

**THE HONG KONG
DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE
ASSOCIATION SPONSORED**

BY



**HANDBOOK
SEASON 2013/14**

The HKDLA

The HKDLA has been set up to provide regular 7 aside matches for elite players in Hong Kong from ages U10-U14. The league will allow the clubs involved to add another tier to their programs and push their players up to another level.

The league follows the development model set up across Europe whereby the games are competitive because of the standard of players and coaches involved but where there is no pressure or emphasis on winning games for a cup or for 3 points. The players are still encouraged to work hard but also to play football and without the pressure of having to get a result the coach can focus on the development and improvement of their players.

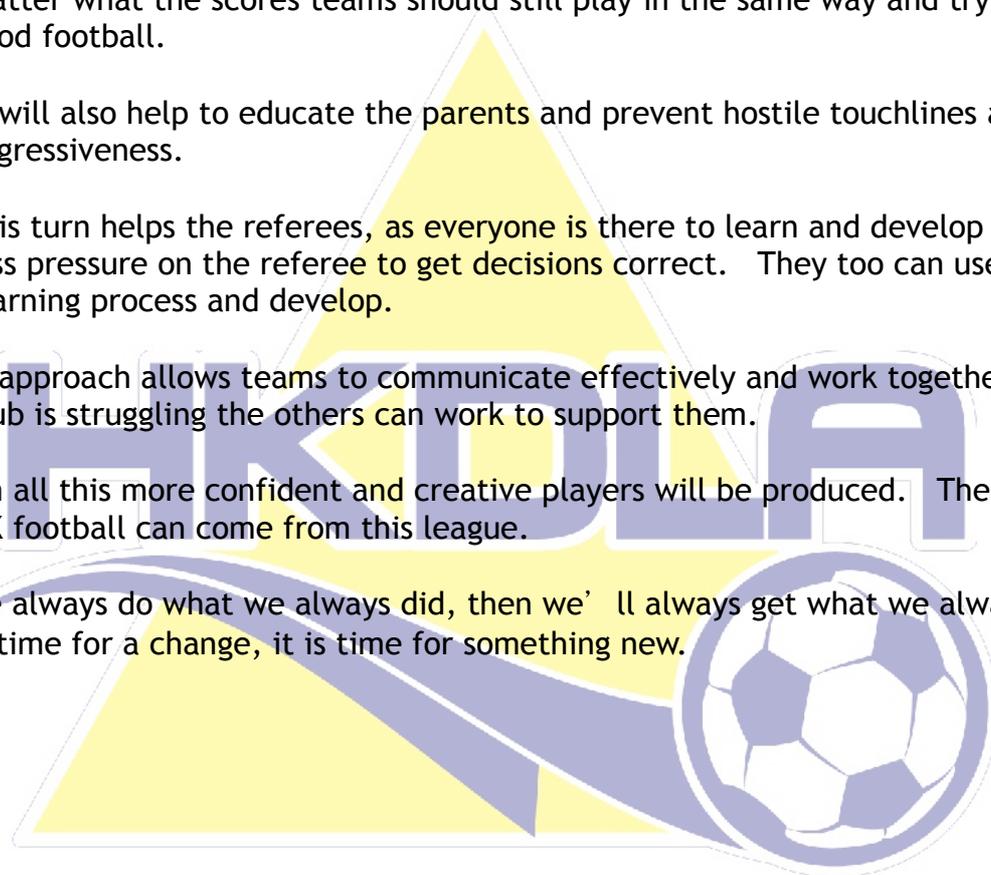
The atmosphere at games is also important. Young players do not need additional pressure or stress that can be given to them by adults (parents and coaches) needlessly getting over emotional at games. A development league aims to create a positive environment where achievements and good football are rewarded and mistakes and errors are not criticized and berated but used constructively to aid players._

AIMS

- Create a positive and structured match day environment.
- Take the emphasis off winning games/trophies and instead focus on producing good football clubs/teams/players and coaches.
- Remove the pressure and stress off young players and allow them the freedom to play and express themselves.
- Encourage good sportsmanship, fair play and correct ethics to play the game.
- To give every player in the game day squad a fair chance to play and develop. Every player must get a minimum half a match playing time.
- To improve the standard of Hong Kong youth football, both for local and 'international' players.

