



Guild Ball

MOB FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ORGANISED PLAY RULES & REGULATIONS

SEASON 1 - LAST UPDATED 14TH MAY 2015





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INTRO

In Guild Ball tournaments players face off in a series of competitive games, testing their skills against each other to decide who will walk away with the prestige and glory of victory and who will be consigned to the losers' bench.



HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

For ease of use the organized play document is divided into three sections:

- In [Section A](#) you will find the core tournament rules, it is recommended that these should be followed for all Guild Ball tournaments. You will notice a few changes/additions to the core rulebook that you should read carefully.
- In [Section B](#) you will find the many options available to the Tournament Organizer, which will allow the event to be tailored to suit the needs of your gaming community
- In [Section C](#) you will find some recommendations from the Steamforged team; these can help guide you when designing your event and we hope they will encourage a standardized format for many of the events held.



SECTION A

CORE TOURNAMENT RULES

I. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 Equipment and Play Conventions

Players are responsible for bringing their own models, stat cards, dice, measuring devices, markers, tokens and templates required for play. It is a player's responsibility to mark in game effects with the appropriate token or template; if a token or template is not present then the effect is not present.

In Guild Ball Tournaments all tokens, including Influence should be placed on the pitch, next to the relevant model and clearly marked.

1.2 Modeling and Painting

For season 1 Guild Ball tournaments, the miniatures must be fully assembled on the appropriately sized base for which the model was designed.

All models must be completely painted and based. This means that every model, including its base, must be painted with an acceptable variety of color and shading.

All models must be the appropriate Guild Ball miniatures although conversions are allowed. If a player is using converted models then the majority of each model must consist of parts from the Guild Ball model for which the rules were written. The end result of any conversion must be clearly identifiable as the intended miniature and any conversions must be pointed out to the opponent before the game. No proxy miniatures are allowed in Guild Ball tournaments.

At their discretion a T.O. can make an exception to these rules, the last thing we want to do is stifle the creativity of the community.

Steamforged Games would encourage players to exercise their creative minds and painting skills! A Guild Ball Goal can take a wide variety of forms; from an old archery butt to a head on a post, we would like to see our community at its most inventive. However, we recognize that not everyone has the time or the talent to model their own goal and therefore Goal Tokens may simply be represented with 50mm token.



Models that have not yet been released to the general public at the time of the event are not permitted unless those models are readily available at the event venue (such as convention release models in tournaments held at that convention). Alternate sculpts (such as those available through the Guild Ball Kickstarter) are tournament legal.

1.3 Sportsmanship

A fair and honest in game environment is required in order for everyone to have fun. Players must accurately execute the rules of the game and fully cooperate with opponents to honestly answer any questions that arise before and during the game. Players are also responsible for holding their opponents to the same standards.

Sometimes at a tournament the pre-weekend rush means we forget to bring the simplest of things. From dice to templates, tape measures to tokens, we would encourage our community to help out its forgetful (or disorganized!) members and share resources with opponents who may have accidentally left their tools behind.

Models may sometimes be moved accidentally during the normal course of the game. This may occur if a model is hit by dice or otherwise knocked. A small margin of error may be allowed in the repositioning of models in these situations so that the pace of the game is not unnecessarily affected. Players should not abuse this margin of error, and they must use the tools required for the game to be as accurate as possible. Using excessive force when placing components to intentionally move other components is expressly forbidden. In the event of a dispute, the head judge has the final authority on ruling and will be encouraged to rule against the offending player.

In Division 1 Tournaments (see Section C) players should expect to be held to the highest possible standards of play and sportsmanlike conduct.



2. TOURNAMENT ORGANISER (T.O.) RESPONSIBILITIES.

2.1 Logistics

The T.O. is responsible for ensuring a smoothly run event. This will include some pre-tournament preparation work. The T.O. must ensure that they have an adequate amount of available tables and terrain (3"x3" official Guild Ball Pitches will soon be available through Steamforged Games and are recommended for use) as well as sufficient gaming space in which to play.

In preparation for the tournament the T.O. must decide upon the event start time, the round timings, finish time and any potential prize pool. They must also ensure that an appropriate number of rules judges are available to adjudicate matches and assist with data entry.

Tournament Guild Ball matches are played using both Chess Clocks and stopwatches. The T.O. must ensure an adequate supply of these is available. In both Division 3 and Division 2 tournaments it is acceptable to ask players to provide their own clocks and timers; remember, most smartphones have access to apps that can perform both of these roles.

2.2 Terrain

Before the tournament begins it is the T.O.'s responsibility to arrange the terrain for all pitches used during the tournament. T.O.'s must endeavour to create balanced play environments.

As a general rule, an average Guild Ball pitch should have three to seven pieces of terrain evenly spaced with no terrain placed within the area between the pitch edge and the goal line. A mix of different types of terrain is encouraged.



