

Regulations for Livonia Winter League 2024

Preamble

The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of the Livonia Winter League.

The Livonia Winter League will not change the system of the Estonian and Latvian Championships, also not the system of how the Estonian and Latvian clubs qualify for the UEFA club competitions.

Entries – Duties

Article 1

Entries

- 1.01. The Livonia Winter League (hereinafter the Competition) will be arranged every year.
- 1.02. Twelve best clubs from Estonia and Latvia according to the results of the top domestic championships (Estonian Premium liiga and Esiliiga; Latvian Virsliga and 1. liga) can enter the Livonia Winter League next year. In case one of these clubs do not want or is not able to enter the competition, the replacement will be done under the sportive principles. Reserve teams playing in Esiliiga or 1. liga cannot be part of Livonia Winter League.

Duties

- 1.03. On entering the Competition, participating clubs and their respective national associations undertake, in particular:
 1. to stage all matches in the Competition in accordance with the present regulations;
 2. to observe the principles of fair play;
 3. to fulfil their commitments and responsibilities towards the international media.

Organisation – Responsibilities

Article 2

Livonia Winter League organisation

- 2.01. Livonia Winter League 2024 is organised by the Estonian Football Association. It is responsible for all decisions concerning the present regulations. Livonia Winter League 2025 is organised by Latvian Football Federation.
- 2.02. Livonia Winter League manages the Competition according to these regulations.

Livonia Winter League's responsibilities

2.03. Livonia Winter League organising country insures its own area of responsibility, in accordance with the present regulations.

Responsibilities of the associations and clubs

2.04. The clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, supporters, and any person carrying out a function at a match on their behalf.

2.05. The FA of the country organising the home match is responsible for order and security before, during and after the game. The FA of the country organising the home match may be called to account for incidents of any kind and may be disciplined.

2.06. The club hosting the home game is responsible for calling an ambulance if necessary. During the games the presence of an ambulance in the stadium is recommended.

2.07. The host club in all cases exempts Livonia Winter League from any claims for damages or liability resulting from the staging of the matches, regardless of whether the matches in question actually take place or not.

2.08. Matches may be played either on the ground of the host club or on another ground in the same or another city within the territory of its national association. If the match is being played on another ground in the same or another city or country, the venue is subject to the approval of the organising country.

2.09. The host club must stage the relevant matches at the ground in accordance with the instructions of the Livonia Winter League and in cooperation with the national association concerned. However, the club is considered solely accountable for all its obligations in this respect, unless the relevant body or bodies decide(s) otherwise.

2.10. Matches are played in football halls on artificial surfaces. Matches can be played outdoors on artificial surfaces if the weather conditions are acceptable for both teams. This must be agreed upon at least 24 hours before the game. Organising Football Federation must be notified.

Competition System Article 3

Competition system

3.01. The Competition will run as three different level tournaments according to results from 2023 season.

Match system

3.02. There will be three levels in Competition. Each level has eight teams – four from Estonia and four from Latvia. Each team has four games and only plays against teams from the other FA. Each team has two home games and two away games. Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a defeat.

Level A – Estonian Premium liiga 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed teams and Latvian Virsliga 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th placed teams.

Level B – Estonian Premium liiga 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th placed teams and Latvian Virsliga 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th placed teams.

Level C – Estonian Premium liiga 9th and 10th placed teams, Estonian Esiliiga 1st and 2nd placed teams, Latvian Virsliga 9th and 10th placed teams, Latvian 1. liga 1st and 2nd placed teams.

Match days

3.03. In 2024 matches must be played according to the fixed schedule which will be approved between the clubs and submitted to the organising country. Clubs must submit their schedule by 15th November 2023. Fixed schedule is available by 30th November 2023. There are six match windows available to play four games (two home, two away):

Window I 20.01-21.01

Window II 27.01-28.01

Window III 03.02-04.02

Window IV 10.02-11.02

Window V 17.02-18.02

Window VI 24.02-25.02

Equality of points

3.04. If two or more teams are equal on points, their position within the league will be established according to the following criteria, in the order given.

1. Better goal difference;
2. Higher number of wins;
3. Higher number of goals scored;
4. Lower number of conceded red and yellow cards (red card -3 points; yellow card -1 point, expulsion for two yellow cards in one match -3 points);
5. Drawing of lots.

