



Referee Guidance Document

British Dodgeball

The following document provides an outline of the responsibilities of each of the match referee positions in a game of dodgeball.

At British Dodgeball adult events it is a requirement for all teams competing to be able to provide a minimum of 4 (usually 5) assistant referees during any match in which they are not playing. Any instances of teams failing to do so will be reviewed by the British Dodgeball sanctions committee.

At official British Dodgeball events the head referee will be a paid referee that British Dodgeball will provide.

Head Referee

The head referee is responsible for the refereeing on the court and has the final say on all calls. The head referee may delegate responsibilities to assistant referee such as “play ball” scoring and timing.

Assistant Referee (on occasion this position will be provided by British Dodgeball)

They will support the head referee and take up position on the opposite side of the court to the head referee. Teams should put forward their most experienced players/referees as assistant centre referees, though referees qualifications are not required. Assistant centre referees are in charge of the side of the court to their left and will call “play ball” and lead on calling “hits”, “catches”, and other “outs” for this side of the court. They are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee.

Ball Return Line Referees (x 2)

Assistant referees acting as “ball return line referees” should be positioned on the left side of each team’s half of the court, next to the ball return line. Their main role is to check for ball return line faults – for instance, false start offences (a false start only becomes a false start offence if the individual moves in any way/enters court before the whistle AND advances past the ball return line), and balls not being made live when returning to court via a retriever or spectator following the opening rush (in these cases the ball must be received by a player with both feet in contact with the ground and fully behind the ball return line). They should make the head referee aware of any dead balls that have been released, and where possible warn a team that a ball is not yet live. They may also call players “out” for hits, catches and other offences, and are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee.



Back Line Referees (x 2)

Assistant referees acting as “back line referees” should be positioned on the right side of each team’s half of the court, by the back line. Their main role is to check for back line faults – a player is “out” if they touch on or over the back line with any part of their body or clothing. They should call players “out” for any such offences, and may also call players “out” for hits, catches and other offences. They are able to make calls directly, not just through the head referee. They are also looking for “false starts” – so where a player moves in any way or direction following the call to be “ready” but before the whistle, or where a player is positioned over the back line following the call to be “ready” but before the whistle. They should flag this to the ball return line referee who will confirm whether the ball return line was crossed.

Please note that where the playing teams require the assistant referees to act as “basic retrievers”, the “ball return line referees” will be used for this purpose.

Court Diagram – Referee Positions

