THE BIG GOAL. Midlands Regional

TOURNAMENT PLAYER GUIDE

Welcome to the Regional Finals of The Big Goal 2026.

It's brilliant to see so many companies coming together through football to be part of something truly special. What started as a simple idea has grown into the **UK's largest corporate 5-a-side competition with real social purpose**.

Every team taking part represents more than just football. Your involvement is helping to sponsor and create life-changing opportunities for disadvantaged young people across the country - supporting their journey into confidence, skills, education and employment, through the Street Soccer Academy programme.

That's what The Big Goal is all about.

Of course, there's plenty to play for. The Regional events mark a huge step towards the National Finals at St George's Park - and with The Big Goal National Football Tournament also being a unique pathway in world football - the **winners of The Big Goal National Finals will earn the opportunity to represent England at the FIFCO Corporate World Cup**, competing against leading corporate teams from across the globe.

But above all, this is about community, energy and purpose.
Enjoy the event. Embrace it. And give it everything. And remember - **you are Playing for Change.**

Thank you for being part of this movement - and good luck to every team.

Keith Mabbutt

Founder
Street Soccer Foundation

THE BIG GOAL. Midlands Regional

TOURNAMENT PLAYER GUIDE

DATE: 30.04.26 **TIME: 10am - 4.30pm**

VENUE:
Racecourse Playing Fields, St Mark's Road, Derby. DE21 6AJ

Welcome to The Big Goal Midlands Regionals Community Tournament!

Get ready for a full day of football, community, celebration and unforgettable memories. Below is everything you need to know to make the most of your day and tournament experience.

Arrival and Registration

Time: 10:00am - 10:15am
Location: Racecourse Playing Fields

What 3 Words

Transport

Racecourse Playing Fields is located in Chaddesden and is easily accessible via the A52 and A61. Free parking is available on-site.

For all players commuting by public transport, the venue is accessible via local bus routes. The nearest bus stop is Wayzgoose Drive, Chaddesden, a short walk from the ground, served by routes including the 9, 32, and Indigo. Derby railway station is well connected, with direct trains from London St. Pancras via Leicester, as well as services from Sheffield, Birmingham, Nottingham and beyond. From Derby station, the venue is a short taxi or bus journey.

Arrival

Upon arrival at the playing facility, our friendly volunteers and coaches will guide you to the registration desk. Please, where possible, arrive together as a team to ensure a smooth and efficient registration process.

At registration, you will be able to sign your team in for the tournament, scan the official tournament QR code, and then be directed to the changing rooms and preparation area.

The Tournament Platform (via Tournify)

The tournament will be managed digitally using the Tournify tournament platform. After scanning the QR code at registration, players will be able to access all the live stats about the tournament. Fixtures, results, live tournament standings and top scorers will all be available via the link or the app.

Changing Rooms and Preparation

Once registered, you will be directed to the official changing rooms.
After changing into your playing kit, please make your way to the pitches, where you will meet your Team Liaison Officer, who will support your team throughout the day and be your main point of contact.

Team Base Areas

Each team will have a designated base area beside the pitches.
This is where you can store belongings, rest between matches and prepare for upcoming fixtures. Healthy snacks and refreshments will be available throughout the day from the Refreshments Station.

Official Warm Up: 10:30am - 10:45am

Teams will be called in to take part in a professional group warm-up session led by Derby County Community Trust Coaches. For safety reasons, no players should enter the playing surface before the official warm-up begins.

Pre-Tournament Group Photo: 10:45am – 10:50am

Immediately following the official warm-up, we will capture a full tournament group photo. Our professional photographer will be capturing individual team photos and images throughout the day as it progresses.

Welcome Address & Tournament Briefing: 10:50am - 10:57am

All teams will be gathered pitch-side following the warm-up and group photo for the official Tournament Welcome Address, where we will set the stage for the competition ahead. Teams will then be directed and move into their designated playing area to meet their Group Referee. Each referee will provide a brief overview of tournament rules and match format before the first games begin.

Tournament Kick Off

First Match: 11:00am

Please ensure your team is ready, prepared and pitch-side for your first fixture. Matches will begin promptly at 11:00am.

Match Schedule

Group Stage Matches: 11:00am - 2:00pm

Teams will compete in a series of group matches throughout the day.
Full fixtures and standings will be available via the Tournify platform.

The Big Goal Address

During the afternoon, teams will hear from Street Soccer Foundation Chair, Lord Bailey, who will share the wider vision and impact of The Big Goal movement.

Qualification & Tournament Format

Regional Championship

- All Group Winners automatically qualify for the Semi-Finals

The four Semi-Finalists will automatically qualify for The Big Goal National Finals.

All the Group Runners-Up will enter the Plate Competition Semi-Finals.

Plate Final

The Plate Final match will take place at approximately 2:45pm.

The team that wins the Plate will also secure their place in The Big Goal National Finals later in the year.

Regional Tournament Final

The final match will kick off at approximately 3:00pm, with all teams and supporters invited to gather pitch-side to watch the final and celebrate the day's competition.

Tournament Officials

All matches will be officiated by FA County Licensed Referees. Our volunteers and club staff will support the smooth running of the tournament throughout the day.

Match results and standings will be updated live via the Tournify platform.

Food and Refreshments

Food and drinks will be available throughout the day within the Community Hub building at the venue. Healthy snacks and refreshments will also be available from the tournament Refreshments Station.

Teams are also welcome to bring their own food and drinks to keep energised throughout the tournament.

Media and Interviews

Throughout the day, you may be invited to take part in interviews with the Street Soccer Foundation media team.

These interviews provide an opportunity to share:

- Your company's reason for supporting The Big Goal
- Your team's journey to the Regional Finals
- Messages of encouragement for the young people supported by the Street Soccer Academy

Your participation helps amplify the social impact of the campaign.

Presentation Ceremony and Awards

Time: 4:00pm - 4:15pm

All players and guests are invited to attend the Closing Ceremony, where we will celebrate the day's achievements and recognise standout performances. Awards will be presented for:

- Regional Champions and Runners Up
- Plate Winners
- Golden Boot
- Golden Gloves
- Player of the Tournament
- Spirit of the Tournament
- Referee Recognition Medals

Playing for Something Bigger

Every team competing in **The Big Goal** represents a group of young people whose lives can be transformed through the **Street Soccer Academy programme**.

Because of your company's involvement, young people will gain:

- Coaching and mentoring
- Qualifications and employability support
- Pathways into education and work

Together, we are building a national community of organisations who believe in the **power of football to change lives**.

Let's Play. Let's Inspire. Let's Build a Community of Game Changers.

#TheBigGoal

THE BIG GOAL.