Match Administration

Article 4

Match dates

4.01 Matches must be played according to the schedule fixed in paragraph IV (3.03.)

4.02. Schedule might change only upon confirmation from the organising country.

Match venues

4.03. The venues of the matches will be fixed by the host clubs and announced to their opponents and all the participating associations minimum one month before the match. In case venue of the upcoming match has changed, the host club should inform visiting team and organisers 7 working days prior to the match.

4.04. The venues must be available for teams 1 hour before kick-off.

Kick-off times

4.05 The kick-off times must be announced to the opponents and all the participating associations within the set deadline.

Arrival of the teams

4.06 The teams must arrive to the stadium at least 90 minutes before the kick-off.

Stadiums and Match Organisation

Article 5

Stadium conditions

5.01. Stadiums must be in good condition in terms of both their playing surface and facilities and fully comply with the *Laws of the Game*. They must conform to the safety and security prescriptions of the competent civil authorities.

5.02. The changing and personal hygiene facilities for players and referees must meet current requirements, namely:

- separate, clean and properly maintained shower facilities (at least five showers per team and a minimum of one shower for the referees);
- individual and separate (from those intended for supporters) seated toilets for the teams and referees;
- sufficiently large dressing-rooms for the delegations (at least 25 seats and one massage table per delegation);
- a sufficiently large dressing-room for the referees (at least four seats and a desk).

Safety

5.03. The clubs taking part in the Competition must ensure that the stadiums they use undergo a periodic safety check, including a determination of the capacity, by the competent authorities, or by a body recognized by the latter.

5.04. In the interests of the safety of players and match officials, participating clubs must provide access to the field of play that guarantees the safe entry and exit of these persons.

Artificial turf

5.05. In accordance with Law 1 of the *Laws of the Game*, matches may be played on artificial turf, provided that such artificial turf meets all the following conditions:

1. the artificial turf meets any of the applicable FIFA quality standards for artificial turf, currently corresponding to the "FIFA Quality", the "FIFA Quality Pro" in accordance with the "FIFA Quality Concept - Handbook of Test Methods and Requirements for Artificial Turf Football Surfaces" as well as all requirements under the applicable national laws and regulations;
2. the use of artificial turf meets any other requirements set out in these regulations regarding the field of play and the stadium.

5.06. The owner of the artificial turf and the host club are fully responsible for meeting the above requirements, particularly those related to:

- maintenance work and ongoing improvement measures; and

- safety and environment measures as set out in the “FIFA Quality Concept - Handbook of Test Methods and Requirements for Artificial Turf Football Surfaces”.

5.07. The Livonia Winter League cannot be held responsible for any damages to third parties resulting from the use of the artificial turf.

Floodlights

5.08. Matches which are played outdoors may be played in daylight or under floodlights. For matches where floodlighting is required, the light average must correspond to Ev (lux) 500 towards the main camera(s) and Ev (lux) 300 towards areas of secondary interest.

Clocks

5.09. Clocks in the stadium showing the amount of time played may run during the match, provided they are stopped at the end of normal time in each half, i.e. after 45 and 90 minutes respectively.

Enouncement

5.10. At the matches there must be an announcement in at least 2 languages, in local language and in English.

Match balls and ball kids

5.11. Balls used must conform to the requirements laid down in the *Laws of the Game*.

5.12. For the matches at least 8 match balls must be provided by the host club.

5.13. For matches played outdoor at least 8 ball kids must be provided by host club.

Alcoholic drinks at the stadiums

5.14. It is allowed to sell light alcoholic drinks, which concentration of defined in each separate municipality.

Reasons beyond control

5.15. If the match cannot commence or is abandoned before the end of normal time for reasons beyond control, teams and referees will decide if they want to play or continue with the game. Organising Football Federation must be notified.

Principles of protocol and organisation

Article 6

Match arrangements

6.01. At all matches in this Competition, the players are invited to shake hands with their opponents and the referees after the line-up procedure as well as after the final whistle, as a gesture of fair play.

6.02. Ten (10) team officials and twelve (12) substitute players are allowed to sit on the substitutes' bench, i.e. a total of 22 persons. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.

6.03. If space so permits, up to five additional technical seats are allowed for club staff providing technical support to the team during the match (kit manager, assistant physiotherapist, etc.). Such seats must be outside the technical area, behind or to the side of the benches but with access to the dressing rooms. The names of all these persons and their functions must be listed on the match sheet.

