

# 2023 DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

## RULES OF THE GAME

**Object of the Game:** To knock out all the players on the opposing team before your team is knocked out.

**Players:** A team consists of 8 players. All 8 players start the game on the court. No substitutions. This year, one additional player, THE RINGER, is allowed on the court.

**Field of Play:** The court is marked with three important lines. The mid-court line, the back line, and the attack line (marked with cones). Players must remain within the lines (including side lines) on the court. Exiting the court will result in being called out. Exception: a player may exit the back-line to retrieve a ball, but if they remain outside the back line for more than 5 seconds, they will be called out.

**Start of Play:** All players start on their own half behind the back line. Eight balls are lined up on the mid-court line. On the whistle, teams run to retrieve the balls. Players must retreat behind the attack line to make their first throw. After the first throw, players may throw the balls from anywhere on their side of the court.

### **A Player is Out if:**

- They step over the mid-court line, a side-line, or the back-line except to retrieve a ball over the back-line as noted above.
- A live ball hits the player's body on the shoulders or below. No head shots. A player hit in the head remains in the game.
- A player throws a live ball that is caught by the other team.
- Once a player has been called out, they shall immediately leave the court and sit with their coach on the sideline. Any arguing with a referee may be grounds for removal from the game or the tournament.

### **Live Balls and Blocked Balls:**

- A ball is a live ball if it has not touched the ground, walls, another player, or another ball. A thrown ball can only knock out one player.
- A player may block a thrown ball with a ball held in their own hands. However, if the player blocking the ball, drops the held ball in the act of blocking, or if they fail to make a clean block and the thrown ball hits the player's body, they are out.

## **Game Time:**

- Periods will start on the Referee's whistle. Any player not lined up on the back-line at the whistle may not enter the game.
- Games will last until all the players on one team are eliminated or 4 minutes have elapsed, whichever happens first. If both teams have an equal number of players remaining, an additional 1 minute Showdown will be played.
  - FIRST PERIOD, TWO MINUTES
    - During the first period of play, both teams will be allowed to be anywhere on their half of the court and play will continue until one team has been eliminated or the clock has expired.
  - SECOND PERIOD, TWO MINUTES
    - If neither team is eliminated in the first period, a second period will be played with the back-line moved up to the attack line. Players will not be allowed behind the new back-line/attack line, except to retrieve a ball. Play will continue until one team has been eliminated or the clock has expired.
    - If neither team is eliminated after the second period, the team with the most players remaining is declared the winner.
  - SHOWDOWN/THIRD PERIOD, ONE MINUTE
    - If the teams have equal number of players remaining after 4 minutes, play will move to Showdown Rules.
    - Each remaining player is given two balls. Any remaining balls (not to exceed 8 total) are placed on the mid-court line.
    - The backline is moved up to the attack line. Players start at the attack line.
    - At the whistle, the mid-court line dissolves and players may move anywhere between the two attack lines and the sidelines.
    - Players must stay between the attack lines and the sidelines. Failure to stay inside the court will result in being called out. Referees will return balls to the court.
    - Showdown will last until one team is eliminated or 1 minute. At the end of one minute, if there are still an equal number of players remaining on each team, a tie will be declared.

**End of Game:** As soon as a winner has been declared or a tie called, all players on each team along with their coach will line up at the mid-court line to shake hands. After shaking hands, teams should immediately leave the court so the next game can start.