

RKW

Ray Kennedy Weekend

Rules & Regulations

Ray Kennedy Shield

Walking Football



MOSTLY MEDIA
MEDIA PLANNING & BUYING

RAY KENNEDY WEEKEND
CARDIFF 2025

STANNO

01 INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

02 ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

03 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

04 RULES & REGULATIONS

05 HEALTH & SAFETY

06 SPIRIT OF THE TOURNAMENT

07 CONTACT



1. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The Ray Kennedy weekend is an international football event dedicated to individuals with Parkinson's disease, held in memory of former professional footballer Raymond "Ray" Kennedy. Founded by former football player Eigil Sabroe and physiotherapist Finn Egeberg Nielsen from the organization Fit4cure. The tournament highlights the physical and social benefits of football for people with Parkinson's.

Football is an ideal sporting activity for individuals with Parkinson's because it challenges movement strategies through footwork, balance, coordination, and rhythm. Training improves mobility, reduces rigidity, and strengthens both body and mind.

We are all committed to providing a safe, fair, and enjoyable environment for all participants. The rules below are adapted from standard 7-a-side football laws, some with modifications to suit players with Parkinson's disease.

The Weekend contains two tournaments:

RAY KENNEDY CUP:

7-a side regular football tournament

RAY KENNEDY SHIELD:

6-a side "Walking Football" tournament

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

Who can participate

Anyone who meets the requirements can participate in this event.

Anyone diagnosed with Parkinson's disease can take part in the tournament.

Each squad may include one player without Parkinson's, provided that this player is 60 years or older. (documentation may be requested).

Players with other neurological conditions: Each squad may instead include one player without Parkinson's who has another neurological disease causing functional impairment. In this case, there are no age requirements.

Examples of accepted neurological conditions

Multiple Sclerosis (MS): An autoimmune disease that attacks the central nervous system. Symptoms can vary greatly but often include paralysis, cognitive problems, and fatigue.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS): A progressive disease that attacks the nerve cells controlling muscle movement. It gradually leads to the paralysis of all muscles in the body.

Stroke: Occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted. Depending on the affected area, it can cause paralysis, speech difficulties, memory loss, and other disabilities.

Cerebral Palsy (CP): A condition caused by damage to the brain during its development. It affects muscle control and can lead to a wide range of disabilities in movement and coordination.

Number of teams per club

A club may register more than one team for the tournament. Each team will be considered an individual team in the competition and will not receive special seeding or grouping.

Teams can be mixed gender.

Registration

Teams register directly with the host city's organizing committee. Applications must be submitted by the announced deadline. Once accepted, teams will receive confirmation and practical information.

Host cities

See the official *Rules of Hosting the Event* for detailed requirements regarding facilities, accessibility, and medical support.

Changes

Significant changes must be approved by each of the representatives of the group.

3. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Structure

Group stage followed by semifinals and a Cup Final.

Advancement

Normally, the top two teams from each group progress to the semifinals. However, depending on the total number of participating teams, only the top team from each group may advance.

Groups

There can be both an **A-group** semifinals and final, and a **B-group** competition to ensure all teams continue to play.

4. RULES & REGULATIONS

All matches in the **Ray Kennedy Shield** are played in accordance with the official rules of the **Walking Football Association (WFA)**. These regulations ensure a safe, fair, and inclusive environment for everyone taking part.

For the complete WFA Rules & Regulations, please visit:

<https://thewfa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WFA-LOTG-2025-04.04.25.pdf>

Quick guide of the WFA rules

- Any running or jogging will usually result in an indirect free kick
- Non-contact
 - Above head height restriction on ball
- Deflection above head height by goalkeeper – ball retained by keeper
- No heading the ball
- All free kicks indirect
- No offside
- No tackling from behind
- No direct goal from kick-off or any dead ball situation
- All free kicks have defenders 3-metres distant
- Players may not play the ball whilst grounded – to include slide tackling and slide blocks
- Cornering a player is not permitted – allow opponent to turn
- No 2 versus 1 tackling at barriers/wall
- No tackling across an opponent at a wall/barrier
- Playing with reckless or dangerous intent is an infringement
- One-step penalty kicks
- No restriction on passing back or out from the goalkeeper
- Sin Bin time out for three either same or different infringements
- Zero tolerance on abusive conduct



5. HEALTH & SAFETY

Each venue must provide essential safety equipment, including a **first aid kit** and an **AED (defibrillator)** on site.

It is preferable that a qualified medical professional is present during the tournament. At minimum, there must be at least one person with recognized **first aid skills** available at all times.

Players participate in the tournament at their **own risk**. The event organizers and host city cannot be held responsible for any injury, accident, or damage an individual may cause to themselves or others during participation.

Players are encouraged to listen to their bodies, take rest breaks, and hydrate regularly.

Liability Waiver

By registering for and participating in the Ray Kennedy Cup, each player and team acknowledges and accepts that

Participation is at their **own risk**.

Neither the organizers, host city or anyone else can be held responsible for personal injury, illness, accidents, or damage to personal property occurring during the event.

It is the responsibility of each player, football club, or team leader to assess whether the player is medically and physically fit to participate.

By joining the tournament, participants accept this waiver of liability.

6. SPIRIT OF THE TOURNAMENT

The Ray Kennedy Cup and Shield are built on values that go far beyond competition. The tournaments are about celebrating the joy of football, creating friendships, and honoring the courage of people living with Parkinson's.

***Inclusion** – Everyone, regardless of age, gender, or ability, is welcome and valued.*

***Respect** – For opponents, teammates, referees, volunteers, and officials with respect at all times.*

***Community** – Building bonds across clubs, countries, and cultures.*

***Safety first** – Protecting health and well-being is always the top priority.*

7. CONTACT

For questions, registration, or further information about the Ray Kennedy Cup or Ray Kennedy Shield, please contact:

Organizing Committee

Thomas Helmann Jensen
+45 42 52 86 03
thomas.jensen@fit4cure.dk

You are also welcome to reach out directly to the local **host city organizers**, who will provide details about schedules, facilities, and practical arrangements for each edition of the tournaments.



RKW – Hosting the event

WFA
THE WALKING
FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION

RKW2025
Ray Kennedy Shield
Walking football is like the game you love, played in a new way

**WALK,
DONT
RUN**

FIT4CURE

www.fit4cure.dk

+45 42 52 86 03