

HOW TO PLAY BLIND SOCCER

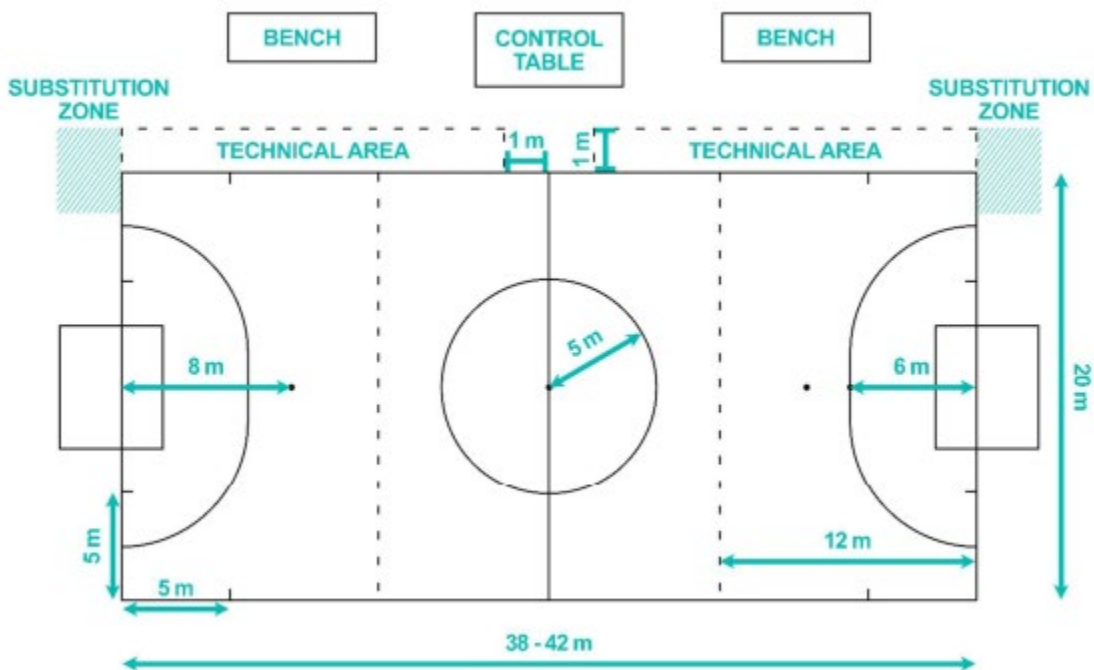
The game is played on a solid, smooth, flat and non-abrasive surface on a pitch that is 40m x 20m wide. Pitches must ideally be outside to ensure that the acoustics are correct for players. Each pitch is surrounded by 'kick-boards' – a physical barrier that indicates the boundaries of the playing area. The goals are 3.66m wide and 2.14m high.

Each team has five players, including a goalkeeper. Outfield players must wear eye patches and eyeshades, more commonly referred to as blindfolds or eyeshades. The goalkeeper can be sighted or partially sighted, classified as B2 and B3, and cannot leave the area.

The ball must contain bells or another system that ensures the ball makes a noise when it is moving on the pitch or through the air. Four players are allowed as substitutes and one goalkeeper. Substitutes can be made up to six times per half. There are no offside rules or throw-ins in blind football but there are corner kicks. Each half lasts 20 minutes and teams can request a one-minute time-out per half.

