

# SANCTIONS & DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES



BRITISH  
DODGEBALL

## **Introduction**

This document provides an overview of the disciplinary guidance and procedures applicable to all those involved in British Dodgeball competitions, clubs, and activities at every level.

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## 1. General Process & Guidelines

**1.1** Where possible yellow cards, red cards and other penalties will be issued by the referee, event coordinator or other British Dodgeball official on the day of the event. However, the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee also have the ability to issue sanctions retrospectively.

**1.2** “Issuing” a card or penalty will involve the referee verbally notifying the offending individual where this is issued at an event. Where a card is issued retrospectively, the individual’s team and (if possible) the individual will be notified via email following the event.

## 2. Penalty sets and “Outs”

**2.1** Penalty sets are designed to encompass minor offences/ infringements, in particular where calling a player ‘out’ is not applicable or would not suffice. A penalty set will result in the offending player being sent to the ‘penalty box’ for the remainder of the set in which the ‘penalty set’ was issued, and the entirety of the subsequent set, with their team having to play all of this period short-handed. A penalty set punishment is one set regardless of the length of that set – the team may choose to immediately step off court and forfeit the set.

**2.2** Penalty sets are within-match sanctions only. They can only be issued to players or substitutes – not to retrievers, spectators, or coaches. They do not carry over into other matches or events, and for this reason referees are encouraged to consider whether a yellow card would be a more appropriate sanction for offences that occur in the final three minutes of a match.

**2.3** Referees should, in the first instance, consider whether calling a player ‘out’ would be a relevant or sufficient sanction, in particular when an offence is not deemed to be deliberately unsportsmanlike.

### 3. Yellow cards

**3.1** Yellow cards will be issued for all moderate offences/ infringements where a penalty set is not applicable or would not be sufficient (often where the offence is considered unsportsmanlike and deliberate).

**3.2** Receiving a yellow card as a player in a match whilst that match is in play will result in the player being immediately called “out” (if not already out) and sent to the “penalty box”.

- The player must remain in the penalty box until five minutes of match play has been completed.
- Their team is not permitted to replace them with another player in this time and must start each set during these five minutes short-handed and as if that player were in the starting line-up.
- Once the five minute sin bin has been served, the offending player must move to the back of the out queue.
- Any penalty that has not been fully served when a match ends will be carried over to the next match in which the offending player plays/ is a named substitute. Where this next match is at a subsequent event, the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee will select a particular event in which the remainder of the penalty must be served.
- Receiving a yellow card as a retriever for a team in a match in British Dodgeball events will be treated as if the retriever is a player for the team they are retrieving for. The retriever must serve five minutes of match play in the penalty box, and the team must play that time short-handed and as if that individual were in the starting line-up (whether the retriever was or was not a substitute). The team must source a replacement retriever for this period.

**3.3** Receiving a yellow card as a player not currently competing in a match in British Dodgeball events (for instance, as a substitute or spectator, or between matches) will result in that player serving a five minute penalty in the “penalty box” from the start of the next set to be played by a team containing the offending player.

- Where this next set will be at a subsequent event to the one where the offence is committed, the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee will select a particular event in which the penalty must be served.
- The player must remain in the penalty box until five minutes of match play has been completed.
- Their team is not permitted to replace them with another player in this time and must start each set during these five minutes short-handed and as if that player were in the starting line-up.
- Once the five minute penalty has been served, the offending player must move to the back of the out queue in the player return area.
- Where teams field a player who should be serving a suspension, or incorrectly do not play shorthanded, the British Dodgeball regulations around forfeits apply.

**3.4** Two yellow cards received in the same match at an event will automatically result in a red card being issued to the offending player.

#### **4. Red cards**

**4.1** Red cards will be issued for the most serious of offences.

**4.2** Verbally abusing a referee or event coordinator will result in an immediate red card for the offending player or players.

**4.3** Receiving a red card as a player in a match whilst that match is in play will result in the player being immediately called “out” (if not already out) and sent out of the court boundaries for the remainder of that match.

- For the remainder of the match in which the player receives the red card, their team is not permitted to replace them with another player and must start each set during the remainder of this match short-handed, as if that player were in the starting line-up.