THERE IS PLENTY OF FOOTBALL IN HONG KONG SO WHY A DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE?

- Firstly this is the same as the model in the UK and Europe. All the top pro clubs run their academies/ centre' s of excellence in the manner.
- Because there are no 3 points for a win and no league winners the pressure is taken of the players to win, win and win. They just focus on playing and enjoying the game.
- This in turn takes pressure off the coach to get results and allows them to focus on developing the players instead of working out how to beat other teams.
- This in turn leads to players getting equal playing time. With no pressure to win the less talented players can also get fair game time.
- This also produces more diverse players as coaches have more freedom to experiment and can teach players to play in different positions.
- A development league allows clubs to produce a style and/or philosophy. No matter what the scores teams should still play in the same way and try to play good football.
- This will also help to educate the parents and prevent hostile touchlines and aggressiveness.
- This in turn helps the referees, as everyone is there to learn and develop there is less pressure on the referee to get decisions correct. They too can use this as a learning process and develop.
- This approach allows teams to communicate effectively and work together. If one club is struggling the others can work to support them.
- From all this more confident and creative players will be produced. The future of HK football can come from this league.
- If we always do what we always did, then we' ll always get what we always got. It is time for a change, it is time for something new.



CODES OF CONDUCTS

For the league to function effectively it is important that everyone involved on game day follow the philosophy of the league. By following the below codes of conducts the positive development environment we are striving to create will be achieved.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will give maximum effort, even if the game is lost. I will always try my best no matter who the opposition.
- I will use the games to improve my skill, technique, tactical understanding and fitness.
- I will never use inappropriate language or be rude and unpleasant towards others.
- I will play within the laws of the game, not cheating, but playing fair.
- I will accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
- I will show respect.
- I will respect opponents, whoever they are and shake hands with them at the end of the game.
- I will respect the referee and the decisions they make. If I disagree with a decision I will not argue about it.
- I will respect the coaches and the decisions they make. I will not disagree with them and will understand that they are making decisions not just for me but for the whole team.

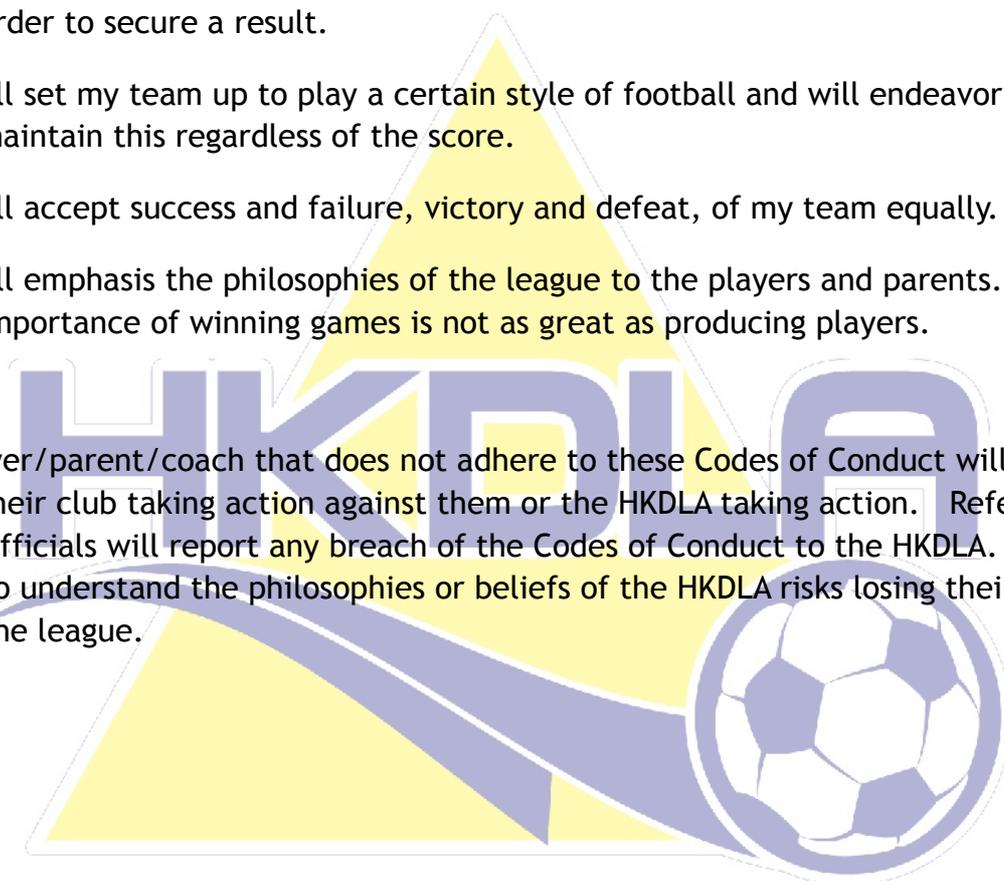
PARENTS/SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will remain back from the field of play in the area designated for spectators.
- I will never use inappropriate language, be rude or aggressive.
- I will accept success and failure, victory and defeat, of my child's team equally.
- I will respect the referee's decisions whether I agree or not. I will not speak out or criticize the referee.
- I will respect the coach's decisions; they are making decisions to benefit the team and all individuals not just my child. I will let the coach do the coaching and not give instructional comments to the players; this may contradict what they were told and confuse them.
- I will applaud good effort and play regardless of what player and which team. I will not shout criticism or negative comments.