6.04. Smoking is not allowed in the technical area during the match. Any violation of this rule will be reported to the Livonia Winter League organising country.

6.05. An adequate security staff must be present, to guarantee safety and security in the stadium.

6.06. The host club must ensure an appropriate medical service at matches, including a stretcher and a sufficient number of carriers. Stretchers should be kept by the substitutes' benches.

6.07. No spectators are allowed in the area between the stands and the touchline or goal-line.

Media arrangements

6.08. The host club grants a free entrance to the matches for media representatives without additional conditions.

6.09. The host club provides media representatives with adequate working conditions and information.

6.10. It is a common practice that players, coaches and representatives of clubs are ready to communicate with the media and do not damage the image of the Livonia Winter League in interviews given to the media.

6.11. Players, coaches and representatives of clubs are not allowed to try to influence referees in interviews given to the media.

Laws of the Game

Article 7

7.01. Matches are played in conformity with the *Laws of the Game* promulgated by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) and published by FIFA.

Substitution of players

7.02. The substitution of twelve (12) players per team is permitted in the course of the match during five breaks. The use of substitution boards to indicate the substitution of players is compulsory.

7.03. During the game, substitute players are allowed to leave the technical area to warm up. The referee will determine exactly where they should warm up (behind the first assistant referee or behind the advertising boards behind the goal) and how many substitute players are allowed to warm up simultaneously and compared match kit. In principle, five substitutes and physio per team shall be allowed to warm up at the same time; exceptionally, if space so permits, the referee can allow more substitutes of each team to warm up simultaneously in the determined area.

Match sheet

7.04. Before the match, each team shall fill the match sheet on which the numbers and full names of the 23 players in the squad should be entered, together with the full names of the officials seated on the substitutes' bench and on the additional technical seats. The match sheet must be properly completed in block capitals and signed by the competent club official.

7.05. The 11 players marked in column P must commence the match. Up to twelve players can be marked in column S and they are designated as substitutes. Rest of the players must be marked as A and they will take no part in the match. The numbers on the players' shirts must correspond with the numbers indicated on the match sheet. The goalkeepers and team captain must be identified.

7.06. Both clubs must hand their match sheets to the referee at least 75 minutes before kick-off when the pre-match organisational meeting (participate referee and one of the team representatives) is held.

7.07. If the match sheet is not completed and returned in time, the matter will be submitted to the Disciplinary Inspector of the respective country.

7.08. Twelve (12) of the substitutes listed on the match sheet may take part in the match. A player who has been substituted may take no further part in the match.

Half-time interval Article 8

6.01. The half-time interval lasts 15 minutes.

Player Eligibility Article 9

9.01. All players who do not have any obligations to another club are allowed to participate.

9.02. Player can participate for one team.

9.03. A player must be 16 by the end of the calendar year when the match is played.

9.04. Each player taking part in the Competition must be in possession of a valid passport or identity card, containing a photograph and giving full particulars of his date of birth (day, month, year). If a player is not in possession of a valid passport or identity card, he will not be allowed to take part in the Competition.

Player numbers

9.03. All players must wear set numbers between 1 and 99. No number may be used by more than one player.

Responsibility

9.04. When submitting player registration lists, the national association and club concerned must vouch for the content and are responsible for ensuring that the aforementioned provisions are respected.

Kit
Article 10

UEFA Kit Regulations

10.01. The *UEFA Kit Regulations* (edition 2021) apply to any kit (sports equipment) used in the stadium during the entire Competition.

Changing of kits

10.02. Teams will agree in advance about kit colours. If both teams' shirts and/or socks are same coloured, the visiting team will change the shirts and/or socks.

Disclaimer

10.03. Livonia Winter League organising country declines all responsibility and authority in the event of conflicts arising from contracts between a club and its sponsors and/or a club and a manufacturer on account of the provisions of the *UEFA Kit Regulations* regarding the sponsor advertising and/or the manufacturer identification.

Match officials
Article 11

Appointments

11.01. The visiting club's national association appoints referees, two assistant referees, fourth official and home club's national association appoints referee observer/delegate.

Referee's report

11.02. Directly after the match, the referee completes an official report, signs it and submits it to his national association and to Competition organiser by e-mail to comp@jalgpall.ee, who is obliged to send it to all Livonia Winter League organising country members.

11.03. On his report, the referee reports in as much detail as possible on any incidents before, during, or after the match, such as:

1. misconduct of players, leading to caution or expulsion;
2. unsporting behaviour by officials, members, supporters, or anyone carrying out a function at a match on behalf of an association or club;
3. any other incidents.

