Tournament Rules

Emirates Dubai 7s

Invitational Tournament

Gaelic Football

27th – 29th November, 2026

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IMPORTANT NEW RULES AND CLARIFICATIONS FOR 2026

WATER FOR PARTICIPANTS

- We are committed to minimise the amount of single use plastic onsite.
- There will be 40 well signposted, Filtered Water Stations scattered across the entire site so you will never be far away from **FREE UNLIMITED WATER**
- Players are encouraged to bring to The Sevens Stadium, empty refillable water bottles ensuring that they are not made from glass.
- There will be a limited number of refillable bottles available for use for those who do not bring their own. These can be redeemed with an accreditation pass from the Bag Drop Tent in the Invitational Hub.
- The interactive map, accessible on the Emirates Dubai 7s App and Website will lead you to the exact locations.
- **Teams / Players are responsible for filling water bottles in advance of competing. There are plenty of opportunities to do so between matches.**

Section 1: Tournament Contact

[redacted]

Address: The Sevens Stadium, c/o Emirates, PO Box 686, Dubai, UAE

Email: dubai.7s@thesevens.ae

It is the Registered Team Manager's responsibility to ensure squad members are conversant with the Tournament Rules and are Eligible to participate under the specific Tournament Criteria as highlighted in these rules and the binding Tournament Declaration which can be signed by all participants OR by the Registered Team Manager on behalf of the Participating players and (where appropriate),management.

Section 2: Tournament Structure, Technical and Eligibility Regulations

2.1 Men's Open Social

8 Teams will participate in 2 Pools, seeded by Middle East GAA

Upon completion of the Pool Phase, teams will be ranked in their Pool from 1 to 4 based on their results and in accordance with the Tournament Rules, below.

A1 will play B2 and B1 will play A2 in the Cup Semi Finals

A3 will play B4 and B3 will play A4 in the Plate Semi Finals

The winners of those semi finals will play in the Cup and Plate Finals respectively.

2.2 Women's Open Social

7 Teams will participate in 2 pools, seeded by Middle East GAA

One pool will comprise 3 teams, one will comprise 4

Upon completion of the Pool Phase, teams will be ranked in their Pool from 1 to 4 based on their results and in accordance with the Tournament Rules, below.

At the completion of the pool phase:

A1 will play B2 and B1 will play A2 in the Cup Semi Finals

The winners will play in the Cup Final, the Semi Final Runners Up will play off for 3rd Place.

The teams ranked 5 – 7 (last in pool A and 3rd and 4th in Pool B, will play a Round Robin Tournament to decide the winner of the Plate.

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2.3 Technical Rules

- 30 seconds to get out of own half
- Halfway rule in place (once you pass half way, the ball cannot travel backwards)
- At least 1 player from each team needs to be in each half at all times
- Subs inside your own half only and behind the ball / not interfering with play.
- All other rules are Middle East GAA standard.
- 2 points for a win.
- 1 point for a draw.

2.4 Determining the winner in the event of a tie

If teams are tied on match points at the end of group games, the following

criteria will be used to determine group standings.

1. Head-to-Head
2. Score difference.
3. Total scored.
4. Total conceded.
5. Penalty shootout.

2.5 Squad Sizes, Match Timings and Eligibility

- Number of players starting the game 7
- No of players in Squad 10
- Number of Management 2 (Management can play)
- Minutes per half 7
- Half Time 2
- Rolling Replacements Yes
- Eligibility Must be a member of Middle East GAA
- Minimum Age 16 (with written parental consent)

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Section 3: Rules of the Tournaments

3.1 The rules of the Tournaments, including their interpretation, are matters for the Disputes Committee. As such the Tournament Management will appoint a Disputes Committee to arbitrate on all matters concerning the rules of the Tournaments. The Disputes Committee will be convened only in the event of an official written complaint being registered with the Tournament Manager (refer to 3.5 below) or at the discretion of the Tournament Manager. The complainant and affected parties may be required to attend a hearing at the discretion of the Disputes Committee. Failure of the complainant to attend will render the complaint void. In the event of any matters arising that are not covered by the Tournament Rules, or ambiguity of the Tournament Rules, the Committee shall make a ruling after interpreting the rules in the best interests of the tournament. Its decision shall be final, without appeal.

3.2 The Disputes Committee will be made up of relevant selected members of Middle East GAA who, where the matter could be deemed to have negatively impacted the reputation of the Emirates Dubai 7s Tournament, will request that an appropriate member of the Emirates Dubai 7s Tournament Management team form part of the Disputes Committee.