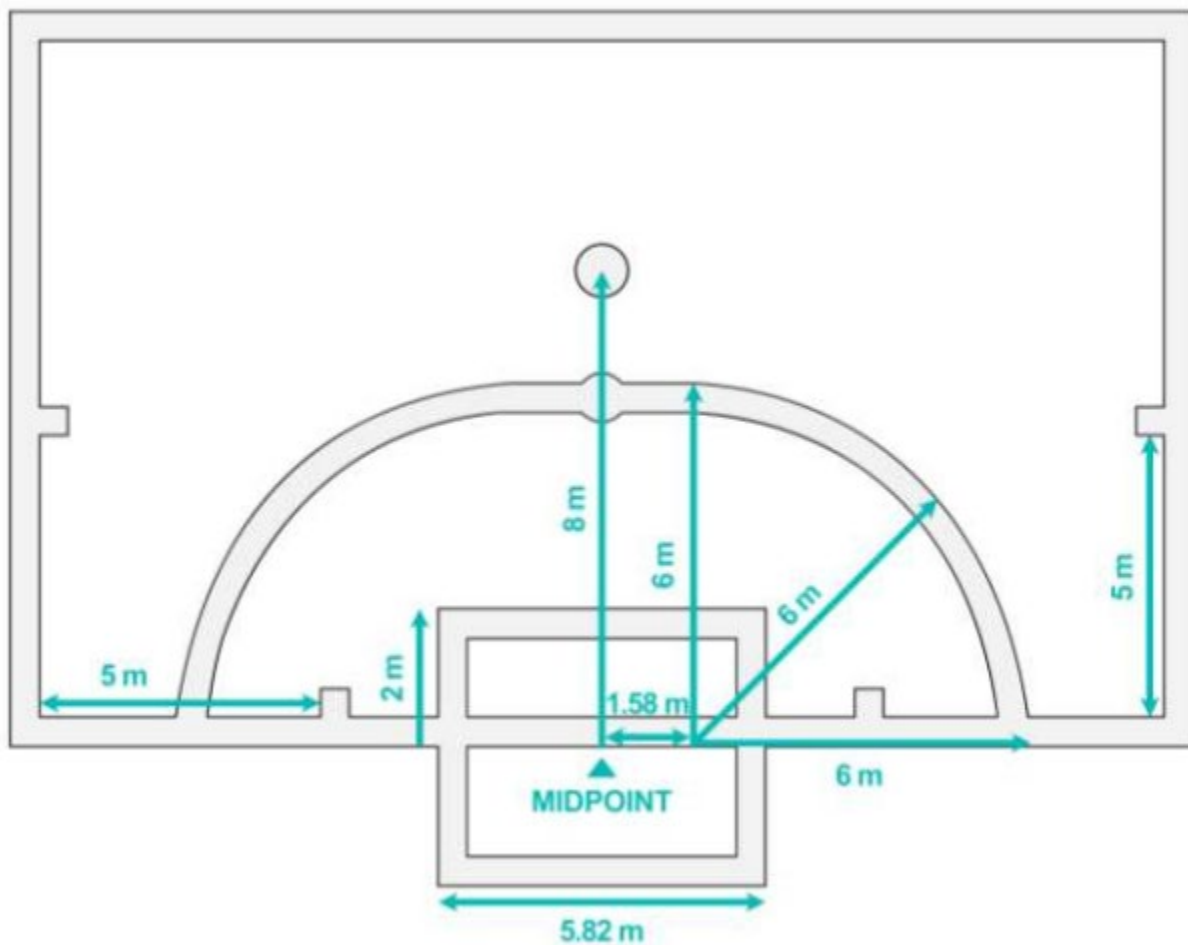
THE PITCH

Measurements are from the outside of the lines as the lines are part of the area they enclose. The pitch shall conform to the dimensions and appurtenances set out in the following diagram:



THE PENALTY AREA

A first point mark at a distance of 1.58m shall be measured from the midpoint of the goal line towards the right kickboard. An imaginary line of 6m in length is drawn from the first point mark and at right angle to the goal line; at the end of this line a quarter circle is drawn in the direction of the nearest side kickboard, with a radius of 6m from the first point mark. A second point mark at a distance of 1.58m shall be measured from the midpoint of the goal line towards the left kickboard. An imaginary line of 6m in length is drawn from the second point mark and at right angle to the goal line; at the end of this line a quarter circle is drawn in the direction of the nearest side kickboard, with a radius of 6m from the second point mark. The upper part of each quarter circle is joined by a line 3.16m in length running parallel to the goal line between both point marks. The area bounded by these lines and the goal line is the penalty area.



THE GOALS

The goals must be white and they must be placed at the center of each goal line. They consist of two upright posts equidistant from each corner and joined at the top by a horizontal crossbar. The distance (inside measurement) between the posts is three sixty-six meters (3.66m) and the

distance from the lower edge of the crossbar to the ground is two and fourteen meters (2.14m). Both goal posts and the crossbar have the same width and depths of 8cm. Nets, made of hemp, jute or nylon, are attached to the posts and crossbar behind the goals. The lower part is supported by curved bars or another form of adequate support. The depth of the goal, described as the distance from the inside edge of the goal posts towards the outside of the pitch, is at least 80 centimeters at the top and 100 centimeters at ground level.