- The team aspect of this penalty must be at least equivalent to that of a yellow card – the team must play a minimum of five minutes, and up to all of the remainder of the match in which the card was issued (whichever is shortest) short-handed. Where a five minute penalty has not been fully served when a match ends, any time remaining will be carried over to the next match in which the offending player plays/ is a named substitute. Where this next match is at a subsequent event, the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee will select a particular event in which the remainder of the penalty must be served.
- The player will not be permitted to participate (be within the court boundaries) in any further matches at the event or round of fixtures in which the red card was received. For any of these further matches, whilst this offending player may not participate, their team no longer needs to play short-handed (unless the team has no substitutes, in which case they must play short-handed).

**4.4** Receiving a red card as a substitute player not currently competing in a match in British Dodgeball events, but during a match, will result in that player being immediately sent out of the court boundaries for the remainder of that match.

- For all further sets of the match in which the player receives the red card, their team must play as if the offending player were in the starting line-up and must start each set short-handed.
- The player will not be permitted to participate in any further matches at the event or round of fixtures in which the red card was received. For any of these further matches, whilst this offending player may not participate, their team no longer needs to play short-handed.

**4.5** Receiving a red card as a player not currently competing in a match in British Dodgeball events (for instance, as a spectator, or between matches) will result in that player having to remain outside of the court boundaries for the entirety of the next match in which they are a named player/substitute.

- For all sets of the first match after which the player receives the red card, their team must play as if the offending player were in the starting line-up and must start each set short-handed.

- The player will not be permitted to participate in any further matches at the event or round of fixtures in which the red card was received. For any of these further matches, whilst this offending player may not participate, their team no longer needs to play short-handed.

**4.6** The British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee will always review red card offences and decide whether further sanctions (for instance, additional match bans) are necessary.

## **5. Match Context and end-of-match offences**

**5.1** Referees will consider the match context when issuing sanctions, and in particular will consider the time in a set or match at which an offence occurs. Where an offence occurs in the final set or penultimate set of a match and/or is very likely to have an impact on the final match score, referees should consider issuing a more severe punishment than the offence might at other times warrant. For instance, a player who is clearly “out” and takes time to leave the court/ raise their hands to signify that they are “out” (therefore potentially misleading the opposition around the number of players left “in”) should be issued with a yellow card or even a red card dependent on impact/ severity, even if they might have been issued with a penalty set/ yellow card for this offence at an earlier point in the match.

**5.2** Referees will also be asked to report end-of-match offences to the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee for further consideration of whether additional team or player sanctions are appropriate, including docking of match points.

## **6. Team Offences**

Where sanctioning just one individual is not appropriate, the British Dodgeball Disciplinary Committee will review where a team sanction should be applied, such as a points deduction.

## 7. Overview of possible offences and suggested sanctions

**7.1** The following is an overview of offences that may occur in relation to British Dodgeball events, and the suggested standard consequences. The context of every infringement or offence is different and therefore British Dodgeball Referees and the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee may decide that a different sanction is more appropriate.

<b>INFRINGEMENT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED SANCTION</b>
<b>Invalid attempt (including throwing at a player who is clearly already out)</b>	Player is “out” (penalty set where this may be end-of-set time-wasting)
<b>Swearing – indirect but audible to at least one referee or official</b>	Player is “out”
<b>Swearing – direct</b>	Yellow card
<b>Swearing at an official - direct</b>	Red card
<b>Other verbal offence including taunting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Player is “out” for a first offence</li> <li>– Yellow card for a subsequent offence in the same match</li> </ul>
<b>Serious verbal offence (e.g. discriminatory) whether direct or indirect</b>	Red card
<b>Arguing with a refereeing decision / trying to make a call*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Player is “out” for a first offence</li> <li>– Yellow card for a subsequent offence in the same match</li> <li>– Red card for a third offence in the same match</li> </ul>
<b>Deliberate/ avoidable physical contact (for instance, may include a leap of faith that results in contact)</b>	Yellow card for any individual instigating contact
<b>Spitting at an opponent</b>	Red card
<b>Intentional headshot</b>	Yellow card where players are in close proximity or where headshots are of concerning frequency.
<b>Time-wasting</b>	Any offending players are “out” (penalty set considered for end-of-set time-wasting offences)

