

European Dodgeball Federation
(EDBF)
Rules & Regulations
Version 4.1.0

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DEFINITIONS

ATTACKING PLAYER. A **PLAYER** who is throwing or preparing to throw a ball at a defending **PLAYER** on the opposing team.

ATTACK LINE. The line marked across the court three metres in front of the **BACK LINE**. During the **RUSH** and when a **RETRIEVER** is returning a ball to court the balls must be returned to a **PLAYER** with both feet behind this line before it will be considered a **LIVE BALL**. (Previously referred to as the Ball Return Line in Europe)

ATTEMPT. The act of a team with possession of the ball trying to put **OUT** a member of the other team, by throwing the ball to try to **HIT** them with the ball and within a playable height. The thrown ball must be within reach of the defending **PLAYERS**, if the ball is thrown high it must be within reach without jumping and, if thrown wide of the player, it must be within 1 metre/yard to the side of a defending player.

BACK COURT. A team's Backcourt is the area of the court between the **BACK LINE**/wall and the **ATTACK LINE**.

BACK LINE. Where used the **BACK LINE** defines the end of a teams playing area.

BALL COLLISION. When balls collide in the air they will remain a **LIVE BALL** in the event of a rebound collision (Where the balls bounce off of each other when **IN FLIGHT**) the balls will be treated as though they were a **BLOCK ATTACK** by the throwing **PLAYERS**.

BLOCK. When a **PLAYER** uses a ball to **BLOCK** a **THROWN** ball, they must retain full possession and control of the ball at all times. If the **BLOCK** causes the **PLAYER** to lose full control and fumble the ball in their possession or drop the ball they are using to block, they will be called **OUT**.

1. Loss of control is when a **MATCH OFFICIAL** considers the ball held by the **PLAYER** to have moved within the hands of the **PLAYER** in such a way that it was not an intentional movement by the **PLAYER** attempting to control the blocked ball.

BLOCK ATTACK. A block, causing the ball to rebound towards an opponent. The ball is considered a **LIVE BALL** and is equivalent to throwing a ball at the opponent.

CATCH. The act of a **LIVE PLAYER** catching a ball.

1. Any **LIVE BALL** can be caught by a **LIVE PLAYER** and the opposition **PLAYER** that threw the ball or **BLOCKED** the ball is **OUT**.
 1. Also any illegally **THROWN** ball may be caught.
1. For a catch to be considered complete it must be fully in control of the catching **PLAYER**
2. Full control is established once at least one hand has been placed on the ball to secure the **CATCH** by the **PLAYER**.

CATCH AND CARRY. A catch made by a **DEFENSIVE PLAYER**, where momentum carries that player **OUT OF BOUNDS**, after completing the catch. The catch is good but the **PLAYER** is deemed out because the **PLAYER** goes **OUT OF BOUNDS**.

CENTRE LINE. The area across the centre of the court separating the two playing areas.

COACH. A person who is responsible for the team's actions on the court. Represents the team in communication with **OFFICIALS**, scorekeeper, and opposing team. If a team does not have a **COACH** the team captain takes these responsibilities.

COMPETITION CO-ORDINATOR. In charge of the co-ordination of the competition.

DEAD BALL. The term used for a ball which can no longer get a player out.

DEFINITIONS

1. A ball becomes a **DEAD BALL** when it has made contact with the court floor or ceiling.
2. A ball becomes a **DEAD BALL** when it has made contact with any object, surface or person that is outside of the court.
3. During the **RUSH** a ball will remain a **DEAD BALL** until it has been returned or retrieved either to a **LIVE PLAYER** with both feet behind the **ATTACK LINE** or has made contact with the court behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
4. A ball becomes a **DEAD BALL** when it is in the possession of an **OUT PLAYER**.
 1. This rule directly effects **DELAY OF GAME**. When a **PLAYER** is **HIT** or called **OUT** during a **PLAY n BALLS** scenario any balls that they are holding at the time they are **OUT** become a **DEAD BALL** this means that any remaining **PLAYER** of the team on court that either has possession of or could be in possession of a ball that was included in the **PLAY n BALLS** call will be expected to make an **ATTEMPT** within the time remaining of the **PLAY n BALLS** call or they will be **OUT**.
(See Rule 8 section 5.8 for examples.)
5. Been ruled dead by an official.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER. A **PLAYER** that is defending an attack from an **ATTACKING PLAYER**.

DELAY OF GAME. The act of intentionally not throwing the required number of dodgeballs within the time as instructed by a **MATCH OFFICIAL**.

DOUBLE PLAY. A play in which two defensive players are put **OUT** as a result of continuous action.

EJECTED PLAYER. A **PLAYER** or **COACH** removed from the game by an **OFFICIAL**, usually for an **UNSPORTSMANLIKE** act or unacceptable behaviour.

EXITING PLAYER. A **PLAYER** who has been deemed **OUT** and is in the act of leaving the court.

FAIR TERRITORY. The internal part of the court, the area inside the marked court boundaries.

FALSE START. When a **PLAYER** crosses the back line prior to the whistle to initiate the **RUSH**.

1. After the **MATCH OFFICIALS** call the **PLAYERS** to 'Line up!', 'Ready!' the **PLAYERS** should remain stationary and not move forwards until the starting whistle if a **PLAYER** does move forward it will be considered a **FALSE START**.

FORFEIT. A Set **FORFEIT** occurs when a team fails to field the required number of **PLAYERS** at the start of a Set. A **MATCH FORFEIT** occurs when a team fails to show up to play or fails to field 4 **PLAYERS** and the opposing team claims the win.

FLOOR STRIKE. A **LIVE BALL** that strikes the floor and a **PLAYER** at the same time. The **PLAYER** is not **OUT**.
(Previously known as a Trap in Europe.)

GAME. A general term for a contest between 2 teams.

HEAD REFEREE. The **MATCH OFFICIAL** who is in charge of all **OFFICIALS** and has final say on all decisions.

HEAD SHOT. A ball that strikes the head of a **PLAYER** above the shoulders, including the neck. This is a valid **ATTEMPT** and a **PLAYER** struck on the head is **OUT**, unless the **REFEREE** believes it was intentionally used in an unsportsmanlike fashion (to intentionally injure an opposing **PLAYER**).

HOME TEAM. The home team shall be designated by schedule, mutual agreement or by a flip of a coin.

HONOUR SYSTEM. The standard of fair play required to be exhibited by all teams at EDBF events.

ILLEGALLY THROWN BALL. An illegally thrown ball occurs when:

1. The thrower is **OUT OF BOUNDS**.

DEFINITIONS

2. A ball is thrown after an **OFFICIAL** calls a **TIMEOUT** or after play has stopped.
3. A ball has not yet become a **LIVE BALL** following the **RUSH**.

An illegally thrown ball is not able to **HIT** an opposition player **OUT** but can be caught by the opposition or used for a **BLOCK ATTACK**.

ILLEGAL ATTEMPT. An **ATTEMPT** is illegal if propelled through the air by a **PLAYER** at the opposing team, when it is not thrown. It is also a ball that the **OFFICIAL** deems has been delivered with inappropriate intent, such as to injure, e.g., after play has stopped or at the face of an opponent when other body parts were an option.

INTERFERENCE. Interfering with the natural direction and/or speed of a dodgeball.

1. Interference can be caused by a **PLAYER** or spectator who is not actively involved in play, i.e., a **PLAYER** who is out, a team member, club member or **COACH** not involved in the period or a spectator.
2. Interference can also be the act of an opposing **PLAYER**, **OFFICIAL** or spectator that impedes, hinders or confuses a **PLAYER** from the opposing team attempting to execute a play. Physical contact is not necessary.

INVALID ATTEMPT. A ball which is thrown at the opposing team in such a manner that it is not aimed at one of the defending team's live **PLAYERS**. It is normally recognised that an **ATTEMPT** is invalid

1. If it is more than 1 metre/1 yard away from a **LIVE PLAYER** when the ball reaches the targeted starting position of the **PLAYER**.
2. If it is higher than the defending **PLAYER** can reach.
3. If the **PLAYER** would be forced to move **OUT OF BOUNDS** to make a **CATCH**.

IN FLIGHT. The term used for a thrown ball while airborne.

INELIGIBLE PLAYER. A **PLAYER** who has not met the requirements laid out by the EDBF or those specific to a tournament, league, or event (*i.e.*, under age, not registered for the team, ineligible due to disciplinary action or national eligibility)

LEAPING. An upward motion made by a **PLAYER**. A **PLAYER** is considered leaping if one or both feet have left the ground, causing their head to move above its normal upright standing position. **LINE UP CARD.** A **LINE UP CARD** will contain the names and shirt numbers for a maximum of 12 players that are designated as able to participate in a **MATCH**. Only a **PLAYER** submitted on a **LINE UP CARD** will be allowed to play during a **MATCH**.

LINES. The lines show the boundaries of the **COURT**. The actual line is **OUT OF BOUNDS**. If any part of a **PLAYER** touches any boundary line, or any surface beyond the boundary line, either wall or floor, they are **OUT**. The opposing team's court is considered as being over the boundary line.

LIVE BALL. A ball which has not come into contact with anything else other than the following (**LIVE BALL**, **DEAD BALL**, **LIVE PLAYER**, **EXITING PLAYER**) from the moment it is released from the thrower's hand.

You can only be **HIT OUT** by a **LIVE BALL**, only a **LIVE BALL** can be caught. A **LIVE BALL** is:

1. A **THROWN** ball that has not touched a wall, floor, ceiling, posts or any attached objects of the court.
2. Been put into play by passing it across the **ATTACK LINE** or to a **PLAYER** with both feet behind the **ATTACK LINE** immediately following a **RUSH**.
3. Been passed by a **RETRIEVER** or an **EXITING PLAYER** to a **LIVE PLAYER** with both feet behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
4. Been placed on **COURT** behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
5. Not touched a surface beyond a side line or back line when playing on an **OPEN COURT**.
- 4.
5. **LIVE PLAYER.** A **PLAYER** that is within the court boundaries and considered to be able to make attacking and defensive actions.
- 6.
7. **MATCH.** The contest between 2 teams', consisting of two 15 minute halves, with a 5 minute half-time break.
- 8.
9. **NEUTRAL ZONE.** The area extended from the **CENTRE LINE** by 1.5 meters on each team's side of the court. This area may be occupied by **PLAYERS** from both teams. A **PLAYER** may safely step into the **NEUTRAL ZONE**, but not across. A **PLAYER** crossing over the **NEUTRAL ZONE**, into their opponents territory, is deemed out, except in the case of a **SACRIFICE PLAY**.

DEFINITIONS

10. **NO STALLING RULE.** A instruction of '**Play n Balls**' by the **OFFICIALS** warning the team with the majority of the balls, that they have no more than 5 seconds to make a valid attempt with **n** of the balls in their possession. Failing this, the **OFFICIAL** calls the offending **PLAYERS** out and play continues.
1. **n** signifies the number of balls the **OFFICIAL** expects to be thrown within their 5 second instruction and will be 1 less than the number of balls that the **OFFICIAL** considers to be in the teams possession or in reachable distance.
 2. At least 3 balls must be considered to be in play.
 3. The **TEAM** with the majority of these balls in their possession or within their reach will be considered to be stalling by the **MATCH OFFICIALS** if they do not appear to be making an **ATTEMPT** after 5 seconds of possession and **MATCH OFFICIALS** will instruct the **TEAM** to **PLAY n BALLS**

OBSTRUCTION. The act of an **EXITING PLAYER** who intentionally:

1. Alters or attempts to alter the path of a **LIVE BALL**.
2. Shields or attempts to shield one of his teammates while exiting.

OFFICIAL/OFFICIALS. Responsible for implementing the rules and regulations of the sport. All judgement calls of the officials are final. An **OFFICIAL** can be a Referee, Scorer, or Line Judge. Tournament Co-ordinators and Director of the Governing Body can also make calls, to assist officials, if they see an incident which **MATCH** officials have missed.

OPEN COURT. A court without walls or physical barriers.

OUT. The state of a **PLAYER** once they are no longer considered to be a **LIVE PLAYER**.(Also see **EXITING PLAYER**)

OUT OF BOUNDS. The area of the court outside the marked court boundaries.

OVERTIME. In knockout tournament play, **OVERTIME** is played at the end of a **MATCH** when both teams have won an equal number of sets in the **MATCH**. All 6 **PLAYERS** return to the **COURT** and an additional overtime **SET** starts if this is drawn at 3 minutes the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will call sudden death.

PENALTY BOX. Area in which a penalised **PLAYER** must remain for 5 minutes of continuous **GAME** time.

