

BROOMBALL RULES

as issued by The Moscow Broomball League

2022-2023 Season

1. THE BROOMBALL TEAM

TEAM SIZE

1.1. Teams may have as many members as desired. However, during play no more than 6 players may be on the ice at any one time.

1.2. Players must be at least 16 years of age. Players between 16 and 18 years of age must have written permission from their parents. All players must fill in and provide a disclaimer to the League/Embassy.

1.3 Up to, and not more than, 4 players in all from Russia or a CIS country may play on a team. This includes spouses/partners of players. They must understand English and be able to communicate at a basic level. They must be submitted on the team roster at the start of the season. It is primarily up to the captain of each team to enforce this, but should issues arise, the Captains' Committee will make a final decision.

1.4. A team with fewer than 6 players for a game may borrow up to 2 players from any other team in the League subject to approval by the opposing team captain. The borrowed players **MUST** be replaced if and when team members arrive. A team may borrow the same player more than once in a season provided there are no objections from the opposing captain.

PLAYERS ON THE ICE

1.5. A field player may only strike the ball with her/his broom. The field player may however also stop the ball with her/his feet.

1.6. The goalie must be on her/his knees or lying down whenever in contact with the ball.

1.7. The goalie may play, hold, control and keep possession of the ball with her/his hands and feet in the unrestricted zone (see clause 2.3). Outside the unrestricted zone the goalie is considered a field player.

SUBSTITUTIONS

1.8. When a team has more than 6 players, substitutions can be made by both teams under the following circumstances:

- a.) The goalie has possession of the ball, and **THAT TEAM** calls a change (in which case the goalie shall not hold the ball for more than 15 seconds before restarting play).
- b.) After a goal has been scored.

- c.) When play has been stopped due to injury and a player leaves the court, either temporarily or permanently; a substitution may be made for the injured player.

Flying changes are NOT allowed.

1.9. Substitutions are not allowed during the final 2 minutes of the game, or during a penalty by the team serving the penalty.

1.10. Substitutions should be made as swiftly as possible. If a team is considered by the referees to be delaying the game unnecessarily or deliberately, it shall be viewed as unsportsmanlike behaviour. A warning will be given and multiple offences will be penalised according to clause 6.8.

2. THE BROOMBALL COURT

THE COURT

2.1. The court should be prepared as shown in Appendix 1, with the goal area, unrestricted zone, centre line and centre ice clearly marked.

2.2 The goal area is a half circle, defined by a line established one meter from the middle of the goal line. It should be clearly marked on the ice. Only the goalie may enter the goal area.

2.3. The unrestricted zone is the area in which the goalie is permitted to play the ball with her/his hands. The unrestricted area runs parallel to the side of the court, from the back of the court, at a point one quarter distance from the side and half way to the centre of the ice. The goal area lies within the unrestricted zone. The goalie must be in the unrestricted zone for a throw-out.

2.4. Snow banks on all sides of the court should be kept to a minimum.

2.5 Goals should be of equal size and height, with mesh netting small enough to prevent the ball passing through.

2.6. Goals should be positioned as close as possible to the back fence. (When playing at an arena or venue where there are surrounding boards, if possible the goal should be secured by tape or ties to the boards to limit movement on the ice.)

2.7. Snow should be cleared from inside the goal.

THE ICE COORDINATOR

2.8. There should be an agreed ice coordinator. This is the only person allowed to call off play because of an unsuitable surface.

2.9. The temperature limit is -20°C . The temperature is measured for weekday games the same day at 12:00, and for Saturday games the same day at 08:00. However, if both teams agree, the game may be played despite the temperature limit. Note that, in this case, the refereeing team is NOT obliged to provide referees.

3. THE BROOMBALL EQUIPMENT

BROOMS

3.1. Brooms must only contain venik (i.e. straw), tape and string, and must show bristles at both ends. Nothing else is allowed.

3.2. All brooms must be fitted with a strap on the handle to secure them to the player's wrist. The strap **MUST** be worn during play.

3.3. Soaking and freezing of the broom is illegal.

KIT

3.4. The wearing of a helmet with a mesh faceguard and proper straps is compulsory. Partial face guards are unsafe as they do not protect the jaw in the event of a forwards fall. Any player whose helmet comes off during play **MUST** leave the ice until the helmet is secure again.

