Information about the TU Berlin Football League:
2026/2027 season

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1. Organization and administration

Eligibility to participate

A team must consist of at least 11 players. At least 30% of the players must be members of the University. Only those players who are properly registered for a team may represent that team on match days.

Teams

Teams are responsible for their own administration and organization. At least two team representatives must be nominated as contact persons for TU Sport. Communication regarding any problems will be conducted via these persons. Team representatives are requested to read the latest information sheets, published fixture lists, and other relevant information, and to share the details with their team members. TU Sport must be informed immediately of any change of contact persons or when someone is acting on behalf of a representative.

Registration

Teams that participated in the league in the previous semester register by paying the team fee by the deadline. Payment is made by the team representatives. No games will be scheduled until the team has registered at least 11 players. **New teams** should first contact TU Sport. New teams can only register during the winter semester. Teams that competed in the previous season will be given preference at the start of a new season. Teams wishing to compete can sign up for the waiting list to potentially participate in the TU Berlin Football League the following winter semester. The final decision on registration and moving up from the waiting list is the responsibility of TU Sport staff.

Flat fee for external players

Please note when registering players that players from fee groups 3 & 4 are required to pay the external flat fee of 22 euros.

Dates and deadlines

Payment of team flat fees and registration of individual players:

- Teams are required to pay the team fee for the full upcoming season by 1 September. This period is reserved for existing teams.
- Thereafter, new teams can contact TU Sport to register.
- Individual players can be registered at any time during the year.

Insurance

Competitive sports are excluded from the insurance coverage provided by the Berlin State Accident Insurance Fund (*Landesunfallkasse Berlin*). Accidents must be handled through private health insurance.

2. League operations

Length of season and league structure

A complete season consists of a first round of matches (winter semester, lecture period) and a second round (summer semester, lecture period). Matches that could not take place during the semester will be played during the lecture-free period. A maximum of 40 teams can participate in the TU League per season. Matches are played in 4 leagues. New teams start in the 4th league. Each team has approximately 10 matches per round/semester.

General assembly

At the beginning of each first round of matches (usually in the first or second week of lectures in October), a general assembly is held to announce current information about the past and coming season. The date and venue of the general assembly will be sent by email to the team representatives. At least one player per team is required to attend the general assembly. Any teams not represented will be deducted one point.

Fixture lists

TU Sport is responsible for arranging times and scheduling matches. If a team has its own training session during which games over 90 minutes plus a half-time break can be played, this will be given priority when scheduling matches However, there is no guarantee or right that all games will be played during training sessions.

Matches are played throughout the city, mainly on weekends. In exceptional cases, matches may be scheduled for weekdays. Schedules for a weekend will be announced the same week, usually Wednesday afternoon.

During the lecture period, all teams should expect to be scheduled to play on Saturday or Sunday (all day) each weekend. Weekday games will generally not be scheduled before 19:00.

Wild cards

Each team can nominate a maximum of 2 weekends for each half of the season where they do **NOT** wish to be scheduled to play. Teams must notify the organizers no later than Sunday 23:59 before the weekend in question. Only weekends before 1 March in the winter semester and weekends before 1 August in the summer semester may be selected. Wild cards that have not been used by then will expire. Teams can inform organizers of their wild cards as soon as a match list has been published.

Preferences

Teams may request a preferred day (Saturday or Sunday) or time (10:00, 12:00, or 14:00) to play a match. Requests that do not clearly specify a day or time will be ignored. If a team requests to play on a Saturday, it does not follow that TU Sport is obliged to provide them with a Saturday match.
Teams may combine a preference with a wild card by stating **CLEARLY** that they can only play on one of the two days and would otherwise use a wild card.

Referees

Each team is required to provide refereeing for a number of games during each round of matches, including on match days when the team itself is not playing. If a team is appointed to referee a match, it has to provide at least one referee, and preferably two assistant referees to run the lines. The refereeing team will be announced along with the match schedule.
The appointed referees have to be on the pitch on time, i.e. at the latest for the kick-off, so that they can observe any events that may lead to delays. If the refereeing team's own match is canceled, they are still obliged to fulfill their refereeing duties.

Conduct on the pitch

The TU Berlin Football League is an amateur league. Players are encouraged to put fair play first at all times. Referees are required to referee games consistently so as to prevent excessive aggression and unsporting conduct. Teams are required to accept and respect the referee's decisions.

Reporting results

Each refereeing team is required to record the result of a match, including, if necessary, a brief match report, via the football league website under "*Ergebnismeldung*" by midnight Sunday. For games played during the week, the result must be entered by midnight of the day of the match.

Points

Three points are awarded for a win. 1 point is awarded for a draw, and 0 points for a loss.
League standings are decided by:

1. points, 2. goal difference, 3. head-to-head results, 4. goals scored

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Allocating points when a team exits the league during a season

If a team exits the league out during a season, points will be awarded for matches involving this team as follows:

- If, at the time of its exiting the league, the team has not played at least one game against all other teams in its league, the results of the matches played against this team to date will not be counted.
- If, at the time of its exiting the league, the team has played one game against all other teams in its league, the results of these (first) matches will be counted.
- If, at the time of its exiting the league, the team has played one game against all teams in its league, but two games against some teams, only the result of the first matches will be counted.
- If, at the time of its exiting the league, the team has played two games against all other teams in its league, the results of all these matches will be counted.

