

Broomball



A game of broomball begins with a face-off



A typical Broomball ball

Broomball is a recreational ice game originating in Canada (also contested as being Swedish) and played around the world. It is played in a hockey rink, either indoors or outdoors, depending on climate and location. Broomball is popular in the Canadian province of Manitoba, where St. Claude and Haywood are the Broomball Capitals of the World.^[1] Broomball is also beginning to become noticed around the world, particularly in the United States, Australia, and Japan.

In a game of broomball there are two teams, each consisting of six players: a goaltender and five others. The object of the game is to score more goals than the opponent. Goals are scored by hitting the ball into the opponent's net using the broom. Tactics and plays are similar to those used in sports such as ice hockey, roller hockey and floorball.

Players hit a small ball around the ice with a stick called a "broom." The broom may have a wooden or aluminum shaft and has a rubber-molded triangular head similar in shape to that of a regular broom (or, originally, an actual corn broom with the bristles either cut off or covered with tape). Players wear special rubber-soled shoes instead of skates, and the ice is prepared in such a way that it is smooth and dry to improve traction.

Gameplay

The object of the game is to score goals into the opponent's goal or net. The team with the most goals at the end of a game is declared the winner. In some tournaments, if the scores are tied after regular time, an additional overtime period is played to determine a winner. In the overtime period (in most cases), six players, three on each team, play five minutes without a goalie. The team to score more goals in the overtime period is declared the winner. In the event of another tie, a second overtime period may be played. In some games a shootout period will be played. The shooter has the choice to have the ball placed a specified distance from the net or, like in hockey, can play the ball from center ice.

Goaltender equipment

Goaltenders generally wear a full face cage in addition to thick padding on the legs, thighs, chest and shoulders. Goaltenders are permitted to use a *blocker*, a specially designed rectangular glove attachment that is used to block shots. A blocker is similar to those used by ice-hockey goalies.

Rules

Time - A broomball game consists of two periods. There are two 18 minute, stop time periods, with a two minute break in between.

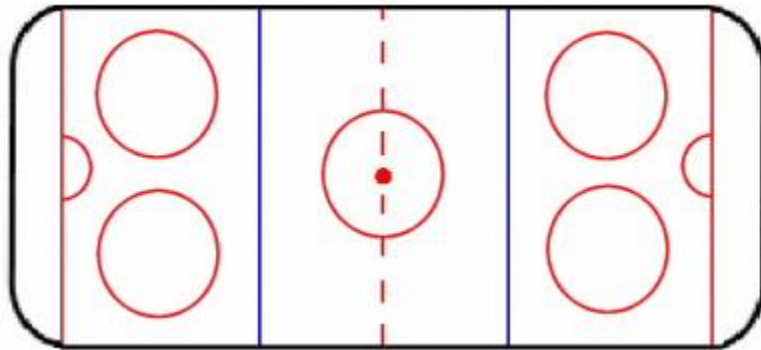
Off-side - Off-side is called when a player from the team in possession of the ball enters the offensive zone before the ball. The center red line is the 'in/out' line in Broomball, as the blue line is used in hockey.

High Stick - Typically a high stick is anything above the shoulder. Some leagues and tournaments mark it above the waist. A high stick results in a two minute penalty.

Penalties - Penalties and infractions are virtually similar to hockey penalties.

Icing - Icing occurs when the defending team clears the ball from inside their zone and across the opposing team's goal line. No touch up icing is in effect so the whistle is blown as soon as the ball crosses the goal line. Icing is still called when a team is short handed as well.

The Rink - The rink should be as close as possible to 200 feet long and 85 feet wide. Corners are rounded in the arc of a radius of 20 feet. The net is 6 feet high and 8 feet wide in USA play. Internationally, smaller, hockey-sized nets are used.



The Ball - Official Broomballs are labeled with the words "official broomball." For Indoor play the ball is made of a hard orange molded rubber that is slightly larger than a softball and is about 5" in size.

Players - A team must have at least six players: goalie, right and left defense, center, and right and left wing. A maximum of twenty players, including goalies, may dress and play in a game. When making substitutions, the player coming off the ice must be within arm's reach before the substitute enters the ice.