3.5. Shoulder pads are permitted for both men's and women's teams.

3.6. Tape or spikes on shoes are not allowed.

3.7. Goalies are not permitted a stick of any description, goalkeeper pads of any type, or gloves with specialised catching attachments between fingers. Only gloves of personal hand size are permitted. Hockey players' gloves are permitted for goalies.

4. THE BROOMBALL SCHEDULE

4.1. If a team is genuinely unable to play on the scheduled date, the captain should contact the opposing team captain to arrange an alternative date. This date may be any time before the end of the season. The non-cancelling team shall be reasonable in accepting offered game dates to ensure game play. If no amicable agreement can be reached within 7 days of the original game, the Captains' Committee - at the convenience of the **NON-CANCELLING TEAM** - will set a date. The cancelling team must accept this date or forfeit.

4.2. A game is automatically forfeited if the cancelling captain fails to notify the opposing team captain, the scheduled referee and the ice coordinator by:

- 14:00 on **FRIDAY** for a **SATURDAY** game
- 16:00 on **MONDAY** for a **TUESDAY** game
- 16:00 on **TUESDAY** for a **WEDNESDAY** game
- 16:00 on **WEDNESDAY** for a **THURSDAY** game

4.3. Teams which fail to show to play or referee a game three times, without notifying the relevant teams and the ice coordinator, will be expelled from the League, and all games that team has played will be annulled.

4.4. It is contrary to the spirit of the game for a captain to reschedule because the team is not at full strength.

5. THE BROOMBALL GAME STRUCTURE

5.1. A game consists of three 20 minute periods. The third period will be two parts of 10 minutes. The game clock will run continuously during each period and part period. If the ball travels outside the bounds of the court, or during any other long disruptions to the play, the game clock will be stopped at the discretion of the referee.

5.2. There will be a 5 minute break between each period and a 2 minute break in the middle of the third period. During these breaks the teams will change ends.

5.3. Each period will start with an ice hockey style face-off at centre ice. The referee shall mark the beginning of the period by blowing the whistle.

5.4. A goal is scored when the entire ball crosses the goal line as a result of:

- a) a hit
- b) a deflection from a hit
- c) the goalie dropping the ball, or passing the ball, into the goal.

It is not considered a goal if the ball crosses the goal line as a result of the goalie sliding into the goal with the ball, if she/he was pushed by an opposing player.

5.5. After each goal is scored the ball shall be returned to centre ice and the referee shall whistle to indicate that the team, against which the goal was scored, may restart the game.

5.5. A game should start at the scheduled time, with the option of a 10 minute “grace” period to allow players or referees to finish getting ready.

5.6. There should be at least 4 fully equipped players on the ice for the start of a game. In the event that, after the 10 minute “grace” period, a team has fewer than 4 players on the ice but other players are on the grounds/in the dressing room, the game shall start as scheduled and the players may join the game when ready. If there is no indication of players soon to join the game (i.e. in the dressing room) then that team shall forfeit the game, unless the opposing team’s captain agrees to postpone the start, and only if the postponement will not delay a following game.

5.7. A game may be started without the required number of referees if the two opposing captains are in agreement. At least one referee from the scheduled team should be present by the start of the second period in order to avoid a 2 point penalty (see clause 7.2). It is very important that the names of the referees are indicated on the scoresheet and that the captains indicate the required number of referees were present.

6. THE BROOMBALL GAME RULES

CHECKING

6.1. Body contact and tackles are legal and will hereinafter be referred to as checking. Only the trunk (hips to shoulders) shall be used to check. Checks can only be delivered from directly in front or from the side.

6.2. Anyone playing, attempting to play or in possession of the ball is eligible to be checked, but only to attempt to separate the player from the ball, or while attempting to play the ball. Nobody else can be checked, including a player chasing the ball. The goalie may not be checked.

6.3. Checks cannot be for the purpose of intimidating or punishment without intent to play the ball.

6.4. Dangerous checking and sliding tackles are illegal and will result in an automatic 2 minute penalty (see clause 6.8). This includes:

- physically attacking a player at speed
- checking from behind
- checking an opposing player with no attempt to play the ball
- knocking someone off their feet with a sliding tackle.

