

Event Feedback Report: Liam Jinks Cup 2024 (Walking Football)

Overall Experience and Likelihood of Returning

- **Average Overall Experience Rating:** 9.6 / 10
- **Average Likelihood of Returning:** 9.8 / 10

The Liam Jinks Cup (Walking Football) received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with participants rating their experience at an average of 9.6 out of 10 and expressing a high likelihood of returning next year. Many cited excellent organisation, a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, and smooth game scheduling as major factors in their satisfaction.

Highlights of the Event

1. Organisation

- Participants praised the event's organisation, noting minimal delays, efficient check-in procedures, and clear fixture lists provided upon arrival. Games ran on time with minimal waiting between matches, contributing to a smooth and enjoyable experience.
- Teams were consistently ready to play, and match times allowed breaks without causing long idle periods.

2. Inclusive Atmosphere

- Many attendees appreciated the positive, inclusive atmosphere that emphasised sportsmanship and camaraderie. Participants highlighted the event's welcoming ethos, especially for female players, which reinforced the tournament's spirit.

3. Awards

- Acknowledging all participants with medals, as well as providing trophies for winners and runners-up, was highly valued and appreciated. This gesture left a lasting impression and encouraged a strong sense of community and pride.
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Suggestions for Improvement

1. Refreshment Stands

- Numerous participants suggested the addition of a refreshment stall offering coffee, tea, and snacks. They noted that a refreshment stand could also serve as an opportunity to raise additional funds for the club.

2. Real-Time Updates and Display of Scores

- Participants recommended displaying live scores and league positions either on a digital board, laptop, or app-based system. This would help teams stay informed on their standings without seeking updates from officials.

3. Game Format

- Some teams felt that the format (5v5 or 6v6) could have been clarified from the start to help teams prepare effectively. A few also suggested having a final game or playoffs to determine a clear winner rather than a round-robin format.

4. Game Duration

- Attendees proposed minor adjustments to game lengths, such as two 10-minute halves, which could enhance gameplay flow and allow for brief rests, particularly for older players.

5. Additional Referees and Rotation

- A few participants recommended increasing the number of referees and rotating them across pitches to ensure consistent officiating and prevent any perceived biases from familiarity with specific teams.

Additional Comments

Overall, the feedback highlights the event as a well-run and enjoyable experience, with many participants expressing gratitude to the organisers. Key themes included appreciation for the welcoming community, smooth operation, and thoughtful recognition of all players. Some attendees emphasised that the event has grown impressively over the years and predicted its potential to become a full weekend event.

Summary of Recommendations

1. **Set Up a Refreshment Stall:** If feasible, offer drinks and snacks to enhance attendee experience and fundraise for the club.
2. **Display Scores in Real-Time:** Implement digital score tracking or a display board to keep teams informed of their progress.

3. **Clarify Game Format:** Clearly state the match format (5v5 or 6v6) ahead of the event to help teams prepare.
 4. **Optimise Game Duration:** Consider minor adjustments to game duration, allowing more frequent breaks.
 5. **Increase Referee Pool:** Rotate referees across pitches to ensure fair officiating across all games.
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Closing Remarks

The Liam Jinks Cup continues to grow in popularity, fostering an inclusive, enjoyable, and competitive environment for all participants.