

ERSDA Cup Finals Day 2025



Guide for Coaches

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ERSDA wishes to acknowledge the generous donation of the use of Auldhouse facilities to host these games.

Thank you to all at GSC!



1. Welcome and Key Info

Welcome to Cup Finals Day!

We're delighted to welcome you to the 2025 ERSDA Cup Finals, held at **GSC Auldhouse, 180 Thornliebank Rd, Glasgow G46 7RQ.**

This is a special day for players, coaches, volunteers, and families across our football community. We aim to make it a safe, enjoyable, and memorable occasion for everyone involved.



Key Information at a Glance

- **Date:** Sunday 11th May 2025
- **Venue:** GSC Auldhouse
- **First match kick-off:** 9:00 AM
- **Final match concludes by:** 6.30 PM
- **Number of pitches in use:** 4
- **Presentation Area:** Located beside the clubhouse
- **Catering & Facilities:** Food, drink, toilets and changing available at the clubhouse
- **Event Host:** GSC – generously supporting ERSDA



Important Notes

- There is a full schedule of matches across the pitches. Please arrive for **30 minutes before your team's kick-off**, gathering at the muster point before heading to pitches when the full time whilst goes on the preceding game.
- This is a **family-friendly event**. We ask all attendees to show respect to officials, volunteers, opponents, and each other throughout the day.
- Please take the time to read the rest of this guide for full match-day arrangements and expectations.
- Whilst the games are being played at the same venue to create a festival atmosphere, normal SYFA rules and procedures apply as outlined on <https://www.scottishyouthfa.co.uk/index.php/information-downloads/policies-and-procedures>
- By being present at the venue, all attendees to Cup Finals Day agree to follow the safety and behavioural guidelines outlined in this document. Those that don't may be asked to leave.
- Individuals participate at their own risk, as with any regular ERSDA game, under insurance from their own team as a registered member of the SYFA. Neither GSC nor ERSDA will be held liable for any injury arising from taking part.

2. Match Format & Pitch Details

Match Duration & Rules

- All matches are **11-a-side full format**.
- **Match durations by age group:**
 - **2012s & 2011s:** 2 x 35-minute halves
 - **2010s:** 2 x 40-minute halves
- If the match ends in a draw, the result will be decided by a **penalty shootout** following **iFAB conventions**.
- Each match will be officiated by a **referee and two assistant referees**.
- All fixtures follow the **Scottish Youth FA (SYFA) rules**.

Player Eligibility & Regulations

- **No trialists** are permitted. **Only players registered to a team on or before the 31st March 2025 will be eligible to play for them in a cup final.**
- Players who have already played for another team in this year's ERSDA Cup are **cup-tied** and may not participate again.
- The only exception is for **emergency goalkeepers**, subject to **advance written approval** by ERSDA.
- Suspensions from previous ERSDA league or cup games **apply on Finals Day**.
- **Any breach of eligibility rules will result in the match being awarded to the opposition by default.**
- **COMET will be used as normal to create teamlines – these must be completed by 12pm on Saturday, 10th May, to allow player eligibility to be confirmed.**

Pitch Layout & Facilities

- **Four pitches** will be in use throughout the day, all of them **grass (the new astro surfaces are still being commissioned and unavailable for play)**.
- Teams will be able to warm up on their pitch for c.25 mins in advance of kick-off, as soon as the final whistle goes for the preceding game.
- If the preceding match goes to penalties, teams are able to warm up on a quarter of the pitch until penalties have concluded.
- **Match ball sizes** required per age group:
 - **2012s:** Size 4
 - **2011s & 2010s:** Size 5
- Nets and corner flags will be provided.
- Toilets and changing facilities are available in the **main clubhouse**. If your team requires a changing facility, it will be allocated by a GSC or ERSDA organiser on arrival.
- **If there is a clash of team home strip colours, teams are requested to resolve through discussion, before informing ERSDA. If this is not possible, ERSDA can offer an impartial 'coin toss' to decide the team to play in home colours.**

