COPTIC FESTIVAL UK CROSS-CHURCHES' DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Children, Youth, Parents & Servants

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We would like to welcome you all to the 2023 Coptic Festival Cross-Churches sports day in the United Kingdom.

"Live In Peace."(2 Corinthians 13:11)

We pray that you find the day enriching, full of fun and fellowship. Whilst everyone participating in the day aims to achieve a high standing in their selected activities, let us remember that first and foremost, we are all representing the body of Christ and His church. Our dealings with each other should be in the spirit of love, always esteeming others above ourselves. Christ's words are: **"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16**. In keeping with His teachings, let us persevere to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

This short information leaflet is intended to be read by every participant, parent and servant who plans to be present at the sports centre on the 16th of September. In the leaflet, you will find useful information about the various arrangements during the day. Please read it thoroughly and familiarise yourself with its contents prior to the competition day.

General Information

This year the Coptic Festival UK Cross-Churches sports day will be held at **Cranford Community College, High St, Hounslow, TW5 9PD**. The day's proceedings are planned to start at 10:00 am and conclude at 5:00 pm. We have more than 900 children and youth participating from 13 churches across England and Wales. We hope that you have a very blessed day meeting with, competing against and enjoying the company of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many Coptic Festival activities have already been assessed during the past few weeks. During the Cross-Churches sports day, we will be assessing the following activities:

Football	Basketball	Badminton

Chess	Relay	Table tennis

You will find a complete schedule of all activities including locations, timing and match results.

In addition, a facilities map of the centre (figure 1) shows the various activities with their respective locations. Make sure to familiarise yourself with the map and identify the locations where the games will be held to avoid missing or delaying any of the activities.

Prior to the Cross-Churches sports day, make sure you write your details and the activities you are participating in along with their timings and locations. Should you find any discrepancy or clash, please notify your church representative who will be able to resolve the conflict with the day's organisers. Completing your card prior to the day will ensure that you have a relaxed experience and support the organisers in running the day smoothly.



Figure 1 (a facilities map of the centre)

On Arrival

All participants are expected to be at the venue for a 9:30 am start. The day will commence with prayers, with the first game matches starting at 10:00 am. Prayers will be held in the field in front of the dome. If you are arriving by car, please allow time to park and head directly towards the prayer point. We ask that you make every effort to arrive on time to help us maintain our schedule and complete all the activities as planned.

Upon arrival, after prayers at the field, the responsible servant from your church (Church Coordinator) will hand over the list of participants to the Coptic Festival Day Administrator.

Any activity clashes should have been already resolved prior to the day. Any clashes created by un-planned schedule changes will be resolved and communicated on the day. A list of the various activities' leaders is provided at the end of this document. Church Coordinators should use this contact list for any matters relating to their respective activities on the day.

Medical Emergencies and First Aid

Should you have a need for medical assistance, please contact First Aid. Unless they are attending to other medical needs, First Aid is at the medical point (marked on the map).

The Venue

The sports centre is large and has several areas which are used by the public and are not given to the Coptic Festival exclusively on the 16th September. Accordingly, you should expect to see other groups on the day. Please be respectful to their rights and ***do not go to areas that have not been designated for our events***. Use the map for guidance.

It is important that we keep the centre clean and tidy and hand it back in the same condition we received it. Please dispose of all rubbish in the bins provided around the various areas. It is important that we use the toilets sensibly and make every effort to leave them as we would wish to find them. Remember that we are all representing Christ and the Church, and we should respect the property we have been allowed to use.

Food & Drink

There will be meals provided by the organising team as in previous years. The day's organisers will, however, serve drinks and snacks between 10:00 and 4:00 pm only. These will be served at the "Water & Drinks" areas shown on the map. Tea and coffee for adults will also be served in the canteen building during the same period. You are requested not to be wasteful and to think about others. As such, kindly take only what you need.



Personal Belongings

The organisers and the centre management team are not responsible for the loss or damage of any personal belongings. Please ensure you do not leave your valuables unattended. All lost property should be handed to one of the organisers at the "Control" area shown on the map.