3.2 All matches will be played in accordance with the current Middle East Rules, variations mentioned below.

3.3 Teams, Players or Team Management who breach the tournament rules will jeopardise their team's likelihood of being invited to participate in future tournaments.

3.4 To verify the final score, at the conclusion of each match the Referee (or assigned Match Official) will sign the scorecard in front of and before the individual Team Manager, then hand it to the Pitch Marshal.

3.5 A disputed match result must be brought to the attention of the Registration Manager, by the Team Manager, within 30 minutes prior to the commencement of their next game or within 2 hours of match completion, whichever is soonest.

3.6 Variations

The Tournament Manager reserves the right, before and during the tournament, to make or vary rules and give directions as to the conduct of the tournament, the conduct of participating teams and each member of their team. All such rules and directions when made and communicated will become binding on the participating teams and each member of their team, at the time of publishing, by posting of a notice in the Registration Tent.

Further, The Tournament in its sole discretion Reserves the right to make alterations to the Tournament Format and Structure if so required as a result of the actions of one or more Government Authorities, which may impact on the total number of Teams and or Spectators permitted to attend the Event.

3.7 Eligibility

3.7.1 Eligibility is a competition specific element of the Tournament Rules. Please see competition specific information for further details. (Section 7)

3.7.2 Players/officials currently under any sanction, from Middle East GAA or any other sport being played at the Emirates Dubai 7s and/or prohibited from playing or officiating in/at the Tournament must inform the Tournament Management prior to submitting the signed squad registration form. A copy of the sanctioning documentation must be provided at this time. If appropriate the player will be allowed to carry their ban into the Tournament until it is served.

3.7.3 A sanctioned player/official who participates in the Tournament without providing formal notification to the Tournament Management, will have the following action taken:

- They will be immediately banned from the Tournament
- Their respective Club, Regional and / or National Governing Body will be informed who will use their discretion with regards to further sanctions being enforced
- The player/official will be barred from participating in the Emirates Dubai 7s for a minimum of two (2) years

3.8 Appointment of Officials

Middle East GAA shall appoint the relevant Officials and/or agencies to:

- A Tournament Manager and associated support staff
- Administer and implement the Tournament Disciplinary Programme;
- The position of Match Officials;
- All other necessary accredited positions;
- Administer the Tournament and ensure that rules of eligibility are adhered to;
- The membership of the Disputes Committee.

3.9 Request by Officials

All participating teams and each member of the team will comply with all reasonable requests of the Tournament Officials, Match Referees, Assistant Referees and Pitch Marshals. Any failure to do so could result in a complaint being made to the Tournament Manager and disciplinary action.

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3.10 **Forfeit, No Show or Disqualification**

3.10.1 If a team does not show up, refuses to play or forfeits a match prior to its commencement without the prior consent of the Tournament Manager or their delegate, that team will 'lose' the match. The Tournament Manager will decide upon the further participation of that team in the tournament. Games will be considered forfeited if a team is not on the pitch, ready to commence play within two (2) minutes of the published kick-off time.

3.10.2 Teams who 'no-show' without informing the Tournament Manager or Registration Manager in advance, will not be invited to participate in future tournaments.

3.10.3 If a match is forfeited, a team fails to show up for a match or a team is disqualified by a Referee or a Tournament Official a score of 0-10 – 0-0 will be recorded in favour of the offended team.

3.10.4 Teams will be permitted to have a total to have a total of 2 management staff (depending on their competition referred in SECTION 7) in the designated zone on the pitch. Management are not permitted to leave the designated zone during the game and will face penalties should they do so.

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3.11 Abandonment

3.11.1 If a team refuses to play or abandons a match in progress, that team will forfeit the match. The Tournament Manager will decide upon the further participation of that team in the tournament.

3.11.2 If the Referee abandons a match due to:

a) Conduct of a team, this will result in a Disputes Committee decision being taken on the final result of the match.

b) Non-disciplinary reasons,

- At half-time or any time in the second half. The score will stand.
- During the first half, the result will be declared a draw unless the match is a knock-out fixture, in which case the score will stand.

c) Normal judicial procedures will also apply to players who are sanctioned through the Red and Yellow Card process.

