

XOSO Dodgeball Referee Guide - Some Pointers

1. If 4 refs, (instead of 5) the two officials near the gym center should be spread out wide so they can see ollie shots and watch the back baselines to make sure people stay in bounds.
2. It's very important to (basically) yell, "Out, Catch, Bounce" depending on the call. If players hear it, they will know you're doing your job. If they don't hear you making calls, they will think you don't know what you're doing and are more likely to argue. It will also keep people honest. Most complaints about refs afterwards are because they couldn't hear calls or know that the refs were doing anything.
3. Stand by your call, but if another official had a better angle and disagrees with your call, let the other official make their call. If you change your call because a player argues, they will try to argue more. Just calmly explain that you made the call, you're sorry if it is wrong, but you can't see everything and you're doing the best you can.
4. When a team (let's call the team Team A) is down to a final player, the official on the other team's (Team B) half of the court should move towards the baseline to watch the arc of the shot. If the shot even nicks the net, it's a dead ball and if Team B catches it or drops it, it doesn't matter because it's a dead ball. You are also in position to see if someone goes out of bounds when trying to catch the ball, or if a player makes contact with the backboard/rim/net, in which case they would be out. The official watching Team A's side would move towards the centerline to watch the feet of the shooter. If even a toe crosses the yellow center line the shooter is out.
5. The official starting each game should either say "Go" or "Dodgeball" or blow a whistle, WHILE dropping their arm so that each team knows the game has begun. Just blowing the whistle or saying something is hard because there are two games going at once. Give them something to see as well (like dropping a flag to start a race).
6. As an official, please pay attention and do your best. If another official is making calls, that doesn't mean you should assume they have it covered. It's impossible for even 5 refs to see everything, so help watch, and voice your calls loud enough for players to hear. Please don't sit or lay down, because players will think you're lazy and don't care about their game.
7. When counting down a player, leave a slight pause between counts 5...4...3...2...1. We don't WANT to call people on counts, but we do want people to throw the ball and keep the game moving. Don't rush through the count down.