Referee Training Update

10th November 2026

Dear British Dodgeball referee,

I'd like to thank you for making the first part of this season a success, and for adapting so ably to the new WDBF ruleset. This update contains a few piece of information which are important to cover.

Training Update - Action Required by 1st January 2027

It is important that we 1) provide opportunities for our refereeing team to continually learn & develop their practice, and 2) ensure our referees are delivering a high standard of officiating to our member clubs and competitors. As such, we will require you to complete training via our online platform from time to time. It is necessary for **all** British Dodgeball referees to complete the following two courses by **1st January 2027** in order to remain on our refereeing database, and be paid to officiate British Dodgeball events:

1. **Refereeing Competitive Dodgeball** - This new course has been designed specifically to cover game management, safety, communication, how to manage conflicts of interest as well as the rules of the sport. This course usually retails at £35, but we are providing this to existing refereeing team for free as part of our commitment to your ongoing development. It takes approximately 2-3 hours to complete.
2. **Headshot: Recognising & Managing Concussion in Dodgeball** - This course was developed earlier this year, and specifically details your responsibilities as a referee in ensuring all participants remain safe. This course usually retails at £10, but we are providing this to existing refereeing team for free as part of our commitment to your ongoing development. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Enrolment & Completion Process

You will be enrolled to the course shortly via the email we currently have on our Referee Database. Simply click on the course link above, log in and you can get started. If you don't already have a British Dodgeball website account (or you do but it's linked to a different email), you'll need to wait for an enrolment email which allows you to set up a password before you can access the course contents.

Please send an email with **both** certificates attached to aden@britishdodgeball.com by **1st January 2027**. Failure to evidence completion will result in removal of your ability to operate as a paid referee for British Dodgeball, so please engage with this whilst there is plenty of time left! I hope you enjoy both courses - please send any feedback to aden@britishdodgeball.com if you have any thoughts you'd like to share, as these courses will form the cornerstone of new referee training going forwards.

Leaps of Faith & Line Faults

WDBF clarification has been secured on leaps of faith:
Scenario: Player A performs a leap of faith. Their target (player X) commits a line fault on purpose to guarantee player A's elimination.
Outcome: Player X's play is valid. Player A is deemed out for a line fault upon making contact with the ground, unless they are able to readjust and release a throw before landing that successfully eliminates another live opponent.

Honesty Rule & Placing Balls Down

British Dodgeball Technical committee has determined the following:
Scenario: Player A is hit by an inactive/dead ball, but they raise their hands and drops a ball in their possession up-court, near to the neutral zone, in order to leave court as they believe they are out. The referees call player A back in. What happens to the ball?
Outcome: Return the ball to Player A if it is a tough position for player A's team to get possession of. It is not in the spirit of the game for this ball to disadvantage Player A's team.

BRITISH DODGEBALL

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Headshot Management

We are still seeing headshots being mismanaged by referees, hence the sharing of this guidance. Referees have the right, and duty, to remove any player they believe may present a risk to themselves or others from play. This includes players they suspect may have a concussion. Players **must** have a concussion assessment before returing to play if the referee feels there is any cause for concern stemming from a head injury.

Process for removing players for concussion assessments:

Headshot! Cause for Concern	Headshot! No Cause for Concern

If a player is headshot in such a way that this gives a referee cause for concern, the referee **must** remove that player from play until an assessment has been carried out.
• The assessment must be carried out using the Courtside Guide. The assessment will preferably be carried out by the team's non-playing first aider. Failing this, a coach or team member may carry out the concussion check provided they have completed this course.
  ◦ If the team does not have anyone available, they may ask an available event coordinator or another team's first aider or coach to assist. If there is nobody else available, the referee may choose to pause time if there is an allowance for this, or inform the the team's coach/captain that they must also leave court to conduct the concussion check. The coach/captain may be treated as an injured player, so may be replaced by a substitute if necessary.
• Time is not paused whilst a concussion assessment is underway (unless the player is struggling to move on court). The struck player is treated as an injured player, and a substitute may take their place in the out box for the remainder of the set. If the team has no substitutes, the team will play short-handed.
• **Outcomes of the assessment:**
  ◦ **Red Flag:** The player must leave immediately and go to the nearest hospital, using ambulance transfer if necessary.
  ◦ **Sign or symptom identified:** If the player exhibits any visual signs or symptoms of concussion, they should be immediately removed from play. Once safely removed from play, the player must not be returned to activity that day (until an appropriate Healthcare Professional has excluded concussion or the patient has completed a graduated return to activity (education/work) and sport programme as per If In Doubt, Sit Them Out concussion guidelines).
  ◦ **No sign or symptom identified:** The player may return to the match after the current set has concluded. Follow guidance in the column to the right regarding monitoring for delayed symptoms.
	If a player is headshot in such a way that this gives a referee no cause for concern, the referee should allow the game to continue a normal.
	• The refereeing team and the struck player's coach & teammates must continue to watch for any signs of concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion may be delayed.
	• If a referee or team mate positively Identifies a red flag or sign and symptom of concussion, then the appropriate action must be taken immediately.