3.12 **Declaration of Squads, Teams and Replacements**

Team squads registering for all Sevens (7s) sections will consist of a maximum of ten (12) players. All twelve (12) players are eligible to play in each match. Teams may use up to five substitutions each match (see Section 5 Substitutions, Replacements and Stoppages). Teams must have a minimum of seven (7) players, (fit to participate in the match) on the pitch in order for a match to start.

Team squads registering for all Tens (10s) sections will consist of a maximum of fifteen (15) players. All fifteen (15) players are available to play in any individual match with substitutions being made on a rolling basis. Teams must have a minimum of ten (10) players (fit to participate in the match) on the pitch in order for a match to start.

3.12.1 A player, having been registered in a team, irrespective of whether he or she has taken part in the tournament, cannot register or make themselves available for registration in any other team.

3.12.2 Each squad must register their team with the Pitch Marshal no later than 45 mins before their first game of the tournament. Squad players must personally sign the Squad Registration form to become an official squad member and prior to participating in any matches.

3.12.3 Non-registered players are not eligible to play or participate in squad activities at any time. If a Team is found to have played an Unregistered player, they may be disqualified with immediate effect from the Tournament and suspended or banned from participation in future Emirates Dubai 7s Tournaments.

3.12.4 Teams must register for each game by presenting themselves to the on-pitch marshall no later than 10 minutes before the match is due to start. Players may be required to surrender their players' Accreditation Pass to the on-pitch marshall prior to the commencement of the game.

3.12.5 Players must enter the Playing Area through the Gates at Halfway. Any player who enters the Playing Area at any other location (e.g jumping over advertising hoardings) without an Accreditation check, may be refused permission to participate in their next match.

3.12.6 The Referee is the sole judge of fact and law and will take into consideration medical information available prior to ruling whether a player is fit to participate in a match.

3.12.7 The Tournament will be operating a strict 'Recognise and Remove' policy. We will have Emergency Medical Technicians at pitch side who will monitor possible concussions. The expectation will be that if such an injury is sustained, the advice of the EMTs must be followed and the player involved, removed from the playing area and to take no further part in the tournament. Organisers will be in communication with the EMT and wider Medical Team to monitor such injuries.

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Section 4: Rules Regarding Eligibility

4.1 All players and Management must be currently registered with Middle East GAA

4.2 All players must hold a valid Residents Visa for the United Arab Emirates

As Per Middle East GAA Rules, all players must be 16 years or over to compete.

Eligibility Documents Required

This table summarises which documents must be submitted electronically for each team member with the team accreditation information prior to the tournament commencement.

Section	Resident's Visa	Passport Sized Photo	Passport Copy Proof of Age/Residency
Men's Open	√	√	√
Women's Open	√	√	√

Section 5: Accreditation

5.1 All participating players and registered team management must be accredited by the date specified in the accreditation specific correspondence.

5.2 The purpose of accreditation is:

- to ensure the correct players are on the pitch at any time
- to ensure each team has the correct number of players & management registered in adherence with the section eligibility criteria and Tournament Rules
- to ensure accredited players and management have access to the appropriate areas of the venue for the accreditation they hold and
- to provide security and protection in case of an emergency

5.3 Providing false names, photos, details or eligibility documentation for accreditation is a breach of the Tournament Rules and will result in accreditation being denied or withdrawn.

5.4 Trying to enter the venue without the correct accreditation or using accreditation that is: counterfeit, damaged, altered in any way or somebody else's, will result in the individual(s) concerned being removed from the venue and from the competition. It will also result in a ban from future competitions.

5.5 Accreditation will only be issued to registered team players and management when squad sheets are submitted.

5.6 Teams failing to accredit their players by the advised time the Online Accreditation System closes will incur a financial penalty of 250dhs per squad member and may not be invited to participate the following year.

5.7 Pool Players will only be issued accreditation when their place in a squad has been confirmed, and their name and signature has been added to the squad sheet.

5.8 Late arrivals joining the team will only have accreditation issued once the submitted squad sheet has been signed.

5.9 NOTE: Lost accreditation passes must be reported to the Registration Manager. The cost of a replacement accreditation pass is 500dhs which must be paid before a replacement pass is issued.

5.10 Anyone found within the venue without either accreditation or an entry wristband will be removed.

5.11 Players or accredited squad members subject to a match ban during the course of the tournament, for any reason, will have their accreditation removed during the period of such ban.

