



Equipment Regulations Handbook

www.fistf.com

Last Updated: January 15, 2024

Scope of the FISTF Conforming label

The intent of this handbook is to ensure that technological advances in the design and manufacture of table football equipment remain in the best interests of table football. It is FISTF's mission to encourage innovation while simultaneously safeguarding the identity and traditions of table football. In order for table football to provide a level playing field for all, it is FISTF's duty to ensure key pieces of equipment conform to a unified standard.

This document replaces the old FISTF Homologation Handbook 2016 and aims to set out more clearly the existing equipment standards. An addendum 'Summary of Changes' has also been added.

FISTF also aims to improve communication with regards to the terminology used to describe equipment. Therefore, the phrase: **FISTF Conforming** shall replace all existing FISTF Homologated and/or FISTF Approved language. The process previously referred to as Approval or Homologation, shall now be known as FISTF Inspection or FISTF Equipment Inspection. All equipment that is not FISTF Conforming will henceforth be referred to as non-conforming.

The FISTF Conforming label is not intended to serve as an endorsement of performance, safety, or durability. This label simply denotes that a given piece of equipment is within the rules and has passed FISTF Inspection. It acts as a tool to inform players that the equipment they buy can be used in FISTF events and ensures fairness for all.

All pieces of equipment that had previously been labelled FISTF Approved (or FISTF Homologated) before this handbook was put into force are automatically granted FISTF Conforming status. These products will be "grandfathered" in and granted FISTF Conforming status. Most meet the current regulations. However, equipment that was previously labelled FISTF Approved/Homologated is not exempt from any future updates to regulations involving the measuring tool, as has always been the case. New products wishing to be granted FISTF Conforming status must be submitted for inspection and conform to the regulations set out in this handbook.

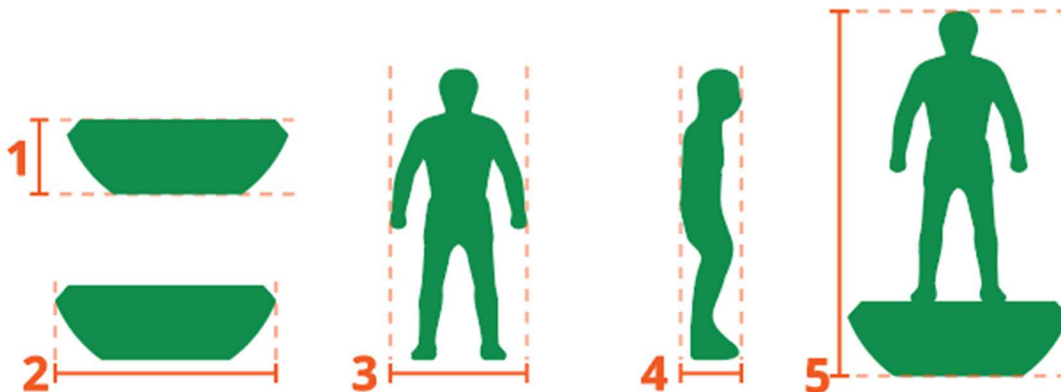
With respect to goalkeepers and playing figures, it is the player's responsibility to ensure their equipment has been granted FISTF Conforming status and is within measuring tool dimensions, in order to use these pieces of equipment at a FISTF event. For goals, pitches, and balls, it is the tournament organiser's responsibility to ensure all equipment of these types is FISTF Conforming. If anyone wishes to verify the conformity of a product/piece of equipment, they should consult the newly created **FISTF List of Conforming Equipment** on the website or contact FISTF directly.

These regulation changes were voted into force by the 2020 FISTF Congress, developed by a formal committee, and then ratified by the FISTF Board. Any changes made to this handbook moving forward will be at the sole discretion of the FISTF Board.

