

2013 HCC Dodgeball Officiating Guidelines

(16 March 2014)

1. Before you start pool play, get all of the players together over where the fans sit, and then go over the basic rules. Many players haven't played before, and it will be a better experience for them if they have heard them, even if they aren't skilled in applying them.
2. Make everybody (spectators and players) who aren't playing right then stay in the spectator area. Keep all corner doors closed.
3. Make all players and coaches on benches, and spectators on the front row of the spectator SIT, so they don't go shag balls (see the rules).
4. Be consistent in your calls. Smile a lot. Thank the guys who are eliminated for coming, and invite them to come back next time.
5. Center ref responsibilities:
 - Make sure the balls are set properly.
 - Signal to start play.
 - Signal to stop play (false start, injury, end of game, or other).
 - Make side line and center line calls.
 - Make out, catch or bounce calls.
 - Make 5-second counts.
6. Corner ref responsibilities:
 - Help gather the balls and set them out on the center line.
 - Make sure all players are behind the end line at the start.
 - Signal center ref to stop action if there is a false start or time out request.
 - Make side line and end line calls.
 - Make out, catch or bounce calls.
 - Monitor proper substitutions.
7. Center ref doesn't have to use a whistle, but if you do, use it only to start and end the game, or to stop the clock for a time out or other situation. Don't use the whistle to get the attention of somebody to tell them they are out, because everybody will stop playing and you don't want that!
8. It is very important to yell, "Out, Catch, Bounce" depending on the call. If players hear it, they will know you are doing your job. If they don't hear you making calls, they will think you don't know what you're doing and are more likely to argue. It will also keep people honest. Most complaints about refs afterward are because they couldn't hear calls or know that the refs were doing anything.
9. Be sure to know what a live ball is and what a dead ball is, so you can make the right call.
10. Stand by your call, but if another official had a better angle and disagrees with your call, let the other official make their call. If you change your call because a player argues, they will try to argue more. Just calmly explain that you made the call, you're sorry if it is wrong, but you can't see everything and you're doing the best you can.
11. It's good to move a few feet in one direction or another to get a better view of the action, but stay off the court.
12. As an official, please pay attention and do your best. If another official is making calls, that doesn't mean you should assume they have it covered. It's impossible for even 6 refs to see everything, so help watch, and voice your calls loud enough for players to hear.
13. When counting down a player, leave a slight pause between counts 5...4...3...2...1. We don't WANT to call people on counts, but we do want people to throw the ball and keep the game moving. Don't rush through the count down.