**Dodgeball Festival Rules 2023**

RULES BEFORE WE START

* 6 players per side, although schools may negotiate between themselves to increase that number.
* Squads are a maximum of 9, any combination of boys and girls
* All fixtures are 7 minute games. Should everyone be out on one side during that time then the game can be reset and substitutions can be made.

GAME RULES

* On the starter whistle, three children from each team can run to the centre line and challenge for one of the three dodgeballs. If they secure a ball, this ball must be taken back and must touch the back wall before it can be thrown.
* Throws can be of any style!
* If a ball hits a player directly anywhere on the body below the shoulders, before the ball bounces or touches the back wall, the player is out.
* If a player is out, they sit down on their bench IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY GOT OUT.
* If an opponent catches the ball before it hits the floor or the back wall, the player who has been out the LONGEST can re-join the game. The player who threw the ball is out.
* A team cannot stay in possession of all three balls for longer than five seconds. This prevents deliberate time-wasting. Penalty for violation: All 3 balls handed over to other team.
* Players cannot cross the dead zone that splits the court in half. If they do, they are out.
* If a ball is thrown and it hits an opponent and then hits a second opponent, only the first player is out, not both.
* Balls can be blocked by a ball that is already being held. However, if the ball is knocked out of the hand by the incoming ball, or the ball subsequently hits the body, that is classed as a hit and the player is out.
* **There must be 2 referees whose decisions are FINAL - NO EXCEPTIONS. Any player arguing or refusing to leave the court when given out will not be allowed to return to the court during that match. However, it is expected that the rules will be enforced primarily by the ‘honour system.’**
* All players receive medals. Trophy awarded to team displaying highest levels of honesty, sportsmanship and fair play.