

# TISHRI & FOOTBALL FACTSHEET

A FOOTBALL GUIDE TO THE JEWISH MONTH





Maccabi GB women's team 2019

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## TISHRI FACTSHEET

Every year millions of Jews around the world commemorate some of their holiest festivals during the month of Tishri.

This Factsheet will help explain what this means and its potential impact on football.

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# TISHRI & FOOTBALL FACTSHEET

## WHAT IS TISHRI?

The 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'.



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*Playing for England has been a dream come true, but I am just as proud of being Jewish as I am English and highlighting the diversity of our teams and our nation is really important to me. Pulling on that England shirt makes us all equal on the pitch and we strive as a team.*

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**Russell Goldstein**  
England Futsal International

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## WHEN IS TISHRI IN THE 2020-21 SEASON?

**Rosh Hashanah** is from 18 (sundown) to 20 September.

**Yom Kippur** is from 27 Sept (sundown) to 28 Sept.

**Succot** is from the 2 (sundown) to 9 October.

**Shemini Atzeret** starts 9 October and **Simchat Torah** ends 11 October (Jewish festivals commence at sunset in the evening and end at nightfall)

## 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.

\* The exact dates will change annually.

## ACKNOWLEDGING THOSE OBSERVING JEWISH FESTIVALS

As with any religion, showing your Jewish friends you know its Rosh Hashanah for example 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) are examples of messages.

## 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.

*Joe Jacobson of Wycombe Wanderers FC is one of the few British Jewish footballers to play in the professional game in England in recent times*

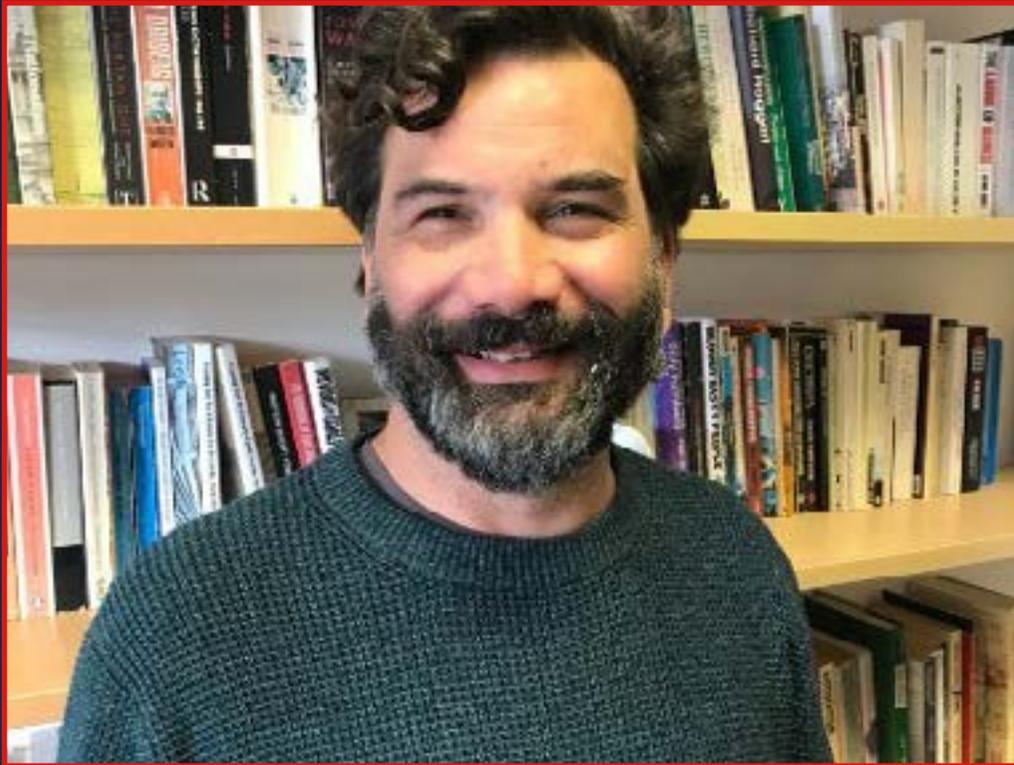


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*I am proud of my Jewish Heritage and representing Australia internationally helps illustrate the diversity of the beautiful game. I am a proud Australian, woman and person with Jewish heritage, but on the field of play i'm just a footballer, equal to everyone else.*

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**Melissa Maizels**  
Goalkeeper  
Australian National Football Team



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Jews have always been involved in football as players, fans, managers, directors, writers, administrators and owners. I have always been proud of and celebrated my Jewish roots and firmly believe that the diversity and comradeship of the beautiful game are what give it such power.

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**Anthony Clavane**

Writer and Journalist

Author of 'Does your Rabbi know you're here?' and 'Promised Land'



This factsheet has been produced by the FA Equality team in conjunction with The FA Faith and Football Network, Maccabi GB and the Community Security Trust. We would like to thank them all for their input and support.