

# Broward County Dodgeball Championship Rules

**Face coverings are strongly encouraged when entering any BCPS facility.**

## THE TEAM

Teams will be made up of 6-8 players. Six (6) players will compete on a side; others will be available as substitutes. Substitutes may enter the game only during timeouts or in the case of injury. At the start of each game a team must consist of three (3) male and three (3) female players. Males may not be substituted for females at any time.

Each team must provide two (2) "ball chasers" for each game. Ball chasers cannot substitute for active players during a specific match.

## THE FIELD

The game may be played indoors or outdoors. The playing field shall be a rectangle at least 50 ft long and at least 30 ft wide, divided into two (2) equal sections by a center-line, the center line is divided in half by a one-yard center hash and attack-lines three yards from, and parallel to the centerline.

IDEAL MEASUREMENTS: 60' x 30' – Identical to a volleyball court.

## THE GAME

The object of the game is to eliminate all opposing players by getting them "OUT". This may be done by:

1. Hitting an opposing player with a LIVE thrown ball **below the shoulders.**
2. Catching a LIVE ball thrown by your opponent before it touches the ground.
3. Catching a LIVE ball allows the earliest eliminated person to come back into the game.
4. If the last remaining player catches a LIVE ball, the entire team comes back into the game.

### *Definitions:*

*LIVE: A ball that has been thrown and has not touched anything, including the floor/ground, another ball, or another player.*

*CATCH: A catch must be clean and not "bobbled" in any way. A bobbled catch is considered a hit.*

*DEAD BALL: One that has touched the ground, another player or ball. A "dead Ball" may be picked up and played immediately.*

## **BORDERS**

During play, all players must remain within the boundary lines. Players may leave the boundaries through their end-line only to retrieve stray balls. They must also return through their end-line.

## **THE OPENING RUSH**

Game begins by placing the dodgeballs along the centerline. Players then take a position behind their end line. Following a signal by the official, teams may approach the centerline to retrieve the balls.

## **TIMING AND WINNING A GAME**

The first team to legally eliminate all opposing players will be declared the winner. A 5-minute time limit has been established for each contest. If neither team has been eliminated at the end of the 5 minutes, the team with the most players remaining will be declared the winner of the game.

## **MATCHES AND GAMES**

A match consists of three games. The winner of a match is the team that wins two games.

## **TIES**

In the event of a tie at the end of a game, the winner will be decided by a one minute "sudden Death" over time session. The first team to lose a player, loses the game or the first team to gain a player wins the game.

## **TIME-OUTS & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Each team will be allowed one (1) 30 second timeout per game. At this time a team may substitute players into the game.

## **5-SECOND VIOLATION**

In order to reduce stalling, a violation will be called if a team in the lead controls all six (6) balls on their side of the court for more than 5 seconds. This also applies to tied teams.

## **RULE ENFORCEMENT**

During pool play or regular-season matches, rules will be enforced primarily by the "honor system"\*. Players will be expected to rule whether or not a hit was legal or whether they were legally eliminated. A court monitor will supervise all contests\*. The court monitor's responsibility will be to rule on any situation in which teams cannot agree. **THE COURT MONITOR'S DECISION IS FINAL – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## **ELIMINATION**

The Broward County Championship is a double elimination tournament. A team must lose two matches to be eliminated except in the Championship Match. The winner of the Championship Match regardless of that teams win/loss record decides the County Championship.

## **SEEDING**

Tournament seeding will be done on the basis of a blind draw. Two teams from the same school will not play each other in the opening match.

## **DIVISIONS**

There will be two divisions, one for high schools and one for middle schools.