PINCHING. Squeezing a ball in order to alter the flight of the thrown ball or resulting block.

PLAY N BALLS. Is an instruction from an **OFFICIAL** to make a valid **THROW** with **N** number of balls in a teams possession. **N** is the number of balls that the **OFFICIAL** expects the team to make valid attempts with and this number of balls must be used.

1. At least 3 balls must be considered to be in play.
2. The **TEAM** with the majority of these balls in their possession or within their reach will be considered to be stalling by the **MATCH OFFICIALS** if they do not appear to be making an **ATTEMPT** after 5 seconds of possession and **MATCH OFFICIALS** will instruct the **TEAM** to **PLAY n BALLS**

PLAYER/PLAYERS. Participants in a team.

PROTESTS. A dispute made to the **OFFICIALS** by the designated manager, coach, assistant coach, team captain or assistant captain within the court boundaries of the following:

1. An incorrect application of a playing rule.
2. An illegal **PLAYER**.
3. An ineligible **PLAYER**.

QUEUE. The area on one side of the court where players in the current **MATCH** retire when put **OUT**. **PLAYERS** must sit/stand in the order they are **OUT** until the **SET** is over. (Previously known as Player Return Area in Europe).

DEFINITIONS

RECOVERING A DODGEBALL. When a Retriever returns a ball into play behind the **ATTACK LINE** by passing it to one of their team or placing it on court.

RESET. Starting or restarting a **SET** this is expected to take no more than 20 seconds during normal **MATCH** play.

RETRIEVERS. Substitutes or other non-playing members of a team who are designated to retrieve dodgeballs for their team during live play.

RETURNEE. A **PLAYER** who returns to live play from the **QUEUE**, when a member of the same team successfully completes a **CATCH**.

RUSH. The act of both teams rushing to centre court to retrieve balls. This may happen at the beginning of each set or whenever an **OFFICIAL** declares a re-set.

SACRIFICE PLAY. An airborne attack, where an attacking player may jump from within the **NEUTRAL ZONE** into their opponents **FAIR TERRITORY** to make an **ATTEMPT** while still airborne. If the **ATTEMPT** is successful either by making a **HIT** or forcing an opponent to make themselves **OUT** by avoiding it the attacking player will be considered to still be a **LIVE PLAYER** and must return to the **NEUTRAL ZONE** as quickly as possible.

SET/SETS. A period of play which begins with both teams behind the **BACK LINE** and with a **RUSH** to commence play when indicated by an **OFFICIAL**. The maximum time for a **SET** is 3 minutes of continuous play. The winning team will receive one point towards their **MATCH** score. A **SET** concludes when one team has eliminated all members of the opposing team or when 3 minutes or all remaining time within a **MATCH** half expires. *(Previously known as a Game or Period in some countries).*

SHORT-HANDED. When a **TEAM** is unable to field the required minimum of 4 **PLAYERS**.

SIDELINE. The line, along each side of the court, which separates the playing area from the surrounding area.

SIMULTANEOUS HIT AND CATCH. Occurs when **DEFENSIVE PLAYER** catches a ball and is **HIT** by another ball simultaneously.

SIMULTANEOUS PLAY. A simultaneous play occurs when two or more players are **HIT** and/or **CATCH** balls at exactly the same time.

SPECTATOR. An individual who is not playing on court, is not in the **QUEUE**, during a game and who is not named as a substitute for a team which is playing.

SUBSTITUTE. Any member of a team's roster who is not a starting **PLAYER** in a set or a **PLAYER** who enters the game as a replacement of an existing **PLAYER** who has become injured. A **SUBSTITUTE** must abide by the rules of a **PLAYER** even when not playing.

TAUNTING. Verbally abusing the opposition, in an **UNSPORTSMANLIKE** manner, as determined by the officials.

TEAM. A team consists of 6 **PLAYERS** and a minimum of 4 **PLAYERS** on court plus substitutes.

THROW. Another term for an **ATTEMPT**

TACTICAL TIMEOUT. Each Team has the option to call for a 1 minute **TACTICAL TIMEOUT** this must be communicated by the Acting **COACH** or **CAPTAIN** of the **TEAM** before the **MATCH OFFICIALS** have called the **TEAMS** to be ready for the next **SET**.

TIMEOUT. A stop in play called by an **OFFICIAL** due to a **PLAYER** injury or other incident which requires the timer/stopwatch to be paused.

DEFINITIONS

TRAPPING. The act of catching a ball in flight by pinning it between a wall, floor, or other object that would otherwise render the ball dead. Trapping is not considered a valid **CATCH** and the **PLAYER** executing the trap is deemed **OUT**.

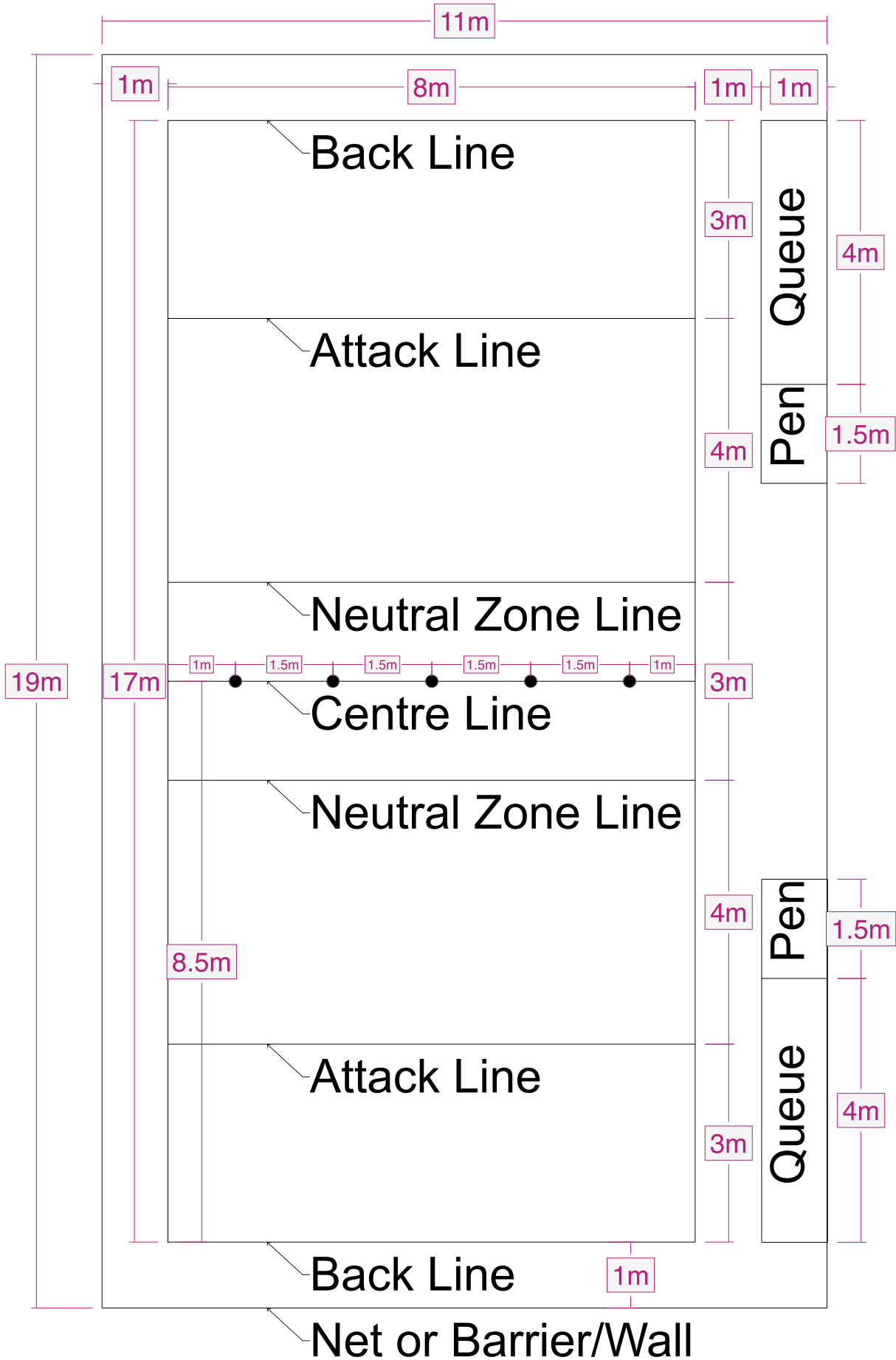
UNDER CONTROL when it is in possession and in control of a **PLAYER** with at least one hand in contact with the ball (*i.e., A ball caught between a players knees, must have a hand on the ball while it is under the player's control for it to be considered a **CATCH***).

UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOUR. Unacceptable behaviour for an international representative.

VOIDED PLAY. A play that results in no action. No players are deemed **OUT**, any catches are void, and no **PLAYERS** are allowed to re-enter from the **QUEUE**.

WALL STRIKE. A **LIVE BALL**, which strikes a **PLAYER** and a wall or other court support at the same time. The **PLAYER** is not **OUT** and the ball is deemed a **DEAD BALL**.

Official Court Diagram



Rule 1 - The Playing Area

Section 1. The Court

1. The court is the area within which the balls may be legally played and **PLAYERS** can be **HIT** or make a **CATCH**.
2. There shall be a clear and unobstructed area between the back lines & side lines and any walls, nets or barriers beyond the court boundaries.
3. An **OFFICIAL** shall inspect the court for suitability for play prior to the start of the **MATCH**.

Section 2. Court Layout

1. The official dimensions for a regulation court are as follows:
 1. The Court is 17 metres/18.7 yards in length and 8 metres/8.8yards wide.
 1. The **CENTRE LINE** is marked across the court at exactly half way between each **BACK LINE** and should continue for 1 meter outside of the court lines to indicate where a **RETRIEVER** can retrieve balls from before they have passed this line, should a **RETRIEVER** collect a ball that has passed this line the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will instruct that the ball be returned to the opposing teams back court area.
 2. The **NEUTRAL ZONE** will be marked 3 metres/3.28 yards, wide with lines which are 1.5 metres/1.64 yards either side of the **CENTRE LINE**.
 3. An **ATTACK LINE** will be marked across the court 3 metres from each **BACK LINE**.
 2. At least 1metre/1yard should be allotted for an out of bound area, allowing officials to move freely along the side lines.
 3. The **QUEUE** for each team is a 1m/1yard X 4m/4yards area, and should be located at least 1m/1yard from the side line, leaving enough room for officials to move freely along the side of the court. It will be marked out from a point which is level with the **BACK LINE**, running parallel with the side line.
 4. When used, ball tees shall be made of a soft rubber or a non-slip material, measuring 3" in diameter large enough to hold a EDBF Dodgeball in position.
 5. The court should have four enclosed walls or barriers, wherever possible, with netting, or some type of solid barrier to prevent balls from exiting the court.
 6. Ceilings should be least 4 metres/4.4 yards high whenever possible.
2. Every effort should be made to obtain the correct dimensions. However court size may be adjusted to best suit the available space.
3. Wherever possible courts will have a wall or solid barrier 1 meter behind the back line.
4. Ball Placement: Five balls are placed in the **NEUTRAL ZONE** on the **CENTRE LINE**. The balls shall be placed an equal distance from each other.
 1. The **MATCH OFFICIAL** can mark the **CENTRE LINE** to show the placement of dodgeballs at the start of each **SET**. Starting at 1m with 1.5m intervals (1m, 2.5m, 4m, 5.5m, 7m)

Rule 2 - Equipment

Section 1. The Official Dodgeball

1. All EDBF sanctioned events must use EDBF approved balls.
2. EDBF sanctioned dodgeballs can be designed in any way appropriate with designs and sponsor's logo's as approved and deemed acceptable by EDBF.
3. Balls used in EDBF regulation play must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the official, be appropriate for **MATCH** play.
4. Approved dodgeballs will be made of a butyl bladder, covered by webbing and a textured no-sting cloth covering which has a 2mm (1/16 inch) layer of foam directly underneath it.
5. Approved dodgeballs shall be 7 inches/18.7cm. in diameter when measured across the width of the inflated ball.
6. The ball pressure should be set at 1.6-1.8 psi (pounds per square inch) or 0.110-0.125 bars.

