



WorldNet & BigTamVets 2026

Managers Pack

Welcome to Doncaster for the WorldNet & BigTamVets tournaments for 2026.

This pack contains everything you should need and will greatly assist in ensuring the weekend runs smoothly. Please pay attention to the details provided and ensure your players understand the arrival protocols, rules of play, the health and safety requirements and the reasons we are all here.

Printed copies of this pack won't be provided this year, so please ensure you have saved a copy to your mobile device before you get to Doncaster.

If you have any questions at all as the weekend progresses, our contact details are below.

Have a great weekend!

Cheers

IFA WorldNet 2026 Organisers Group Leads:

Damo (Trans-Pennine Irons (West Ham United)): 07519 429243: on-site both days

Fatman (Stretford End FC (Manchester United)): 07808 557003: on-site both days

Rich Walker (Watford IFC) - 07881 658415: remote Saturday, on-site Sunday

David Fraser (Fir Park Corner (Motherwell)) - 07920 424590: remote both days

Schedule for Weekend

Full fixtures, results and other details are available on the tournament portal at wn26.theifa.uk

For all the updates across the weekend, including match scores and draws please visit the portal.

Supporting A Good Cause Close To IFA Hearts

The IFA Organisers' Group encourages you to donate in lieu of free parking throughout the weekend to help raise money for a cause close to Trans-Pennine Irons FC hearts:

Please click [HERE](#) to read more about Amanda and the support she needs. All donations will be very much welcomed and gratefully received.

Saturday

08:30

Access to Yorkshire Main FC Complex for organisers and officials

09:00

Team Registrations outside Pitch 1 entrance gate, where matchballs will be distributed.

10:00

Kick Off for WorldNet & BigTamVets 2026

17:00

Group Fixtures complete. Draws for Knockout Rounds outside rear door to of Clubhouse

Sunday

09:30

Access to Yorkshire Main FC Complex for organisers and officials

11:00

Knockout Stages Begin

13:40

WorldNet Plate Final & Big Tam Vets Plate Final

14:20

BigTamVets Final

15:00

WorldNet Cup Final

15:40

Presentations

Close of WorldNet & Big Tam Vets 2026

Team Arrivals

There is limited parking in the main car park at Yorkshire Main FC. Where possible teams are requested to travel to the tournament on foot, by taxi or carpooling to limit the number of cars on-site.

When parking at the tournament, your vehicle is parked at your own risk.

Registration

Team Registration/Player Waiver must be completed on-line at the link below by 5pm on Friday June 26 and must include the names of all attendees, whether playing or not:

<https://wn26.theifa.uk/waiver/>

Player Eligibility

Players can only play for **ONE** team during the tournament. Crossing over from A to B teams and from WorldNet to Big Tam Vets and vice-versa is strictly prohibited.

The only permitted exception is where players are helping another team get to their full complement of 11 players, as per IFA General Rule 6.4.

Players and Teams contravening this rule risk being expelled from this and future IFA competitions.

Footballs

Two match balls have been allocated to each team. These are your responsibility and you are free to take them with you after the tournament. An electric ball pump is available in the pavilion should footballs require pumping up between matches.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

We gladly welcome all participants regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other protected characteristic. The abuse of any participant or official, either in person or on social media platforms, will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Any participant, supporter or team that fails to extend this welcome to their fellow participants are not welcome to take part in this or any other IFA activity.

Match Conditions

The Match Conditions are as per the standard Laws of the Game, with the following exceptions:

Playing Time: all matches are to be played over two periods of 15 minutes, with a maximum three-minute half-time break.

Knockout Stage Extra Time – one 10-minute period of 'Golden Goal' extra-time shall be played in the knockout stages in matches where scores are level at 30 minutes.

Penalty Shoot Out – where Extra Time fails to provide a winner in a Knockout Stage match, the match will be decided by a Penalty Shoot Out. Only players on the pitch at the end of Extra Time are eligible to participate in the Shoot Out.

Substitutions – teams are permitted to make unlimited substitutions on a maximum of three occasions during each match on a "rolling substitutes" basis. Half-time substitutions are in addition and are unlimited. Substituted players should leave the field of play at the closest possible point, with all substitutes entering the field of play at the half-way line.

In the event of Golden Goal Extra Time, one additional substitute occasion can be used during play. In the event of any injury to a player after the permitted occasions, one additional substitute can be used.

Disciplinary – match officials should issue yellow cards as deemed necessary. Any cautions for dissent automatically attract a 5-minute Sin Bin, to be served immediately.

In the unlikely event of a player being dismissed from the field of play, they will miss their team's next match. In the case of any sending-off, this should be reported to the Organisers by the official and further disciplinary measures may be enforced.

BigTamVets Rules

As per standard WorldNet rules, with the addition of:

At least **NINE** players **MUST** be at least **THIRTY-FIVE YEARS OLD** during all action of the BigTamVets tournament. Whilst we don't expect all participants to be carrying around identification, we do expect all teams to respect this rule and the legacy of our BigTamVets tournament.

Kits

Kit colours have been declared by club Organisers pre-tournament, however a set of 20 x orange bibs will be available for the second-named (away) team to wear in the event a match official declares team colours to be too similar.