Restrictions:

- No 'Barrier' terrain features are to be used
- 'Obstructions must be no larger than 2" in each dimension
- A minimum of 50% or more of the terrain piece per pitch must be obstructions
- 'Fast ground' should be no larger than 3" in each dimension.
- In addition 'fast ground' must only be placed wholly within 6" of a board edge
- 'Rough ground' and 'Forests' should be no larger than 6" in each dimension
- There must be no more than 1 LOS blocking terrain feature ('Forest') per pitch.
- No terrain feature can be placed within 6" of another terrain feature or the goal token

In competitive Guild Ball tournaments the Guilds make sure they find pitches that allow the teams to play without undue interference from badly positioned trees. The spectators are there for the game, not the gardening, hence the restrictions above!

2.3 Pairings, Byes and Odd Numbers of Player

It is recommended that the T.O. should endeavour to secure the services of a 'standby player' to avoid byes - it is a better experience for everyone if no one has to sit out a round

Pairings for round 1 must be randomized by the T.O. However, in Division 2 and Division 1 Tournaments the T.O. may decide to adjust the pairings to ensure that players from the same gaming group are not matched together. If this decision is taken it must only apply for the first round.

From round 2 onwards 'Swiss style' pairings are used. This means that the highest ranked player is paired against the second highest ranked player to form a match. This process then continues with the third and fourth highest ranked players becoming a match and so on.

In the case of an odd number of players, one player receives a bye each round. This player receives 10 tournament point (a win), 6 Victory Points. In the first round, the T.O. randomly determines which player receives the bye. In subsequent rounds, the T.O. randomly selects a player from those with the lowest tournament point totals. The T.O. must ensure that the same player does not receive a bye more than once per event.

If appropriate a T.O. may chose to use one of the many excellent 'Tournament Software' packages available.



3. TOURNAMENT RULES

3.1 Game Timing

3.1.1 Use of Timing Devices and 'Clocking Out'

In tournament Guild Ball, chess clocks are used. Chess clocks are set to display each player's total available match time (before penalties are incurred). The sum of both players' clocks, plus admin/clocked out time, determines the round length.

The active player **MUST** have their clock running at all points (including their maintenance phase) once they have completed the current activation they must 'flip' the clock over to the opponent's timer. The initiative role for the subsequent turn is taken as part of the active player's time at the end of the final activation (depending on who win initiative the clock then either continues to run or is flipped and the maintenance phase begins). The clock may be paused at the players' discretion to resolve rules queries. Excessive pausing of the clock will be considered time wasting by the judges and may be penalised.

If the active player's clock reaches 0 then they are considered to have 'clocked out'. If the active player has already begun to physically move a model, they finish the movement for that model, then their activation ends. If a player is in the process of making a roll of any kind, they complete that action and then the activation ends. Once their activation has ended their opponent is awarded 1 VP.

The game continues as normal from this point, however the player who has 'clocked out' uses the stopwatch timer and their activations are limited to 1 minute in length. At the end of each of the 'clocked out' player's activations, their opponent is awarded 1 VP.

Please note the precise order in which VP's are earned in tournament Guild Ball. If a clocked out player scores a goal they receive 4 VP's. If this takes them to or beyond the win conditions for the match then the game ends immediately, **BEFORE** their opponent is awarded the usual 1 VP at the end of their activation. If they have not yet met the win conditions then their opponent receives 1 VP and the game continues. (see example 2 below)

In the event of a 'clocked out' player needing to use an out of activation ability (such as 'Unpredictable Movement' or 'Counter Charge') simply pause all timing devices for the duration of this action. Please note the round timer will still be active and any time-wasting by either player will be harshly penalised.

Example 1

Jamie is winning by 10 VP's to 8 VP's. His opponent Dave clocks out during his next activation and Jamie is immediately awarded 1 VP, making the score 11 VP's - 8 VP's. Jamie does not score any VP's in his next activation but still has time remaining on his chess clock. Dave's next activation is timed using a stopwatch, at the end of his one-minute activation Dave has not managed to score any more VP's and Jamie is awarded 1 VP. The score is now 12 VP's - 8 VP's in Jamie's favour and he wins the match

Example 2

*Geoff is losing to Max by 8 VP's to 11 VP's and has clocked out earlier in the match. It is his activation and he manages to score a goal in his one-minute time allowance. He immediately is awarded 4 VP's. Geoff receives the 4 VP's for scoring, now has 12 VP's total and the game ends **BEFORE** he is considered to have ended his activation. Max **DOES NOT** receive the 1 VP for Geoff ending his activation as the game has ended first.*

Example 3

Rich is losing to Mat by 10 VP's to 11 VP's and has clocked out earlier in the match. It is his activation and he manages to 'take-out' one of Mat's players using only 45 seconds of his one-minute time limit. He immediately scores 2 VP's (taking him to 12 VP's). Activation does not end when a player is 'taken out' so Mat is not awarded 1 VP (Rich still had 15 seconds left). The game ends immediately with a win for Rich, 12 VP's - 11 VP's

3.1.2 Tournament Pre-match Sequence

Please note that the following steps supersede the standard pre-match sequence as defined in the rulebook and are specific to tournament play.

The T.O. must be aware that between rounds they must allow an appropriate length of time for data entry, publishing of new round pairings and the subsequent movement of players between tables.

Each round of a Guild Ball Tournament has a set length, at the end of which 'Dice Down' is called and play for that round stops. The round should follow the following structure:

- A. Discuss and agree the type and placement of terrain features on the pitch. If either player is unhappy with these they may contact a judge to examine the pitch. However, It is not guaranteed that the judge will see fit to alter anything.
- B. Swap hardcopies of team rosters and set the chess clocks to show the allotted time (as decided by the T.O.) for each player.
- C. Determine each player's active models for the match as per the Match Roster Selection method being used for the tournament.
- D. Deal and select guild plots from a shared single deck as per the rulebook.
- E. Determine which player may choose to be the kicking player or the receiving player by a starting roll of [1D6].
- F. The kicking player chooses a table edge, deploys their team & designates one player to be the kicker.
- G. The receiving player deploys their team taking the opposite table edge.
- H. The kicking player starts the chess clock and then performs a kick-off action. From this point onward the active player must have their chess clock running.
- I. The receiving player allocates their Influence.
- J. The kicking player allocates their Influence.
- K. The receiving player takes their first activation.
- L. Follow the normal turn sequence as outlined in the rulebook.

3.1.3 Dice Down

Once the total round time has expired the T.O. will call 'Dice Down'. At this point, if the active player has already begun to physically move a model, they finish the movement for that model and then their activation ends. If a player is in the process of making a roll of any kind, they complete that action and then the activation ends. Any 'end-of-activation' effects now trigger (such as a 'clocked out' player's opponent being awarded iVP). The current turn and game then ends.

When 'Dice Down' is called, if the VP totals are tied the game is considered to be a draw. Otherwise, the player with the highest VP total is declared the winner.

3.2 Tournament Scoring

At the end of a game both players are required to enter the following information on their player record sheets. Each player records the name of their opponent, the result of the game (Win/Loss/Draw), the active models used in that match, the number of Victory Points they scored and the number of Victory Points scored by their opponent. Please note the maximum number of Victory Points available for a win in Guild Ball Tournaments Season 1 is determined by the win condition used for the tournament (players cannot score more VP's than the win condition)

Players score Tournament Points (TP's) based on the outcome of each game.

- A player scores 10 TP's for a win
- A player scores 1 TP for a draw
- A player scores 0 TP's for a loss

In the event of two players scoring the same number of TP's by the end of an event the T.O. should apply the first tiebreaker. If players are still tied then the T.O. should additionally apply the second tiebreaker.

First Tiebreaker - The player with the highest cumulative total VP's

Second Tiebreaker - The player with the best VP difference (calculate the net VP's scored by a player by subtracting the cumulative VP's scored against them from the cumulative VP's scored by them)

SECTION B

TOURNAMENT OPTIONS

This section of the organized play document must be used by T.O.'s to determine the style of event they wish to run. By making selections from the following options, T.O.'s can tailor events to the needs of their gaming community.

OPTION 1 - TOURNAMENT LENGTH

A) 'A Champion is crowned'

In this format the event runs until one player has more tournament points than any other player at the end of a round or the maximum number of pre-determined rounds has been played, whichever occurs first. Please use the table below to determine how many rounds are usually required to determine a winner. For season 1 of Guildball Tournaments this option must only be used in events of 33 players or more

Number of Players	Rounds
33 to 64	6-round event
65 to 128	7-round event

B) 'It's not over, 'til it's over'

In this format a tournament takes place over a set number of rounds with the victor and runners up being determined only after the final round has been completed. Use the table below to determine the number of rounds recommended based on the number of players at the tournament.

Number of Players	Rounds
8 or fewer	3-round event
9 to 16	4-round event
17 to 32	5-round event
33 to 64	6-round event
65 to 128	7-round event

OPTION 2 - MATCH WIN CONDITIONS

C) 'Quick and Dirty'

Games are played to an 8 VP win condition.

D) 'Play to the final whistle'

Games are played to a 12 VP win condition.

OPTION 3 - ROUND LENGTH

E) 'Playing on instinct'

- Chess clocks are set to 35 minutes per player.
- Admin/Clocked out time is 10 minutes total with clocked out players being allowed 1-minute activations.
- Round length is 80 minutes total.