3 - Arrival, Parking & Volunteers

Team Arrival Guidance

- Upon arrival, a coach from each team should check in with event staff.
- Teams for **early fixtures** are requested to help assemble one goal before play.
- Teams in **the final fixture slots** may be asked to assist with dismantling.
- To help the safe use of the facility, teams are asked to wait at the muster point (up the embankment, next to pitch 1) until their pitch is available for warm up

Parking Arrangements

- **As development work continues on the site, parking is limited and strictly for registered vehicles only.**
 - Each team will be allocated 5 parking spaces at the ground (for coaches, and supporters with a blue badge).
 - **Car registration details must be submitted in advance** to gain entry via an MS form, which will be circulated on age group Whatsapps.
- **Car-sharing is encouraged** to reduce pressure on available spaces.
- **All roads to the venue are now open**, and some local **train services are in operation** please plan your journey accordingly.
- A **drop-off zone** is available at the main entrance for players and essential gear.
- **Parents and supporters should use alternative parking.** For example, Auldhouse retail park is a ten-minute walk from the ground that has no parking restrictions. And there are sections of nearby main roads that are industrialised where cars can be parked on a Sunday without obstructing local residents.
- **No parking in neighbouring estates please that obstructs local residents.** Particularly, no parking on Bonnyrigg Drive. Please highlight this information on to your parents and others attending.
- Anyone giving car park volunteers a hard time will be asked to leave the site.

Volunteer Support

- Each team is expected to **contribute at least one volunteer** for c. 1 hr before their game to help with:
 - Car park stewarding
 - Pitch setup or takedown
 - Litter control or other light duties
- Volunteers will be **scheduled so that their duties do not overlap** with their team's match.
- All volunteers should be registered and briefed via the **MS Form circulated to gather car parking details.**

Facilities Etiquette

- **No boots inside the clubhouse**, especially in café areas.
- Please **use bins provided** and leave pitches and changing rooms clean.
- **Glass containers** are not permitted on or near the pitch or changing rooms.

4 - Respect, Conduct & Behavioural Expectations

Cup Finals Day is a celebration of grassroots football, and we're committed to making it a safe, welcoming environment for everyone. The following expectations apply to **all players, coaches, parents, and spectators**.

Behaviour & Respect

- **Zero tolerance** for abuse directed at referees, volunteers, players, or opposition supporters.
- Any player, coach, or spectator unable to conduct themselves respectfully will be asked to leave the pitch area. **Play will be suspended until they do so.**
- Please remember: **ERSDA is run entirely by volunteers.** Let's treat all helpers with kindness and appreciation.

Noise & Disruption

- In line with **GSC Auldhouse venue rules**, the following are **strictly prohibited**:
 - **Drums, megaphones, boom boxes or amplified music**
 - **Pyrotechnics, smoke devices, or flares**
 - **Offensive or provocative banners, flags, or signage**
- See the **GSC visitor code of conduct at the end of the document**

Pitchside Conduct & Spectator Zones

- Each pitch will have a spectator area marked, which is also indicated on the venue map. **All supporters must stay in the designated area at all times.**
- If area indicators have been damaged or moved, before they are replaced, **spectators must stay at least 2 metres from the touchline** and must **not stand between Pitches 1 and 2**, which is a no-standing zone for supporters for safety reasons at all times.
- Volunteers and stewards will be present to help maintain safe and respectful viewing zones—please follow their guidance without argument.

Technical Areas

- Each team will be assigned a designated **technical area**:
 - Located **0.5 metres back from the touchline.**
 - Positioned on the **half of the pitch not occupied by the assistant referee.**
- Coaches must **remain within this area** and are responsible for managing their sideline appropriately.
- Coaches must also ensure players **remain in the designated technical area when warming up or observing play.**

5- Referee Cameras – Creating a Safer Matchday

What Are Referee Cams?