Equipment Regulations

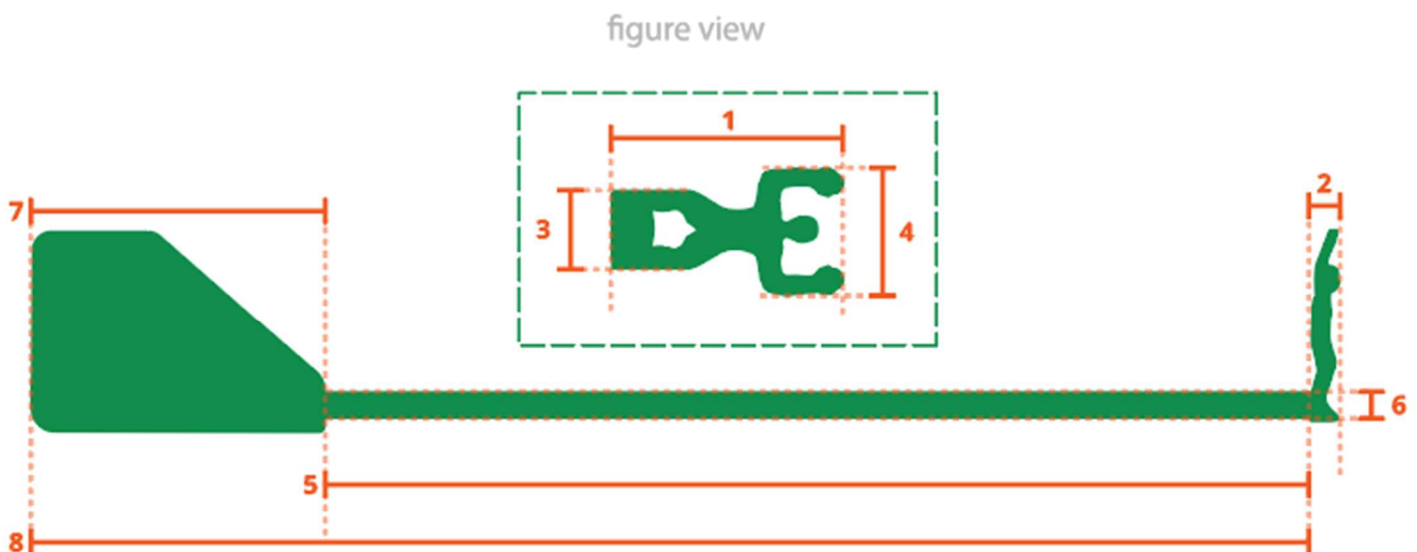
§ 1: Playing Figures

- A. The playing figures shall consist of a round base and a figure which shall be firmly fixed to the base.
- B. Each player shall use ten field playing figures, one spare-goalkeeper and a goalkeeper.
- C. The figure shall symbolise a human body.
- D. Each playing figure of a set shall be of the same type.
- E. The bases shall have the same colour composition (base/disc), excepting the spare-goalkeeper's base that shall be different in colour from all other playing figures.
- F. Conforming dimensions:
 - 1. The base shall be between 5–7 mm in height.
 - 2. The base shall be between 16–21 mm in diameter.
 - 3. The widest point of the figure shall be between 6–13 mm in diameter.
 - 4. The figure may not exceed 6 mm in thickness.
 - 5. The playing figure shall be between 27–39 mm in height.



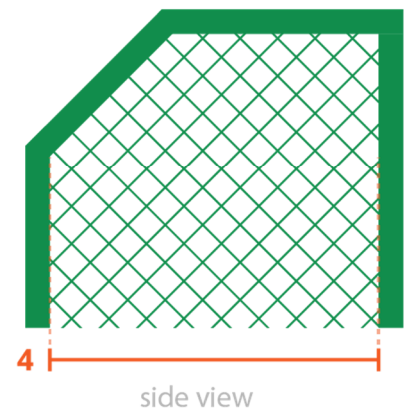
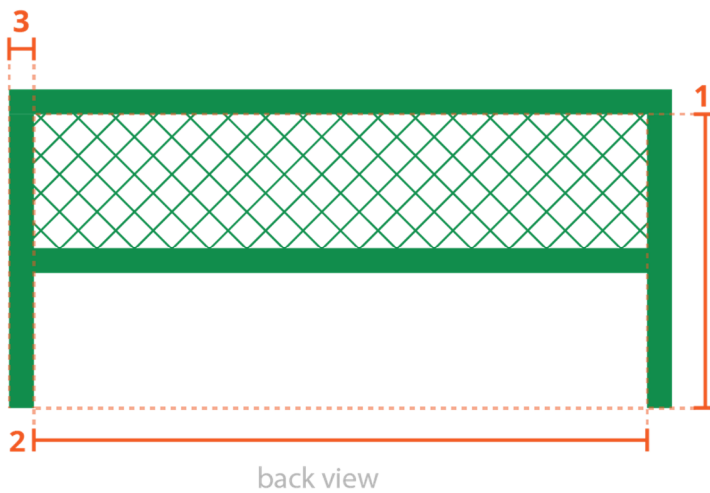
§ 2: Goalkeeper

