

Girls with Balls-Thorndale edition: Floor Hockey Rules

Set-up will be done by the 7:00 Home Team and includes the following;

- Moving benches in front of the inlets beside stage.
- Setting up two benches on the stage to create a barrier between the stage and the playing area, and
- Setting up nets.
- The scoreboard will be the responsibility of the official.

Break-down will be done by the 9:00 Home Team and includes the following;

- Righting benches
- Returning the benches from the stage to the gym floor, and
- Putting nets away.
- The scoreboard will be the responsibility of the official.

Start times and play time:

- Games begin at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00.
- Each team will be given a 5 minute warm-up prior to game start.
- A game will consist of three 15 minute periods with 3 minutes in between periods.
- Teams that do not have five players ready to play by ten minutes after the official start of the game will forfeit the game.
- The teams may still choose to play but the game the score will not count towards the standings, the game will remain a forfeit. The non-forfeiting team will get the points for a win.
- There will be no make-up games for nights that are cancelled. Cancellations will be due to school closures or inclement weather. The decision to cancel will be made by the league officials prior to 3:00 p.m.
- The Captains will be notified by email if there is a cancellation, as well it will be posted on the GWB Facebook page.

Ball out of bounds:

- Any ball leaving the playing surface is immediately whistled dead. The face-off will be at centre court.

Face-offs:

- At the beginning of a period, the referee will ask both goalies if they are ready.
- The ball will be placed on the ground in between the players at centre gym, the players must be squared up and sticks 12" (1 tile from centre) from the ball.
- The referee will blow the whistle and the two players can go for the ball. This rule applies to all face-off situations.

Eligibility considerations

- You must be a registered player with your registration fee paid in full.
- Spares are allowed when required but are not allowed to participate in the playoffs.
- A player is considered a spare if they have played 5 games or less and has not paid for the season.
- If a spare plays more than 5 games they must pay for the full season. They will then be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

Equipment considerations

- Goal tenders must have a full set of goalie equipment which is the responsibility of the team.

- Ball hockey chest protector
- Goalie pads, not ice hockey pads
- Snag, not an ice hockey snag
- Blocker, not an ice hockey blocker
- Players must wear shin pads and socks or pants that cover the shin pads as well as eye protection, prescription glasses are okay, gloves are recommended, but not mandatory.
- League sticks must have a plastic blade and shaft only without modifications. Curves cannot exceed one and a half inches from the ground.
- Once a stick is broken it cannot be repaired and used again, it must be replaced.
- No tape is allowed on the blade of the stick.
- The league has the right to change, modify or add any rule that they feel is in the best interest of the league for the safety of the players.
- Any violation of the stick rules will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- Non-marking running shoes are mandatory. All outdoor footwear should be left outside the gym.

Goalie rulings:

- The ball may only be covered by a goalie when an opposing player is within a distance that challenges possession of the ball, and the goalie's feet remain within the goal crease. At all other times the goalie must play the ball to increase game play.
- Upon blowing the whistle the opposing team must clear the center line.
- The team with possession of the ball must ensure they begin with the ball behind the goal line (line extending from either side of the posts to the direct sides).
- Upon the last member of the opposing team clearing half the 5 second count begins. If after 5 seconds the team with possession has not cleared half then a play can be made on the ball anywhere on the playing surface.
- In an attempt to maintain the flow of the game, if the net is dislodged slightly, the referee will use their discretion as to whether to stop play or let it continue. If the referee decides to allow the play to continue, the ball must cross the plane of the net as it stands for a goal, not the goal line.

Goalie Crease (Crease):

- The Goalie crease is the taped line on the side and the free throw line to goal line. The black box in front of the goal net.
- Defensive players are allowed in the crease at all times.
- Offensive players may only enter the crease after the ball has entered the crease.
- Should an offensive player enter the crease as a result of force from a defensive player, the play shall continue. However the player should make an effort to immediately leave the crease.
- Should the offensive player enter the crease under their own force, prior to the ball entering the crease the whistle shall be blown and the defensive team will have the ball behind their line.
- Should a player continually neglect this rule, a delay of game penalty can be issued.

Penalties:

- There are no delayed penalties in ball hockey. Once an infraction occurs, the play is to be whistled dead, time will be stopped, and the penalty called.
- The player will serve the penalty on the stage and may not hang her legs or any other part of the body off the stage.