COACHES/MANAGERS CODE OF CONDUCT

- I will stand off the field in the designated coaching technical area. I will only enter the field, if necessary, with the referee's permission.
- I will never use inappropriate language, be rude or aggressive.
- I will applaud good effort and play regardless of what player and which team. I will not shout criticism or negative comments. I will use my player's mistakes to guide and improve them.
- I will respect the referee's decisions whether I agree or not. I will not speak out or criticize the referee.
- I will look after the entire game day squad; every player will get at least half a match playing time.
- I will communicate clearly to my players so they understand what is expected of them during the game.
- I will promote to my team that they play within the laws of the game, not cheating, but playing fair.
- I will not abuse the use of rolling substitutes and use it as a way to waste time in order to secure a result.
- I will set my team up to play a certain style of football and will endeavor to maintain this regardless of the score.
- I will accept success and failure, victory and defeat, of my team equally.
- I will emphasize the philosophies of the league to the players and parents. The importance of winning games is not as great as producing players.

Any player/parent/coach that does not adhere to these Codes of Conduct will result in either their club taking action against them or the HKDLA taking action. Referees, HKDLA officials will report any breach of the Codes of Conduct to the HKDLA. Anyone failing to understand the philosophies or beliefs of the HKDLA risks losing their place within the league.



THE CLUBS

The teams participating in the 2013/14 season HKDLA are:

Boys	Girls
CSSHK	CSSHK
AISHK	AISHK
CDNIS	CDNIS
HKFC	HKFC
ARSENAL	TAI TAM
HAPPY FOOTBALL	DB Angels
YAU TSIM MONG	HK Dagens
TSEUN WAN	KCC
TAI TAM	HKA

Each team may register up to 20 players at U8, U10 and U12 for boys.
Each team may register up to 20 players at U12, U14 and U17 for girls.

Clubs must provide 2 passport sized photos and a copy of the players HKID or Passport with the players Date of Birth clearly shown. HKDLA will then produce 2 registration forms, one will be kept on record by the HKDLA and the other will be kept by the team manager to be produced before kick off on game day.

Clubs may add players to their squads throughout the season if they have not taken up their full 20 spaces and as long as that player has not already registered for another club. Clubs wishing to add players must arrange the relevant documents and bring their registration form to the CSSHK office.



The primary field locations for the league are as follows:

Club	Field Name	Address
CSSHK	Blue Pitch	Roof, Lok Fu Estate Car Park, 196 Junction Rd, Lok Fu, Kowloon
ESF	KG5	King George V School, 2 Tin Kwong Road, Homantin, Kowloon
AISHK	AISHK Field	Australian School, 3A Norfolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon
CDNIS	CDNIS Field	36 Nam Long Shan Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong
HKFC	HKFC Field	Hong Kong Football Club, 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

FACILITY RULES

AISHK- No metal studs are permitted on the Astroturf, only moulded plastic studs or runners.