- G. The goalkeeper shall consist of a rod and handle attached to either a figure, or a figure fixed to a round base.
- H. The goalkeeper figure shall symbolise a human body.
- I. The goalkeeper's rod shall be straight and may enter the handle at any angle.
- J. Players are allowed to use a metallic screw nut or any other fixing mechanism to attach a goalkeeper to the goalkeeper's rod, provided that the aggregate thickness of the screw nut (or other attaching mechanism) added to the thickness of the goalkeeper figure's legs (excluding the protruding parts of the feet) is not larger than the allowed 6 mm (per K.2. below).
- K. Conforming dimensions:
 1. Maximum height of the goalkeeper figure: 39 mm
 2. Maximum thickness of the goalkeeper figure: 6 mm
 3. Maximum width of the small end of the goalkeeper: 13 mm
 4. Maximum width of the large end of the goalkeeper: 21 mm
 5. The rod may not exceed 200 mm in length.
 6. The rod may not exceed 4.5 mm in width (excluding the handle)
 7. Handle maximum length: 100 mm
 8. The aggregate length of the rod and the handle may not exceed 250 mm.
 9. The goalkeeper figure must be able to fit through the goalkeeper figure slots on the FISTF Measuring Tool. This includes the measurements for thickness and profile.



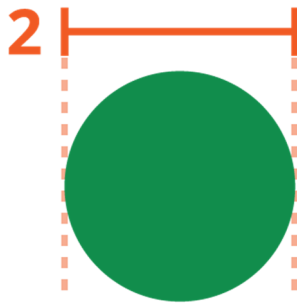
§ 3: Goals

- L. Goals shall consist of two posts, one crossbar, two side bars on each side, a back bar and a net, which shall be firmly fixed to the posts and the bars. The posts shall be upright and parallel, and the crossbar shall be fixed to the top of the posts and the back bar(s) shall be positioned parallel to the crossbar.
- M. The geometry of the back opening must prevent the intrusion of the hand into the goal area and the ball from easily slipping through the rear opening.
- N. Goals shall be placed centrally on each goal-line so that the front posts are on the line.
- O. Goals shall be fixed with bolts or screws to the playing board.
- P. The goals shall be solidly constructed and produced of material that does not easily bend or break under any playing conditions.
- Q. Conforming dimensions:
 - 1. The posts shall be 60 mm in height
 - 2. The posts shall be 125 mm apart
 - 3. The posts and bars may not exceed 5 mm in thickness
 - 4. The distance from the goal line to the back bar shall be between 60–90 mm