11.04. In addition, referee observer/delegate completes an official match report, signs it, and submits it to his national association and to Competition organiser by e-mail to: comp@jalgpall.ee.

Disciplinary Law and Procedures
Article 12

Yellow and red cards

12.01. All yellow and red cards are game based.

12.02. If red card is shown, then team will play with 10 men to the end of the half when player was eliminated. The player who received red card, cannot participate in the same game.

Disciplinary regulations

12.03. The Disciplinary Committee is specially created for this competition and it includes one person from Estonian FA and one person from Latvian FA.

12.04. The Disciplinary Inspectors from both FA's reviews and imposes sanctions on disciplinary violations which the sanctions imposed for this is warning, a reprimand, a fine up to 199 €, the player or the suspension of an official for no more than two games.

12.05. The Disciplinary Committee imposes sanctions for disciplinary violations that do not belong within the competence of the disciplinary inspectors.

Financial Provisions

Article 13

The officials' costs

13.01. For all matches in this Competition, the national association of the visiting club, on behalf of the Livonia Winter League, assumes the costs of referee, two assistant referees, fourth official and transportation of them; and the national association of home club the costs of referee observer/match delegate and transportation of him/ as well as broadcasting costs. National Association assigned as Livonia Winter League organiser for particular year arranges and assumes the costs of marketing and branding materials.

The clubs' costs

13.02. For all matches in this Competition clubs assumes the costs of accommodation, food and transport themselves.

Marketing and Media Rights

Article 14

14.01. All marketing and media rights concerning Livonia Winter League belong to the Football Associations of Estonia and Latvia. All matches in question must be transmitted live in home team country with the possibility to do the same in visiting teams' country.

Intellectual Property Rights

Article 15

15.01. Livonia Winter League is the exclusive owner of all intellectual property rights of the Competition, including but not limited to any current or future rights of Livonia Winter League's names, logos, brands. Any use of the aforementioned rights requires the prior written consent of Livonia Winter League and must always conform to Livonia Winter League's instructions and guidelines on correct usage.

15.02. All rights to the fixture list, as well as any data and statistics in relation to the matches in the Competition, are the sole and exclusive property of Livonia Winter League.

Unforeseen Circumstances

Article 16

16.01. The Football Associations of Estonia and Latvia will decide on any matters not provided for in these regulations, as well as in cases of force majeure. Such decisions are final.

Closing Provisions

Article 17

17.01. All annexes form an integral part of these regulations.

17.02. These regulations apply for the 2024 season.

Match organisation

Article 18

The following principles apply

18.01. Pre-match procedure

The following principles apply.

Match day:

Arrival at the stadium:

- 90' Teams, referees, official match delegate/referee observer

Pre-match organisational meeting and Match sheet to be completed by:

- 75' Pre-match organisational meeting - attended by fourth official, both team representatives and match organiser.

- 75' Both teams must hand over completed Match sheets to fourth official.

Match timetable:

- 60' to -15' Warm-up on the pitch

- 6' Stud check in the corridor

- 4' Teams come onto the field and stand in line facing the VIP box

- 3' Hand-shaking procedure and team photos

- 1' Coin toss

- 0' Kick-off

This timetable may be adapted to take account of the distance between the dressing rooms and the playing field.

Half-time interval:

15'

After the final whistle:

Both teams, referee and assistant referees gather in the centre circle, shake hands with each other and wave goodbye to the spectators.

Fair Play Article 19

Fair Play Definition

19.01. The idea of playing a game fairly and treating an opponent in a sporting manner is one of the finest elements to be found in any sport. In fact, it was sport that gave birth to the now widely used expression and concept of fair play. It remains as vital an ingredient of our sport today as it ever did, and most spectators would agree that only a fair match can be an entertaining one.

19.02. The concept of fair play can be broken down into the following principles, which apply as much to the players as to other individuals connected with the game:

- a. The *Laws of the Game* and the regulations of the various competitions must be respected.
- b. Every effort should be made to behave in a sporting manner towards opponents, referees and any other persons involved in matches, such as spectators, officials of other clubs and associations, and representatives of the media.
- c. Anyone else involved in matches should be encouraged to behave in the manner outlined above before, during and after a match, irrespective of the result of the match and the decisions taken by the match officials.