invited to Founders Cup via Regional Tournament play are limited to a total of two (2) Free Agents, without restriction to gender.

A WAKA Player is eligible as a free agent for if he/she meets ANY of the following criteria:

- 1) The player was registered for and participated in the same Regional tournament as the invited team;
- 2) The player has a demonstrable consistent relationship with a League team that clearly and predominantly corresponds to the invited Regional roster (at the determination of The Committee).

Each free agent may only appear on one (1) Founders Cup Tournament roster. The Committee has final authority on what players are deemed eligible for free agency.

Registration Fee

Participants will register on a per-player basis, at a rate to be determined and announced on the Regional Tournament webpages at kickball.com.

Locations and Dates

In 2014, WAKA will offer Regional tournaments around the US. All specifics will be announced as they are confirmed, on the Regional Tournament webpages at kickball.com.

Prizes

The champion team of each WAKA Regional Tournament will automatically earn a guaranteed invitation to the Founders Cup World Kickball Championship in Las Vegas on October 11th, 2014. Additional top teams from Regionals may also receive Founders Cup invitations at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

Further prizes will be announced as they are confirmed, on the Regional Tournament webpages at kickball.com.

ATTACHMENT C

Founders Cup Player-Referee Requirement

Each participating Founders Cup team will be asked to designate three (3) players on their roster, who may be called upon to serve as a base referee for a Pool Play game occurring while their team is idle.

The names of the designees must be submitted in advance so they can have the benefit of the orientation process all Certified Tournament Referees receive, including access to online rules reference materials.

No designated player-ref will be asked to ref more than one game, and some may not be needed at all. Anyone willing to continue refereeing after their team is eliminated should notify WAKA in advance, and may be allowed to join the compensated CTR corps.

Player-refs will serve only at 1st or 3rd base. A neutral, compensated CTR will serve as head ref for all games.

Referee schedules will be released in advance of the game day. Some players may need to Ref the first round, before their team has played a game.

A team's failure to provide referees as requested, or by a player-ref to perform soberly and in good faith, will result in that team being disqualified from the tournament.