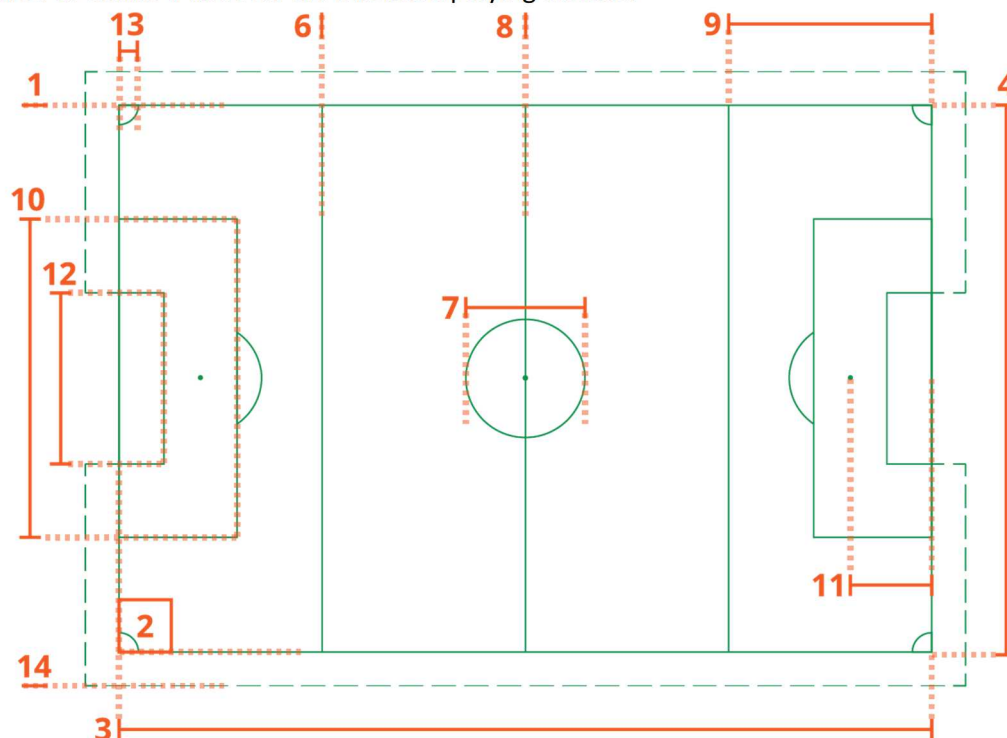
§ 4: Ball

- R. The ball shall be an empty plastic sphere.
- S. Balls with cosmetic markings (e.g. decals and/or paint) will not be eligible for FISTF Conforming status. However, FISTF events may permit them under certain circumstances (please see the Tournament Organiser's Handbook).
- T. Conforming dimensions & mass:
 - 1. The ball shall be 1.5g in mass
 - 2. The ball shall have a diameter of 2.2 cm