Section 2. Uniforms and Protective Equipment

1. Uniforms and protective equipment are considered part of the **PLAYER**. Any **PLAYER HIT** on any part of their uniform or protective equipment will be considered **OUT**.
2. Uniforms must be worn by each team **PLAYER**.
3. Uniforms must be similar in colour and graphic style, sleeves may be of differing lengths. The uniform should display the team name along with a visible number unique to each **PLAYER**. Team logos can also be displayed on uniforms.
4. Sponsor's names and logos must be approved by EDBF before they can be displayed on a team uniform at EDBF events.
5. Offensive and/or otherwise obscene and discriminatory graphics and text will not be allowed.
6. A **PLAYER** will not be penalised for a uniform miss-match as result of the blood rule or should their uniform become damaged in the course of a game.
7. All protective equipment must be worn correctly and be in working condition.
8. An **OFFICIAL** may at any time request a **PLAYER** to change uniform, require an adjustment, or removal of any equipment, including jewellery, watches/timing devices.
 1. If such equipment poses a significant risk to safety or is in violation of EDBF rules, the **PLAYER** will be instructed to remove the items which pose the risk.
 2. Should a **PLAYER** refuse, they will not be allowed to play.
 3. Medical alert bracelets and necklaces are exempt from this ruling but should be taped for safety if possible injury could occur.
9. Headgear.
 1. Headbands and protective helmets are the only optional headgear for **PLAYERS**.
 2. Ball caps, visors, and other head coverings are not allowed in tournament play. Bandannas do not qualify as headbands and cannot be worn around the head, neck, or wrist/arm.
10. Pants/Shorts.
 1. Teams may choose to wear sport pants or shorts as long as they are alike in colour and style.
 2. No **PLAYER** may wear ragged, frayed or slit legs on exposed pants.
 3. Female players can wear sport pants, shorts, skorts, sports skirts, sports dresses or leggings (Black is an alternative acceptable colour for leggings, when worn all players wearing leggings must wear the same colour), as long as all **PLAYERS** on the team are wearing the correctly coloured team apparel.
11. Shirts.
 1. All team members must wear shirts that display unique **PLAYER** numbers and are similar in colour and graphic style, sleeve lengths may vary.
 2. Visible undershirts may be either long or short sleeved, no restrictions on colours or style apply. No **PLAYER** may wear ragged, frayed, cut off, or slit uniform items.

12. Numbers.

1. An Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting colour, at least six inches (15.24cm) high must be worn and be visible on the back of all uniform shirts.
2. No **PLAYER** on the same team may wear identical numbers. (Numbers 0 and 00 or 3 and 03 are examples of identical numbers.)
3. A **PLAYER** without a number will not be permitted to play.

13. Cast/Prostheses.

1. Prostheses may be worn. All casts, braces, and splints with exposed hard surfaces must be padded.
2. No **PLAYER** will be allowed to play should an **OFFICIAL** determine their equipment poses a significant risk to the safety of other players, or which changes the fundamental nature of the game or enhance the ability of a **PLAYER** such as to give them an advantage.

14. Gloves.

1. Gloves may not be worn.
2. The only exceptions shall be when a **PLAYER** can prove there is a medical or health requirement for them to wear a glove or hand covering. If a glove or gloves are allowed for medical reasons they must not be able to enhance the ability of a **PLAYER** to play the game.

15. Jewellery.

1. Exposed jewellery, if judged by an **OFFICIAL** to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.
2. Medical alert bracelets/necklaces are not considered jewellery. If worn, they must be secured to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.
3. If a **PLAYER** wears jewellery which is not noticed by an **OFFICIAL** and the item causes injury to the **PLAYER** wearing the jewellery or to another **PLAYER**, on either team, the **PLAYER** wearing the jewellery will be held fully responsible for all personal injury caused by not following rules.

16. Goggles.

1. Goggles may be worn.
2. Eye glasses should be secured with head straps.

17. Shoes.

1. Must be worn at all times.
2. All shoes must be made of canvas, leather, or similar material and possess a rubber non-marking sole.
3. An **OFFICIAL** may deem any footwear unsafe at their discretion. A **PLAYER** will only be allowed to play with footwear deemed safe.

Section 3. Uniform Guide

Uniform or equipment which affects the safety of all participants, **OFFICIALS**, and spectators.

1. No uniform or equipment will be allowed which is deemed dangerous or harmful to the wearer or to other **PLAYERS**.
2. No equipment or uniform item will be allowed which significantly enhances **PLAYER** performance beyond the normal limits of individual skill.

Section 4. All Equipment

1. Not with standing the foregoing, the EDBF reserves the right to withhold or withdraw approval of any equipment which in the sole determination of the EDBF, significantly changes the character of the game.

Section 5. Exterior Substances

1. Substances applied to the exterior of team uniform or onto the skin of a **PLAYER** which enhance the ability to throw or to catch are not allowed.

RULE 2 - EQUIPMENT

2. Substances applied to the exterior of **PLAYERS** skin, which are applied for medical reasons are allowed, but they must be covered by a dressing which is not in breach of **Rule 2. Section 2 - 14.2.**
3. Substances applied to aid a **PLAYER** injury, such as a heat spray or cold spray, are allowed to be applied.

Rule 3 - Players, Coaches & Substitutes

Section 1. Players

TEAMS consist of six **PLAYERS** with up to six substitutes. All **PLAYERS** must be in uniform with their name and numbers listed on the line up sheet. **PLAYERS** cannot be added after the **MATCH** has begun.

4. A team can consist of no more than 12 **PLAYERS**. A **PLAYER** may only participate in a tournament they have registered for.
5. Mixed teams must field a team consisting of both genders but no more than 3 **PLAYERS** of a single gender may be on court at anytime. Open Category competition teams may consist of either gender. Any ratio of men and women may participate, including all male and all female teams.

Section 2. Coaches

1. The **COACH** is a person who is responsible for the team's actions on the court and will represent the team in communication with the officials and opposing team.
2. A player may be designated as a **COACH**. In the event the **COACH** is absent or that player is acting as a **PLAYER-COACH**. In the absence of a **COACH** or **PLAYER-COACH** the captain will represent their team. Coaches must be neatly attired or dressed in the team uniform.
3. In championship play, coaches shall not display the names and/or logos of any other dodgeball associations on their uniform, other than the logo of their National Governing Body.
4. Coaches may not use language that will reflect negatively upon **PLAYERS**, **OFFICIALS** or spectators.
5. A **COACH** may address only their team members and the **OFFICIALS** when they are making a genuine appeal of incorrect procedure.
6. A **COACH** must remain in the **QUEUE** area for their team, which is marked out at the side of the court. They must not enter the court without justification from an **OFFICIAL**.
7. Coaches are subject to all rules of conduct.

Section 3. Line-up Cards.

1. A **LINE-UP CARD** must be completed and submitted to the **COMPETITION CO-ORDINATOR** or to a **HEAD REFEREE** before their team's first **SET** of a **MATCH**.
2. A **LINE-UP CARD** cannot be changed once the **MATCH** has begun.
3. **PLAYERS** shall be official once the **LINE-UP CARD** is inspected and approved by the **HEAD REFEREE, COACH**, team manager, or representative at the pre-match meeting.
4. The **LINE-UP CARD** shall contain
 1. **PLAYERS** section. The first name, last name, and uniform number of each **PLAYER** including substitutes. If an incorrect number is on the **LINE-UP CARD**, an **OFFICIAL** may correct it, and allow a team to continue playing with no penalty.
 2. **COACHES** section.
 1. The first name, last name of anyone the TEAM designate to be allowed in the coaching area.
 2. Only a **PLAYER** listed on the **LINE-UP CARD** or a person named under this section on the submitted **LINE-UP CARD** will be allowed in the coaching area.
 3. **RETRIEVERS** section.
 1. The first name, last name of each **RETRIEVER** that is not included as a **PLAYER**.
 2. Only a **PLAYER** listed on the **LINE-UP CARD** or a person named under this section on the submitted **LINE-UP CARD** will be allowed to act as a **RETRIEVER**.

Section 4. Substitutions

1. Substitutions must be made prior to the start of a **SET**. No substitutions can be made during a **SET**, except in cases of injury.

2. Should a **PLAYER** become injured that **PLAYER** is replaced by the next available player in the **QUEUE**. A substitute will come into the **MATCH** by taking the last place in the **QUEUE**; the substitute will join the **QUEUE** immediately from the bench.
3. In a Mixed Team **MATCH**, the substitute **PLAYER** must be of the same gender and in **QUEUE** order. If there are no other same gender **PLAYERS**, that team will play **SHORT-HANDED**.
4. If a substitute is discovered to be an ineligible **PLAYER**, that **PLAYER** must be replaced immediately by an eligible **PLAYER**.

Section 5. Short-Handed Rule

1. Starting a game.
 1. A team may begin a **SET** one or two **PLAYERS** short.
 2. Under no circumstances shall a team be permitted to start a game with less than 4 **PLAYERS**.
 1. The **TEAM** will **FORFEIT** a **SET** every 20 seconds until they are able to field 4 **PLAYERS**.
 1. **MATCH OFFICIALS** will time each 20 seconds **RESET** until the **TEAM** is able to start with the required 4 **PLAYERS**.
 2. Should less than 20 seconds of a half remain all timers will run until the end of the half and the **TEAM** will **FORFEIT** another **SET**.
2. Games in progress.
 1. A substitute may not enter a **SET** in progress until the start of a new **SET**, except in the case of an injury.
 2. Should a **PLAYER** listed on the roster arrive late and is of the proper gender, they may enter the line-up at the start of the next **SET**.
 3. Any **PLAYER** removed on a **YELLOW CARD** offence (see **Rule 3 Section 7**) must remain in the **PENALTY BOX** until 5 minutes of **MATCH** play has completed.

Section 6. Ineligible Players

1. An **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** is a **PLAYER** who is not part of a team's official roster or not listed on the **LINE-UP CARD**.
2. A **PLAYER** will not violate the **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** rule until the **RUSH** or a ball has been thrown.
3. If the **PLAYER** is deemed ineligible the **OFFICIAL** will:
 1. Remove the **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** from the court.
 2. The offending team will continue to play without the **INELIGIBLE PLAYER** being replaced for the remainder of the **MATCH** i.e, a **TEAM** with 2 **PLAYERS** that are **INELIGIBLE** would be allowed to continue with 4 **PLAYERS** only for the remainder of the **MATCH**.

Section 7. Ejected Player/Team Penalty

(**YELLOW CARD** Offence)

1. An **EJECTED PLAYER** is restricted to the **PENALTY BOX** for 5 minutes of live play. The 5 minutes can take place across the half time break. The time in the **PENALTY BOX** will be paused during half time or if there is an injury **TIMEOUT**.
2. An Ejected **COACH** must remove them self from the playing area and remain outside the barriers and/or nets which enclose the court, for the rest of the day's play.
3. Should an act be determined to be flagrant, aggressive or abusive the **PLAYER** or **COACH** may be required to leave the venue or the event. The offending **PLAYER** or **COACH** will be recorded as receiving a Red Card by the **MATCH OFFICIAL** or tournament **OFFICIALS**.
4. Any **EJECTED PLAYER** discovered participating in the game will constitute a **FORFEIT**.
5. **TEAM PENALTY (TEAM YELLOW CARD Offence)**

1. A **TEAM** receiving a **TEAM PENALTY** will lose a starting **PLAYER** for all **MATCHES** within that 5 minute period.
 1. The 5 minute period will be timed by the **MATCH OFFICIALS** and will begin from the starting whistle of the **TEAMS** next **SET**.
 1. If the **TEAM PENALTY** occurs in the final **SET** of a **MATCH** half or of a **MATCH** it will begin from the 1st **SET** of the next **MATCH** half or **MATCH**.
 2. A **TEAM PENALTY** Timer will be paused during half time and between **MATCHES**.
 2. Once the **TEAM PENALTY** timer has expired the amount of starting **PLAYERS** can increase by 1 up to the maximum of 6.
 1. The **TEAM PENALTY** timer must have expired before the **MATCH OFFICIALS** call the **TEAMS** to line up for the next **SET**.

