



Broomball League Rulebook and General Information

Purpose and Scope of This Document

This Rulebook and Registration Information booklet is intended to give all participants a broad overview of how the league operates and explain most rules and procedures that govern the league. This document is not intended to cover every last detail, such as various procedural and administrative items that can vary from season to season. Many additional details for the league will be disseminated via e-mail and on the Club website, so please check both frequently. Please add patrick@madisonssc.com to your list of safe senders to ensure you receive all e-mails pertaining to the league.

Code of Conduct

Madison Sports and Social Club does not tolerate discrimination, racism, sexual harassment, unwelcome sexual advances, violence, threats, or any other type of behavior that may make any player or official feel uncomfortable or threaten his or her health and well-being. We expect all players to treat everyone with respect and abide by common standards of decency and good sportsmanship.

Team names must not be offensive toward any race, nationality, gender identity, or any other group of individuals. They must not contain profanity. Please use tact and common sense when choosing a team name. MSSC reserves the right to reject any team name it finds offensive. You will be asked to supply a new name in the event your team name is deemed inappropriate.

Players will read and understand the rules. They are sent to all roster players prior to the season and are available on the MSSC website as well. Not reading rules is the single biggest cause of problems in our leagues. If players have a question about the application of any given rule, they can ask an official during a break in play or after a game if time allows. They will not argue calls with officials or ask to have rules explained to them during play unless an official feels an explanation is necessary before play continues. Officials are human and make mistakes and MSSC does not tolerate abuse of its officials.

All participants must refrain from threatening, taunting, name-calling, put-downs, intimidation, violence, harassment, and other inappropriate behavior toward teammates, opponents, and officials. Everyone makes mistakes, and we will not tolerate criticism or intimidation of anyone involved with our leagues due to differences in skill level or any other factor. Coaching, tips, and helpful hints are welcome, provided they are relayed in a constructive and friendly manner. Any player making an offensive comment to another individual is subject to ejection at the umpire's discretion.

All players are encouraged to report offensive behavior to the Club President, Patrick Fosdick, via e-mail at patrick@madisonssc.com. All reports will be kept anonymous and taken seriously, and appropriate action will be taken if deemed necessary, including, but not limited to warnings, suspension, and removal of the offending individual(s) from league play.

Broomball Registration Information

- Registration is only available on our website, <http://www.madisonssc.com>.
- Full teams will be enrolled in the league before Free Agents. In the event that the league sells out with registered teams, Free Agents will unfortunately not be able to participate, unless any teams are looking for additional players. As with most co-ed sports leagues, we always have more males than females sign up to play any given sport, so there are generally some males who will not be able to be placed on a team.
- Captains should rank their top three choices for shirt colors when registering online. In the event all three colors chosen have already been assigned, the captain will be contacted via e-mail for additional color choice selections.
- Teams will be accepted on first-come, first-enrolled basis. If necessary, a cutoff date for registration will be announced on the Club website

Miscellaneous Administrative Rules and Notes

- The season will generally consist of six regular season games and two or three weeks of playoffs (depending on the number of teams registered). Games are held at Madison Ice Arena, located at 725 Forward Drive in Madison. There are locker rooms available at the facility for players to change before and after the games.
- MSSC accepts registrations from Individuals/Free Agents (or players without a team). The league has a maximum capacity of nine teams, so full teams will be placed first, followed by Free Agents in the order they registered. Some free agents may not be assigned to a team due to space limitations. If we have space, they are placed on teams in the order they signed up.
 - Free Agents are welcome to form teams on their own or request to play with friends; otherwise they will be assigned to a team by MSSC.
- Spectators are welcome and encouraged at the games, but must refrain from interfering with play.
- Club management reserves the right to alter the setup of the league at any time before or during the season. This includes, but is not limited to, alterations to league structure, prizes, and rules changes.
- Referees are provided by MSSC and should have no affiliation with any particular team in the league.
- All roster players must complete waivers to participate in the league. The waiver is completed during the process of accepting the invite e-mailed by the captain prior to the season. Teams in violation of roster and/or waiver policies are subject to forfeiting games at MSSC's discretion.
- Following the regular season, an appropriate playoff structure will be established. In general, all teams make the playoffs with the following exceptions:
 - Any team forfeiting two or more regular season games may be left out of the playoffs at MSSC's discretion
 - If time or space constraints arise, teams may be left out of the playoffs to allow completion of the league in a timely and/or efficient manner. Depending on the reason for the exclusion, a team may be refunded for a missed playoff game
 - The bottom two teams in the regular season standings may play one final game against each other, but this game will not be a part of the playoff bracket