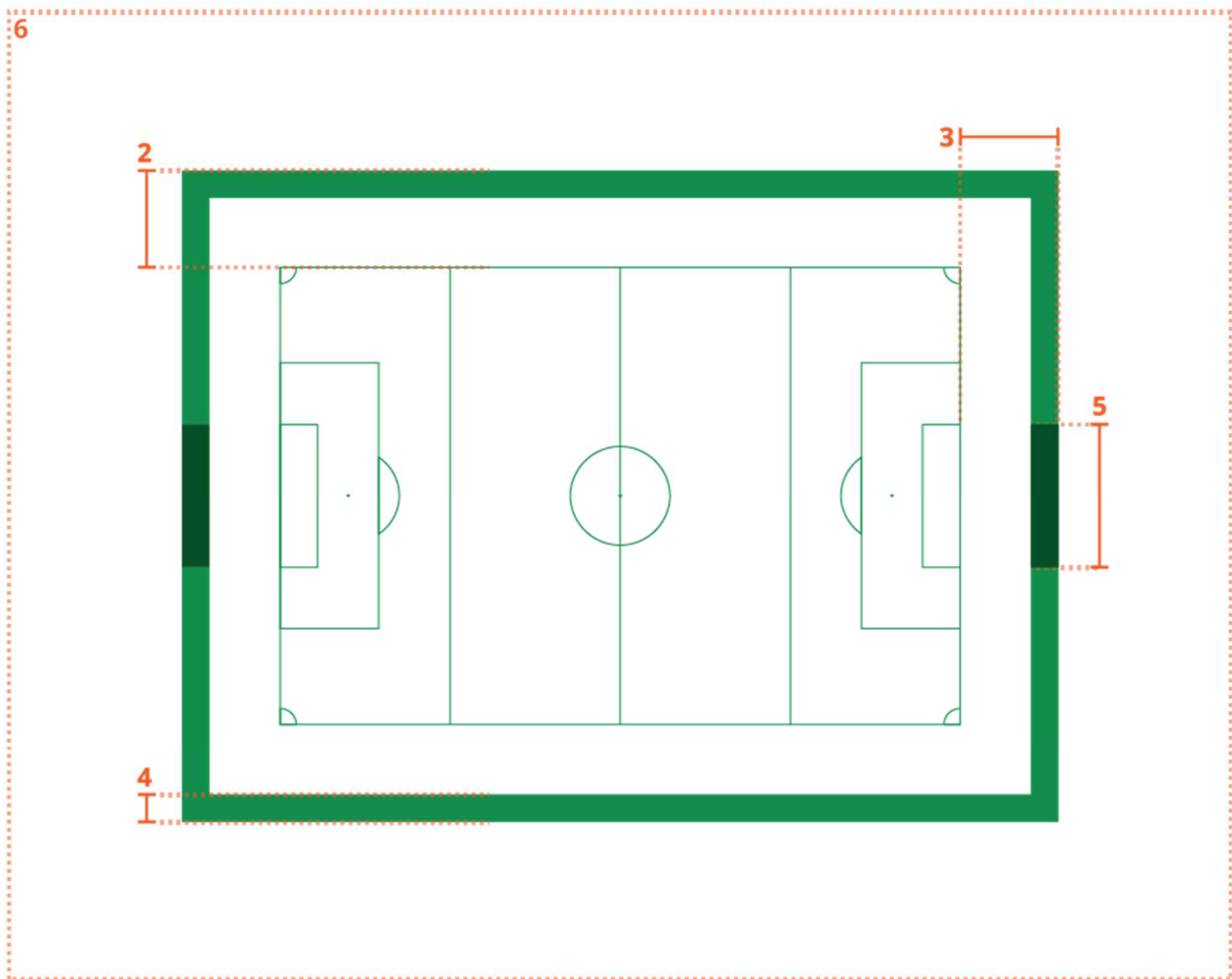
§ 5: Pitch

- U. The pitch cloth shall be smooth and free of any disturbing particles and shall allow a precise movement of the playing figures and a straight run of the ball.
- V. Conforming dimensions:
1. The lines on the pitch cloth shall not be more than 3 mm in width.
 2. The playing area of the pitch shall be a rectangle.
 3. The length shall be marked by touchlines of maximum 140 cm, minimum 90 cm.
 4. The width shall be marked by goal-lines of maximum 100 cm, minimum 60 cm.
 5. The width of the playing area shall always be at least 30 cm smaller than its length.
 6. The playing area shall be divided into two equal halves by a centre-line parallel to the goal-lines.
 7. There shall be a centre-spot on the centre-line equidistant from each touchline, and a centre-circle of radius 6–12 cm, concentric to the centre-spot.
 8. Each half shall be divided into two equal zones by a shooting-line, parallel to the goal-lines.
 9. The zone between the shooting-line and the goal-line shall be called the shooting-area.
 10. In each shooting-area there shall be a penalty-area adjacent to the goal-line. Each penalty-area shall be formed by two parallel lines, 12–18 cm long and 30–48 cm apart, which are equidistant from the centre of the goal-line. These lines shall be at right angles to the goal-lines and joined at their ends to form rectangles.
 11. There shall be a penalty-spot in each penalty-area, 8–14 cm from the goal-line (relative to the size of the shooting area) and equidistant from each touchline.
 12. In each shooting-area there shall be a goal-area adjacent to the goal-line. Each goal-area shall be formed by two parallel lines, 5–7 cm long and 22–26 cm apart, which are equidistant from the centre of the goal-line. The vertical goal-area lines may extend behind the goal-line to allow a more precise positioning of the spare-goalkeeper.
 13. In each corner of the playing area there shall be a quarter circle of radius 2–3 cm concentric to the junction of the touch- and goal-lines.
 14. A thin line, equally distant from touch-lines and goal-lines, may be marked outside the playing area to define a limit for the intended playing surface.



§ 6: Playing Board

- W. The playing surface shall be properly fixed to hardboard or similar material.
- X. The board shall be level.
- Y. Conforming dimensions:
 1. The playing surface shall be a maximum 90 cm, minimum 70 cm above floor level.
 2. The playing surface and the playing board shall extend outside the playing area for 4–10 cm from the touchlines.
 3. The playing surface and the playing board shall extend outside the playing area for 4–19 cm behind the back of either goal-line.
 4. The playing board shall be surrounded by a fence of 2–10 cm in height and a maximum of 10 cm in width.
 5. Centrally behind each goal there shall be a gap of 15–25 cm in the surround.
 6. There shall be at least 100 cm of free space around the table for the players, the referee and assistant referee to perform.



Use of the FISTF Conforming label

The only types of equipment that are required to be FISTF Conforming in order to be used during a FISTF event are bases, figures, goalkeepers, goals, pitches, and balls. No other types of products may claim to be FISTF Conforming.

The playing board (not including the pitch) is not subject to FISTF Conforming status, but nonetheless must conform to the Equipment Regulations to be used during a FISTF event. All playing boards constructed before these regulations went into force do not need to conform to these Equipment Regulations to be used in a FISTF event. This is to prevent banning previously legal equipment, as the Equipment Regulations for playing boards have been modified as per this handbook.

Product Naming Standards

In order for players to navigate the conforming status of any given product more efficiently, FISTF aims to standardise the naming of items within our FISTF List of Conforming Equipment. All FISTF conforming equipment must have a unique **model** name that corresponds to a specific set of **regulated specifications**.

Regulated specifications are the required dimensions of a piece of equipment that are controlled by the Equipment Regulations. For example: a base with a 5.5 mm height would be listed as a distinct model of base to another which is 5.6 mm. Therefore, two bases with identical diameter and height (the regulated specifications for the base), will always be listed as the same model of base. However, if there are variations of this model that change, for example: the shooting bevel, weight, or material of the base without changing the regulated specifications, they will be referred to as **variants**.

A variant is defined as a non-cosmetic difference within a specific model of equipment that does not change a regulated specification. For example: two otherwise identical bases with different internal constructions like monobloc and bibase would be listed as variants of one model type. For example: a manufacturer has a base model named "Z3" that comes in two different shooting angles, three different internal construction types, and two different materials. It would be listed as follows: Z3 (PVC, POM) (Monobloc, Bibase, Tribase) (45°, 55°).