AISHK requires persons using the facilities to obtain and display some form of Identification while on the School premises. Identification passes will either be distributed by the AISHK security personal (in the case of small groups – list of participants to be supplied) or by the group organisers (in the case of large groups).

When the user is hiring the AISHK facility allocated to them participants from their group should be made aware that they must not access other areas around the School. If anyone is found in areas not allocated to them they will be asked to return to their allocated area or to leave the premises. Any continued breach of this rule may result in loss of use of the facility.

AISHK and environs are to be left in at least the same state of cleanliness and tidiness they were found in, and to the satisfaction of the Facilities Manager or Duty Officer. A cleaning fee will be charged if extra cleaning arrangements need to be made.

Parking on AISHK premises will be limited to no more than two (2) car spaces for your staff members only and will depend on availability. This is at the discretion of our security guards.

AISHK takes no responsibility for any item owned by the user which may be lost, damaged or stolen whilst on AISHK premises.

Where there is a HKDLA game prior teams are asked to wait next to the field and may warm up on the running track at the referees' discretion. Where there is an external activity prior to the game teams are asked to wait at the top of the stairs for registration until these activities have finished.

Blue Pitch- No metal studs are permitted at the Blue Pitch, only footwear suitable for Astroturf.

Please do not leave any rubbish or water bottles on or around the field and use the rubbish bins provided.

Parents and supporters must please sit in the area provided and are not allowed to stand on the Blue Pitch surface during games. Only players and coaches may be on the field surface.

Games kicking off at 6pm on a Saturday follow a coaching session so players may warm up to the side of the field but may not enter until the session has finished.

The Blue Pitch is on top of a car park. Paid car parking is therefore available on site.

CDNIS- No metal studs are permitted at the CDNIS, only footwear suitable for Astro turf.

Please do not leave any rubbish or water bottles on or around the field.

Players, parents and coaches may access the field through the school and also have access to the changing rooms and canteen adjoining the field. All other parts of the school are prohibited.

There is no parking at CDNIS. The nearest parking area is to the rear at the Jumbo Restaurant at the Marina.

Prior to games kicking off there will be a coaching program on the CDNIS field, teams are asked to wait in the canteen area until this has finished before entering the field area.

PHOTOGRAPHY- The HKDLA can take still and action footage of HKDLA games. These images may be used in future promotional and advertising materials for the HKDLA league.



HKDLA 7 ASIDE GAME RULES

Rules and Regulations

- All rules and regulations of the HKDLA will be executed according to the Game set by FIFA and Hong Kong Football Association unless stated otherwise below.
- Any team not fulfilling a designated game without prior consent from the HKDLA will receive a HK\$2000 fine which will be donated to a charity partner.

Pre Game

- All squads to arrive at the designated field 30 minutes before kickoff, players will then to 'check in' with the referee/league official no later than 15 minutes before kickoff.
- All managers/assistant managers must hand in a completed 'Game Day' form with the twelve squad members checked on the form.
- All managers/assistant managers must present their copy of their registration form to the referee/league official and all players details will be checked to ensure they are registered and eligible to play. Any player arriving late who has not checked in will not be eligible to play until they have registered with the HKDLA representative.
- Teams must check the schedule to see which colour uniform they have been assigned to play in and then bring the correct uniforms to the game.

