Respect the ref

Aim of activity
Meet our lazy referee and see what happens when no one keeps the rules on the dodgeball court. It’s your job to help get things in order!

What you’ll get out of it
• Understand the importance of a referee and how they make games fair.
• Recognise unfairness.
• Develop team working skills.

What you’ll need
• A large, soft, foam ball (suitable for dodgeball)

Note to leader
If you have lots of balls, you can play with more than one. Make sure you tell girls to only aim for the body, and use a soft ball.
Before you start
Divide the space into two, ready to play dodgeball!

What to do
1. Get into four groups. Choose two groups to be the players. Each team of players go to a different side of the divided space and get into position to play dodgeball.

2. Your leader is your referee and will tell you the rules:
   a. The aim is to hit the other team with the ball so they become part of your team.
   b. The team with the most people at the end wins.
   c. Only hit people with the ball below the head.
   d. Stay in your team’s half.
   e. The ball can only bounce once before hitting someone.
   f. Stand still when you’re holding the ball.

   The other two groups stand at the sides as ‘observers’. Your job is to cheer the teams on and watch the game. Pay particular attention to the referee, who is, unfortunately, very lazy!

3. Teams ready? Start your five-minute game of dodgeball! During the game, your referee will do nothing and pay no attention. If you ask her anything or try to point out rule breaking, she’ll just shrug or walk away...

Note to leader
Pay no attention to rule breaking or bad sportspersonship, but keep an eye out for anything unsafe or that might cause injury.

4. Observers – make a note when rules are broken during the game.

5. After the game, form a circle and talk about how the game went. How do the players feel? What did the observers notice? Do you think the referee did their job? Was it fair? What should the referee have been doing?

6. What should the referee do if players break rules? Come up with some penalties – perhaps a 30 second time out or a player is banned from throwing the ball for one minute.

7. Now, swap the groups over, so the observers are the players, and players are the observers.

8. Play another game, only this time your referee will keep to the rules and watch for any rule breaking. Observers, pay attention to the referee and remember what happens during the game. Is there anything the referee missed? Help her out by being a second pair of eyes!

9. After the game, form a circle. Was the game better? What did the new observers see? Was it fairer?