Cosmetic variations such as colour, decals or material finish do not constitute neither a distinct model nor a variant and will not be catalogued by the FISTF List of Conforming Equipment.

Tolerances

The threshold for a dimension change that mandates that one model type shall be listed separately from another is 0.3 mm. This is the engineering tolerance built into the measuring tool, and as such, dimensional differences under 0.3 mm will be regarded as negligible. This tolerance is extended to 1 mm for regulated dimensions over 50 mm.

Manufacturer Use of the FISTF Conforming label

Product Naming Conventions

Manufacturers are not bound by the model & variant naming conventions set out in the previous section. They are free to name their products as they see fit. However, we encourage the use of this convention as it will be used to catalogue all conforming equipment.

Advertising Conventions

Manufacturers are allowed to describe a product as FISTF Conforming, provided that product has been deemed FISTF Conforming and has been included in the FISTF List of Conforming Equipment. Manufacturers are not permitted to describe their products in general as FISTF Conforming and must reference a specific FISTF Conforming product in their advertising in order to advertise FISTF Conforming status. Manufacturers are free to display their FISTF Conforming certificate in digital and/or print form, as well as distributing it physically with the sale of FISTF Conforming products.

How to apply for FISTF Conforming status

Form Submission

The first step towards a product being deemed FISTF Conforming is the submission of an online form detailing that product's specifications. Below are the links to the application forms for each product type.

| [Bases](#) | [Figures](#) | [Goalkeeper](#) | [Goals](#) | [Ball](#) | [Pitch](#) |

Goalkeeper Components

Goalkeeper component parts (the figure, rod, and handle) are also eligible to be inspected and deemed conforming as distinct entities. A FISTF Conforming goalkeeper may be constructed from any combination of FISTF Conforming component goalkeeper parts, as long as the goalkeeper's assembled construction also adheres to the Equipment Regulations. Any goalkeeper available in more than one configuration must also submit additional components separately in addition to one fully assembled keeper (this form is available at the end of the linked goalkeeper application form).

Specimen Requisition

A product will move on to this stage after it has been determined that none of the specifications submitted would deem the product non-conforming as per the Equipment Regulations. At this point, FISTF will send the manufacturer instructions to ship a specimen (or specimens) for physical inspection by FISTF. At this stage, the manufacturer will need to submit a fee of €50 for the inspection process. A manufacturer is only required to pay this once per FISTF season.

If there are variants of any submitted model of equipment, FISTF may also request multiple variants be submitted for inspection. However, these variants will not be individually granted FISTF Conforming status as distinct products. They will be documented on the FISTF List of Conforming Equipment in the manner described above.

Inspection Procedure

The inspectors are appointed members of the table football community who measure specimens and ensure all specifications of each specimen are within what is prescribed by the Equipment Regulations. This procedure is not meant to compare the measurements of the specimen with what was submitted during the Application Stage. As long as both the specifications submitted and the dimensions measured adhere to the Equipment Regulations, the product will pass this step.