This year, ERSDA is proud to be the **first football league in Scotland**—at any level—to conduct an **official IFAB-approved trial of referee safety cameras**, in partnership with **Reveal Media** and with the support of the **Scottish FA**.

We are part of a **global pilot programme**, running in multiple countries, aimed at making football a better, safer experience for everyone involved.

Purpose of the Cameras

These body-worn cameras are **not designed to catch people out**, but rather to:

- **Deter** poor behaviour
- **De-escalate** tension before it escalates
- **Document** serious incidents where there is confusion or disagreement

They help ensure the best possible matchday environment for **young players**, supporters, coaches, and officials.

How It Works

- The cameras record **high-quality video and audio** throughout each match.
- Footage is **only clipped and saved** when a significant incident occurs.
- All recordings are **secure and encrypted**—they cannot be accessed, deleted or altered from the device.
- Footage may be used to support **disciplinary proceedings**, removing doubt when events are disputed.

Privacy, Safety & Compliance

- The system operates within the **strict guidelines set out by IFAB**, including full compliance with:
 - **GDPR requirements**
 - **Player safeguarding protocols**
 - **Privacy rights of all matchday participants**
- **No footage will ever be shared publicly or externally**, unless required by **formal authorities** such as the police.

Early Impact

Trials in other leagues have shown:

- **Reduced abuse toward referees**
- **Calmer touchlines**
- **Increased confidence and enjoyment for match officials**
- A general uplift in the **matchday experience** for everyone involved

Spread the Word & Support the Trial

We will be promoting this initiative widely through media channels from later in May 2025 (thank you to Ferg Reid of GSC in particular for supporting this effort through his company, Stakeholder Communications). Our aim is to **expand the programme in 2025/6 to all age groups for regular league games**. This will only be possible with support from **local sponsors**.

If your business or organisation is interested in supporting this innovative safety programme:

- Sponsorship starts at **£700 for a single camera**.
- Larger contributions (up to **£10,000**) can support full rollout across an age group.
- Sponsors will be:
 - Recognised on the **ERSDA website**
 - Named in **press releases and trial reports** submitted to the SFA and IFAB
 - Credited in **next season's Cup Final publications and other ERSDA documents**

 Interested in sponsoring? **Please email us at president@ersda.uk**

6 -Presentations, Food & Final Notes

Presentations

- **Medal presentations** will take place **approximately 5 minutes after the conclusion of each match.**
- The **presentation area is located beside the clubhouse**—teams should make their way there promptly after full-time.
- **Both winners and runners-up** will receive medals for every final.
- **Parents and supporters are warmly invited** to cheer and applaud **all participants** during presentations—help us create a celebratory atmosphere for every team!
- After each presentation, there will be time and space for **team photos and group shots.**
- A **professional photographer may be present**, and teams are welcome to **engage directly with them** if they would like official photographs taken.

Food & Facilities

- The **GSC café will be open throughout the day**, offering hot and cold food, snacks, and drinks.
 - **Proceeds support the incredible new GSC facilities**—including the newly completed pitches—and help ensure **ongoing community access** for grassroots football.
- **Toilets and changing rooms** are available in the main building. Please keep these areas tidy and report any issues to GSC staff.
- Note: **No boots are permitted inside the clubhouse**, especially in café and corridor areas.

Final Notes of Thanks

- We are especially grateful to **GSC Auldhouse** for their generous support of this event, and for helping us mark a major milestone: **ERSDA's 30th Anniversary.**
- Founded in **1995**, ERSDA has spent the last three decades championing grassroots football across the region—and **this is our biggest Cup Finals Day ever.**
- To all the players, coaches, families, referees, and volunteers—thank you for being part of it.

Let's make Finals Day 2025 one to remember!

