

## Broomball Study Guide

**HISTORY:** Broomball is an ice-based game that is closely related to ice hockey and was founded in Canada. Its exact history is a bit unclear, but it is thought it was invented in the Ontario region of Canada, where there are documented games going back to the late 1800s.

Broomball is a team game with two opposing sides of six players played on an ice hockey rink. Unlike ice hockey, in which players wear ice hockey boots, in Broomball, players wear special rubber soled shoes and use a stick called a 'broom' with a triangular head to hit a small ball on the ice. Aiming to win the game by scoring more points than their opponents, Broomball, like its close relative, ice hockey, is a very physical game.

Today it is played in a number of other countries and is particularly popular in Scandinavian countries, such as Sweden. It is the Canadian province of Manitoba though that is the hotbed of Broomball and where it is played most. The game is overseen by the [International Federation of Broomball Associations \(IFBA\)](#).

**RULES OF THE GAME:** The object of Broomball is for one team to win the game by scoring more goals than their opposition. Teams do this by moving the ball up-field as a team until they are in a position to shoot for goal. Teams, whilst attacking the opposition goal must also be prepared to defend their goal quickly if they lose possession of the ball. Like ice hockey, Broomball is an extremely physical game that can get extremely rough at times. A game consists of 2 halves. Goals are 6 by 8 feet instead of the standard hockey nets. A game consists of two, 15 minute stop time halves.

- A game of Broomball begins with the team defending the zone furthest from their bench during the first period of play, changing ends at the end of each period.
- Once the game begins after a faceoff between a player from each team, each team will simultaneously attempt to score a goal in the opposition's net whilst at the same time preventing the opposition from scoring in theirs.
- A face off shall occur the restart the game after each goal.
- Players can pass the ball between themselves using the stick.
- Goals can only be scored if the ball has been hit by the stick. A goal will not be awarded if the ball has rebounded off another player.
- Brooms may never be swung above waist height.
- Broomball games are controlled by two referees who are on the ice during the game and have the same powers to award goals, call penalties and fouls etc. In higher-level games, there are often other officials off the rink too, such as goal judges and a timekeeper.
- Players are allowed to use the stick to try and take the ball off opposition players.
- At the end of the game, the team who has scored the most goals is declared the winner.

Broomball is played on a regulation sized ice hockey pitch and can be played either indoors or outdoors. Each team has six players comprised of:

- One goalkeeper
- Two defenders
- Three attackers (two forwards, one centre)

Players are required to wear the following pieces of equipment:

- Rubber soled shoes suitable for running on ice
- A helmet
- Gloves
- Elbow pads
- Shin pads

### **What is the difference between broomball and hockey?**

Broomball and hockey are quite similar in terms of strategy, but there are a few key differences. First, as mentioned, broomball players don't wear skates. They wear regular sneakers, preferably ones with a nice grip to keep them from sliding all over the place. There are some companies that manufacture shoes made specifically for broomball – scroll down to see our list of the best broomball shoes.

Second, the sport uses a small ball instead of a puck. And instead of hockey sticks, players use broomball sticks, which are made of wood or aluminum and have plastic broom-shaped knobs on the end. They may look silly, but they're a lot of fun to use.

While some broomball games are played on regulation ice hockey rinks, often broomball leagues will use half-rinks or mini-sized rinks. That makes sense, since it requires more effort to run around on ice in shoes than it does to skate. Broomball can wear out players faster than ice hockey, and its participants are typically amateurs with fewer skills than hockey players, so the smaller rinks are a good idea for many reasons.

Though hockey is known for its hitting and body checking, these activities are banned in many beginner broomball leagues. However, advanced leagues might allow this type of physical play. Broomball leagues are often co-ed and typically feature players in their 20s and 30s, though some older players do participate as well.

### **KEY TERMS:**

**On Sides:** USA Broomball uses the "floating blue line" concept. That is, once an attacking player has crossed the blue line in the offensive zone, the red line now becomes the designated off sides line. Essentially, the blue line disappears as the off sides marker. The ball must completely clear the blue line before the player's shoes and no other attacking player can be in the zone before the ball in order for the attacking team to be considered "on sides."

**Icing:** Icing occurs when any player of a defending team shoots or intentionally deflects the ball from behind their defending zone blue line and across the goal line of the opposing team. Icing is ruled automatically.

**Checking:** Checking is not allowed.

**High Broom:** At all levels of USA Broomball play, a high broom is called when the ball makes contact with the player's stick above shoulder level. A minor penalty is called, unless an injury occurs as a result of the high broom, which is a major penalty.

**Penalties:** Please refer to the official USA Broomball rule book for specific actions resulting in minor, major or game misconduct penalties. Penalties are marked as such:

*Minor    Major    Misconduct*

2 minutes 5 minutes 10 minutes

**Conduct:** At no time may a player verbally or physically abuse an official.

DIAGRAMS:

