

Head Referee Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the role, responsibilities, and expected conduct of the Head Referee representing Dodgeball Ontario. The Head Referee is entrusted with upholding the integrity of the sport by ensuring fair play, consistent rule enforcement, and a safe, respectful competitive environment for all participants.

Eligibility, Role and Authority

The Head Referee must complete all available levels of the Dodgeball Canada [National Foam Dodgeball Officials Certification Program](#) to be eligible.

The Head Referee serves as the senior referee and final authority on rules interpretation and game-related decisions during Dodgeball Ontario tournaments for a term of 2 years. Their leadership sets the standard for officiating quality, sportsmanship, and professionalism across all matches.

Commitment to Sportsmanship

The Head Referee shall actively promote and model the highest standards of sportsmanship by:

- Treating all athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect and professionalism.
- Encouraging respectful communication and discouraging unsportsmanlike conduct at all levels of play.
- Addressing inappropriate behavior promptly, calmly, and consistently.
- Leading by example through composure, integrity, and respect.

Sportsmanship is a shared responsibility, and the Head Referee plays a critical role in reinforcing a positive competitive culture.

Fair Play Standards

Fair play is fundamental to athlete trust and the credibility of Dodgeball Ontario competitions.

To ensure fair play, the Head Referee shall:

- Apply Dodgeball Ontario rules consistently and accurately across all matches.
- Ensure that all participants compete under equal conditions, free from unfair advantage.

- Intervene when rules violations, safety concerns, or unsporting behavior threaten a player or the fairness of play.
- Support and guide other referees as a central point of contact to maintain consistent officiating standards throughout the event.

Impartiality and Non-Bias

Impartial officiating is essential to maintaining confidence in the outcome of matches and the integrity of the tournament.

The Head Referee must remain strictly neutral and unbiased in all judgments and decisions. This includes:

- Making rulings based solely on observed play, established rules, and official guidelines.
- Avoiding favoritism toward any team, athlete, club, or region.
- Declaring and managing any real or perceived conflicts of interest prior to officiating.
- Refraining from external influence, including pressure from teams, spectators, or event stakeholders.

Professional Conduct

The Head Referee is expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on Dodgeball Ontario at all times by:

- Communicating decisions clearly, respectfully, and without hostility.
- Remaining calm and composed in high-pressure or contentious situations.
- Demonstrating preparedness, punctuality, and attention to detail.
- Supporting the development and mentorship of other officials when appropriate.

Decision Authority and Accountability

All decisions made by the Head Referee are final, subject only to Dodgeball Ontario's established review or disciplinary procedures. The Head Referee is accountable for upholding this policy and may be subject to review if conduct or decision-making falls below expected standards.

Policy Adherence

By serving as Head Referee, the individual agrees to adhere fully to this policy and to act in the best interests of Dodgeball Ontario, its athletes, officials, and the sport as a whole.