- Any team determined to have exhibited extremely poor sportsmanship or other conduct detrimental to the league on a regular and consistent basis may be left out of the playoffs at MSSC's discretion. Refunds will NOT be issued to any teams under these circumstances, as this is a violation of our Code of Conduct
- Any team who does not wish to participate in the playoffs may be excluded at the captain's request. There is no requirement to participate in the playoffs

Prizes

Prizes will be announced in the playoff email that goes out to all registered participants. In the past they've generally included gift cards to sponsor bars or cash prizes processed as refunds to the captain, but prizes are subject to change any given season. We only award prizes to the first and second place teams in the entire league and do not award prizes in each division if there are multiple divisions.

Rules and Regulations

1. General Rules

- A. All games in the League shall be governed by the rules outlined herein
- B. All MSSC leagues are meant to be fun and social in nature, but since play may become intense at times, please try to remember that we are here to have fun. Please refrain from any action that could be considered poor sportsmanship
- C. Players must respect the authority of the referees to regulate the game and abide by their decisions. Referees have the authority to eject players from the game for detrimental conduct. All decisions of the referees are final. **Any situations not specifically covered in the Rulebook are up to the discretion of the referee and/or MSSC staff on site**
- D. Referees will have discretion to stop the game clock as necessary, although the game clock does run continuously

2. Format

- A. Games will consist of two periods of 20 minutes with a 5 minute intermission
- B. Games will begin as soon as the referee indicates the game is ready to begin. They may not start on time if games are running behind due to activities prior to our league games

3. Team Size, Rosters, Subs, Forfeits, etc.

- A. A full team will consist of six players on the ice, at least two of whom must be female. There will be one goaltender and five other players. There are no gender rules for any position on the ice. Four players must be present to start and continue each game, including two females
 - If one team decides to take a forfeit win, this must be decided and captains must sign to acknowledge the forfeit before the game begins
- B. If a player leaves a game for any reason and no substitute is available, the game may proceed as long as there are still at least 4 players present, including two females

- C. A player must specifically identify as a female in order to count toward the minimum number of females required to be present during play for purposes of co-ed participation. The rest of the team can be any number of males and/or non-binary individuals
- D. It is the responsibility of the team captain to communicate with the umpire regarding team composition when it comes to co-ed participation rules. The captain must make the umpire aware of any situations in which the identity of any given player(s) could be misconstrued
- E. Teams who no-show games or do not show up with at least four players may be charged a forfeit fee according to the policies outlined here:
<https://madisonssc.leaguelab.com/page/forfeitfees>

4. Equipment and Uniforms

- A. All players will wear shirts provided by MSSC. League shirts must be worn over any other type of clothing or outerwear, so please keep this fact in mind when choosing your shirt size.
 - a. The referee has the right to make one team wear pinnies in the event two teams have colors that are very similar or a team has multiple players not wearing MSSC shirts
- B. Goalies must wear helmets with facemasks. Other players may wear their own helmet or use a helmet provided by MSSC. The goalie is strongly encouraged to wear padding. A glove is also allowed, although hockey-style goalie leg pads and blockers are not allowed
- C. **It is highly recommended that all players wear mouth guards.** Players are also strongly encouraged to wear padding and other protective gear, such as shin guards, knee pads, elbow pads, etc. Helmets are strongly encouraged for all players, but only goalie helmets are provided by MSSC. Broomball shoes are also strongly encouraged. Protective equipment is not provided by MSSC due to cost and the fact that sizes and player preferences are difficult to determine
- D. **Shoes with metal cleats are not permitted**
- E. Players wishing to purchase their own broomball-specific equipment may do so from websites such as www.broomball.com, www.usabroomball.com, www.midwestbroomball.com, www.amazon.com, and other sites. Equipment such as helmets and padding that is not sport specific may also be available at local retailers such as Play-It-Again Sports or Dick's Sporting Goods
- F. The league provides sticks, broomballs, and goals. Players may use their own stick if they wish, subject to approval by MSSC. No oversized or undersized sticks will be permitted

5. The Ice

- A. Games are played on the studio ice rink at Madison Ice Arena. The ice sheet is 64 feet wide by 110 feet long
- B. A ball going out of play will result in a faceoff initiated from the faceoff dot closest to the place the ball went out of play
 - Given that the studio rink does not have glass surrounding the entire rink, balls that go out of bounds will result in a faceoff as mentioned above. The faceoff does not occur in the defensive zone of the team who last touched the ball before it went out unless, in the referee's opinion, that team intentionally hit or threw the ball out of bounds to waste time or force a stoppage of play.