- The player that the penalty was called against will be the player to serve the penalty. In the instance where the penalty was for too many players on the floor, the last player on the floor, based on the referee's discretion, will be the player to serve the penalty.
- The player must serve the full penalty, whether her team has been scored on or not.
- The penalized player's team must play short-handed until the full penalty is served.
- If any team accumulates more than nine minutes of penalties in one game, the game will be forfeited.

Stoppage of play and face-off:

- A player brings their stick over the top of an opponent's in a slashing motion. A face-off will occur for the first instance and a warning given. A second occurrence will result in a penalty.
- High sticking-touching the ball with a stick over their waist, where no contact is made with another player.
- At no time should the stick go higher than a player's waist, on either the back swing or follow through.
- Gloving-closing their hand on the ball.
- Ball stuck in the corner for longer than three seconds-referee's discretion.
- All face offs will occur at centre.

Minor penalties - all minor penalties are three minutes in length.

- Minor Unsportsmanlike conduct, which could include intentional delay of game, consistent calls for stoppage of play at the Referees discretion.
- If opposing players both receive minor penalties on the stoppage of play, both teams will play short-handed.
- Tripping, interference.
- Pushing an opponent into the boards to gain an advantage.
- Taking a step into an opponent and deliberately contacting them with any part of your body.
- Any non-serious slash below the waist, this includes a second occurrence of a player bringing their stick down in a slashing motion over an opponent's stick.
- Anyone who repeatedly questions an official.
- Verbal/physical conflict between opposing team benches.
- Goal tenders delay of game, meaning if the goalie covers the ball outside of the crease and her feet are no longer in the crease.
- Goal tender interference, when somebody interferes with the goalie.
- Too many players.

Major penalties - all major penalties are seven minutes and the player is out for the rest of the game and the next game.

- Major Unsportsmanlike conduct-conduct which the referee feels unsportsmanlike at an excessive level.
- When a player deliberately attempts to, or deliberately injures an opponent.
- High sticks-hitting someone above the waist with a stick.
- Slashing-above the waist.
- Hitting from behind-hitting an opponent from behind in a vicious manner with perceived intent to injure.
- Charging-taking three steps and hitting an opponent with the intent to injure.
- Anyone who harasses an official with verbal abuse.
- Any player under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs.

Fighting major:

- A player challenges an opponent to fight.
- One player hitting an opposing player with arm or leg in a manner deemed violent.
- Two players exchanging blows, this includes attempting to land a punch.
- This will be strongly enforced, and will result in a minimum one year suspension from Girls with Balls – Thorndale Edition.

Additional information:

- Penalties awarded by game referees cannot be protested.
- Captains may discuss the issue with the official between periods or after the game.
- Only captains will be permitted to discuss any issue with the referees.
- Spectators must be at the age of 18 or older and are to remain on the stage behind the barrier set up by the benches.
- If there is an ineligible spectator game play will stop. It will be the team captain's (or their designate) responsibility to ensure that the ineligible spectator leaves the school.
- Spectators must maintain an appropriate demeanor while in the school. If a team finds that an opposing teams spectators are disruptive or acting inappropriately that team's captain or designate will bring their concern to the official who will in turn address it with the opposing team's captain or designate to address. The official maintains the ability to request that a spectator leave the school.
- No-one other than registered players and officials are allowed on the gym floor at any time. This includes between periods. Each team will receive one warning during the season which will be recorded in the log book. Any infractions after that will result in a minor unsportsmanlike conduct penalty to be served by any player on the team in question.
- In the regular season a game that finishes in a tie will result in a tie and each team will be awarded one (1) point.

Playoffs

- Will be round robin format.
- Two (2) points will be awarded to the winning team.
- In the event of a tie during the round robin portion each team will be awarded one (1) point.
- In the event of a tie in points at the end of the round robin wins and losses will be considered first and then goals for and against.
- The game between first and second place will determine the League's Playoff Champion.
- The League Champion will be determined by the team with the greatest number of points at the end of the regular season. In the event of a tie wins and losses will be used and then goals for and against if required.
- In the round robin portion of the playoffs a tie will result in both teams being awarded a point.
- The final playoff (Championship) games cannot result in a tie. If after regulation time the score is tied there will be a five (5) minute 3 on 3 sudden death period, the first team that scores will be the victor. In the event that the tie is still in place at the end of the five minute period there be a shootout until the tie is broken.