

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Minifootball?

Minifootball is the European term used to describe all forms of adult small sided football which, in the UK, consist principally of 5 or 6 a side Leagues. In the UK the term "Minifootball" has traditionally meant junior football but it is likely that in the coming years the term "Minifootball" will increasingly be used in the UK to describe all forms of adult small sided football.

Who are the UK Minifootball association?

The UK Minifootball Association (The UKMA) is a non-profit making body bringing various UK federations and associations together into one group to act as the Governing Body for all minifootball in the United Kingdom. UK Minifootball is the sole governing body for minifootball in the United Kingdom and is authorised as such by the European Minifootball Federation (EMF) under their Statute. The UKMA is on the Executive Committee of the EMF.

Who are the EMF?

The EMF is the European Governing Body for minifootball in Europe and currently has over 20 countries as members. The EMF organises international competitions including the European Minifootball Championships which are held annually in a member country.

What about the FA?

Traditionally the FA has represented all forms of football in the United Kingdom. However, the FA's primary focus is on 11 a-side Football and not minifootball or small sided Football. In May 2012 the European Commission in Brussels recognised minifootball as a separate sport apart from 11 a side Football which therefore required a Governing Body for each member country and a European Governing Body. This effectively meant that minifootball in the UK required a Governing Body which is entirely distinct from - and independent of - the FA.

Affiliation - What does it mean?

It is not currently a requirement that any person, corporate body or other organisation that organises competitive minifootball leagues in the United Kingdom should affiliate to the UKMA however, as with affiliation to 11-a-side football, affiliation to UKMA can provide substantial benefits.



What are the main benefits of affiliation?

Firstly, your organisation has the benefit of knowing that it is affiliated to the correct governing body for the sport you organise. More importantly, we ourselves are licensed by the European governing body for minifootball. This licence means that any future sponsorship deals which either the governing body or ourselves are involved in will give you the chance to benefit, either with equipment, assistance or financial help. We know, for instance, that Adidas, Pepsi and Nike have already shown an interest in obtaining some sort of sponsorship arrangement with the European Governing Body. This can only benefit you as an organiser. Being affiliated to us means also that your organisation has the opportunity of increased exposure both on the national and international stage, should you so wish. This can help you in attracting more teams to play in your leagues.

We know that attracting referees is one of the hardest things that you, as an organiser, has to do each week. That is why we are offering a service of assistance in recruiting referees across the country (and direct assistance with a database for gold members). You know that if you are struggling to find a referee then you are not alone because we are here to help you where we can.

For Silver and Gold members you have access to use our free fully automated discipline system helping you to collect your money more easily. There is no paperwork involved whatsoever in the collection of these fines and your referees are given a unique password which they use to log a fine with us. The funds from those fines are then sent directly into your bank account automatically. You do nothing apart from receive the fines.

You can promote the fact that one of your teams could represent England in the following years' European Championships. As licensed providers by the EMF for the England minifootball team, you will receive free promotional material for the UK 6 aside Championships which gives your teams the opportunity to play on the international stage. This is a benefit available exclusively only to our members.

What does it cost to affiliate to the UKMA?

Unlike the FA, the UKMA accepts affiliation from any bonafide organiser of minifootball Leagues in the United Kingdom completely free of charge. We are non-profit making and receive external funds to give benefits to our members without any charge. Our statutory aims are to ensure that minifootball in the United Kingdom is properly regulated and encouraged in all forms, including ethnic, disabled and minority groups.



I affiliate to the FA - why should I affiliate to the UKMA?

You don't have to but it is likely that in the coming years, now Brussels has recognised minifootball as a separate sport, different countries FA's will become less and less involved, and will receive less funding from Europe to develop minifootball. This funding is more likely to be channelled through Governing Bodies' such as ourselves. It would be useful therefore for organisers in the UK to affiliate to the Governing Body which best represents their particular sport. Remember 11 a-side football and 5 or 6 a-side football are now officially different sports.

Can I affiliate to both the FA and the UKMA?

Yes. There is nothing to stop you affiliating to as many Governing Bodies as you wish, although the EMF recommends that you affiliate to the UKMA as the correct Governing Body for minifootball.