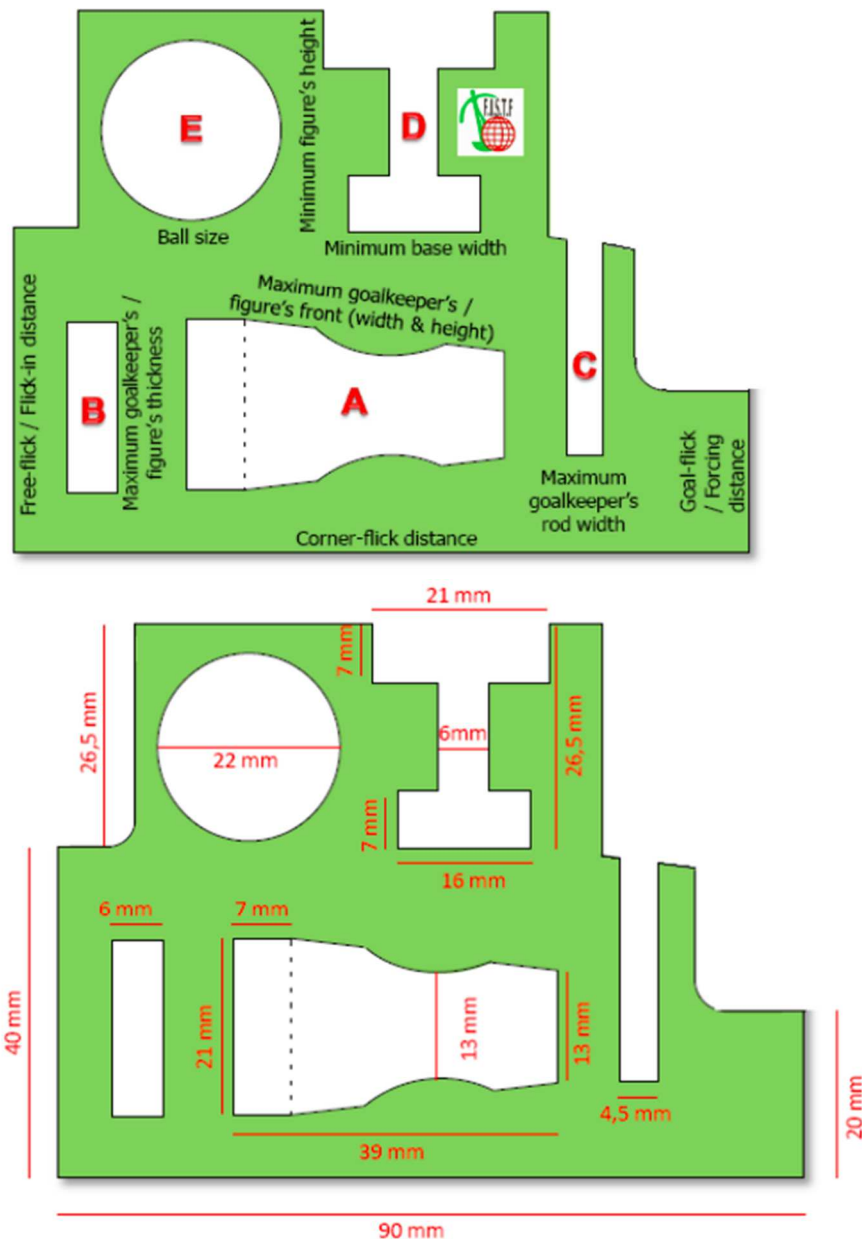
Acceptable tolerances must also be consulted when determining if a given specification ultimately conforms to dimensional or weight requirements. As outlined above, dimensions 50 mm and under will be subject to a ± 0.3 mm manufacturing tolerance, whereas dimensions over 50 mm (5 cm) will allow a tolerance of ± 1 mm.

Inspectors will also ensure the specimen does not feature parts from another conforming product made by a different manufacturer. They will additionally ensure all other applicable construction regulations outlined in the Equipment Regulations are adhered to.

If the product passes this step, a verdict of conforming shall be conferred upon that model of equipment, and it may be referred to as FISTF Conforming. If it does not pass this step, it will be deemed non-conforming and will not be permitted to use the FISTF Conforming label.

Measuring Tool

The measuring tool is a small plastic card with sides of specific measurements and five openings for checking table football equipment dimensions. It is meant to be used at events to ensure players do not alter their own equipment in contravention of the equipment regulations. The legends next to each opening explain what is measured with the use of the particular opening.



Each opening has certain dimensions in order to allow checking of table football equipment against the officially regulated sizes of table football equipment (playing figures, goalkeepers, balls). A 0.3 mm tolerance has been applied to all openings' dimensions, to allow for small deviations of equipment size, due to minor production errors. Thus, players are excused if any of their equipment is slightly different than regulated.