- C. Any indeterminable situations will result in a faceoff at the referee's discretion from the faceoff dot the referee deems most appropriate

6. Officials

- A. All games will be officiated by a referee supplied by MSSC
- B. The referee is not a babysitter and is not expected to police immature behavior. MSSC expects all players to act like adults and respect their teammates, opponents, and the referee. The referee may intervene in situations where a player's conduct is deemed dangerous to anyone else on the ice or violates MSSC's sportsmanship terms mentioned earlier in this document
- C. Players are not allowed to argue judgement calls with referees. Judgement calls include high sticks, hand passes, kicks, penalties, and anything else involving referee discretion when determining the outcome of a play. There are no challenges and no replays, so you're not going to get a judgement call overturned by arguing
- D. Any concern about a referee's lack of knowledge of the rules must be communicated to MSSC and not taken up during a game

7. General Rules

- A. Players other than goalies must use their sticks to control the ball at all times. Incidental contact with the foot or blocking the ball with a foot is permitted, but a player may not pass the ball to a teammate with the foot or kick the ball down the ice. Players may use their hands to grab a ball from the air, but the ball must be immediately dropped and played with a stick. Hand passes to teammates are not permitted
- B. Goalies are allowed to control the ball with their stick, hands, or feet when in the crease. Outside of the crease, the goalie may only use the stick to control the ball. Violation of this rule results in a penalty (see the penalty section below)
- C. **The goalie must roll the ball along the ice to teammates. An overhand throw, or any throw going past the center line in the air will result in a faceoff in the goalie's defensive zone**
- D. Play will begin with a hockey-style faceoff, with the referee throwing the ball down between one player from each team. There are no requirements as to who must take the faceoff, and rotating players taking the faceoff is not necessary. Referees may remove one or both players from the faceoff circle if the referee feels one or both may be trying to gain an unfair advantage. All other players must be at least five feet from the two players facing off, and must be on their side of the center line
- E. MSSC broomball is a "non-contact" sport. Incidental contact will happen and will not be penalized, but penalties will be called for actions such as checking, high-sticking, interference, holding the sticking, tripping, and otherwise using the body or stick to impede the progress of another player or keep him or her away from the ball
 - A player will not be penalized for contact if a player from the other team is so close that normal motions of the arms while trying to control or move the ball cause contact with that player from the other team
- F. Substitutions may occur at any time, but the on-ice player must leave the ice before the replacement may enter. Goalie substitutions may only occur at dead ball situations due to the requirement that the goal wear a helmet, unless the player subbing in for the goalie

already has a helmet on. In the case of injury, the referee will stop the clock. **The referee reserves the right to stop play if teams do not abide by substitution rules**

- G. Refs may blow a play dead if the ball has been stuck in one area for ten seconds or the ball otherwise being trapped. A faceoff will then occur at the circle nearest where the ball was stuck
- H. There is no offside rule due to the much smaller ice sheet
- I. No player on the bench may interfere with play on the ice. Any team doing so will be assessed a penalty at the referee's discretion, depending on the severity of the infraction
- J. Teams will be allowed one sixty second timeout per game, which may only be used after a stoppage of play
- K. Goalies may be pulled for an extra attacker. This may be done at any time, but the goalie must be off the ice before the extra attacker is allowed on

8. Penalties and Stoppages of Play

All penalties and stoppages of play will be whistled immediately, not delayed. The referee has the discretion to increase the penalty time for minor penalties if the offense is particularly egregious

Dead Ball Stoppages – These infractions will result in the play being blown dead and a faceoff occurring in the defensive zone of the team who committed the infraction (no penalty time)

- A. Hitting the ball with a high stick (above the waist)
 - a. This includes a backswing or follow through of a shot or pass resulting in the head of the stick going above the player's waist
 - b. **Due to the frequency with which this happens and the lost playing time, the referee will stop the clock until the faceoff**
- B. Kicking or throwing the ball
- C. Hand passes
- D. Delay of game/purposely trapping the ball
- E. Unintentional moving/dislodging of the goal
- F. Covering/holding the ball by the goalie – this will be called after five seconds
- G. Icing. This is defined as a player hitting the ball the length of the ice and the ball going out of bounds. Icing must be deemed to be intentional by the referee due to the characteristics of the rink mentioned in item #5 above. The play will be blown dead and a faceoff will occur in the defensive zone of the team who shot the ball out of bounds. The referee has discretion to stop the clock in the last two minutes of the game if this occurs
- H. **Ball hitting the ceiling – the referee has discretion to rule a dead ball if he or she determines the ball bouncing off the ceiling gives an unfair advantage to the team who last contacted the ball before it hits the ceiling**