Team Members

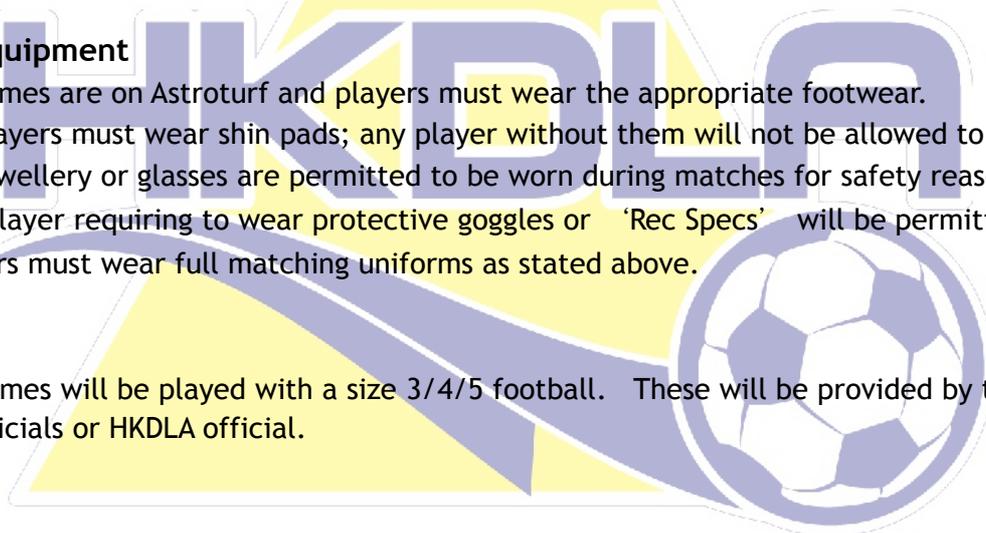
- The game is 7 aside and each team must have a designated goalkeeper.
- The minimum number of players required to participate in a game is 5. Any team bringing less than 5 players or not showing up at the game will automatically forfeit the game and receive the above HK\$2000 fine.
- Teams may bring up to 5 substitutes giving them a maximum game day squad of 12 players.
- Teams must give every player a minimum of half a game playing time.
- Substitutions will be Rolling Substitutes, players can re-enter the game again once substituted out. The manager/coach must signal the referee when there is a stoppage in play. The players being substituted must first leave the field before the replacements enter at the halfway line.

Player Equipment

- All games are on Astroturf and players must wear the appropriate footwear.
- All players must wear shin pads; any player without them will not be allowed to play.
- No jewellery or glasses are permitted to be worn during matches for safety reasons.
- Any player requiring to wear protective goggles or 'Rec Specs' will be permitted to.
- Players must wear full matching uniforms as stated above.

The Ball

- All games will be played with a size 3/4/5 football. These will be provided by the match officials or HKDLA official.



Special Rules

- Games will be 2 halves of 25 minutes, 50 minutes in total.
- Half time will be no longer than 5 minutes. This may be shorter depending on field bookings upcoming after the match. This will be at the referee's discretion and their decision will be final.
- Kick off for the 1st half will be taken by the designated home team and kick off for the 2nd half will be taken by the designated away team.
- A defending player must be 5 metres back from the ball when defending a free-kick. In any dispute the referee will designate the correct distance.
- When a goalkeeper is in possession of the ball in their hands they may not distribute the ball by volleying or half volleying the ball down field. They may either roll or throw the ball out, or alternatively place the ball on the floor and attempt to pass the ball out. Any goalkeeper breaching this rule will concede an indirect kick on the edge of their penalty area.
- The back pass rule is in effect. Any goalkeeper picking up a deliberate back pass will concede an indirect free-kick.
- Corners, free-kicks and throw ins are taken as normal.
- The offside rule is not in effect, there is no offside.
- Please noted that for this season, U8 Boys it will be 7 a side game 12mins each half in total of 24mins per match(2mins half time). Every team will play 2 matches on same venue. At AIS, 2 pitches with small goals will be used and 5mins will be given to all teams to prepare for 2nd game.

Discipline

- There will be no red and yellow cards in the HKDLA.
- If a referee deems a player to be acting inappropriately (e.g. dangerous play or violent conduct) he will ask the manager/coach of that player to substitute that player.
- At the referee's discretion a player who was substituted for inappropriate behavior may be allowed to reenter the game if they feel the player has had sufficient time to 'cool down' and does not represent a threat to player safety by rejoining the game.
- A referee, coach or club who have a concern over another coach/player/parents behavior (e.g. violent conduct/ inappropriate language/ verbal or physical abuse) will report this to the HKDLA. HKDLA will then take appropriate action depending on the circumstance that will range from 1) Formal warning 2) Suspension 3) Omission from the league.

Weather

- The league will attempt to play all games wherever possible. In the event of a T8, red rain, or yellow rain signal two hours before the kick off of a game, the game will be cancelled. In the event of all other warnings the game will still be scheduled to continue at the discretion of the HKDLA if they feel the conditions are playable. However if at the time of kick off the referee and/or HKDLA official feel the weather compromises player and spectator safety the game can be cancelled.
- All cancelled games will be rearranged by the HKDLA for a future date wherever possible.