WorldNet & Blg Tam Vets Knockout Phase

Teams will be positioned in their group table by Points Scored. If two or more teams have earned the same number of points, Goal Difference, Goals Scored, Head-to-Head record between the two teams and finally a Coin Toss will be used, in that order, to separate teams.

The draw for the knockout stage will take place at the close of play on the Saturday evening outside the rear entrance doors of the clubhouse, and loaded to the web portal.

Eight teams will qualify for the Cup competition. The 1st and 2nd placed team in each group along with the two best third-placed teams.

The remaining four teams will contest the Plate competition.

In both competitions, unless unavoidable, teams who have played against each other in the group stage cannot be drawn against each other in the first knockout stage.

Health & Safety Information

It is each team manager's responsibility to ensure the following precautions are taken and processes followed.

While many of these may be second nature to you and your teams already, please ensure these are shared with your players before you arrive at the tournament.

If any team manager has any questions, please contact the organisers on the details provided.

1. Team managers are responsible for collating emergency contact and next of kin information for all players.
2. Team registration form MUST be completed and submitted, without exception.
3. In the event of hot weather, teams are advised to take plenty of fluids on board to avoid dehydration, and to use sun cream.

4. In the event of extreme weather, tournament organisers and referees will make appropriate decisions, if necessary.
5. No Glass Items are permitted at the tournament venue.
6. Teams are reminded to ensure that all players warm-up and cool down before and after games, to minimise the risk of injury.
7. Each team should bring a basic first aid kit, including hand sanitiser, plasters in various sizes, sterile gauze dressings in various sizes, triangular and crepe rolled bandages, sterile gloves, cleansing wipes, safety pins and tweezers.
8. First Aid staff will be on site and based in the Clubhouse. In the unlikely event of being unable to locate them, please contact the tournament organisers in the Organisers WhatsApp group immediately.
9. Report any and all accidents/injuries to tournament organisers in the Organisers WhatsApp group immediately.
10. Report any and all potential slip/trip/fall/injury hazards in car parks, changing rooms, on pitches and walkways to tournament organisers in the Organisers WhatsApp group immediately.
11. All jewellery is to be removed before players take the field of play. Referees will perform checks before matches.
12. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Players are advised to bring various pairs of boots to ensure they can react to changing pitch conditions across the weekend.
13. Parents will be responsible for the behaviour of any children attending at all times. In the event of a child becoming lost/separated from their parents, please contact the tournament organisers in the Organisers WhatsApp group immediately.
14. In the extremely unlikely event of any medical emergency, assault or physical violence taking place, tournament organisers must be contacted immediately.
15. BBQs and Pyrotechnics of all types are not permitted anywhere within the Yorkshire Main Complex. Any team using pyrotechnics' (both Flares and Smoke Bombs) will face instant expulsion from this and future tournaments.
16. Team Managers must ensure that their team uses the Yorkshire Main Complex in a clean and tidy way. Each pitch will have 2 x Bin Bags for empty bottles and any other rubbish you may have. Once they are full, please let the tournament organisers know so that we can remove and replace them.

17. Smoking is only permitted at the side of the Pavilion. Please use this area if you wish to smoke.

Injuries

The IFA and its competitions are not registered or affiliated to the FA or any other body, and as such is not covered under the FA's general insurance terms. The IFA cannot be held responsible for any injury or loss sustained by individuals taking part in IFA competitions. All players compete at their own risk and by taking part accept that this is the case. Players may wish to consider taking out individual insurance cover in the event that they may suffer such injury or loss.

IFA Spirit

The IFA Spirit is our interpretation of the way in which we like our games to be played. One thing is not in any doubt – The aim of the IFA has always been and always will be to build bridges between groups of fans of different clubs by playing a friendly game of football. We know that everyone wants to win while wearing their team shirt, but the focus is on the true meaning of the word friendly, rather than the usual footballing meaning, throughout the WorldNet & Big Tam Vets weekend.

Put simply, we encourage good natured banter between our teams and believe games should be played with smiles on faces. This means there should be no handbags with the opposition, no disputing decisions with referees or linesmen and no arguing with or abusing opponents, team-mates or match officials.

We're not naïve; we all know those little moments that can flare up in a game of football, and no-one is expecting such Corinthian spirit to shine through 100 per cent of the time.

But the IFA has survived this long because it's different from the average football league and it's up to every player, every manager and every team to ensure flare-ups are dealt with quickly if and when they happen.

We allow rolling subs for this very reason. If someone is acting up, you are free to ask team managers to sub them for 5-10 minutes. That can sharpen the mind more than a yellow card!

We are very clear about equality of opportunity and all players and those involved in IFA football should not only be aware of our rules regarding this, but should also do everything in their power to uphold those rules. Every one of us is responsible for this.

Taxis

For those unable to car-share, we recommend you travel to and from the venue by taxi.

Ace Cabs - <https://www.acecabsdoncaster.com/> - 01302 888 555

Absolute Cabs - <http://www.absolutecabs.co.uk/> - 01302 556 688

Donny Cabs - <https://donnycabs.co.uk/> - 01302 300 133

Uber also operates in Doncaster, for those who have it.