Section 8. Retrievers

1. A **RETRIEVER** is an individual designated to retrieve balls that go out of play. Teams are responsible for providing retrievers. There will normally be 2 Retrievers provided by each team. Tournament **OFFICIALS** will determine if more or fewer Retrievers are required and they will inform team coaches/captains before the start of play.
 1. A **RETRIEVER** may not enter the court at any time.
 2. A **RETRIEVER** may not wear a jersey of the same colour as their team uniform.
 3. A **RETRIEVER** is only allowed to field balls that are outside of the courts boundaries and have not passed the court's half way line.
 1. Each team will designate retrievers.
 1. Retrievers may be changed during the **RESET** between each **SET**.
 2. Retrievers can be ejected from play if they hoard dodgeballs which are needed in play.
 3. Retrievers must put balls into play as soon as possible.
 4. When returning a ball to play a **RETRIEVER** may either toss a ball to any active player behind the teams **ATTACK LINE** or place the ball on **COURT** behind the teams **ATTACK LINE**.
 5. Balls being returned from **OUT OF BOUNDS** must be returned to play by passing them onto the court behind their team's **ATTACK LINE**.
 4. For events not requiring retrievers the following rules apply:
 1. If there are **PLAYERS** in the **QUEUE**:
 2. Active **PLAYERS** may not go **OUT OF BOUNDS** to retrieve balls.
 3. One **PLAYER** may leave the **QUEUE** to retrieve a ball **OUT OF BOUNDS**.
 4. A **PLAYER** leaving the **QUEUE** to retrieve a ball is subject to all retriever rules and regulations.
 5. A **RETRIEVER** may not Touch, move or interfere with a ball that is within the **COURT** boundaries either through direct contact with the ball or by deliberate use of a ball they have **RETRIEVED**.
 1. Where a ball has been interfered with the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will determine which direction it should have continued and if needed the **RETRIEVER** will penalised.
2. If there are no **PLAYERS** in the **QUEUE**:
 1. One active **PLAYER** may go **OUT OF BOUNDS** to retrieve a ball.
 2. A **PLAYER** retrieving a ball must return promptly to their side of the court. Intentional delay will result in a penalty.
 3. A **LIVE PLAYER** leaving the court to retrieve a ball must leave the court behind their team's **ATTACK LINE**.
 1. The **PLAYER** must raise their hand above their head to indicate they are leaving court to retrieve a ball.
 2. The **PLAYER** remains a live target until they have made contact outside the playing area of the court.
 3. The retrieving **PLAYER** must come back into play by stepping back on to court over the back line.

4. A **LIVE PLAYER** retrieving balls is subject to all retriever rules and regulations.
3. If a **RETRIEVER** commits an infraction the **MATCH OFFICIALS** may choose to give a **TEAM RETRIEVER** warning depending on the nature of the infraction or a **YELLOW CARD**.

Section 9. Spectator Interference

1. Spectators may return a ball to play that has gone **OUT OF BOUNDS** by giving it to an official, retriever.

RULE 4 - THE MATCH

Section 1. Approved Style of Play

1. There is currently one approved style of play that is sanctioned by the EDBF (*See Rule 4-Section 5*)

Section 2. Home Team

1. The home team shall get first choice of court side.
2. In absence of a home team, choice of sides shall be determined by a coin toss.

Section 3. Bench Conduct

1. Coaches, **PLAYERS**, substitutes, or other personnel not taking part in live play, i.e., during a set, shall not be allowed inside the boundaries (barriers and/or nets) which designates the area of court play.
2. Violation of point 1 can result in a team **FORFEIT** of the **SET** being played.

Section 4. Fitness of the Court

1. The **OFFICIAL** shall determine the fitness of the court prior to the start of the **MATCH**.
2. The court must fit EDBF standards and be free of slip or trip hazards.
3. Over the course of the **MATCH**, should the court become hazardous, the **OFFICIAL** may call a **TIMEOUT** to clear the hazard.
4. A **RESET** will be called to resume play.

Section 5. Regulation Match and Game Type

1. Match:
 1. A regulation **MATCH** will consist of two 15 minute halves, with a five minute half-time break.
 2. The 15 minutes for the each half will be a running clock, i.e.15 minutes without pausing.
 1. If less than 30 seconds remain of a **MATCH** after a **SET** or **RESET** is completed the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will announce that a **FINAL 30 SECOND SET** will be played and the **MATCH** clock will be set for a **FINAL 30 SECOND SET**.
 1. All penalty timers will be paused when **MATCH OFFICIALS** announce the **FINAL 30 SECOND SET** and will restart when the **FINAL 30 SECOND SET** begins and will be paused again when it ends.
 3. The **HEAD REFEREE** or other **MATCH OFFICIAL** can halt play and call for a time out to stop the **MATCH** timing when they deem this to be necessary. (*See point 6*)
 4. Teams will change ends at half-time.
2. Sets:
 1. A **MATCH** will consist of an indeterminate number of **SETS**.
 2. A **SET** is when 2 teams line up behind the back line to start play with 4 to 6 players and they play until one team is eliminated, or until the time for the **SET** expires.
 3. A **SET** is played as an elimination game with a point awarded towards the **MATCH** score for the winning of each **SET**.
 4. The maximum time allowed for each **SET** is 3 minutes of continuous play.
 5. If the referee declares a **SET** ended due to 3 minutes of time being played, the winning team for that **SET** will be the team with the most **PLAYERS**, on court when the referee has ended the **SET**. If the two teams have an equal number of **PLAYERS**, still in when time expires at the end of a **SET**, it will be declared a draw and both teams receive 1 point towards the **MATCH** score.
 6. When a team is eliminated, or the time expires, teams will **RESET** for the next period. Teams must **RESET** immediately. **MATCH OFFICIALS** will allow 20 seconds for teams to **RESET**.

7. Upon completion of a **SET** the winning team receives 2 points towards their **MATCH** score if a **SET** is drawn both teams will be awarded 1 point.
3. After the **MATCH** has been completed, the points are totalled to determine a winner. The team with the highest points total wins the **MATCH**.
4. A tie or drawn **MATCH** will remain as such in league tables and tournament group or pool rounds. Competitions will normally use the following scoring system:
 1. The points awarded from **MATCH** play towards a league table or group/pool in tournament play will normally be 3 points for a **MATCH** win and 1 point for a drawn **MATCH**.
 2. In league and group/pool tables, round-robin competitions, the more points from **MATCH** play won by a team the higher they will be placed in the table.
 3. If 2 teams are tied on points in a table the number of **MATCH** wins will decide which team is placed higher.
 1. If this is equal, the team with the better **SETS** for and against difference will be placed higher.
 2. If they have won an equal number of **MATCHES** and **SETS** their head to head result(s) will be used to decide which team is the better placed.
 3. Failing all these tie-breaking methods a single **SET** will be played to determine which team is placed higher.
5. Overtime Set
 1. In knockout tournament play, an **OVERTIME SET** is played at the end of a **MATCH** when both teams have won an equal number of **SETS** in the **MATCH**. An additional **OVERTIME SET** starts.
 2. If this is drawn at 3 minutes the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will call "Sudden Death!" and the first team to eliminate an opposing player wins the **MATCH**.
6. An **OFFICIAL** is empowered to stop a **MATCH** at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic, or any other causes that place the patrons or **PLAYERS**, in peril.
 1. A **MATCH** stopped by an **OFFICIAL** is deemed regulation if three or more **SETS** have been completed.
 2. If the **MATCH** is considered regulation, the team winning the majority of the **SETS** is declared the winner.
 3. Matches not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.
 4. Stopped matches that result in a tie, may be resumed with a **RESET**, consisting of the same number of **PLAYERS**, at the point the **SET** was stopped.

Section 6. Forfeited Match and Forfeited Set

1. A forfeited **MATCH** shall be declared by the **OFFICIAL** in favour of the team not at fault in the following cases:
 1. If an **OFFICIAL** is physically attacked by any team member and/or spectator.
 2. If a team fails to appear on the court or is on the court but refuses to begin a **MATCH** at the scheduled or assigned time.
 3. If a team refuses to continue to play after the **MATCH** has begun, unless the **MATCH** has been suspended or terminated by the **OFFICIAL**.
 4. If, after the **OFFICIAL** has suspended play, one side fails to resume play within two minutes after the **OFFICIAL** signal to resume play.
 5. If a team employs tactics noticeably designed to delay the game.
 6. If after a warning by an **OFFICIAL**, any one of the rules of the game is wilfully violated.
 7. If the order for the ejection of a **PLAYER**, **COACH** or **TEAM MANAGER** is not obeyed.
 8. If the ejection of a **PLAYER** or **PLAYERS**, from the game results in fewer than the required number of **PLAYERS**, to continue the game at the next **SET** meaning the team is **SHORT-HANDED** after the **MATCH OFFICIALS RESET**
 1. The **TEAM** will **FORFEIT** a **SET** every 20 seconds until they are able to field 4 **PLAYERS**.

RULE 4 - THE MATCH

1. **MATCH OFFICIALS** will time each 20 seconds **RESET** until the **TEAM** is able to start with the required 4 **PLAYERS**.
2. Should less than 20 seconds of a half remain all timers will run until the end of the half and the **TEAM** will **FORFEIT** another **SET**. If an **EJECTED PLAYER** is discovered participating.
9. If a **PLAYER** is injured or becomes ill, leaving the team with less **PLAYERS**, than the required number of **PLAYERS**, for a full team.
10. Once a **MATCH** has been forfeited, the **FORFEIT** cannot be changed.
2. A forfeited **SET** will happen when a team is not on court to begin the first **SET** in a **MATCH** at the scheduled time and when the **MATCH OFFICIALS** and opposing team are present.
 1. The **HEAD REFEREE** will declare the first **SET FORFEIT** and then allow the team who has forfeited a maximum of 3 minutes to be ready for the second **SET** of the **MATCH**.
 2. Should the team still not be present and/or ready to begin play they will forfeit the **MATCH**.
 3. A **FORFEIT SET** can also occur when a team receives a Team **YELLOW CARD**.
3. Forfeit Scoring:
 1. A **FORFEIT SET** will award the one point for that **SET** to the non-offending team, towards their **MATCH** score.
 2. A **MATCH FORFEIT** will result in the non-offending team being awarded the win for that **MATCH** by 20 points to nil (20-0).

RULE 5 - STARTING THE GAME

Section 1. Beginning Play

1. Play begins with all **PLAYERS** positioned behind their team's **BACK LINE**.
 1. **PLAYERS** cannot be over the **BACK LINE** or touch the **BACK LINE** until after the **OFFICIALS** have signalled the start of play.
2. False Starts
 1. After the **MATCH OFFICIALS** call "Teams ready!" the **PLAYERS** should remain stationary and not move forwards until the starting whistle if a **PLAYER** does move forward it will be considered a **FALSE START**.
 2. In the event of a **FALSE START** the offending **TEAM** will forfeit a ball to their opponents starting with the centre ball and the **TEAMS** are then **RESET**.
 1. If both **TEAMS FALSE START** the **TEAM** which was deemed to have begun the **FALSE START** will be classed the offending **TEAM**.
 2. If the **MATCH OFFICIALS** are unable to determine which **TEAM** initiated the **FALSE START** the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will **RESET**
 3. At the **RESET** the offending **TEAM** will only be allowed to have a maximum of 2 runners for the uncontested balls designated for their **TEAM** if any remain.
 4. In the event of any additional **FALSE START** the balls are given to the other **TEAM** in the order of outside to inside, starting with the non-offending **TEAMS** balls first. Any balls given to the non-offending **TEAM** are deemed a **LIVE BALL** immediately upon the start of the **SET**, as soon as the **PLAYER** in possession has fully stepped onto the court.
3. The **HEAD REFEREE** or other designated Starter will address each team with these instructions:
 1. "Line up!" to order teams to take their places.
 2. The **OFFICIAL** then states "Teams ready!" for the teams to get into position to **RUSH**.
 3. The **OFFICIAL** will pause for approximately 1 second and then blow a whistle to signal the start of the **SET**.

Section 2. The Rush

1. The **RUSH** occurs at the beginning of each **SET** or **RESET**.
2. Upon an **OFFICIALS** signal, both teams **RUSH** to centre court and attempt to retrieve the two balls to their left designated for their team and the one ball in the centre (which is open to either team).
3. A maximum of 3 **PLAYERS** per team are allowed to **RUSH** for the balls.
 - 1.
4. A **PLAYERS** who are not Rushing for the balls, but who are waiting for the balls to be made **LIVE** must step onto the court at the start of the set.
 1. The non-rushing **PLAYERS** have until the rushers have reached the **CENTRE LINE** to step onto the court and enter the game.
 2. If a **PLAYER** has not stepped onto the court by the time the first rusher, from either team, has reached the balls on the centre line, that **PLAYER** will be called **OUT** for being off the court.
5. When retrieving their 2 designated balls on their left, only one foot of the **PLAYER** is allowed to cross the **CENTRE LINE**.
 1. If a designated ball is knocked off of the **CENTRE LINE** in the opponents direction the ball will be considered a **LIVE BALL** for the opponents which can be used immediately without needing to be returned to a **PLAYER** behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
 2. Only a **PLAYER** with a **LIVE BALL** may fully cross the **CENTRE LINE**
 1. Once a **LIVE BALL** has been **THROWN** or taken past the **CENTRE LINE** any **PLAYER** may fully cross the **CENTRE LINE**.
6. **PLAYERS** rushing for the centre ball are not allowed to put their feet across or onto the **CENTRE LINE** while trying to gain possession of the ball. The rushing **PLAYERS** are not

allowed to contact the line or the court over the line with any part of their body, including their uniform.

