

Referee Training

Recent Questions - 10/2/25

Jewellery: Can a player decide to disregard the regulations regarding jewellery and decide to 'accept the risks' themselves?

No. Referees must conduct pre-match checks on jewellery as per regulation 6.3 Uniform and 6.4 Protective Gear **before every game**, so please make sure to implement this before you start a match. The regs specify:

- Exposed jewellery must be removed and may not be worn during the game.
- 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.
- Medical alert bracelets/necklaces are not considered jewellery. If worn, they must be secured to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

There may be a misconception going around at the moment that player's can 'accept risks' and wear jewellery anyway, disregarding these regulations. This is NOT the case - such jewellery represents a risk to others as well as the player and as such this regulation is non-negotiable. If a player fails to remove exposed jewellery at first warning before the match starts, please inform them and their team representative that this player cannot line up for the first set and must start off-court whilst they remove said item. The team may need to play short-handed whilst they do this; do not delay the match start whilst they remove jewellery. Items designed for sports use e.g., sports watches are ok for players to wear.

Teamsheets: What should I do if a team tells me their opponent is fielding a player who isn't on their teamsheet?

We have recently updated our regulations regarding teamsheets to be clearer on this. As a referee, you have no responsibility for checking teamsheets before a match. Should a team representative complain that an opponent is fielding an ineligible player, please tell them to email disciplinary@britishdodgeball.com in order to query this before starting the match as usual. Do not delay the start of the match to check teamsheets. The technical committee often receives email communications regarding mistakes, requests and delayed teamsheet submissions, and so referees/opposing captains may not have the full story, which is why it remains the role of the technical committee to investigate the fielding of ineligible players. If the TC finds a team to have fielded an ineligible player, forfeit regulations will apply, and the concerned teams will be contacted.

Team Warnings: Can you warn a whole team - sometimes I need to give 3 individual warnings to players for all arguing with me about a call at the same time

It is fine to give a team a warning if multiple individuals are all committing the same offence at the same/a similar time. For example, if numerous people on a team are all arguing with a call you made, then it would be absolutely fine with the referee summoning the team representative and informing them that their team has received a warning for arguing. This would mean the next person on this team to argue would be called Out immediately. This makes life easier for yourself when officiating more challenging teams, as it could prove tricky to track which individuals have been warned for what offences otherwise.

Retriever Numbers: What happens if both teams agree to start the match with three retrievers, but partway through the match one team chooses to reduce their number of retrievers to two. Is the opposing team required to also reduce to two retrievers to match, or does the original agreement to use three retrievers each remain in effect for the duration of the match?

The original agreement remains in effect for the duration of the match. If a team agrees to use a 3rd retriever, they must ensure they have adequate cover for this position for the duration of the match. If we allowed either team to force both teams move back to only using 2 retrievers, this could be done tactically half-way through a match in a curtain/wall setting to purposefully disadvantage opponents.



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Using Your Ears: I saw a ref call a hit because they heard a noise, but I was watching the game from behind and the ball was nowhere near them and it was their feet clipping each other which made the sound. Another time, a player was called out when blocking because, "it didn't sound like ball on ball." I know noise can be a very good indicator but my understanding is you can't referee solely on hearing?

There's no firm guidance on refereeing with your ears, other than it being good practice to use vision and hearing together. Hearing is certainly useful for detecting skims, but you shouldn't solely use hearing without visual evidence (e.g. seeing the ball passing extremely close to someone). No matter if we include or exclude hearing, referees will never be perfect; it's up to you to use your own observations and best judgement - you have a refereeing team who should support you if you make a wrong call.