



TISHRI & FOOTBALL FACTSHEET



The significance to football of this important Jewish month

As captain of Doncaster Rovers, Dean Furman is one of the few British based Jewish footballers playing in the football league.



Every year millions of Jews around the world commemorate their holiest festivals during the month of Tishri. This Factsheet will help explain what this means and its impact on football.

What is Tishri?

The holy month of Tishri, which falls in autumn, is the busiest month in the Jewish calendar. There are 13 days of religious significance including the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) and the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). On seven of these days Jews are not permitted to work so this will have a real impact on those involved in football.

Key dates to take note of during Tishri

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year is a solemn, two-day festive holiday. It marks the start of the Ten Days of Awe or Repentance, a period of self-reflection. Traditionally, Jews eat apple and honey to symbolise a sweet new year.

Yom Kippur

The Ten Days of Awe end with Yom Kippur, and a theme of atonement and forgiveness. Jews believe that their fate for the year is now sealed, will pray and fast for 25 hours and most UK Jews will attend synagogue.

Succot, Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Succot is the Festival of Booths where Jews eat in a Sukkah, a shelter reminding them of their Biblical roots. The festival lasts seven days and is followed by Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, where Jews mark the conclusion of public reading of the Torah and the beginning of a new cycle.

Which football regulations apply to Tishri?

FA RULE B5 Football & Religious Observance

- (a) A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:
- (i) has consented to do so on such occasions; or
 - (ii) is registered as a player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.
- (b) Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

What about the law, the Equality Act 2010 for example?

Under the Equality Act 2010 Jewish people possess the protected characteristics of both 'religion or belief' and 'race'.

"I have been very touched by the support I received... observing Yom Kippur. The backing from the owners, the positive messages from the fans and the commitment and effort of my staff and players was truly special. I am humbled by this response... All my life I have respected others and it is good it is happening the other way."

Avram Grant, former manager at Chelsea, Portsmouth and West Ham





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When is Tishri the 2014-15 season?

Rosh Hashanah is from the 24th to 26th September.

Yom Kippur is from the 3rd to 4th October.

Succot is from the 8th to 10th October.

Shemini Atzeret starts October 15th and **Simchat Torah** ends October 17th.
(Jewish Festivals commence at sunset in the evening and end at nightfall)

* The exact dates will change annually.

Prohibition to work and perform regular activity

The Jewish community is diverse and different people observe festivals in different ways. Most Jews take time off work and refrain from regular activity on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Most UK Jews will expect people to be aware of these festivals and may be offended if you schedule activities on one those days. Around 10-20% of Jews who are strictly religious take off Succot/ Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Tishri and playing football

Jews are permitted to play on the 3rd to 7th Day of Succot and they are allowed to play after festivals have gone out (after nightfall). Long fasts combined with extra prayers can leave people exhausted. Best practice is to ask any Jewish player or team how they observe.

Acknowledging those observing Jewish Festivals

As with any religion, showing your Jewish friends you know its Rosh Hashanah is likely to be appreciated. Posting an acknowledgement on your website or twitter or simply a notice in your clubhouse is a good idea. Traditionally greetings including **'Wishing our Jewish Fans a Sweet and Prosperous New Year'** (Rosh Hashanah) or **'Wishing our Jewish players well over the fast'** (Yom Kippur).

Guidance around fixtures

Annually The FA produces a calendar of religious dates in order to inform the game, this guidance provides you with the significant dates for religious observance together with further information.

Click here to see the current calendar.



Lionel Messi at the Western Wall
(or Kotel) in Jerusalem



'I have often been one of the few, or only, Jewish players on the teams I've been a part of. The Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur are about renewal and reflection, concepts that we all can appreciate. I often try to reflect on my life and my career and to do what I think will make me a better person and football player. Yom Kippur is more about not doing, rather than doing. I have the utmost respect for Jewish athletes who choose not to participate on Yom Kippur and for anyone of any faith that makes similar choices.'

Yael Averbuch, USA International