7. There is no limit to how many balls an individual **PLAYER** may retrieve.
8. A **PLAYER** may not slide or dive head first towards the **CENTRE LINE** of the court when rushing to gain possession of a ball on the **CENTRE LINE**. The offending **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**.
9. No deliberate physical contact between **PLAYERS** is allowed, the offending **PLAYER/ PLAYERS** will be called **OUT**. This applies to pushing, grabbing and leaning on to a **PLAYER** from the opposing team. Incidental contact when competing for the centre ball will not be penalised.
10. If two **PLAYERS** both have hold of the centre ball they are both allowed to keep hold of it and try to gain possession, as long as they do not initiate intentional physical contact (*see Section 2.9*). If one **PLAYER** is pulled over the **CENTRE LINE** by the other competing **PLAYER** without the pulling **PLAYER** being in breach of **Section 2.9**, the **PLAYER** who touches the court over the **CENTRE LINE** will be called **OUT**.
11. A team may cross the **CENTRE LINE** fully into the **NEUTRAL ZONE** once they have retrieved all of their available uncontested balls behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
12. Once all of a teams uncontested balls have been retrieved behind the **ATTACK LINE** the team may retrieve their opponents uncontested balls.

Section 3. Putting the ball in play during the Rush

1. During the **RUSH**, any ball retrieved from the **NEUTRAL ZONE** must be returned behind the **ATTACK LINE** before it may be thrown at an opponent.
2. There are several ways to put a ball into play following a **RUSH**. A **PLAYER** carries the ball across the **ATTACK LINE**.
 1. A **PLAYER** passes the ball to a teammate who is behind or carries it across the **ATTACK LINE**.
 2. A **RETRIEVER** passes the ball to a **PLAYER** with both feet in contact with the **COURT** behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
 3. A ball is live from the opening **RUSH** once it is in possession of a **PLAYER** that has both feet established and in contact with the court behind the **ATTACK LINE**.
 4. *See Section 2.5.1* regarding designated balls.
 5. Once a ball crosses the **ATTACK LINE** it remains in play until the end of the **SET** or until the game is **RESET** and a new **RUSH** is executed
3. A ball put in play by a **PLAYER** that hasn't crossed the **ATTACK LINE** is considered a **DEAD BALL**, any hits are voided plays.
4. A ball knocked from it's starting position on the **CENTRE LINE** towards the opposing team is considered to be in play and may be collected by the opposing team without penalty.

Section 4. Time Outs and Suspension of Play

1. Each team has the option to use a **TACTICAL TIMEOUT** of 1 minute this must be notified to the **HEAD REFEREE** immediately at the end of a **SET** before the **RESET** if it is not the **TIME OUT** will take place at the beginning of the following **SET**.
 1. **MATCH** and **PENALTY** timers will be paused during the **TACTICAL TIMEOUT** and will resumed immediately at the beginning of the next **SET**. An **OFFICIAL** may stop play if in their judgment an injury or hazard has occurred, or conditions justify such action.
2. An **OFFICIAL** may suspend play to assess penalties, settle verbal protests or to replace faulty equipment.
3. An **OFFICIAL** will suspend play if a **PLAYER** becomes injured, if in the official's judgment the **PLAYER** requires immediate attention. The **OFFICIAL** shall call a **TIME OUT** and seek first aid or contact emergency personnel.
4. Coaches and team medics are allowed on the court in the case of an injury.

5. During a break in play, all **PLAYERS** must remain on court, on the bench, or if **OUT** they must remain in their position in the **QUEUE**.

Section 5. Re-setting or Resuming Play

1. Play will resume from the point play was paused and on the instructions of **MATCH OFFICIAL**.

RULE 6 - EXITING PLAYERS

Section 1 Exiting Players

1. An **EXITING PLAYER** is a **PLAYER** who has been deemed **OUT** and is in the process of leaving the court.
2. An **EXITING PLAYER** is one who has been **HIT** and is obviously not attempting to, or has failed to catch the deflected ball.
3. **PLAYERS HIT** and attempting to **CATCH** the deflected ball are not considered an exiting player. Plays made against the **PLAYER** are resolved as follows:
 1. The player may be **HIT** and deemed **OUT** by additional throws.
 2. Catches made by the **PLAYER** are void, unless the **PLAYER** first catches the deflected ball saving themselves from the **OUT**
 3. The **PLAYER** may not do anything to eliminate an opponent until they have caught the deflection. All throws made by the **PLAYER** between the deflection and **CATCH** of the deflected ball are void.
4. Upon being deemed **OUT** an exiting **PLAYER** should raise a hand over their head. This signals that they're **OUT** and leaving the court, it also helps to prevent late hits and protects the **PLAYERS** head as they exit.
5. An **EXITING PLAYER** must exit the court as quickly as possible over the nearest side line or end line. They must then make their way to the **QUEUE** without interfering with play.
6. The **EXITING PLAYER** takes position at the end of the **QUEUE**, behind any previously **OUT** teammates.
7. A ball that has **HIT** an **EXITING PLAYER** which hasn't been intentionally deflected by that **PLAYER** is still a **LIVE BALL** and can be caught or **HIT** other **PLAYERS OUT**.
8. An **EXITING PLAYER** must not intentionally obstruct a **LIVE BALL** that is **IN FLIGHT** while leaving the playing area. This includes shielding other **PLAYERS**, catching, or otherwise altering the path of a **LIVE BALL**.
9. Should an **OFFICIAL** determine an exiting **PLAYER** has intentionally attempted to impact the play while leaving the court:
 1. The **OFFICIAL** will blow the whistle and stop play.
 2. The offending **EXITING PLAYER** shall receive a **YELLOW CARD** and will have to remain in the **PENALTY BOX** until the 5 minute penalty for the **PLAYER** has ended. At the end of this time the **PLAYER** will join the **QUEUE** as if the last **PLAYER** to be out.
 3. All balls will be given to the non-offending team.
 4. Play will then resume.

Section 2 Player Interference

1. An **EXITING PLAYER** must not intentionally obstruct an **IN FLIGHT LIVE BALL** while leaving the playing area. This includes shielding other players, catching, or otherwise altering the path of a live ball.
2. An **EXITING PLAYER** or those in the **QUEUE** may not throw balls at opposing players, catch, or interfere with the path of a **LIVE BALL**.
3. Any violation determined to be intentional **PLAYER** interference, will result in a **YELLOW CARD** for the offending **PLAYER**.

RULE 7 - RETURNING PLAYERS

Section 1. Returning Players

1. A Returnee is a **PLAYER** who has been deemed **OUT** and is waiting in the **QUEUE** to return to play.
2. **PLAYERS** from the **QUEUE** return to play in the order they were put out. Any violation of this rule will result in a **YELLOW CARD** for the offending **PLAYER**.
3. A **RETURNING PLAYER** must have both feet in the playing area to be deemed in bounds.
 1. A **PLAYER** must return to the court by stepping onto the court over the Back Line.
 2. A **PLAYER** is only eligible to be **OUT** once both feet are in the playing area.
 3. A **PLAYER** is only eligible to make a **CATCH** once both feet are in the playing area.
 4. If a **PLAYER** catches a ball before establishing both feet in bounds the play is void (i.e., A **PLAYER** entering from the **QUEUE** leaps across the side line into the court and catches a ball before both feet contact the ground. This would not be deemed a **CATCH**. No **OUT** or penalty would result.)
4. If a **RETURNEE** leaves the **QUEUE** for any reason, they must return to their original position in the **QUEUE**. The team will forfeit its ability to return a **PLAYER** from the **QUEUE** until that **PLAYER** returns to the **QUEUE**.

Section 2. Returning Order

1. **PLAYERS** shall return from the **QUEUE** in the order they were put out, i.e., first out first in (FOFI).

A **PLAYER** who enters out of turn receives a **YELLOW CARD**, and must immediately exit the court to the **PENALTY BOX**.

 1. This team loses the chance to add a new **PLAYER** and the **PLAYER** who was supposed to enter, remains in the front of the **QUEUE** but is not allowed to enter until the next opportunity.

RULE 8 - OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE PLAY

Section 1. Attempts

1. Balls may only be **THROWN**, with the exception of the **BLOCK ATTACK**. A **THROW** may be performed with one or both hands and be overhand, underhand, side arm or chest push/throw.
2. Intentionally kicking or spiking a ball will result in an **OUT** for the offending **PLAYER**.
3. A **PLAYER** may not **THROW** or kick the ball once play has stopped or after being called **OUT**, Actions deemed as flagrant or unnecessary, will result in a **PLAYER YELLOW CARD**.
4. A **PLAYER** should leave the ball on **COURT** at the position where they were **HIT** or called **OUT**.
5. A **THROW** must leave a **PLAYERS** hand. An opponent may not be "tagged" **OUT**.
6. **PLAYERS** are not allowed to roll a ball to the opposing team, unless instructed to do so by a **MATCH OFFICIAL**.
7. Attempts must be seen as valid attempts by the **OFFICIALS**. Failure to make valid attempts will result in the offending **PLAYERS** being called **OUT** by the officials.
 1. Transferring balls to the opponents half by any means other than an **ATTEMPT** or **BLOCK** will be considered an **INVALID ATTEMPT** and the **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**. Examples of this but not limited to are:
 1. Dropping a ball in a manner that causes it roll into the opponents **FAIR TERRITORY**.
 2. Carrying a ball into the **NEUTRAL ZONE** and leaving it there.

Section 2. Outs

1. A **PLAYER** deemed **OUT** becomes an **EXITING PLAYER** and must exit the court directly and join the end of their team's **QUEUE** accordingly.
2. A **PLAYER** is **OUT** at the moment of contact. Although the ball remains a **LIVE BALL** the **PLAYER** may no longer make any plays other than to **CATCH** the ball that put them **OUT**.
3. A **PLAYER** shall be deemed **OUT** when:
 1. **HIT** by a **LIVE BALL** on any part of the body including hair.
 2. Any article of clothing or uniform is **HIT** by a **LIVE BALL**.
 3. **HIT** by a **LIVE BALL**:
 1. Rebounding off of another **PLAYER** on the court.
 2. Rebounding off of another ball including balls blocked by opponents and/or teammates.
 3. Rebounding off of a ball lying on court.
4. A **LIVE BALL** they have thrown is:
 1. Caught **IN FLIGHT** by a defending **PLAYER**.
 2. Caught after rebounding off of another **PLAYER** by a defending **PLAYER**.
 3. Caught after rebounding off a ball lying on the court by a defending **PLAYER**.
5. The **PLAYER** crosses over the **NEUTRAL ZONE** in violation of **RULE 10**
6. An **OFFICIAL** has deemed that a **PLAYER** has committed a rules violation.
7. The **PLAYER** or team has been charged with a penalty, causing a **PLAYER** to be ejected from live play.

Section 3. Catches

1. A **CATCH** is deemed valid if the following conditions are met:
 1. The ball is a **LIVE BALL** and it is caught **IN FLIGHT** by a **LIVE PLAYER**.
 2. When a player jumps to make a **CATCH**, the **CATCH** is complete once the player has control of the ball. Any subsequent actions, such as being **HIT** by another ball or landing **OUT OF BOUNDS** will be seen as a separate action which happens after the **CATCH** and the **PLAYER** will be **OUT**.

RULE 8 - OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE PLAY

3. A ball shall be considered **UNDER CONTROL** when it is in possession and in control of a **PLAYER** with at least one hand in contact with the ball.
4. An **OFFICIAL** shall decide if the ball is **UNDER CONTROL**.
 1. For a catch to be considered complete it must be fully in control of the catching **PLAYER**
 2. Full control is established once at least one hand has been placed on the ball to secure the **CATCH** by the **PLAYER** (i.e., A ball caught between a players knees, must have a hand on the ball while it is under the player's control to be considered caught).
2. **TRAPPING** is the act of catching an **IN FLIGHT** ball by pinning it between a wall, floor, or other object that would otherwise render it a **DEAD BALL**. **TRAPPING** is not considered a valid **CATCH** and the **PLAYER** executing the trap is deemed **OUT**.
3. **PLAYERS** are not allowed to pull out their shirt or any other part of their uniform to **CATCH** a ball.
4. Jumping into an opponent's court is permitted when attempting to **CATCH** a ball providing it is not considered to be dangerous play by the **HEAD REFEREE** the **PLAYER** will be called **OUT** when the **PLAYER** makes contact with the floor.
 1. If it is considered to be dangerous the Jumping **PLAYER** will be penalised with a **YELLOW CARD**.