Promotion and relegation (for 40 teams 11/11/9/9)

1st league:	2 teams are relegated to the 2nd league (places 10 and 11)
2nd league:	2 teams are promoted to the 1st league (places 1 and 2) 2 teams are relegated to the 3rd league (places 10 and 11)
3rd league:	2 teams are promoted to the 2nd league (places 1 and 2) 2 teams are relegated to the 4th league (places 8 and 9)
4th league:	2 teams are promoted to the 3rd league (places 1 and 2)

Teams leaving the league will be replaced by teams from lower leagues to ensure that there are always 10/11 teams in each of the upper leagues. If required, a play-off match will take place to decide which team is promoted.

3. Rules

With the following exceptions, the official rules of the German Football Federation (DFB) apply:

- Foul throws are not penalized.
- Sliding tackles are not permitted, and will result in an indirect free kick. This rule does not apply, however, to goalkeepers. Goalkeepers are permitted to slide to prevent a goal as long as they do not commit a foul. The general DFB rules for goalkeepers apply.
- Players receiving a red card may not be replaced; the relevant team must play the rest of the match with fewer players.
- A yellow card serves as a warning; a second yellow card shown to the same player results in the player being sent off, meaning that the team has to play the rest of the game with less players.

Playing time

Matches last 2 x 45 minutes. Matches must end at the scheduled time regardless of when they began, even if this results in a shorter match.

Delays

Games starting up to 10 minutes late will be played; there will be no half-time break or the break will be shortened. In the case of games delayed by more than 10 minutes, the team that arrived on time will decide whether the game will take place, or if their opponent's late arrival is to be counted as a no-show.

The delayed arrival or no-show of the refereeing team is not a reason to delay or cancel a game.

Number of players

The referee must start the game as soon as at least 8 players from each team are present on the pitch. During the game, as many players as are present (up to 11 players on the pitch at any time) can be used, provided they are properly registered for the team.

Refereeing decisions and sanctions during a match

Violations of the rules in TU football matches are punished just as strictly, if not more strictly, than in club football. Refereeing decisions are to be respected and adhered to.

4. Sanctions

There are three types of sanction:

- **points deduction**
- **organizational warnings and**
- **warnings for gross unsporting conduct**

Teams receiving three **organizational warnings** will be excluded from the league (meaning that they are excluded automatically with the third warning).
Teams receiving two warnings for **gross unsporting conduct** will be excluded from the league (meaning that they are excluded automatically with the second warning).

Warnings apply to the current season only and are not carried over to the following season.

Failure to attend the general assembly

Failure to attend the general assembly will result in a one-point deduction. Attendance will be checked at the start of the assembly.

Non-registered players and incorrect status groups

Teams fielding players who are not registered for the team or who provide incorrect information about the status group of players when registering them will receive a warning for **gross unsporting conduct**.

Delays or no-shows of refereeing teams, reporting results

Should the refereeing team fail to appear for a game, the team responsible for providing the referees will receive an organizational warning and a points deduction of three points.

If the result of a match is not reported as required, the team responsible for providing the referees will be deducted 1 point.

Canceling games

If, after the publication of the fixture list, a team cancels a game **less than 24 hours** before its scheduled start, and the opposing team does not agree to replay the match on a different date, the game will be awarded 5:0 in favor of the opposing team.
Cancellations by mutual agreement will result in a replay. In cases of cancellation by mutual agreement, the canceling team must use one of their wild cards. Both teams also agree that they are responsible for rescheduling their match and not TU Sport. Until the result is reported, the match will be awarded 5:0 against the canceling team. TU Sport must still be informed of any change in the match schedule. The team that cancels the match will receive an **organizational warning**.

The team that cancels the match is obliged to inform the opposing team, the referees, the groundsman, and TU Sport of the cancellation at least 24 hours before the start of the match. Failure to cancel games by the deadline or to inform all required parties of the cancellation may result in a fine of up to 100 euros at the discretion of TU Sport. The teams are responsible for covering any costs resulting from canceling a game. Incomplete cancellations as well as cancellations made less than 24 hours before the start of the match will be considered as **a no-show**.

No-shows

If a team fails to show up on the pitch at the scheduled time, or does not show up in full (i.e. If there are less than 8 players present), the game will be awarded 5:0 in favor of the opposing team. The team that fails to show up will receive an **organizational warning** and a **points deduction** of 3 points.

Delays

Teams showing up late for a match will receive an **organizational warning**.

Unsporting conduct

In cases of unsporting conduct (e.g. verbal attacks on players, referees, or spectators, damage to property, etc.), the offending team will receive a warning for **gross unsporting conduct** and a points deduction of 3 points.

In cases of physical assault or bodily harm, the entire team will be excluded from the league **with immediate effect**. The offending person will also be excluded from competing in the league. **Physical assault** is defined as behavior that seriously violates the rules and is directed against a person's body. This includes hitting or kicking a person.

Arbitration panel

At the beginning of each season, one team from each league is drawn by lot. If the panel needs to meet, e.g. to find a solution to disputes, each of these teams sends a representative, and together they take decisions as the arbitration panel.

If a team files a complaint against a decision made by TU Sport, the case will be forwarded to the arbitration panel for resolution. Decisions made by TU Sport may be appealed within 7 days of their announcement. In the event of a tied vote by the arbitration panel, TU Sport's decision is upheld. The arbitration panel has 7 days from receipt of the email to reach a decision.

5. TU Sport contact persons

Organization and administration, league operations
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Please note when sending emails:
Please always include your team name and league as well as the subject in the subject field and include precise information and times in your emails, particularly when canceling games!