5.12 Any abuse of the accreditation system will be dealt with seriously with all benefits immediately removed.

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Section 6: Social Media

6.1 Teams participating in the Tournament are required to comply with the Social Media guidelines which are available upon request or by visiting: http://dubairugby7s.com/mediazone/socialmedia/content.aspx

Section 7: Conduct

7.1 General Behaviour (on and/or off the pitch) – participants, associated team management and supporters are expected to behave in a manner that is in consonance with the laws of the game as well as appropriate and sympathetic to the cultural sensitivities of the UAE. General conduct, including verbal comment, during the tournament is expected to be inoffensive and in the spirit of sportsmanship. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action being taken.

7.2 Pitch/Court Invasion – participants and associated team management are only allowed onto the pitches for warm-up and match play. Team supporters are not allowed onto any of The Sevens Stadium pitches/courts at any time. Participants and associated team management who access pitches/courts when not eligible to do so will leave themselves open to Police intervention, detention and criminal proceeding being actioned, plus removal from the stadium and a ban from future tournaments.

7.3 Abuse – Abuse of match officials, including sideline officials and volunteer pitch marshals, will not be tolerated. Any reports of such will result in a disciplinary hearing from which a suspension or expulsion of an individual or Team may result. Individuals/Teams found guilty may not receive and invitation to participate in future years.

7.4 Acts of Violence –acts of violent behaviour will result in Police intervention, detention and criminal proceedings being actioned, plus removal from the stadium and a ban from future tournaments.

Section 8: Data Protection

8.1 Personal information provided by teams and their representatives will be collected, used and disclosed for tournament related purposes in accordance with the Participant Privacy Policy https://www.dr7s-oas.com/teamzone/terms-and-conditions.php

8.2 Team managers are responsible for informing team members of any personal information that is shared with the tournament organisers and the Participant Privacy Policy.

8.3 By signing the official tournament invitation and the squad sheet the team manager, team officials and players accept the terms itemised above.

8.4 Squad members irrevocably and unconditionally (i) consent without compensation to the recording of his/her voice, image and likeness captured by any means (including without limitation, audio, visual and audio-visual recordings by televisions/cameras/telephones/mobile devices and/or photographers) while present at or about the Tournament venue; (ii) agree to the free of charge transmission and use in perpetuity by the Organiser and the Tournament sponsors and any licensee or assignee of the Organiser of his/her voice, image and likeness captured whilst present at or about the Tournament venue, by means of live or recorded video display, broadcast, transmission or other dissemination or recording, photographs or any other current and or/future media technologies to the fullest extent possible; and (iii) waives, on an irrevocable, worldwide and perpetual basis, all moral rights in and to any recordings of sound made or images taken within the Tournament venue. Squad member's own photographs or any other recordings of sound made or images taken in or around the Tournament venue may be used for personal, private, non-commercial and non-promotional purposes only.

Section 9: Sponsorship/Commercial Activity

9.1 Sponsorship

(a) Subject to the remainder of this clause, teams that are sponsored may acknowledge such sponsorship through branding on their team kit.

(b) When incorporating sponsors/branding on team kit, teams must take into account the appropriateness of the sponsor and/or branding giving consideration to the local culture and religious beliefs.

(c) The Tournament Management has the right to disallow a team to play in a kit which, in the Tournament Management's opinion, is inappropriate. The tournaments decision is final.

(d) Teams and any associated groups are not permitted to use the official Tournament logo or any official Tournament marks on their kit, associated items of team clothing or any team paraphernalia. This will be strictly enforced & any teams or persons disregarding this ruling will be asked to remove such item or will be required to leave the stadium.

(e) Besides branding on kit, any other branded items (including but not limited to gazebos, tents, banners, fliers and/or hand-outs) will be deemed to constitute Commercial Activity under 13.2 below.

9.2 Commercial Activity

(a) Teams (including players, officials and any persons associated with the team) are not permitted to undertake any type of marketing and/or promotional activity (including any ambush marketing) in or around the venue during the Tournament.

(b) Notwithstanding clause 13.2(a), teams may have sponsor branding on gazebos that are club branded and being used by them during the tournament, on condition that the sponsor branding is not in conflict with the Emirates Airline brand, any Emirates Group companies, World Sevens Series sponsors and/or any other sponsors that are identified on the tournament website.

(c) Any breach of clause 13.2(a & b) will be considered a breach of the rules and subject to clause 3.3. Any person associated with any unauthorised promotional activity will be required to immediately remove such material from the venue. The Tournament Management, at their discretion, may take steps to have offending items removed from the Venue. If it does so, the offender will be liable for any and all costs incurred.

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