6.5. When playing at an arena or venue where there are surrounding boards, additional care must be taken with checks. A player must not commit any infraction, including checking, that causes the opponent to go violently or excessively into the boards. This includes:

- accelerating through the check to a player who is in a vulnerable position off of the boards that causes them to go violently into the boards.
- driving an opponent excessively into the boards with no focus on or intent to play the ball.
- any other infraction (tripping, cross-checking, charging etc.) that causes the opponent to go violently and excessively into the boards.
- any check that is sufficiently hard or takes a player off their feet. This does not prevent the playing for the ball along the boards, provided there is no hard check involved.

Any of the above shall be considered dangerous and will result in an automatic 2 minute penalty (see clause 6.8).

RULE VIOLATIONS - LOSS OF POSSESSION

6.6. The referee should whistle to indicate a rule violation. The following violations are grounds for loss of possession:

- a.) High Sticking: if a player raises her/his broom above the shoulders to strike or try to strike the ball, or if a player hits an opposing player above the shoulders with the broom.
- b.) Accidental dangerous play (e.g. knocking a player off their feet without control, hitting a player below the shoulders with the broom). Intentional dangerous play is grounds for a penalty (see clause 6.8).
- c.) Body contact using arms and legs to impede a player's progress (e.g. holding, grabbing, or tripping a player).
- d.) Hand Ball/Foot Foul: if a field player (or goalie outside the unrestricted zone) handles the ball with her/his arms or hands, or plays, controls or keeps possession of the ball with her/his feet. (Stopping an incoming ball with a foot is allowed, but not passes(=kicking).)
- e.) Offside: if, at a face-off, a player is located in the opposing team's half of the ice.
- f.) Icing: if, following a goalie throw-out, the ball crosses the centre line without being touched by a player from either team.

- g.) If the goalie throws the ball to a player in the same team and the player passes it back to the goalie.
- h.) If there are more than 6 players in the same team on the ice.
- i.) If the goalie is checked.
- j.) If an attacking player enters the goal area while the ball is in play and interferes with the game. (An attacking player may strike a loose ball that is in the goal area, provided she/he is NOT in the goal area.)

6.6.1. At loss of possession, as described in **a-h** above, the referee will restart play at the side of the court, with the opposing team in possession.

6.6.2. At loss of possession, as described in **i-j** above, the goalie will be given possession.

RULE VIOLATIONS - PENALTIES

6.7. Some rule violations may be grounds for a penalty. During a penalty the offending player must leave the ice for the required length of time (2 minutes, 5 minutes, or the remainder of the game). Substitutions are not allowed during a penalty by the team serving the penalty.

6.8. Penalties lasting 2 minutes will be awarded for:

- a.) If there are more than 6 players on the ice during play after restart and one of the players who was substituting off is still on the ice and is interfering with the play. The captain of the penalised team may choose from those players on the ice, who will serve the penalty.
- b.) Continuous unsportsmanlike behaviour (e.g. arguing with the referee, unnecessary delays).
- c.) A player intentionally throwing her/his broom.
- d.) Intentional dangerous play or dangerous checking (see 6.4 and 6.5).

6.8.1. If a goal is scored against the team serving a 2 minute penalty, the team automatically returns to full strength.

6.9. Penalties lasting 5 minutes will be awarded for fighting, hitting, kicking, or clearly violent play.

6.9.1. A team serving a 5 minute penalty has to serve the full penalty and will not return to full strength if a goal is scored. The 5 minute penalty is enforced in full, regardless.

6.9.2. If a 5 minute penalty has not been fully served at the end of a period, it must be completed in the following period, provided it is not the end of the game.

6.10. Penalties requiring removal from the remainder of the game will be awarded for:

- a.) Intentionally attempting to injure an opposing player.
- b.) Any violence, physical or verbal, against a referee.

c.) A second 5 minute violation. (This sanction requires a mandatory notification to the Captains' Committee).

6.10.1. If a player is removed from the remainder of the game, her/his team will serve a 5 minute penalty in full and then return to full strength.

6.11. All penalties must be recorded on the scoresheet. Any repeat offenders may be subject to suspension.

6.11.1. A player who receives three or more 2 minute penalties in one game is automatically subject to disciplinary discussion at the Captains' Meeting.

6.11.2. A player who, during the season, receives two penalties of 5 minutes or more (as described in clauses 6.9 and 6.10) is automatically subject to disciplinary discussion at the Captains' Meeting, with a minimum of a two match suspension. The suspended games will be the first two games immediately after Captains' Meeting.

7. THE BROOMBALL REFEREES

REFEREES

7.1. Three referees are required for each game. One will be the central referee, and the two others should be positioned at opposite corners of the court. The central referee must be an experienced player (i.e. with at least one full season's playing experience). Note: Since there are only two women's teams for the 2022/23 season it will suffice with one central referee from a men's team for the women's league games.

7.2. The refereeing team will be decided according to the game schedule. If the team does not provide three referees as scheduled, they will be penalised 2 points in their overall League Standings. Refereeing no-shows by the end of the first period count towards the three no-shows rule (see clause 4.3.).

7.3. If fewer than three referees are available for a game the game can be played provided the two opposing captains are in agreement, and the refereeing team will be penalised 1 point in their overall League Standings. In the event of the opposing captains not agreeing, the refereeing team will be penalised according to clause 7.2.

7.4. In the event of make-up games, or games which the teams agree to play at temperatures below -20°C (see clause 2.9.), the scheduled refereeing team is NOT required to provide referees.

7.5. Each team must provide their referees with a copy of the rules, three whistles, a stopwatch and a scoresheet. The scoresheet must be completed during the game and scores entered onto the website within 24 hours of the end of the match. The scoresheet should be returned electronically to the League Scorer at the earliest available opportunity.

7.6. A referee MUST inspect all brooms before the start of play.

7.7. A referee MUST announce last change prior to the final two minutes of the game.

GROUNDS FOR STOPPING PLAY

7.8. All referees are responsible for stopping play in the event of a rule violation or noticeable injury of a player anywhere on the field. Play should be stopped by blowing the whistle loudly and clearly.

7.9. The referee should also whistle to stop play for the following reasons:

- a.) If the ball is trapped under a player for more than 3 seconds. In this case possession is given to the opposing team.
- b.) If the ball travels outside the bounds of the court. The team who touched the ball last loses possession. If the ball travels outside the court at the side (including over a snow bank), play should be restarted from the side of the court. If the ball travels outside the court at the end after having last been touched by an offensive player, possession is awarded to the goalie (“goalie ball”); otherwise, play restarts in the corner (“corner ball”). Note that the goalie is considered a defensive player with respect to the loss of possession.
- c.) If the ball goes behind or on top of the goal box. In this case possession is awarded to the goalie (“goalie ball”).
- d.) If the ball is buried in a snow bank deeply enough that play cannot move forward without intervention. In this case play should be stopped and restarted with a drop ball by the referee at the place of the stoppage. If the ball is continually getting buried in snow banks another rule may be agreed upon by the opposing captains.

7.10. In the event that a foreign object comes onto the court (e.g. a second ball), the referee may stop the game if the object is a hazard, or is disrupting or confusing play. If, however, there is no potential for disruption or confusion (e.g. the second ball appears at the opposite end of the court and can be retrieved without affecting play), the game need not be stopped.

7.10.1. If a player on the ice accidentally becomes separated from her/his broom, the loose broom should not be considered a hazard and play **MUST** be allowed to continue.

DISPUTES

7.11. The decision of the referees is final. In any dispute the central referee will have the final decision.

7.12. Only the captain or vice-captain of a team may protest to the referee. All other players are to stay clear. If a captain/vice-captain has an issue, the referees must pause and take note.

7.13. Any team may file a complaint/protest, to be discussed at the following Captains’ Meeting.

7.14. In case of bad refereeing a complaint should be made to the Captains’ Committee. If two complaints are made about one team during one season the issue will be discussed at the next Captains’ Meeting and if the Committee decides, the team can be penalised 2 points.

8. THE BROOMBALL LEAGUE

8.1. For the League Standings a win is awarded 2 points and a tie 1 point each. A forfeit is a loss; both receive 0 points.

8.2. If teams are tied for first, second or third place at the end of the season, position will be determined by one play-off game. Should the game end in a tie, the game will go into sudden death overtime, played over 10 minute periods.

8.3. Playoff structure, if any, will be determined by the Captains' Committee at the beginning of the season.

APPENDIX 1

Broomball Court Layout

