



THE
AMS
FOOTBALL
LEAGUE

INFORMATION PACK



Introduction

A big thank you to your school for participating in the inaugural season of The AMS Football League. This competition, in partnership with the English Schools Football Association, aims to provide Muslim schools with a platform to play regular competitive football and encourage the growth and development of pupils, whether they see the sport as a recreational activity, a means to stay fit or if they wish to pursue a career in the game.



AMS also feels the league will also serve as a stepping stone for schools who are interested in competing in national and local tournaments and want to build their capacity to playing in mainstream competitions alongside established and experienced institutes.

We hope The AMS Football League becomes a firm fixture in the calendar of Muslim schools in future years; with your support, we have plans to grow as we go along, introducing leagues for various age-groups and team sizes.

As ever, we encourage players and teams to give their all and produce a memorable competition with close, exciting games and breath-taking wonder goals. AMS will be reporting on the league as it progresses as teams chase the trophy and with it, a place in the AMS Shield for a chance to prove themselves as the best in the country.

We hope and pray The AMS Football League is played in the spirit in which is it intended and schools can make the most of the opportunity to make new friends and develop lasting relationships, insha'Allah.

League Overview

- The AMS Football League is a 7-a-side competition for Year 9 students at registered full-time Muslim schools - Year 8 students are also permitted to take part.
- Schools may enter one representative team into the competition. Co-ed/mixed schools are permitted to enter one boys team and one girls team.
- Teams will be organised into the following local boys' or girls' leagues and will play other school teams in that league on a home-and-away basis.

Boys League North

Girls League North

Boys League Midlands

Girls League Midlands

Boys League South

Girls League South

- Fixtures will be scheduled and published by AMS on Monday 23 October and will take place throughout the remainder of the school year (October 2017 to March 2018).
- AMS will publish the results of each match along the league tables on its website at www.ams-uk.org

League Format

- Each league will be comprised of a number of teams who will play each other home-and-away in a double round-robin format over the course of the season.
- Each league is independent of all others. i.e. there are no “crossover” matches, promotion/relegation, etc.
- Fixtures will be published and sent to schools with each match having a designated home and away team.
- Each fixture will have a two-week window for it to be fulfilled. Team managers will arrange to play this fixture at the home team’s venue and at a mutually agreeable time within this window.
- The home team is responsible in ensuring a safe and hospitable environment for the away team during the duration of their visit.
- The home team manager is to email confirmation of the date, time and venue of the match to AMS and the away team manager at least 7 days before it takes place. AMS will arrange a referee to officiate the match.
- If a time cannot be agreed on by both teams, AMS will make every effort to schedule the fixture at a suitable time, including, if necessary, outside the two-week window. The timings set by AMS for any particular fixture will be final.
- Any team not being able to fulfil a fixture, whether mutually agreed or set by AMS, will forfeit the game with a score of 2-0.
- Teams will earn three points for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a defeat.
- The team with the most points following the completion of all fixtures will be crowned league winners.
- In the event of two or more teams finishing with the same number of points, the teams will be ranked in order of the following:
 - Goal difference
 - Goals scored
 - Points gained from matches between the teams

In the unlikely event teams remain level after the above criteria, a playoff match will be arranged at a neutral venue to decide the league winner. Should three or more teams finish level after the above criteria, a mini-tournament will be held at a neutral venue. These matches will utilise extra-time and penalties if needed. This method also applies to decide second-place should there be a tie in that position.

Ties for all other positions not involving first or second place will be decided by drawing lots if the above criteria does not produce conclusive.

Match Rules

- Matches consist of two periods of 25 minutes plus stoppages at the discretion of the referee.
- The AMS league is generally an AstroTurf-based league. However, to make the competition accessible to all schools, grass and indoor pitches are permitted, providing they meet the minimum standards.
- It is the home team manager's responsibility to inform AMS and the away team manager of the pitch surface type (eg, AstroTurf, Grass, Indoor) so they can adequately prepare.
- Match day squads can consist of 10 players and must be made up of students in years 9 and/or 8.
- Teams are to field 7 players with the remaining three players in the squad as substitutes.
- Normal football rules apply with the following exceptions:
 - There is no offside.
 - Free kicks are either direct or indirect - players must be five yards away from the ball.
 - Teams can make unlimited substitutions with the permission of the referee and during a break in play.
- Yellow and red cards will be given for misconduct and foul play and/or behaviour.
- Teams are awarded 3 points for a win, 1 for a draw and 0 for a loss. After the group stage, teams finishing first and second in their group will qualify for the knockout phase. If teams cannot still be separated, the higher ranked team will be determined by drawing lots.

Please note:

- Team managers are responsible for the safety and conduct of their students. Please ensure you have adequate personnel to manage your team.
- Spectators are welcome and encouraged to watch matches and support their team. However, please note your school will be held responsible for any unacceptable behaviour or language displayed by any supporter which disrupts the spirit of the competition. We would therefore advise schools to invite spectators who can be relied upon to uphold your school's values and standards.
- To ensure good timekeeping we ask all teams to arrive in their kit. Please also ensure players are wearing appropriate footwear - suitable for the playing surface - and shin pads when playing.
- Foul and abusive language and behaviour will not be tolerated. The match referee will report all serious incidents from players, coaches, spectators to AMS.
- The decision of the officials is final. Please do not to engage in any attempt to influence the officials or this will result the expulsion of your team and annulment of their results.
- All complaints should be sent to events@ams-uk.org. Please provide a summary of the issues along with dates, timings and a list of witnesses. AMS will endeavour to investigate all complaints and resolve them reasonably. Serious matters of a legal or criminal nature should be reported to the police.

The AMS Shield

The AMS Shield, established in 2011, is the premier national football competition for Muslim schools and will be held on **Monday 25 June 2018** for girls and **Tuesday 26 June 2018** for boys.

The AMS Football League serves as a qualifier for The AMS Shield with the winner and runner-up of each league invited to participate in a six-team tournament and earn the right to be named the national Muslim school 7-a-side champion.



We are pleased to announce, through our partnership with the English Schools Football Association, The AMS Shield will be held at St George's Park National Football Centre, home of the England national football team.



St George's Park, set in 330-acres of Staffordshire countryside, is the home to England's 24 national teams. With 13 outdoor pitches, including a replica of the Wembley surface, a full-size indoor 3G pitch, a suite of rehabilitation and sports science areas, and an indoor futsal sports hall, St. George's Park provides world-class facilities for all England teams ahead of international fixtures.

St. George's Park is also the home of FA Education and delivers all FA national coach education courses. The range of courses, covering a variety of disciplines, will help communicate the England DNA philosophy, which outlines a vision for the future England teams and players.

More information about The AMS Shield will be made available in due course.