Two Minute Minor Penalties – These will be enforced like hockey penalties and will result in the offending player being removed from the ice for two minutes

- A. Holding the stick of another player (This will be called if a stick is held or trapped by a hand, foot, stick, or other part of a player's body)
- B. Tripping

- C. Interference – This encompasses a wide variety of actions, including sliding and taking another player out, hitting or lifting another player’s stick to prevent taking a shot or playing the ball, or otherwise getting in the way of a player to prevent playing the ball. It also includes interfering with the goalie
- D. Elbowing
- E. Holding
- F. Hooking
- G. Pushing in an excessive or aggressive manner
- H. Charging
- I. Intentionally moving or knocking over the goal
- J. Delay of game – A team repeatedly shooting the ball the length of the ice without the shot being on goal or a pass to a teammate (in the eyes of the referee) may result in the offending team being called for delay of game and losing a player of the opponent’s choice (other than the goalie) for two minutes
- K. **Illegal touching by the goalie. The goalie must have both feet or both knees within the crease when playing the ball with their hands. The goalie will be warned once for this infraction. Subsequent violations of this rule will result in one player being removed from the ice for 2:00. The team committing the penalty may choose the player who serves the penalty time, however there must still be at least two females on the ice at all times**

Five Minute Major Penalties – These will result in a player being removed from the ice for five minutes. Serious offenses may warrant a game misconduct and removal from the game at the discretion of the referee or a representative of MSSC

- A. Cross-checking
- B. Roughing
- C. Contact to the head
- D. Slashing the body of another player
- E. Spearing

Game misconduct Penalties – The offending player(s) will be ejected from the game, and possibly the league

- A. Fighting, physical violence, or other overly aggressive or dangerous behavior or actions, at the referee’s discretion. Any penalty listed above may qualify for a game misconduct at the discretion of the referee or MSSC

9. **Penalty shots**

- A. A penalty shot *may* be awarded by the referee if a player has a clear breakaway to the goal and a penalty is committed that prevents the player from attempting a shot. Referees will have wide discretion to call penalty shots
- B. Penalty shots may also be awarded for particularly egregious roughing or other contact fouls at the referee’s discretion. If a player is injured on a play that the referee determines should result in a penalty shot, the offensive team may substitute another player of its choosing

- C. The offensive player only gets one shot at the goal on a penalty shot. Once the referee determines that the player has taken a shot, the play will be over, either with a goal being scored or the goalie stopping the initial shot

10. Goals

- A. A goal will be scored when the entire ball crosses the goal line, as determined by the referee
 - a. Players may deflect the ball into the goal with a stick provided the stick is at waist level or below
 - b. Incidental deflections off a body part which result in a goal are permissible at the referee's discretion
- B. A goal will be disallowed when:
 - a. The ball is hit with a stick higher than waist level on either a shot or a deflection
 - b. There is an offensive player in the crease before the ball enters the crease
 - c. A ball is thrown, kicked, or otherwise intentionally hit into the goal with a body part
 - d. A ball is deemed to be intentionally redirected into the goal off of a body part of a player by deliberate action of that player

End of the Game

At the completion of the game, each captain will sign the score card and it will be submitted to MSSC as proof of the game's final score. Games ending in a tie during the regular season will be scored as a tie with no overtime played. During the playoffs, games ending in a tie will result in sudden death overtime. All players are expected to shake hands and otherwise show good sportsmanship, regardless of the final score or any disagreements or situations that may have arisen during the game.

Results and Standings

Results and standings will be posted on the Broomball page of the MSSC website following receipt of the official scorecard from each game.

Good Sportsmanship

The final section of the rules and regulations of the league will reiterate what was stated at the beginning of this document: The purpose of our Broomball league is first and foremost to have fun. Winning should always come second. All participants must realize that not all players will be on the same skill level, and that there may be vast differences in skill level between members of the same team or between two teams in the league. Taunting, verbally abusing, or otherwise putting down other players will not be tolerated. The referees and/or a representative of MSSC reserve the right to issue warnings, penalties, and ejections if any of the above-mentioned behavior becomes too severe. Winning may be important to you, but good sportsmanship must take priority over wins and losses.