



Dodgeball Tournament

What it is

A Red Cross Dodgeball Tournament is a fundraiser and friendly competition between school clubs, Red Cross Clubs, or even entire schools. Co-ed teams of eight players pay an entry fee to play against each other tournament style until there is one winner.

How it helps

The Red Cross responds to nearly 70,000 disasters a year, and is able to do so with generous financial support from our donors. Funds raised help the Red Cross provide people in crisis with relief for today and hope for tomorrow.

Get started

Before beginning, contact your local Red Cross unit. You can search for your local chapter by zip code on RedCross.org—when you call the chapter, ask to speak to someone who works with youth volunteers. They will be able to guide you to available resources that can make this an impactful and successful event. Once you have established contact with your chapter, there are three steps you should complete:

- 1. Committee** – Establish your dodgeball tournament committee. Work with your Red Cross Club members or gather a group of 4-6 people who are going to work with you to plan and implement the tournament. Start working with the committee 3-4 months before you want to hold the tournament.
- 2. Location** – Ask school administration if you can host the dodgeball tournament in the gym. If you are not able to host at your school, ask your local Department of Parks and Recreation for permission to host in a park, or find a community recreation center.
- 3. Time and Date** – Set a date and time. Pick a date and time that doesn't interfere with other major school events. Keep in mind that a tournament for eight teams will last about 1.5 hours

Want more information?
Email us!

Youthinvolvement@redcross.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 60 seconds, 63
people are assisted by
the American Red Cross.

What's next?

Begin the planning process about 3-4 months prior to the desired tournament date so you have enough time to find a location, promote, and sign up teams. In addition to the steps below, the "Red Cross Dodgeball Tournament Guide" in the Resources section has more detailed information that will help you make this a fun, exciting and successful event!

3-4 Months Before the Tournament

- Confirm and finalize the location, date, and time of the tournament.
- Meet with your local Red Cross unit and ask if there are specific items or programs that they would like tournament funds to support.
- Determine a team entry fee. Consider charging between \$15-\$25 for each team, and make sure to explain that all money raised will be donated to moving the Red Cross mission forward.
- After determining the team entry fee, decide the best way to collect funds. You can ask teams to bring cash the day of the tournament and designate someone to closely monitor the funds, or you can set up a Crowdrise page and ask teams to submit the entry fee. If you choose the Crowdrise option, remind them to include a team name so you can keep track of which teams have paid.

2 Months Before the Tournament

- Select a tournament hashtag and use it while promoting.
- Promote the tournament everywhere! Share on the morning news, school newspaper, and personal social media accounts; also ask the local Red Cross to promote on its social media accounts. Ask people to consider donating \$1-\$5 as a donation admittance fees.
- Set a deadline for teams to sign-up. One week before the tournament is a good deadline because it will give you time develop the tournament schedule. Make sure you have contact information (phone, chat, or email) for a "Team Captain" on each team. This is the person you will send tournament reminders and updates.
- Host a sign-up week! Ask permission to have a team sign-up table during lunch periods for a week.

1 Month Before the Tournament

- Meet with the committee to determine the equipment needed to host a tournament. Dodgeballs, tables, beverages, chairs for spectators, etc. The "Red Cross Dodgeball Tournament Guide" has more equipment recommendations.
- Keep promoting the upcoming tournament to potential teams that will play and spectators that will view the tournament.

Before beginning, get in touch with your local Red Cross chapter or station for assistance. You can find contact information at redcross.org.

Shake it up!

After the tournament winner is announced, teams can choose to play games for fun. Here are some fun alternatives to regular dodgeball:

1. When someone is "OUT" they have to cross the middle line and play for opposing team. Continue this until one team has all people playing on their side. That side is declared the winner.
2. Ask one member from each team to be a "Jedi." Ask them to stand inside a hula-hoop, or create a small circle using tape. When a player is hit they must sit down. Jedis can "heal" them by tagging them. If the Jedi has to come out of their safe circle to heal someone and they get hit by a ball, they are out. Each player that gets hit after the Jedi is out is also out as well. Once a player, or Jedi, is out they cannot return even if someone catches a ball.

Show and tell

- » Share pictures and videos of your Dodgeball Tournament by sending them to: youthinvolvement@redcross.org.

- Recruit volunteers to help on the day of the tournament. A tournament announcer, photographer, referees, score keeper, etc. See volunteer position descriptions in the “Red Cross Dodgeball Tournament Guide”
- Invite staff and volunteers from the local Red Cross to watch the tournament. Ask if they can provide promotional materials about the Red Cross.
- Work with your Red Cross to ask for donations to give as prizes to the winning team. Make sure to have enough prizes to give to all team members.

1 Week Before the Tournament

- Send confirmation to “Team Captain” of all participating teams.
- Plan the tournament schedule. Create a bracket using a bracket generator. You can find one here: <http://www.printyourbrackets.com/dodgeball-tournament-brackets.html>
- Send confirmation to all volunteers helping on the day of the tournament.
- Continue promoting the tournament to spectators.

Day of the Tournament

- Set up the tournament space. See “Red Cross Dodgeball Tournament Guide” for more details.
- Hold a team huddle with all volunteers to make sure they understand their roles.
- Begin checking in teams one hour before the tournament start time.
- Make sure the announcer and Red Cross representative have opening remarks ready to share. Ask them to encourage people to use the tournament hashtag.
- Have fun!

When the tournament is complete, announce the winners, thank everyone for attending, and remind people that the funds raised will help move the Red Cross mission forward. Discuss with Red Cross contact how to best transfer the money to the chapter.

This activity was inspired by Red Cross High School Dodgeball at Pingree School in South Hamilton, Massachusetts.