Section 4. Blocking

1. A **PLAYER** can use any **LIVE BALL** or **DEAD BALL** to **BLOCK** a ball which has been thrown by the other team.
2. The blocked ball remains a **LIVE BALL** and if it deflects off the blocking ball onto the blocking **PLAYER** or any other **PLAYER**, any **PLAYERS HIT** will be **OUT**.
3. When a **PLAYER** uses a ball to **BLOCK** a **THROWN** ball, they must retain full possession and control of the ball at all times. If the **BLOCK** causes the **PLAYER** to lose full control and fumble the ball in their possession or drop the ball they are using to block, they will be called **OUT**.
4. When a **PLAYER** uses a ball to **BLOCK** a **THROWN** ball, their hands to the wrist are considered to be part of the ball any contact on the hand before the wrist is not a **HIT**.
5. **A BLOCKED BALL** can be caught.
 1. If caught by the opposition the **BLOCKING PLAYER** is **OUT**
 2. If the caught ball was **THROWN** by the opposition and caught by a **PLAYER** from the **BLOCKING PLAYERS TEAM** the opposition **PLAYER** that threw the ball is **OUT**.

Section 5. No Stalling Rule

(Previously called Delay of Game or Five Seconds Violation in some countries)

1. The act of intentionally stalling the game is illegal. When a team has possession of three or more balls they have 5 seconds to make an attempt with the balls in their possession from the moment a **MATCH OFFICIAL** has called on them to "**Play n Balls.**"
 1. Once a **TEAM** has or can have possession of the majority of the balls in play the **MATCH OFFICIALS** will allow them 5 seconds to initiate an **ATTACK** if the **MATCH OFFICIALS** believe the **TEAM** to be intentionally stalling they will call "**Play n Balls.**"
 1. A ball is considered to be in possession when a **PLAYER** or **RETRIEVER** has the ball in hand or within a reachable distance.
 2. A minimum of 3 balls must be on **COURT** before a **MATCH OFFICIAL** will call "**Play n Balls.**"
2. Teams are allowed to retain possession of only one of the balls in their possession at the time they were instructed to "**Play n Balls.**"
3. When teams have possession of the majority of the balls they will be regarded as the team who must be active and make attempts on the other team.
4. If **PLAYERS** fail to make an **ATTEMPT** on the opposing team within 5 seconds, all **PLAYERS** who have possession of dodgeballs and **PLAYERS** who can have possession of a dodgeball, but have declined to pick up the ball, will be called **OUT** by a **MATCH OFFICIAL**.
5. When "**Play n Balls**" has been called by an **OFFICIAL**, the team with majority of the balls must make attempts which can get a member of the opposing team out. Their attempts must be seen as valid attempts by the **OFFICIALS**. Failure to make valid attempts will result in the offending **PLAYERS** being called **OUT** by the officials.

6. In situations where there are more dodgeballs on their side of the court than there are **PLAYERS**, all **PLAYERS** must make attempts within 5 seconds, until the opposing team has the majority of the balls; for example: a team has 2 **PLAYERS** left on court and they have all 5 balls in their possession, the **PLAYERS** must both throw balls and this would still mean they had most of the balls and they would have to both throw 2 more dodgeballs within another 5 seconds, as the rules states they can only keep one ball however as "**Play n Balls**" is an instruction based on stalling if they were to **THROW** another ball before the **OFFICIALS** called "**Play n Balls**" again they would no longer have the majority of balls and could retain 2 balls.
7. In situations where each team has an equal amount of balls the **OFFICIALS** will determine which team can be in possession of the majority of reachable balls based on the nearest **PLAYER** to any **DEAD BALL** within reachable distance on court.
 1. If each team has 2 balls and a ball is stationary in the **NEUTRAL ZONE** which ever team has the nearest **PLAYER** to the stationary ball will be deemed to have the majority of balls.
 2. A ball within a teams **FAIR TERRITORY** is considered to be in that teams possession.
8. **Play n Balls** situational examples:
 The reasoning on these examples is based on the following If a **PLAYER** in possession of a ball or multiple balls is **HIT** out during a "**Play n Balls.**" call they will be unable to throw the balls held and they are not in possession of another **PLAYER** nor can another **PLAYER** be considered to have declined to pick them up as they were in possession of an active **PLAYER** during the "**Play n Balls.**" call.
 1. Team has 3 balls in possession **OFFICIALS** call 'Play 2 Balls' and 2 **PLAYERS** have begun to **THROW** but 1 **PLAYER** is **HIT** before making a **THROW** and only 1 ball is **THROWN** this means that a 2nd ball needs to be **THROWN** before the call to 'Play 2 Balls' expires or a **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**.
 2. Team has 3 balls in possession **OFFICIALS** call 'Play 2 Balls' and 2 **PLAYERS** have begun to **THROW** but both **PLAYERS** are **HIT** before making a **THROW** this means that the 3rd ball in the teams possession must be **THROWN** before the call to 'Play 2 Balls' expires or a **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**.
 3. Team has 3 balls in possession **OFFICIALS** call 'Play 2 Balls' and 1 **PLAYER** with possession of 2 balls is **HIT** before making a **THROW** this means that the 3rd ball in the teams possession must be **THROWN** before the call to 'Play 2 Balls' expires or a **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**.
 4. Team has 3 balls in possession **OFFICIALS** call 'Play 2 Balls' and 2 **PLAYERS** have begun to **THROW** 1 **PLAYERS** has possession of 2 balls and is **HIT** before making a **THROW** this means that the 3rd ball in the teams possession must be **THROWN** before the call to 'Play 2 Balls' expires or a **PLAYER** will be called **OUT**.
 5. Team has 3 balls in possession **OFFICIALS** call 'Play 2 Balls' and 2 **PLAYERS** have begun to **THROW** 1 **PLAYERS** has possession of 2 balls and another **PLAYER** has possession of the 3rd ball and both are **HIT** before making a **THROW** this means that the call to 'Play 2 Balls' must end and a new 'Play 2 Balls' be called.

Section 6. Pinching

1. Holding a ball in order to alter the normal flight pattern of the thrown ball.
 1. Pinching is when a **PLAYER** holds the outer cover of the dodgeball between thumb and fingers.
 2. Pinching the ball when throwing it is an **ILLEGAL ATTEMPT**.
 3. Inserting fingers through splits or tears in the outer cover of the ball is also regarded as Pinching.
2. Any individual or team found pinching will be assessed as called **OUT**.
 1. Persistent pinching can result in a **YELLOW CARD** offence being declared by the **MATCH OFFICIALS** on the offending **PLAYER**.

RULE 9 - OUT OF BOUNDS

Section 1 Out Of Bounds

1. If any part of the **PLAYERS** body touches a **BACK LNE**, **SIDE LINE** or oppositions **NEUTRAL ZONE** line the **PLAYER** shall be deemed **OUT**.
2. A foot or feet must touch ground in **FAIR TERRITORY** (within the court boundary lines) with no part of their body touching on or outside a boundary line for a **PLAYER** to be considered in bounds. The **BACK LNE**, **SIDE LINE** and **NEUTRAL ZONE** line, in the opposition's court, are considered **OUT OF BOUNDS**.
3. The following actions will result in an **OUT** when:
 1. A **PLAYER** steps **OUT OF BOUNDS** or on a **BACK LINE**, **SIDE LINE** or oppositions **NEUTRAL ZONE** line.
 2. A **PLAYER** intentionally throws a ball at an opponent from **OUT OF BOUNDS**. No **HIT** or **CATCH** will be called and no **PLAYERS** are returned from the **QUEUE**. Flagrant or repeat violations will result in a **YELLOW CARD**.
 3. A **PLAYER** steps out of bound to avoid a hit.
 4. A **PLAYER** steps **OUT OF BOUNDS** to make a catch.
4. Momentum may carry a **PLAYER OUT OF BOUNDS** while making a **CATCH**. The **CATCH** will be good, providing control of the ball is established before going **OUT OF BOUNDS**, but the **PLAYER** will subsequently be called out after making the **CATCH**.

RULE 10 - NEUTRAL ZONE

Section 1 Neutral Zone

1. The **NEUTRAL ZONE** is an area the width of the court and 3 meters (3.3 yards) wide, spaced equally either side of the **CENTRE LINE** the. **NEUTRAL ZONE** Lines are 1.5 m either side of the **CENTRE LINE**.
2. A **PLAYER** may safely step into the **NEUTRAL ZONE** but not across into the opposing teams **FAIR TERRITORY**. Any **PLAYER** crossing over the **NEUTRAL ZONE** is deemed **OUT**.
3. A **PLAYER** is considered crossing the **NEUTRAL ZONE** if any part of the **PLAYERS** body touches the ground over or on the **NEUTRAL ZONE** line in the opposing teams **FAIR TERRITORY**.
4. **PLAYERS** may reach across the **NEUTRAL ZONE** into the opposing teams **FAIR TERRITORY** to retrieve a ball.
5. A **PLAYER HIT** while in the **NEUTRAL ZONE** is deemed **OUT**.
6. The **SACRIFICE PLAY** rule supersedes any application of the **NEUTRAL ZONE** rule.
7. No physical contact can be made between opposing **PLAYERS**. Any physical contact results in an out for the **PLAYER** that initiates contact

RULE 11 - SIMULTANEOUS PLAY

Section 1. Simultaneous Play

Simultaneous Play occurs when two or more opposing **PLAYERS** are **HIT** and/or **CATCH** balls at the same time and **MATCH OFFICIALS** cannot determine which play was completed first.

1. All results are resolved simultaneously.
 1. Each **PLAYER HIT** is deemed **OUT**.
 2. Each **CATCH** results in one **PLAYER** returning from the **QUEUE**.
2. A **SIMULTANEOUS PLAY** will only be ruled as such when **MATCH OFFICIALS** cannot establish a linear sequence of events.
3. Should a **SIMULTANEOUS PLAY** result in all **PLAYERS** being eliminated:
 1. The **SET** is concluded and the **SET** result is declared a tie/draw.
 2. Both teams retake their positions to begin the next **SET**.

Section 2. Simultaneous Hit and Catch

1. A **SIMULTANEOUS HIT AND CATCH** occurs when a **PLAYER** in the act of catching a ball is **HIT** by another ball simultaneously, such that the **MATCH OFFICIALS** cannot determine which action was completed first both:
 1. The thrower of the caught ball will be deemed **OUT**.
 2. The **PLAYER** catching the ball who was **HIT** is deemed **OUT**.
2. One **PLAYER** from the catching team is allowed to return from the **QUEUE**.

RULE 12 - SACRIFICE PLAY

Section 1. Sacrifice Play

1. An airborne attack, where an **ATTACKING PLAYER** may legally cross the **NEUTRAL ZONE** to make an attempt to **HIT** out an opponent.
 1. The ball must leave the attacker's hand before any part of the **ATTACKING PLAYER** touches the oppositions **FAIR TERRITORY**.
 2. No physical contact can be made between opposing **PLAYERS**. Any physical contact results in an out for the **PLAYER** that initiates contact
 3. If an attacker puts out any opponent the attacker remains in but must return to their side of the court immediately. Any intentional delay shall result in a **PLAYER YELLOW CARD**.
 4. If the **ATTACKING PLAYER** is **HIT** while in the air, after he has thrown his ball, the ball remains a **LIVE BALL**.
2. A **SACRIFICE PLAY** is successful if the **THROW** causes a **PLAYER** to go out by being **HIT** or stepping **OUT OF BOUNDS**.
 1. Once an **ATTACKING PLAYER**, which has put a defending **PLAYER** out, touches the ground and remains within their opponents court boundaries they cannot make any thrown attacks until they return completely into the **NEUTRAL ZONE**. They may however be put **OUT**. This means a **PLAYER** making a successful **SACRIFICE PLAY** can still be **HIT OUT** but they cannot put any defending **PLAYER OUT** with a thrown attack until they have returned to the **NEUTRAL ZONE**
 2. Any ball thrown by a **SACRIFICE PLAYER** after they have landed in their opponents court is not considered to be a **LIVE BALL** and is not able get an opponent **OUT**.
 3. A **SACRIFICE PLAYER** may **CATCH** any **LIVE BALL** that has been thrown by, **BLOCKED** by or deflected off an opponent. If the **ATTACKING PLAYER** catches a ball in mid-air the **CATCH** is good but the **PLAYER** is out when they land on the oppositions **FAIR TERRITORY** if the initial **SACRIFICE PLAY** was not successful.
 1. The **ATTACKING PLAYER** must remain within the court boundaries and return to the **NEUTRAL ZONE** immediately with or without possession of the caught ball.
 4. The **ATTACKING PLAYER** must not pickup any ball from the oppositions **FAIR TERRITORY** until they have returned fully to the **NEUTRAL ZONE**.
 5. If the **ATTACKING PLAYER** is **HIT** by a ball ricocheting off a defending **PLAYER** both **PLAYERS** are out.
3. If an **ATTACKING PLAYER** is unsuccessful, the attacking **PLAYER** is deemed **OUT** and must leave the court immediately.

RULE 13 - HEAD SHOTS

Section 1 Head Shots

1. A Head Shot is when a ball that strikes the head of a **PLAYER** above the shoulders, including the neck.
2. There is no penalty for head shots in normal play.
3. A Head Shot is a valid attempt and a **PLAYER** struck on the head is **OUT**, unless the referee believes it was intentionally used in an unsportsmanlike fashion (to intentionally injure an opposing player).

RULE 14 - INJURED PLAYER/BLOOD

Section 1. Injured Player

1. If a **PLAYER** becomes injured and requires immediate attention, the **OFFICIAL** shall blow the whistle, call a time out and seek first aid or contact emergency personnel if necessary.
2. If the injured **PLAYER** is unable to continue play:
 1. The next **PLAYER** in the **QUEUE** replaces the injured **PLAYER**.
 2. A **SUBSTITUTE** may enter the game to replace the **PLAYER** on the roster for that set.
 1. The **SUBSTITUTE** enters at the end of the **QUEUE**, and must wait until their turn to enter the game. If the **QUEUE** is empty, the **SUBSTITUTE** may enter immediately.
3. Anyone leaving the game due to injury may not re-enter until the start of the next set at the discretion of the **OFFICIAL** and the league, tournament, or event representative.
4. The **OFFICIAL** may disqualify an injured **PLAYER** and insist that a **SUBSTITUTE PLAYER** replaces them, should that **PLAYER** present an unreasonable risk to themselves and/or other **PLAYERS**.

Section 2. Blood Rule

1. If a **PLAYER**, **COACH**, or **OFFICIAL** is found to be bleeding or discovered to have blood on their uniform.
The **OFFICIAL** shall:
 1. Stop the game immediately and allow treatment.
 2. Call a **COACH**, trainer or other authorised personnel to administer first aid, or contact emergency services as necessary.
 3. The injured individual will be prohibited from participating any further in the set. They can return to **MATCH** play at the start of the next appropriate treatment has been administered and there is no blood clearly visible on the person and the **PLAYERS** clothing.
2. All rules of the game regarding substitution and shorthanded play will be applied, and a **RESET** will be executed if required.
3. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonably short length of time, in the **OFFICIALS** judgment, and the **PLAYER** is not at risk to themselves or others, the individual may remain in the set.
4. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required due to a blood Injury.

RULE 15 - PROTESTS

Section 1. Invalid Protests

1. Protests will not be received or considered if based solely on or involving the accuracy of a decision or judgment on the part of a **MATCH OFFICIAL**.
Examples of protests, which will not be considered but not limited too:
 1. Whether a defender was **HIT**.
 2. Whether a defenders clothing was **HIT**.
 3. Whether a **PLAYER** was **OUT OF BOUNDS**.
 4. Whether a throw was a head shot.
 5. Whether a ball was caught legally.
 6. Whether a **PLAYER** crossed the **NEUTRAL ZONE**.
 7. Whether a ball was live or dead.
 8. Whether there was or was not interference or obstruction.
 9. Whether the court/field is or is not fit to continue or resume play.
 10. Whether there is or is not sufficient light to continue of play.
 11. Any other matter involving the accuracy of a decision or judgment of a **MATCH OFFICIAL**.
2. Protests will only be addressed if presented by the designated manager, coach, assistant coach, team captain within the court boundaries i.e, the team captain on court or in the player out or penalty box, the designated coach in the coach box.
 1. If a teams designated coach has been ejected then only the team captain on court or in the player out or penalty box may protest.
3. A team is allocated a single protest for each **MATCH**.
 1. If the protest is upheld they keep the option to make a protest within the **MATCH**.
 2. If the protest is denied they forfeit the option to make a protest within the **MATCH**.
 3. All timers are paused during a protest and will resume once the protest has been resolved.

Section 2. Valid Protests

1. The following protests will be considered:
2. Protests of an incorrect ruling must be made to an **OFFICIAL** immediately before the next "out."
3. Ineligible **PLAYER** protests must be made to the **HEAD REFEREE** on the court prior to the start of the current set.
4. Disqualified or ejected **PLAYER** protests must be made to an **OFFICIAL** at the end of the current set.

Section 3. Verbal Protest

1. All protests must be made immediately by notifying the **HEAD REFEREE** on the court that the **MATCH** is to be played under protest. The protest must be made by the designated team captain or team coach within the court boundaries.
2. If the court's **HEAD REFEREE** determines the protest is valid, the play shall stop.
3. The court's **HEAD REFEREE** shall in turn notify other **OFFICIALS**, as well as the opposing team's **OFFICIAL** representative.
4. To aid in the determination of the protest, all interested parties shall take notice of the information, details and conditions surrounding the decision to protest.
5. The **HEAD REFEREE** and league, event or tournament representative will attempt to resolve the protest before the game can continue.
6. If the protest is upheld, the game will be **RESET** at the point prior to the protest.
7. All dodgeballs will remain in possession of the teams who had possession when play was halted.
8. Any balls which were not in possession of either team will be placed equally spaced and centrally along the **CENTRE LINE**.

9. If the protest is denied and the decision is upheld, the protesting team will forfeit the right to raise any further protests during that ***MATCH***.

RULE 16 - OFFICIALS

Section 1. Power and Duties

1. **OFFICIALS** are representatives of the league or organisation by which they have been assigned to a particular **MATCH** and as such, are authorised and required to enforce each section of these rules.
2. **OFFICIALS** may order **PLAYERS**, captains, or managers to carry out or to omit any act, which in their judgment is necessary to give force and effect to one or all of the rules.
3. An **OFFICIAL** may assign penalties, disqualify or eject **PLAYERS**, captains, managers, and coaches at any time.
4. The **OFFICIAL** has the authority to make a decision on any situation not specifically covered in the rules.
5. No **OFFICIAL** has the authority to set aside or question the decisions made by another **OFFICIAL** within the limits of the respective duties, as outlined in these rules.
6. An **OFFICIAL** may consult other **OFFICIALS** at any time. However, the final decision and call rests with the **HEAD REFEREE** of that **MATCH**.
7. The primary responsibilities for a **HEAD REFEREE** are:
 1. Enforce proper conduct from all participants of the game.
 2. Inspect the court, balls, and all equipment in play.
 3. Review and verify the team line-up, substitutions, and roster.
 4. Align all balls at centre court, and initiate a **RUSH**.
 5. Enforce the **NEUTRAL ZONE RULE**.
 6. Assume all responsibilities of a side line **OFFICIAL**.
8. The primary responsibilities for the side line **OFFICIAL** are:
 1. Insuring that all balls are put in play, following a **RUSH**
 2. Calling and verifying a **CATCH** made in their territory.
 3. Calling and verifying an **OUT** made within their territory on the court
 4. Monitor players exiting and re-entering from the **QUEUE**.
 5. Assist the **HEAD REFEREE** in enforcing the rules of the game.
9. The **HEAD REFEREE** and sideline **OFFICIALS** have equal authority to:
 1. Determine if a ball has **HIT** a player or article of clothing of a **PLAYER** in their territory
 2. Determine if a ball was thrown illegally.
 3. Call a player **OUT**.
 4. Declare a **CATCH**.
 5. Declare a player **OUT OF BOUNDS**.
 6. Suspend play or call a **TIMEOUT**, when an injury occurs or a protest is enforced.
 7. Eject or disqualify a **PLAYER**, **COACH**, manager or other team member from the game for violation of rules or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 8. Declare a forfeit of any game.
10. An **OFFICIAL** will declare the **PLAYER OUT** without waiting for an appeal for such decision. In all cases such a **PLAYER** retires to the **QUEUE** in accordance with these rules.
11. An **OFFICIAL** will not penalise a team for any infraction of a rule when imposing the penalty would be an advantage to the offending team.

Section 2. Officials Crew

1. An **OFFICIALS** Crew (a team of **OFFICIALS**) can consist of the following personnel:
2. The **HEAD REFEREE** is in charge of all officials on their court and is the final decision maker on all matter covered by these Rules and Regulations.
3. Side Line **OFFICIALS** are there to assist the **HEAD REFEREE** and they can number between 1 and 4 on each court.

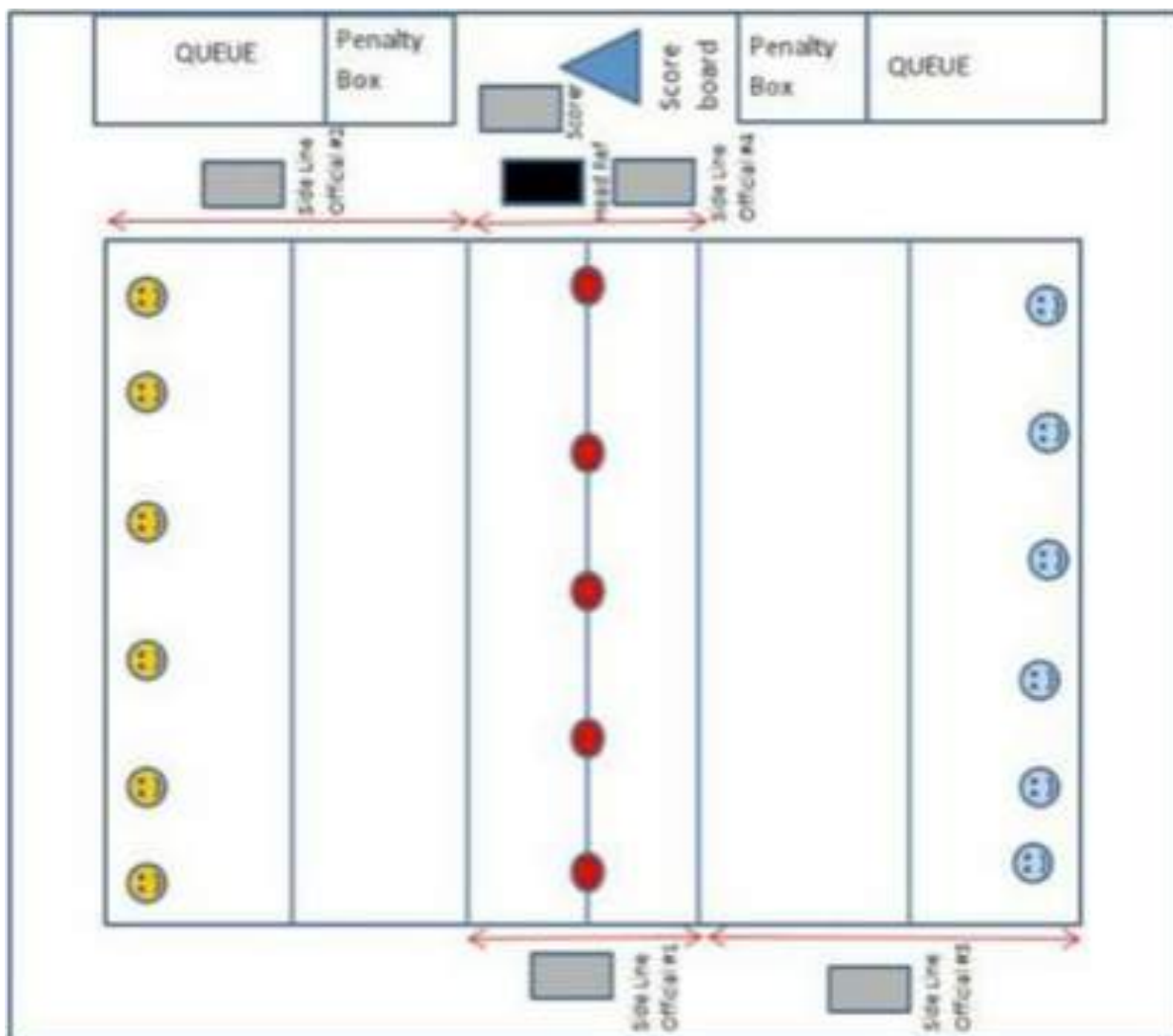
4. Side Line **OFFICIAL** #1 is the main assistant to the **HEAD REFEREE**. They will usually be a qualified dodgeball referee.
5. Side Line **OFFICIALS** #2, #3 & #4 will normally be provided by teams who are not playing at the time this **MATCH** is being played. Teams must provide these Side Line **OFFICIALS** when instructed to do so or face fines and penalties as stated by the event organisers.
6. A Scorer can also be appointed to keep accurate **MATCH** scoring, by filling out the score sheet as the **MATCH** progresses.
7. They will operate the scoreboard.
8. The Scorer can also be responsible for operating all official timing used during the **MATCH**.

