2024 Goalball National Championships

Presented by The U.S. Association of Blind Athletes

Hosted by Turnstone

**Bylaws and Regulations**

**Tournament Format:**

2 Tournaments with a Gold, Silver, and Bronze Finish

* Men A (10 Teams Max, 2 Pools)
* Women (8 Teams Max, 2 Pools)

1 Tournament with a winner-takes-all finish

* Men B (5 Teams Max, 1 Pool)

Competition Locations

* Gym 1 - Plassman Fieldhouse
* Gym 2 - Goalball Center of Excellence (Red Gym)
* **Marshalling Table** – Marshalling (Coin Toss) will take place in the Turnstone main lobby at the check-in table 30 minutes before the scheduled game start time. If a representative from each competing team is not present, the designated “A team” will start on table left with the ball. If only a representative from one team is present, the team who is present gets to choose both.

Games Structure and Timing

* **Format** - Traditional Round Robin Format
  + Quarterfinal rounds for divisions with 8 or more teams only.
  + Following round robin, the top four teams from each pool will play against each other in a single elimination format. A1 vs. B4, B2 vs. A3 (winners to semi-final 1), B1 vs. A4, A2 vs. B3 (winners to semi-final 2).
* **Games Start** 12:00pm EDT – August 2nd
* **Games Conclude** Sunday August 4th, after 2pm EDT
  + **Games will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel conflicts!**
* **Game Length** - 10 Minute halves the entire tournament
  + Games will start as scheduled or 5 minutes after the previous game if the gym is running behind.

**Tournament Rules - IBSA rules will be observed with the following exceptions:**

* **Substitutions and Timeouts** – Three of each allowed per game
  + Substitution cards will not be utilized.
* **Patching/Taping Requests** - Made at the coin flip.
  + The requesting team will provide patches and tape for two halves
  + **Coin Flips** - Conducted at the Marshalling Table in the lobby of Turnstone 30 minutes prior to game time. Coin toss will take place 15 minutes prior to the start of the first game of the day.
* **Start Times** - Games will start according to the game schedule (no early starts).
  + **Running Behind** - a minimum of 5 minutes will be given for warm-up prior to the start of the next game.
  + **Early Finish** – Coin toss may be conducted early if both teams consent and have a representative present.
  + Out of respect for other teams, following the conclusion of your game, please clean your team bench area and quickly clear the court
* **Tie Breakers** - The final ranking of teams at the conclusion of a round robin will be determined by the number of points earned. Each team will earn three (3) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie score, and zero (0) points for a loss. If two or more teams have the same number of points at the end of the round robin, the teams will be separated by using the following methods in this order:

1. Goal Difference - subtracting a team’s goals scored against from their goals scored in the total round robin.
2. Number of Wins – teams will be assessed on the number of wins in the round robin. Teams with the most wins will be given the higher ranking.
3. Goals Against– the team with the lowest goals against in the overall competition will be given the higher ranking.
4. Goal Difference – The same procedure shall be used again, but this time only the games in the round robin between the teams that have to be separated shall be included.

* **Protests** - Must be submitted within 15 minutes of the conclusion of your game. A fee of $100.00 must be submitted to the tournament director within 15 minutes of the conclusion of your game. The protest committee will consist of the tournament director, an official not involved in the game & USABA Director Sport Performance. In the case of a conflict of interest, another tournament official will be appointed.

**Safety Protocols**

* Teams will not change sides at the half.
* Teams are free to shake hands at center court at the conclusion of their game.