

MICHIGAN FIREMANS MEMORIAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE WATERBALL COMPETITION RULES OF PLAY

The Michigan Fireman's Memorial Festival Committee (MFMFC) Waterball Rules for men and women as adopted in March of 1994 are those rules adopted for competition at the Michigan Fireman's Memorial Festival held each year in September at Roscommon, Michigan.

EQUIPMENT

Standard 15" ball of 16 gauge steel. Ball to be painted yellow, hanger to be painted black. Cable shall be 3/8" strand hemp center, regular lay, and 12,000 pound breaking strength or better, no greasing of cable. Cable to be 10' above court. Cable to be made as tight as possible.

PLAYING FIELD

Waterball equipment shall be erected on level street or other playing surface of suitable type for secure footing when wet. The "A" frames shall be 110 feet apart. The court shall be 10 feet wide, 110 feet in length. The team, their captain and contest officials are the only personnel allowed on the court during the contest.

The playing court shall be marked as follows. The center point of the cable shall be marked an equal distance from each end of the playing field. The cable shall be painted 3 feet each way from center point, a total of 6 feet. This area is known as "**DEAD TIME**".

The 7 1/2-foot mark each way from center shall be marked 5" each way or a total of 10" of solid marking. Starting line shall be marked 15 feet each direction from the center point. Guard lines shall be marked 40 feet each direction from the center point. Cable clamps shall be secured to the cable 45 feet each direction from the center point.

The cable markings and court markings shall be painted with yellow paint or similar bright color. The court shall have 1" stripes under each cable marking described above.

There should be an on deck area immediately adjacent to the court, convenient to each contest.

PLAYING RULES

A men's ball team consists of one (1) guard, three (3) fieldmen, (No. 1 nozzle man, No.2 backup man and No. 3 hoseman) and one (1) coach.

A lady's ball team consists of one (1) guard, four (4) fieldmen, (No. 1 nozzle man, No.2 backup man, No. 3 hoseman and No. 4 hoseman). There may be (2) coaches per team. On the lady's team the nozzle coach shall be four feet across from the players. The assistant coach three feet across from the back guard to relay messages from the coach and to assist the back-guard by holding the hose; but may make no contact with the nozzle. A man is allowed to "back-up" or hold pressure in the guard or nozzle position, or may drag hose. He **MAY NOT** have nozzle contact.

The fieldmen must cross hose streams over the ball before signal to start the contest. The fieldmen are permitted to stand any distance back of the 15' starting line at the beginning of the contest. After the contest is started, they are free to maneuver any place on the playing field. The three fieldmen may change position at any time during any three-minute heat. Between any heat, any of the five team members may change places. Teams change ends for the second heat of the contest.

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The nozzle pressure shall be 90 pounds with both lead nozzles open, plus one (1) guard nozzle open. For lady's matches, nozzle pressure shall be 70 pounds with both lead nozzles open, plus one (1) guard nozzle open.

The guard must stay back of the guard line 40' from center at all times while the contest is under way. The guard may turn on their nozzle when the ball is on the 7 1/2' mark and shut it off when the ball reaches the 3' mark from center. All timing and judging shall be done from the center of the ball.

A man's official contest consists of two (2) heats, three (3) minutes each; with one (1) minute between heats. A lady's official contest consists of two (2) heats, two (2) minutes each; with one (1) minute between heats. The two teams in the final playoff shall have a ten (10) minute rest period before the game starts with a three (3) minute rest between heats.

PROTECTIVE GEAR

Men's team and coach shall wear the following:

1. Standard firemen's helmet
2. Standard firemen's boots
3. Standard firemen's coats or raingear of their choice

Women's team and coach shall wear the following:

1. Standard firemen's helmet, or safety helmet of choice
2. Standard firemen's coats or raingear of their choice
3. Boots or sneakers of their choice

METHOD OF TIMING

There shall be one starter and two timekeepers, all of whom are classed as judges; with all judges' decisions final.

If the contest is stopped because of trouble with equipment or lack of water, the ball shall be started from where it was when the failure took place.

One (1) second will be scored for each second the ball is outside of dead time. Fifteen seconds will be credited to a team scoring a goal. A goal is scored when the ball is driven into the opponent's territory and against the cable stops 45' from center. The fifteen seconds for a goal shall not be counted as playing time.

On completion of a goal, the ball is to be started at center; using balance of the three minute heat time; or two minute heat for ladies.

There is no "scoring time" counted while the ball is in the "**DEAD TIME**" area.

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PENALTIES

Using guard hose stream after ball in opposing team's area, 5 seconds for each time.

- Illegal use of the guard hose stream, 5 seconds for each offense.
- Lady's team shall be penalized 20 seconds if nozzle coach moves past 4' line.
- For intentional throwing or dropping of nozzle on playing surface, a team is disqualified immediately.
- For intentional directing of hose stream at members of opposing team, a team is disqualified immediately. The match official will give an initial warning; a second warning will result in disqualification.
- Interference by coach or spectators shall disqualify the team at judge's discretion.
- Only coach or team captain shall contact judge(s) during any dispute.
- Substitution for physical discomfort shall be allowed in the No. 3 position, namely the hoseman, in case of ladies No. 4 hoseman. The player leaving shall not return to the contest.
- No other substitutions will be permitted with the exception of an injured player.
- No entries will be allowed after the deadline time posted for contest has passed.

Each participant shall release the contest sponsor, tournament officials and any other organizer from any and all liability due to injury; due to the fact these contests are conducted for training and entertainment.

HOSE LAYOUT

The fieldmen of one team shall have 100 feet of 1 1/2" hose. Both hoses for fieldmen shall be supplied off of the same 2 1/2" line.

The guards shall have 100' of 1 1/2" hose each, both guard lines supplied off of the same 2 1/2" line.

Shut-off nozzles shall be 1/2" straight tips. For safety purposes, valves or Y-gates shall be used on the 2 1/2" to 1 1/2" lines.

DECISION OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SHALL BE FINAL