<b>INFRINGEMENT</b>	<b>SUGGESTED SANCTION</b>
<b>Time-wasting</b>	Any offending players are “out” (penalty set considered for end-of-set time-wasting offences)
<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct - deliberate (for instance, deliberate interfering with play/ ‘shielding’ another player once out)</b>	Yellow card
<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct - not likely to be deliberate</b>	Player “out”/ penalty set, dependent on severity and impact/ context
<b>As a substitute/ “out” player/ spectator, entering the court or interfering in play</b>	Penalty set (substitute/ “out” player, if no interference in play) / yellow card (spectator, or substitute/ “out” player interfering in play)
<b>Serious physical offence i.e. violent conduct</b>	Red card
<b>Explicit lack of attention as an assistant referee, including use of a mobile phone</b>	Yellow card
<b>Remaining on court in spite of clearly being “out”</b>	Penalty set/ Yellow card, dependent on context (match context; likelihood of the player identifying that they should be “out”)

**7.2** Players are permitted to ask referees a non-aggressive question about the outcome of a recent play where this was not fully clarified by the referee/ other official. Where possible this should be directed to the referee by the captain or coach only. If the referee deems this to be aggressive or unnecessary questioning then sanctions will apply. British Dodgeball will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse of referees.

## **8. Cumulative yellow and red cards**

**8.1** For every 3 yellow cards received by a player within a season, the British Dodgeball Disciplinary Committee will review whether an additional 1 match ban should be issued. The event in which this ban is to be served would be decided by the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee.

**8.2** Where 2 yellow cards are issued in the same match and therefore a player receives a red card, these will be logged as two yellow cards for the purposes of additional penalties for cumulative cards.

**8.3** Where 2 red cards received by a player within a season, the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee will review whether an additional (1-2) match ban should be issued. The event in which this ban is to be served would be decided by the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee.

## **Part 2**

This section refers to sanctions for wider offences outside of competitive play at British Dodgeball events. Following a formal complaints procedure the complaints panel may issue sanctions as highlighted in the British Dodgeball Code of Conduct. The British Dodgeball Code of Conduct should be referenced when issuing sanctions.

### **1. List of Sanctions**

List of possible sanctions that can be imposed by British Dodgeball:

- Required to meet with a superior member of staff
- Required to meet with the British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee
- Be required to issue a formal written or in person apology
- Issued with a verbal warning
- Issued with a formal warning
- Removed from your role
- Be suspended or banned from future British Dodgeball events
- Be required to leave the sport

### **2. Fines**

The British Dodgeball Complaints & Disciplinary Committee may only issue a fine where there is evidence of specific costs associated with the offence. The amount of the fine will be reflective of these costs.

### **3. Players & Coaches**

All players should adhere to the British Dodgeball Code of Conduct. Complaints received regarding a player or coaches breach of the code of conduct or social media policy should follow the formal complaints procedure and if sanctions are required should be issued appropriately and based on the severity of the incident. Repeat offenders may require increased sanctions.

### **4. Referees**

All referees should adhere to the British Dodgeball Code of Conduct. All referees whether working in a paid or voluntary capacity at British Dodgeball have a duty of care to the organisation. Complaints received regarding a referees breach of the code of conduct or social media policy should follow the formal complaints procedure and if sanctions are required should be issued appropriately and based on the severity of the incident. Repeat offenders may require increased sanctions.

### **5. Volunteers**

All volunteers should adhere to the British Dodgeball Code of Conduct. All volunteers at British Dodgeball have a duty of care to the organisation. Complaints received regarding a volunteers breach of the code of conduct or social media policy should follow the formal complaints procedure and if sanctions are required should be issued appropriately and based on the severity of the incident. Repeat offenders may require increased sanctions.

### **6. Spectators**

All spectators should adhere to the British Dodgeball Code of Conduct. Complaints received regarding a spectators breach of the code of conduct or social media policy should follow the formal complaints procedure and if sanctions are required should be issued appropriately and based on the severity of the incident. Repeat offenders may require increased sanctions.

### **7. Employees**

Any complaints raised about British Dodgeball employees will follow an internal disciplinary process.

## 8. Formal Warnings

If further complaints are received regarding an individual who has already received a formal warning, and after a review is undertaken, the minimum sanction required will be as follows:

- If the individual holds a voluntary or paid position, but is not an employee, they may be removed from their role .
- If the individual is a coach, player or spectator they may be suspended from future British Dodgeball events.