

**Union Middle School
2025 Dodgeball Tournament
Official Rules and Regulations**

Teams

Teams eligible to play in the tournament consist of pre-registered students grouped in 6-8 players. Teams are separated into divisions based on grade. There is also an adult division.

The Game

Dodgeball is a sport played with teams of 6-8 players throwing balls at the opposing team. 6 players are on the court for each team at a time. Additional players are used as substitutes and rotate in when there are less than 6 players on their court, and a player on their team catches a ball. Players must rotate in order of their original line up. All legal hits, catches and player actions must take place within the court boundaries, which are well marked on the gym floor. The game uses 6 regulation-sized dodgeballs. Each game lasts 3 minutes.

The first team to eliminate all opposing players with legal hits is the winner. If after three minutes, players remain, the team with the most remaining players is the winner. Referees will keep and record scores, and report an official tally to the scorekeepers.

Tournament Details

The schedule of games is organized by the pool play system. Teams advance to the semi-finals (if applicable) or finals based on their rank from the pool play. If teams are tied after pool play, the following Tie Breaker rules will be used to determine which teams advance.

First tie breaker rule - *Total players remaining on the court.* If two or more teams end pool play tied with the same number of wins and ties, the team with the highest cumulative total number of players remaining on the court for all games won and tied, will advance to the playoff round.

Second tie breaker rule - *Head-to-head.* If the first tie breaker rule still ends in a tie, the team that won when the two teams played each other in pool play will advance to the playoff round.

Third tie breaker rule - *Tie breaker game.* If the first and second tie breaker rules still end in a tie, a tie breaking game will be played using

the same format as a pool play game.

For the semi-finals and finals, teams play until all players are eliminated from one of the teams.

Rules of the Game

Getting "out". The goal of dodgeball is to eliminate ("get out") the opposing team's players by striking them with a ball. A player is out if he or she:

- 1) Is hit by a ball at or below the shoulders
- 2) Throws a ball that is caught
- 3) Steps on or over a boundary line
- 4) Drops a ball he/she is using to block
- 5) Hits another player in the head with the ball (accident or not)
- 6) Holds the ball for more than 10 seconds
- 7) Argues with a referee or shows unsportsmanlike conduct

A ball is declared dead when it has hit a player, the ground, wall or any other object, or if it goes out of bounds. A dead ball may be picked up to be played once retrieved. Spectators are not allowed to collect, hold or assist players with balls that go out of bounds.

Dodgeball is a self-regulated sport and works on the "honor system." Players should know the rules and recognize when they are out.

Referees will call players out. Players must obey all referee calls.

Because dodgeball is a very fast paced game, players and spectators must understand that not every referee call can be perfect. If called out, players simply get back in the queue and wait to go back in. **Referees, volunteers and UMS staff have the right to eject players for: Arguing with the referees, head shots, intentional roughness, foul language, taunting, or any other behavior they feel is unsportsmanlike.** Please remember, this game is for fun!

Playing the Game

Please check the schedule and **report to your assigned court with your entire team five minutes before your start time.** Teams may have to forfeit a game if not ready when called to the court.

6 players from each team line up on the end lines of their side of the court. 6 balls are placed along the center line. Each team is designated 3

balls to start on the right side of the hash line. When the referee blows the whistle, the 3-minute game begins and players may go for their balls. All balls must be thrown from behind the attack line. Players must stay out of the neutral zone once they have retrieved the balls to start the game. Players have 10 seconds to throw the ball and may possess one ball at a time. Players may rotate in substitutes within the game time limit when their team catches a ball. Players must rotate in order. **Dodgeball relies on honesty from its players.** Know the rules and know if you are out. **ALL REFEREE CALLS STAND.** The UMS gym will have two courts and games will be occurring simultaneously.