Section 3. Responsibilities of a Single Official

1. If only one **OFFICIAL** is assigned, that **OFFICIAL** assumes all powers and duties of both a Head Referee and side line official.
2. The **OFFICIAL** shall take position as a **HEAD REFEREE** at the **CENTRE LINE**.

Section 4. Officials' Court Positions

1. The **HEAD REFEREE** shall:
 1. Takes a starting position at centre court in the **NEUTRAL ZONE**, on either the right or left hand side of the court.
 2. The **HEAD REFEREE** can alternate sides between sets.
2. The Side Line **OFFICIALS** shall:



1. Take a position on the side line mid court, roughly at a 45° angle, opposite the **HEAD REFEREE**.
2. The side line **OFFICIALS** should alternate sides in coordination with the **HEAD REFEREE**.
3. The diagram indicates the correct positioning for each **MATCH OFFICIAL**.

Section 5. Change of Official

1. A team may not request a change of **OFFICIAL** during a **MATCH** unless an official has become incapacitated by injury or illness.
2. An officer of the organisation may remove an **OFFICIAL** at their discretion.
3. A change of an **OFFICIAL** shall not constitute nor be grounds for a protest.

Section 6. Official's Judgment

1. There will be no protest or appeal of any decision made by an official on the grounds that the official's judgment was incorrect.
2. Whether a **PLAYER** was **HIT**, a ball was caught, a **PLAYER** crossed an end line or side line, or on any action involving accuracy of judgment
3. No decision rendered by an **OFFICIAL** may be reversed except; whereby the official in question is convinced the decision is in violation of one of these rules.
4. Should a manager, acting manager, captain, or assistant captain of either team seek reversal of a decision based solely on a point of rules the **OFFICIAL** in question, if in doubt, shall confer with other **OFFICIALS** before rendering a decision. Any decision is solely the responsibility of the calling official.
5. Under no circumstances is any **PLAYER** or person other than the manager, acting manager, captain, or assistant captain, able to protest any decision and or seek its reversal on a rule.
6. Under no circumstances will an **OFFICIAL** seek to reverse a decision made by another official unless asked to do so, by another official.

Section 7. Official Interference

1. An **OFFICIAL** shall avoid interfering with play or balls in flight whenever possible.
2. An **OFFICIAL** may prevent a ball from leaving an **OPEN COURT**. In which case the ball should be moved on in its natural direction as if it had bounced off the **OFFICIAL**, or returned to centre court if the point of exit is undetermined.
3. Any ball rebounding off an **OFFICIAL** is considered a dead ball as if it hits a wall, ceiling, floor.

Section 8. Official's Uniform

1. A regulation EDBF **OFFICIAL** shall wear a short-sleeve polo shirt, predominantly black colour with white trim. It will have the EDBF logo or the letters "EDBF" worn on the left chest.
2. Black slacks or shorts.
3. Shoes may be solid black or white or mixed black and white athletic shoes with non-marking soles.

Section 9. Guideline for Officials

1. An **OFFICIAL** should not be a member of either team (i.e., player, coach, manager, officer, scorekeeper or sponsor), if so an equal number of **OFFICIALS** from each team should be available.
2. The **OFFICIALS** should be sure of the date, start time, and location of the event and should arrive at the court 15 to 30 minutes ahead of the start time.
3. At some events the **OFFICIALS** will be responsible for the accurate marking and set up of the court and its immediate playing area.
4. When **OFFICIALS** are responsible for marking out courts and set up the playing area, another **OFFICIAL** or event **OFFICIAL** should inspect the court area before play commences.

RULE 16 - OFFICIALS

5. They should start the event or **MATCH** at the designated time and leave the court when the **MATCH** is over.
6. The **OFFICIAL** jurisdiction begins upon entering the court for the court check and ends when they leave the court at the completion of the event or the **MATCH**.
7. **OFFICIALS** should introduce themselves to the captains, managers.
8. The **OFFICIAL** should inspect the court, boundaries, balls, and all other equipment
9. The **OFFICIAL** should clarify all rules for the representatives of both teams.
10. The **OFFICIAL**, may suspend play when in their judgment, conditions justify such action.
11. The **OFFICIAL** should suspend play when a **PLAYER** become injured and require immediate attention. The **OFFICIAL** shall call a “time out” and seek first aid or contact emergency services if required.

RULE 17 - CODE OF CONDUCT

Section 1. EDBF Code of Conduct for Players:

Players are expected to abide by the EDBF Code of Conduct:

1. Understand, appreciate and abide by the rules of the sport.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of **MATCH OFFICIAL's** and EDBF staff.
3. Respect your opponent and congratulate them in a courteous manner following each **MATCH** whether in victory or defeat.
4. Be responsible for your actions and maintain self-control.
5. Do not taunt or bait opponents and refrain from using foul or abusive language.

Section 2. The Honour System:

PLAYERS are expected to abide by the Honour System.

1. The Honour System expects all **PLAYERS** to abide by the highest level of honesty and sporting conduct at all times during competitive play.
2. **PLAYERS** should remove themselves from the court and go into the **QUEUE** for their team if they are out by being **HIT** with a ball, caught out or if they commit a line infraction. They should not wait to be called **OUT** by the **MATCH OFFICIAL's**.
3. Any **PLAYER** who remains on court after they are clearly out and waits to be called **OUT** by an **OFFICIAL** will be in breach of the Honour System.
4. This is regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct.
5. The offending **PLAYERS** will be given a verbal warning and they will be disciplined with a **YELLOW CARD**, if they are seen to behave in this manner on more than one occasion during an event.
6. **PLAYER** honesty will not be penalised and the referee may call a **PLAYER** that has left the court back into play.
 1. This will happen when a **PLAYER** has stepped off the court because they believe they are out.
 2. This is entirely at the discretion of referees.

Section 3. Code of Conduct for Officials

1. **MATCH OFFICIALS** must behave in an exemplary manner when communicating with teams, players, coaches, managers, spectators, other **OFFICIALS**, event organisers and EDBF officers.
2. **MATCH OFFICIALS** must not swear at **PLAYERS**, spectators, any other team officers or any event **OFFICIALS** and officers.
3. **MATCH OFFICIALS** must not make derogatory or abusive remarks at any time, to any person during a EDBF event.
4. **MATCH OFFICIALS** must remain calm when dealing with outspoken, abusive and aggressive persons and treat **PLAYERS**, coaches, managers, spectators and other **OFFICIALS** and officers with respect at all times.
5. As all **MATCH OFFICIALS** will be recognised as such during the full schedule of an event by **PLAYERS**, coaches, managers, spectators, officials and event officers, they must behave in an exemplary manner at all times when they are officiating at a EDBF event.

RULE 18 - VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Section 1. Yellow Card

1. A **YELLOW CARD** indicates that a team or **PLAYER** has received a penalty following aggressive, abusive, unsportsmanlike or other unacceptable conduct or unacceptable use of profanity or unsavoury language.
2. A **YELLOW CARD** can be issued to an individual player or a whole team. They are valid for the entire **MATCH**, and they are cumulative set to set.
3. **PLAYER YELLOW CARDS:**
 1. First Offence: The **PLAYER** shall be deemed ejected from play for a 5 minute period of play and may not return until they have remained off court, in the Penalty Box (situated next to the **QUEUE**), for the allotted time.
 1. The **EJECTED PLAYER** must remain in the Penalty Box and they must not confer or discuss the disciplinary decision which inflicted the **YELLOW CARD** with any **MATCH OFFICIAL** during the time of their penalty.
 2. When a **PLAYER** has been ejected due to a **YELLOW CARD** offence, their team will play
 3. Short-handed while the penalty is being served.
 4. When the **YELLOW CARD** is issued in the first half of play and there is less than 5 minutes of play remaining in the half, their 5 minute penalty will be paused during the
 5. Half-time break and the penalty will continue at the beginning of the second half. The penalised **PLAYER** is allowed to leave the Penalty Box during the half-time break.
 6. When the **YELLOW CARD** is issued in the second half of play and there is less than 5 minutes of play remaining in the **MATCH**, the 5 minute penalty will be paused at the end of the **MATCH** and the penalty will continue for that **PLAYER** at the beginning of the next **MATCH** in the tournament or league. The **EJECTED PLAYER** must sit out the rest of the time for his penalty, as a substitute, at the start of the next **MATCH** but his/her team can start the next **MATCH** with a full team.
 2. Second Offence: The **PLAYER** is assessed a **RED CARD** and is removed from the **MATCH** for the rest of the time remaining. Further penalties will be enforced.
4. **Team YELLOW CARDS:**
 1. First Offence: The team will forfeit the set in which they are issued the **YELLOW CARD**.
 2. Second Offence: The team will be assessed a **RED CARD**. This will result in a **MATCH** forfeit.
 1. **MATCH OFFICIAL's**, tournament officials and/or EDBF officials will decide if further Penalties will be imposed.
 2. Further penalties for a Team **RED CARD** can be decided on the day or at a meeting convened at a later date.

Section 2. Red Card

1. A **RED CARD** may be issued to an individual **PLAYER** or a whole team.
2. A **RED CARD** indicates that a **TEAM** or **PLAYER** has received a penalty following aggressive, abusive, unsportsmanlike or other unacceptable conduct or unacceptable use of profanity or unsavoury language.
3. **PLAYER RED CARD:**
 1. The **PLAYER** is disciplined with a **RED CARD** and is removed from the **MATCH** for the rest of the time remaining.
 2. The **PLAYER** will also automatically be penalised with a full 2 **MATCH** suspension with immediate effect on the next matches their team is scheduled to play. These matches can take place at the same event, at any subsequent EDBF events and at the events of affiliated National Governing Bodies.
 1. **MATCH OFFICIAL's**, tournament officials and/or EDBF officials will decide if further penalties will be imposed.

2. Further penalties for a **PLAYER RED CARD** can be decided on the day or at a meeting convened at a later date.
4. During the **MATCH** in which the **RED CARD** penalty is issued that **PLAYERS** team will play short-handed for the remainder of that **MATCH**. At the following matches in which the penalised **PLAYER** is not allowed to participate, the team can use another member of they're playing roster to substitute in for the penalised **PLAYER** in order to make up a full team.
5. Team **RED CARD**: Results in the forfeiture of the entire **MATCH**.

Section 3. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

1. Sporting Behaviour: Dodgeball competitions are based on sporting behaviour and fair play. Coaches and **PLAYERS** are expected and trusted with these values. The following are examples of unacceptable or unsportsmanlike behaviour:
 1. Tactics that endanger the safety of **PLAYERS**.
 2. After equipment check, illegal equipment is put back into play.
 3. Use of equipment for other than its intended design.
 3. Fighting.
 4. Intentionally damaging the court, equipment or facilities.
 5. Use of derogatory, racial, or offensive gestures or language by **PLAYERS** will not be tolerated. Coaches, managers, or other team members will not make disparaging or insulting remarks about opposing **PLAYERS**, **OFFICIALS**, or spectators, nor commit any other acts that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Fighting or physically contacting another **PLAYER** in an aggressive manner is not tolerated. An offender will be ejected (**RED CARD** offence) from the **MATCH** and shall be removed from the tournament venue. Should an **OFFICIAL** be unable to determine who initiated the Offence, all parties involved will be penalised with a **RED CARD** and ejected from play.
3. Fighting between teams shall result in the discontinuation of the game. The game shall be determined a draw. No points will be awarded and both teams shall be removed from the venue at the discretion of the official.
4. The **OFFICIAL** will report any unsportsmanlike conduct to the tournament co-ordinator, league, or EDBF representative. Depending on the circumstances, severity, and frequency of such conduct, a team or player may be prohibited from participation in EDBF sanctioned play.
5. An official may remove any **PLAYER** or team from play at any time should their conduct be deemed
6. unsportsmanlike.

RULE 19 - MEDIA

Section 1. MEDIA

1. All photographic equipment must be in possession of or carried by the photographer. No equipment can be left on the ground.
2. A ball trapped in equipment is considered “dead” and should be returned to an **OFFICIAL**.
3. Media Coverage: Media authorised by the tournament **OFFICIALS** can be in the playing area. All media personnel must be able to move to avoid being **HIT** by the ball. Should they accidentally be hit, the ball becomes dead.