

## **Walking Football Tournaments/Festivals and Leagues explained**

### **Walking Football Tournaments/Festivals**

Several clubs throughout the UK periodically run their own football festivals/tournaments. They are usually arranged for a specific day in a specific location i.e. the home ground of the organising club, by age group i.e. over 50, over 60, over 70. Male and female players are invited.

Access to a tournament/festival is by invite only. Each team accepted is usually invited to send a team or teams consisting of 10 players at a cost of around £5 per player. Duffers/Barry Town United Walking Football cover the cost of entering each team from club funds and provide the necessary kit for each player.

The format for tournaments/festivals is set by the organising club and may vary but usually each team invited plays the other invited teams in their age group at least once with either the overall winners decided on a points basis or by a play off or final. Matches follow the walking football rules and usually last between 12 and 15 minutes. The more teams that enter the longer the day will be.

When we get invited to a tournament/festival we try to establish who in the club is interested (usually via WhatsApp). If we get more players interested than available places the team managers select those who will represent the club on the day. We will make every effort to give everyone a chance to represent the club although the number of times someone can play is governed by the numbers available and how many teams we can send in each age group. Players who are under 60 can usually only play at over 50 age group however players over 60 can also play at over 50. Some organising clubs allow mixed age groups.

Even if not selected everyone is welcome to attend to offer support to those playing.

After the games players are usually invited back to the clubhouse for a post-match drink.

### **Wales Walking Football League (WWFL)**

We intend to enter 2 x over 50 teams and 1 x over 60 team in the Wales Walking Football League (WWFL) We play in the league as Barry Town United Walking Football. The WWFL is further divided into the S Wales and N Wales leagues

Duffers United is registered as Barry Town United Walking Football Club in the WWFL and plays in the colours of Barry Town United FC

The league is governed by the Wales Walking Football Laws of the Game (see Walking Football Laws page of our website [www.duffersunited.co.uk](http://www.duffersunited.co.uk))

For 2022 season there will be 4 "league days" as follows:

- 03 April 22 (venue to be confirmed)
- 15 May 22 (venue to be confirmed)
- 17 July 22 (venue to be confirmed)
- 04 Sept 22 (venue to be confirmed)

Age groups are over 50, over 60 and over 70

At the start of each season each club declares the number of teams it intends to register in each age group. Each squad can consist of an unlimited number of players but the match day squad (which must be declared 7 days before each league day) can consist of no more than 10 players. Changes to the match squad can be made up to and including the day of the match.

WWFL charges £20 registration fee per year per club and £50 per team per match day to play in the WWFL. Duffers/Barry Town United Walking Football cover the cost of entering each team from club funds and provide the necessary kit for each player.

Once someone has played in a match day squad, they are only permitted to play in another squad in the same age group with permission of WWFL. Players cannot “chop and change” between squads in the same age group.

The number of games played on each of the above dates is governed by the number of teams entering WWFL, but it is intended that all teams will play each other twice in 2022.

The team with the most points in each age group in the S Wales league will play off against the team with the most points in each age group in N Wales league to establish the overall league champions for Wales.

Overall WWFL winners are often invited to represent the WWFL in other competitions.