IMPORTANT: please do not leave your belongings in front of doors, hallways, entrances or exits or any place where games and matches are being played. Upon leaving the venue, please ensure that you have all your belongings with you.

MATCHES

We are expecting to play a large number of matches on the day: more than 80 football, 41 basketball, 45 badminton and 43 table tennis matches. In addition, there are 45 chess games, and 6 relay races. Therefore, we reiterate the importance of familiarising yourself with the locations of your matches and assessments and their respective times. Please remember to record this information on your personal card as advised above. It is extremely important that you arrive at your activity location **on time** to ensure the success of the day and to avoid disappointment.

Football matches will be played in pitches A to E. From 1:00 pm, the dome will become available and we will have access to additional five indoor football pitches F to H.

1. can every player wear the appropriate kit such as shin pads.
2. Having their own water.
3. Each game will be played 10 minutes with 2 halves, each half will be 5 minutes with 5 minutes break so the players can have their water.
4. The only people who are allowed on the football turf will be the 2 teams which should be 19 players maximum, the referee and the 2 coaches for the 2 teams.
5. There is no half side in the match.
6. No corners
7. No throwing.
8. When the football hits any side of the fence you may continue playing.
9. As long as the football is in the goalkeeper's hands, don't make an attempt to win the football; this may be considered a foul on the goalkeeper.
10. Any player/ players using indecent or inappropriate language may result in being sent off.
11. No parents/ carer shouldn't instigate on what decision the referee should take.
12. Any bad fouls on other players the referee should address the player that committed the foul politely.
13. Last but not the least every age group will be using their own appropriate football.
14. Year 1-3 will be playing with size 3s football
15. Year 4-6 size 4s football and year 7 upwards will be using size 5s.

Basketball matches will be played in the sports hall basketball courts A, B, & C (as shown on the map). In case of bad weather, the schedules and locations will be adjusted and communicated to all the teams by the Activity Leaders.



Each Football or Basketball match will be played in a 10 minutes game without a break. During the knockout stages, if at the end of the 10 minutes the two teams end up with a draw score, the winner will be decided using 3 penalty shootouts.

For every planned match, there will be a 5-minute break between the end of one and the start of the next. Please note that if your team does not arrive at the correct location of their match within **5 minutes** of the scheduled time, the referee has the right (at his/her discretion) to disqualify your team and declare your opponent the winner of the match.
Likewise, the referee has also got the right (at his/her discretion) to disqualify any team for inappropriate or bad behaviour. Each match will start with the Lord's prayer and whether you are playing or supporting your team, please remember to conduct yourself in a Christian-like manner. At the end of each game, in the spirit of good sportsmanship, you are expected to shake hands with members of the other team and leave the pitch immediately to allow the next match to commence without delay.

When you arrive at the designated pitch for your match, please gather with your team quietly outside the pitch boundaries. If the previous match concludes early and both teams are available at the pitch, your match may commence immediately to save time. It is therefore advisable that you arrive at the match location as early as possible.

All supporters, whether servants or family members, are advised to stand right back from the pitch's boundaries and not to interfere with the match or the referee's decisions. Please assist the referees to stay on schedule and abide by these guidelines.

Please note that for safety reasons, **football shoes should not have metal studs** (plastic ones are acceptable). It is also recommended that football players wear shin guards.









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Table tennis and badminton players should bring their own rackets.

Resolving Conflicts

Genuine misunderstanding and mistakes may arise during competitive sports. We are encouraged to deal with these situations with wisdom and grace, patiently and respectfully, listening to one another in a spirit of fellowship.

The Bible also teaches us to respect authorities and obey their judgements. In this regard, should a conflict arise, referees and Activity Leaders will listen to your grievances and aim to reach a fair and just decision based on the facts presented. Please note that the decisions of the referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

Activity Leaders

Name		Activity		Contact



Figure 2: B4 Entrance to a building which has the following rooms:

Ground Floor

The Badminton Hall in the ground floor past the stairs. It will host Badminton and Basketball after concluding the Badminton

Hot drinks in Marquee on the field 10:00 noon and 4:00 pm

Upstairs:

B152 Upstairs after the entry door. It will host the Table Tennis & Chess