Addendum

Summary of Changes

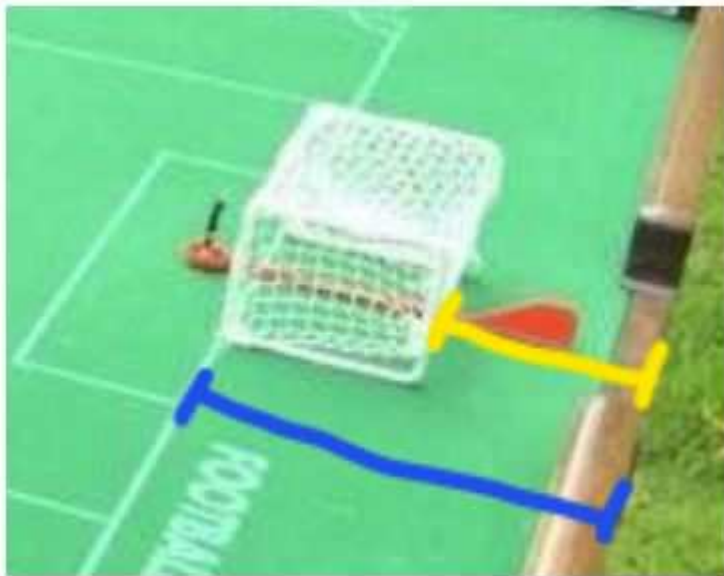
Minor/Administrative Changes

- Changing the terms “FISTF Approved” and “FISTF Homologated” to “FISTF Conforming”
 - We are using the wording that is also used by the PGA (governing body for golf), which has very complex equipment standards and sponsorship issues
 - We do not want to be policing quality/performance of products, and “approved” currently sounds like too much of an endorsement of that equipment
 - The “FISTF Conforming” label is only saying that the equipment meets the rules. It’s simply a tool for players to ensure they have the proper equipment for events
- Creating the FISTF Inspection Committee
 - This is a group of people responsible for equipment inspection
- Adding a new section: Inspection Process
 - This was previously a separate document: “Homologated Guide”
- Adding a new section: Measuring Tool Guide
 - This was previously a separate document: “FISTF Measuring Tool Directions of use”
 - Engineering tolerances will be introduced and incorporated into the new measuring tool, to ensure it does not exclude less precisely made equipment that exceeds dimensional requirements by negligible amounts
- Adding diagrams with annotations to illustrate equipment dimensions
 - These will be easier to understand visually instead of only written out
- Restructuring the order of the equipment regulations
 - Trying to achieve a more logical order and format (about one bullet point per rule)
- Removing rule requiring figures to be painted
 - Unpainted figures make no difference to play
- Creating an equipment database: FISTF List of Conforming Equipment
 - This will be an online catalogue of conforming equipment, photos and basic info
 - Documenting product variants separately from distinct product models
 - For example: a model of base that comes in two-piece and three-piece variants would not have these variants labelled as distinct FISTF Conforming products.
 - The variant(s) of any product will be detailed on the FISTF List of Conforming Equipment.
 - A new product applying for FISTF Inspection will need to be submitted alongside all other variants of that product
- Moving legal and inspection info to appropriate sections
 - This info was previously listed alongside the equipment regulations

Larger Regulation Changes

Playing Board Length

Currently the rules about the length of the playing board depend on the distance from the back of the goal to the edge of the board. This would make certain boards in violation of this rule with some goals, but not in violation if they have deeper goals. This is a confusing situation, so we are proposing to make a new dimension that is referenced to the goal line instead. The new measurement (pictured below in blue; old one in yellow), will mandate a 19 cm maximum between the back of the board and the goal line. Also, because we do not want to render tables that already exist non-conforming, we have decided to only impose these regulations for tables constructed after this handbook comes into force. We have also decided that board dimensions for tables will be listed alongside goals and the pitch type(s) as part of all FISTF tournament information, so that players can better prepare for what they will experience on matchday.



Back Bar Height & Goalkeeper Rod Angle

The back bar of goals has long been part of the FISTF equipment regulations. Despite this, some goals used at events do not feature a back bar. There are even some older models that managed to become “FISTF Approved” in the past without a back bar. For the betterment of the sport, we propose to limit the back bar height to 21 mm on all new goal models released. This will ensure that a 22 mm ball can never exit through the back of the goal. Goals with higher backbars often have mesh that can allow the ball to slip under if propped up by the goalkeeper rod. The main motivation for this historical increase in back bar height is its effect on goaltending ability. Keepers cannot get up high as easily with a lower back bar, so players had sought to remedy this effect by bending the rod at the handle. We have therefore coupled this rule change with the removal of the 10-degree maximum on keeper rod angle. There is no practical way to consistently discern the degree the rod enters the handle, so there can never be a proper way to enforce this regulation, regardless. The rod is still mandated to be completely straight along its length, it is just the rod/handle intersection that we are no longer restricting.

Fee Schedule

Manufacturers will now incur fees when applying their products for FISTF Inspection and potential FISTF Conforming status. This is to cover the cost of round-trip postage, as well as to generate a small amount of income for the regulatory service we are providing the community. Our intent is for all items to be returned to the manufacturers, so that no inspector builds up a collection of items. Manufacturers will be charged set fees, based on how many total applications for FISTF Inspection they submit after the release of this handbook. Aside from additional goalkeeper component parts, one application corresponds to one product. An application for inspection still counts towards the grand total even if the product is ultimately deemed non-conforming. Our proposed fee schedule is €50 for up to five applications, €75 once a manufacturer reaches six applications, and €100 once they reach thirteen applications. Pitches are exempt from this schedule and shipping will be subsidized on a per-application basis. Additional fee thresholds will be discussed when a manufacturer exceeds thirteen applications.