

Edinburgh University Women's Association Football Club

Frequently Asked Questions 2020-2021

How do I sign up?

In order to register your interest for our competitive football, recreational football or futsal programmes, you should sign up to tinyurl.com/euwafcsignups. We will be in touch with more information on how to get involved once you have filled this in.

I'm coming to the University of Edinburgh and want to play football or futsal. What do you offer?

We truly cater for all abilities, with opportunities to play in the highest university leagues all the way to opportunities for those who have never played before. We have four competitive teams and futsal teams, which competitive in the university leagues. Our football teams have their matches on a Wednesday and our futsal teams have matches on a Saturday. Because of COVID-19, the leagues will start in January but there will be friendly leagues going on in the first semester. We also have a separate recreational programme in which teams compete in an intramural 5-a-side league.

I am a complete novice. What would you recommend is the best for me?

We have opportunities for players of all abilities to get involved and that includes individuals who have never played before. Our recreational programme is a great environment to learn how to play football and to meet some faces, and it requires less commitment than our competitive teams. However, we have had so many players in the past who have been complete novices who have successfully trialled for one of our four teams. If you would like an opportunity to train more frequently and play matches, then you definitely should not shy away from our competitive open sessions.

What level of commitment can I expect?

Our four competitive football teams train on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Peffermill Playing Fields. Matches are held on Wednesdays, with times depending on the opposition and whether the fixtures are at home or away. Our first team, for example, plays in the Northern Prem and, therefore, often have to travel to the north of England for their away games. Matches for our other three teams can be anywhere in Scotland, so it is a great opportunity to see more of the country. The leagues will not start until January because of COVID-19, but there may be an opportunity for regional friendly leagues during semester one. Players are expected to attend both outdoor training sessions every week and be available for matches. Players in the higher teams will also be expected to attend strength and conditioning sessions.

For futsal, anyone can join training twice a week. In order to be considered for the teams, you are expected to attend these sessions and be available on some Saturdays during the academic year for fixtures. The fixtures are held as a round-robin, so therefore all fixtures will be played over, for example, four different Saturdays. The leagues will not start until January because of COVID-19, but there may be an opportunity for regional friendly leagues during semester one.

When are the open sessions this year?

We are holding our competitive open sessions on Wednesday 16th September between 1-4pm and Thursday 17th September between 2.30-5.15pm. If you are interested in coming along, you must sign up to tinyurl.com/euwafcsignups before Tuesday 15th September at 6pm and you will be emailed with the slot that you should sign up to. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we have to assign players to slots in order to ensure that we do not exceed the maximum capacity allowed.

Please do still fill in the form, even if it is after the deadline for our open sessions, as we will make sure to invite you to one of our training sessions instead.

We are looking to host our open sessions for recreational football on Thursday 17th of September around 11am, but we are still awaiting confirmation. Please fill in the form so you can register your interest, and we will stay in touch. We are looking to arrange more open sessions for recreational football during the first teaching weeks too, so we will keep you updated on that.

For futsal, we are looking to arrange our open sessions during the first teaching week. This will most likely be outdoors on the 5-a-side pitches at Peffermill, due to the current restrictions on indoor contact sports. Please fill in our form to register your interest and we will be in touch.

I cannot attend any of the open sessions during Welcome Week, but I still would like to be involved. What should I do?

We fully understand that Welcome Week is a busy week for everyone, and that you may not be able to attend our open sessions due to various reasons. We really want to give everyone an opportunity to come to our sessions, whether its competitive football, recreational football or futsal, to see if you like it. Please sign up to the form if you haven't already so we can stay in touch, and we will take a note of your name.

When will we know what team we are in?

Normally, squads are finalised after the first week of training in order to be fully prepared for the start of the league. However, this is a different year as the leagues do not start until January, and we are allowing for a longer period for new students to come to training sessions after Welcome Week. By teaching week three, the squads will most likely be fully shaped so we can prepare for the exciting season ahead.

What happens if I do not make a team?

Anyone who does not make the football teams will be asked to join our recreational programme, which competes within the intramural league. Players from recreational teams will still have the opportunities to develop their football skills and to join the competitive teams later in the season depending on player availability.

For futsal, everyone is encouraged to come to our training sessions, even if you have not been selected for teams or do not intend to play for the teams.

What equipment do I need?

For our open sessions on training, you must bring appropriate footwear (ie. football boots), as well as shin pads and comfortable warm and waterproof clothing. Please avoid wearing baggy clothing and jewellery. Goalkeepers should bring gloves, as they are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands otherwise due to COVID-19 restrictions. Players are not

allowed to wear trainers. Make sure to bring plenty of water in a clearly identifiable water bottle too. Changing rooms will not be open for use, however, toilet facilities will be open.

Where is Peffermill?

The University of Edinburgh Peffermill Playing Fields is where the club trains and plays their home games during the season. It is situated in South Edinburgh, approximately a 20-minute walk from Pollock Halls and 35 minutes from George Square. Members often walk or cycle to sessions together. Due to COVID-19, we strongly suggest that you avoid using the bus if you can, but if not, the busses 2, 14 and 30 pass Peffermill.

I play for a local club and cannot commit to your training sessions?

Please get in touch with us if this is the case and we will put you in touch with our Director of Football to find a suitable solution.

What are the joining costs and what does this cover?

See below table:

Joining fee	15
Football - Semester 1	30
Football - Semester 2	45
Futsal - Semester 1	15
Futsal - Semester 2	15
Futsal Add-On	15
Recreational - Semester 1	15
Recreational - Semester 2	20

Due to COVID-19, we have changed the way our membership fees have to be paid, in case activity is limited in the future. Therefore, for football and futsal-only memberships, players must pay the joining fee. Then, during semester one and semester two, players will be asked to pay an additional fee. A full-year football membership therefore equals £90 and a full-year futsal-only membership equals £45. Our competitive football members can join the futsal programme by paying an additional £15. Recreational members are not required to purchase the joining membership, and instead pay £15 in semester one and £20 in semester two.

Additionally, members must also purchase a gym membership in order to use the facilities, which is currently £50 for semester one. Recreational members do not have to purchase a gym membership in order to play. A Sports Union membership of £7.50 will also be required by any members of the Sports Union for insurance purposes.

How have you made sure that training is safe with COVID-19 still present?

We have been very careful planning our return to play, which has involved communicating protocols to our members and coaches and ensuring these are enforced. We have appointed a COVID Coordinator and COVID Officers for each team to ensure that everything runs as smoothly as possible. To ensure that we are as safe as possible, players must sign up for sessions in advance and must not come to training if they are not feeling well.