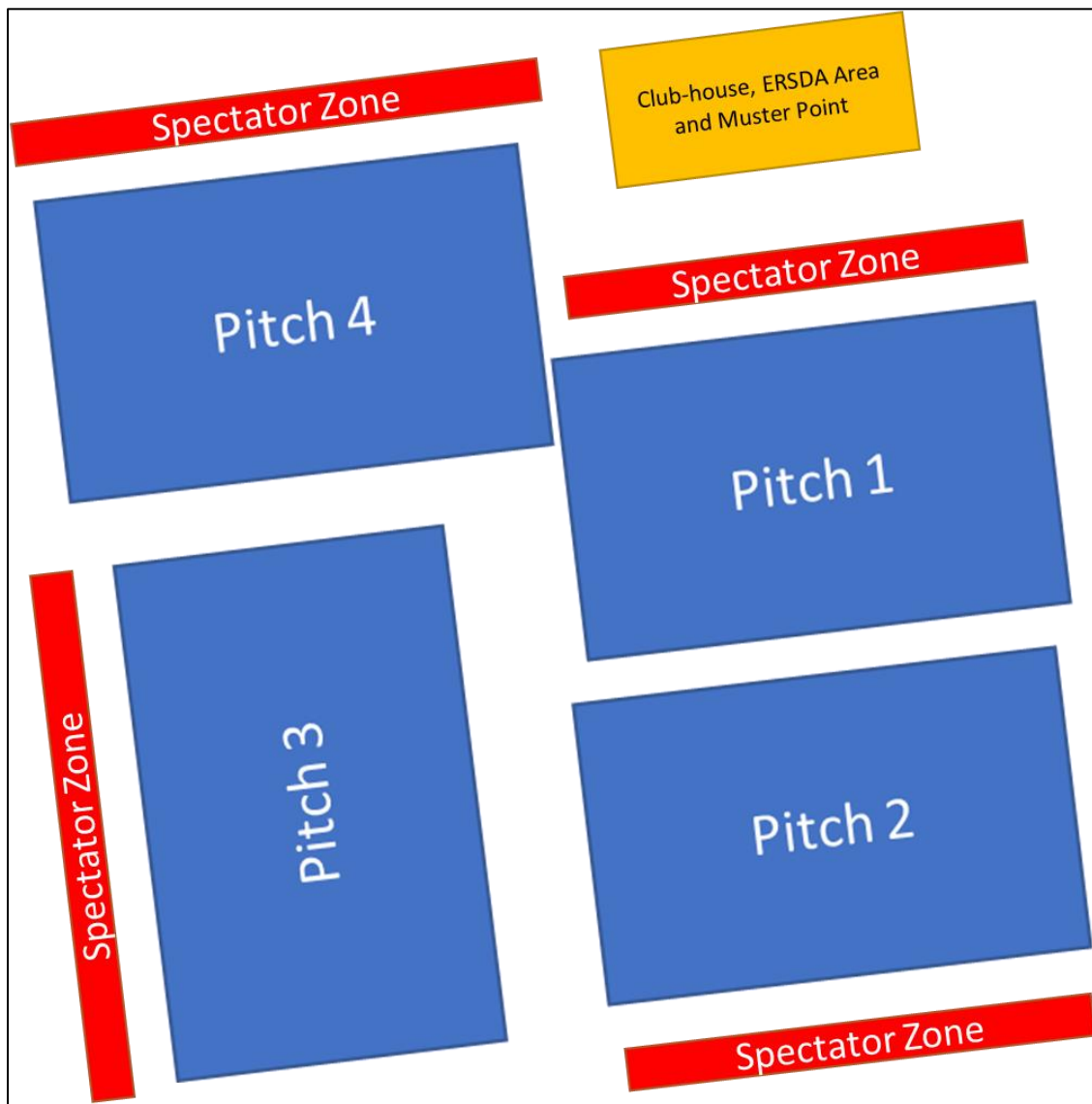
7 - Venue & Pitch Maps

Site Map - Overall



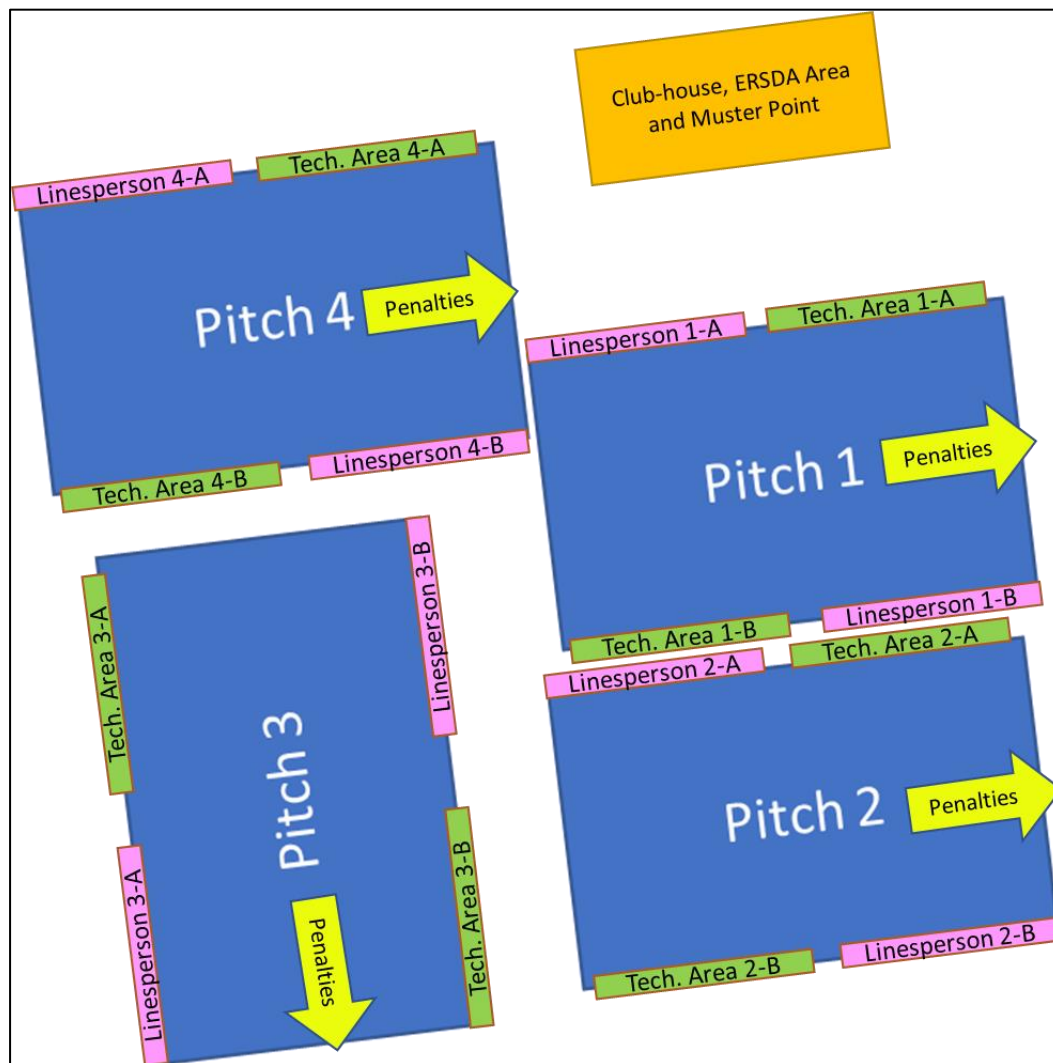
- On arrival, registered vehicles will be directed to a parking area
- Food, drink, changing facilities and toilets are found in the clubhouse
- The equipment store is behind the clubhouse next to the Astro pitches
- Teams should meet at the muster point until it is time to go to their fixture pitch
- Check in-desk for teams and volunteers, and medal ceremony location, at the ERSDA area
- A defibrillator is located at the club house
- Questions, enquiries or lost property – please go to the ERSDA desk

