

INCLUSIVE REFEREEING

To aid in the development of the sport, we encourage all referees to adopt an inclusive approach.

We are committed to ensuring that dodgeball is an inclusive game which anybody can enjoy playing. A large part of a player's enjoyment can be influenced by a referee; if they show a degree of empathy, treat players with respect and take the time to explain rules to players where relevant, then all players are more likely to remain calm and enjoy the game. 7 examples of inclusive practices are shown below:

Before The Match:

Be welcoming



Make an effort to introduce yourself to teams, or team officials, before a match. This can help to put new teams at ease.

Assess extra needs



Ask a team official beforehand if anyone new to you has extra needs. This allows you to adapt how you communicate.

During The Match:

Commentate



Use clear hand signals and verbal announcement when players have been hit. Where possible, provide extra information on non-events such as near misses and where a dead ball hits a player. This allows everyone to understand your view of each situation and keeps a game flowing. Examples of this are:

"There was a line fault, so the catch doesn't count."

"The ball bounced first, so no hit."

Common sense approach



If a new player doesn't understand a rule, you may choose to provide an additional warning and explain this before applying sanctions e.g. if a new player rolls a ball across to their opponents without knowing this is an invalid attempt you may tell them this isn't allowed before calling them out. Take care to only apply leniency to situations where the set result is unlikely to be affected.

Emotion coaching



This provides you with a structure to aid with de-escalation, using the understanding that an emotional outburst is not a negative, but a learning opportunity. The key to this technique is finding common ground with an emotional player using the following steps:

1. Name the emotion e.g. "It seems like you're feeling frustrated..."
2. Show empathy e.g. "...I'd be frustrated too if I'd been hit before making that catch..."
3. Set boundaries e.g. "...but even when we're frustrated, we can't shout at the referee or you'll be given a yellow card..."
4. Plan for next time e.g. "...What should you do next time?"



After The Match:

Explain rules



If you make a decision regarding a new player and they look confused when called out or sanctioned, take 30 seconds after the match to explain relevant rules to them to help them understand for next time.

Encourage



Provide encouragement or positive feedback about a new team's gameplay or adherence to the Dodgeball Code (honesty, fair play etc.) in order to encourage this behaviour in the future.

Refereeing Standard:

V.5: Bigger Picture: Referee inclusively to foster a love of the game

Outstanding Application:

Able to consistently & effectively use inclusive refereeing practice to adapt communication to clearly explain and encourage younger/newer players