Spectator Areas



- Spectators should be 2 metres back from the pitch at all times
- Spectators must take care walking to and from matches.
- The area between pitch 1 and 2 is not a thoroughfare.
- Spectators are reminded about the conditions of the GSC visitors' charter

Pitch Arrangements



- Linespeople's areas and technical areas do not overlap. For the avoidance of doubt, the halfway line is a clear dividing line between the two areas
- Linespeople; and players and coaches in technical areas should be 0.5m back from the pitch at all times.
- Teams should only occupy one technical area
- If penalties are required to be taken, then the marked goals should be used.
- If penalties are to be taken, then the next teams on the pitch may start warming up in the opposite half
- Spectators should be 2m back from the pitch at all times, leaving a clear gap for technical areas and the movement of linespeople



8 - Fixture Schedule

Pitch 1		Pitch 2	
09:10	2010 Conference League Cup St Andrew Blue v Barrhead yellows	09:15	2010 Conference League Bowl OLM v St Andrews White
11:05	2010 Development League Cup TASS Thistle Blue v Stamperland Athletic	11:10	2011 Champions League Bowl OLM A&A v Erskine
12.40	2011 Europa League Cup Greenock HSFP Black v Barrhead	12.50	2010 Championship League Cup Parkmoor v Barrhead
14.35	2010 Challenge League Cup Renton Red v TBC	14:45	2010 Championship League Bowl TBC v Drumchapel Blacks
16:30	2010 Conference League Plate St Cadocs City v Whitacre Wolves Black	16:40	2010 Challenge League Plate TBC

Finish 18:00

Finish 18:10

Pitch 3		Pitch 4	
09:30	2011 Champions League Plate OLM Utd v St Cadoc's Caley	09:00	2012 Division 1 League Bowl Stamperland Athletic v Neilston
11.15	2010 Development League Plate Port Glasgow Blacks v Thorn White	10.40	2012 Division 1 League Plate Sons of Struth v Giffnock White
13:10	2010 Development League Bowl Giffnock Black v St Cadocs Town	12:20	2012 Division 1 League Cup Clydebank v St Cadocs Utd
15:05	2011 Europa League Plate St Cadoc's Athletic v Spartinos	14:00	2012 Division 2 League Cup Hillwood Thistle v Giffnock Purple
17:00	2010 Challenge League Bowl TBC	15:40	2012 Division 2 League Plate Thorn Athletic v Stamperland FC
Finish 18.30		17:20	2012 Divison 2 League Bowl One FC v OLM Barca

Finish 18:30

9 - GSC AULDHOUSE BEHAVIOURAL CODE



We are delighted to welcome you to GSC Auldhouse and would ask that you respect our facility and adhere to the below behavioural code at all times during your visit:

1. Foul and abusive language from players, coaches and/or parents towards each other, opposition and referees will not be tolerated
2. Anyone using the facilities must treat other users, staff and volunteer with respect
3. Please respect our neighbours and be mindful of parking arrangements, noise levels and language
4. No glass containers are permitted on the pitches or in the changing rooms at any time
5. No boots should be worn in the clubhouse (specifically the café area)
6. There is a strict no drums, boom boxes or flares policy at all times
7. Respect other users and do not encroach onto the pitch side until other users have finished their match/training session
8. Please use the bins provided and ensure you clear up after your session leaving the pitch and dressing rooms free from rubbish
9. Use the appropriate toilets as signposted and please ensure they are clean after use – any issues with blockages etc report immediately to a GSC official
10. Any damage done to facilities, fixtures, fittings and equipment must be reported immediately to a GSC official and made good by the individual, team or club responsible for the damage.
11. The GSC Auldhouse Code of Conduct - displayed around the building - must be adhered to at all times

We thank you for your cooperation