F) 'Team Tactics'

- Chess clocks are set to 45 minutes per player.
- Admin/Clocked out time is 20 minutes total with clocked out players being allowed 1-minute activations.
- Round length is 110 minutes total.

G) 'Thinking Time'

- Chess clocks are set to 50 minutes per player
- Admin/Clocked out time is 25 minutes total with clocked out players being allowed 2-minute activations.
- Round length is 125 minutes total.

OPTION 4 - TEAM ROSTER SELECTION

H) 'The First Team'

1. Select a guild to use.
2. Select an eligible captain model
3. Select an eligible mascot model
4. Select 4 eligible models from your Guild and/or eligible Union models.

I) 'Strength in Depth'

This roster selection method lets T.O.'s allow the use of larger squads. The T.O. will decide on the number of models each player can use in addition to their captain and mascot. For season 1 of Guild Ball Tournaments this is capped at 8. Tournament players are then allowed to include up to this number of models (replacing X at step 4 below with the number decided on by the T.O.) on their team roster.

1. Select a guild to use.
2. Select an eligible captain model
3. Select an eligible mascot model
4. Select X eligible models from your Guild and/or eligible Union models.

OPTION 5 - MATCH ROSTER SELECTION

Please note - if Option 4 H 'The First Team' has been chosen by the T.O. then players will simply use their 6 model team for every match.

If the T.O. has chosen Option 4 I 'Strength in Depth' then they must chose a Match Roster Selection method from the two below:

J) 'Hide the team sheet!'

At step C of the pre-match sequence players record in secret the 6 models from their team roster (including one captain and one mascot) that will be active for this match. They then simultaneously reveal the 6 active models.

K) 'Move and Counter Move'

At step C of the pre-match sequence, follow the steps below:

1. After swapping rosters both players roll a die, re-rolling any tied results. The winner chooses to be either 'Player A' or 'Player B' during this team selection process. Once the winner has chosen, proceed with the following steps:
2. Player A selects a model from their roster to be active in the match and places the model's card on the table.
3. Player B selects a model from their roster to be active in the match and places the model's card on the table.

These steps are repeated until both Players have 6 active models selected for the match. Remember that one mascot and one captain are mandatory choices for each team.

DESIGNING A TOURNAMENT EXAMPLE

Jamie wants to run a casual, fun 32 player tournament. Before he announces the event he decides that he will choose:

Tournament length - B) 'It's not over, 'til it's over'

Match Win Conditions - C) 'Quick and Dirty'

Round Length - F) 'Playing on instinct'

Team Roster Selection - I) 'The First Team'

Match Roster Selection - N/A

This means that Jamie's tournament will be:

- A 5 round event
- Players will play all 5 rounds before a winner is determined
- There is an 8 VP win condition
- Chess clocks will be set to 35 minutes per player, with 10 minutes of admin/clocked out time and the round length will be 80 minutes total
- Players will select team rosters of 6 eligible models before the event
- Players will use these 6 eligible models for every match

SECTION C

STEAMFORGED TOURNAMENT DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

In this section you will find a brief selection of Steamforged Designs for tournament play. These standardized designs provide an easy, pre-chosen format for T.O.'s to use.

LOCAL FRIENDLIES

Division 3 tournaments emphasize fun and a friendly atmosphere. These tournaments help build local gaming communities and are a great way for new players to experience their favourite game without worrying whether they know every rule of Guild Ball.

We recommend the following options for a Division 3 tournament:

Tournament length - A) 'It's not over, 'til it's over'

Match Win Conditions - D) 'Play to the final whistle'

Round Length - G) 'Thinking Time'

Team Roster Selection - H) 'The First Team'

Match Roster Selection - N/A

REGIONAL CUP

This is the standard expected level for tournament play in Guild Ball. Division 2 events require players to have a good general knowledge of the game's rules. While experienced players will come to these tournaments to compete for prizes, understanding should always be given to novice entrants. Players can come to these events expecting a consistent experience from tournament to tournament.

Tournament length - A) 'A Champion is crowned'

Match Win Conditions - D) 'Play to the final whistle'

Round Length - F) 'Team Tactics'

Team Roster Selection - I) 'Strength in Depth'
(X = 8 models)

Match Roster Selection - J) 'Hide the team sheet!'

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship tournaments are the highest level of competition for Guild Ball; all players, judges, and tournament organisers involved are held to the highest levels of conduct. Players are assumed to be familiar with the game's rules, as well as the latest FAQ/Errata and tournament documents. They should expect all rules to be strictly enforced. Championship tournaments will be centrally sanctioned by Steamforged Games; organisers are encouraged to apply for permission to host these prestigious events.

Tournament length - A) 'A Champion is crowned'

Match Win Conditions - D) 'Play to the final whistle'

Round Length - F) 'Team Tactics'

Team Roster Selection - I) 'Strength in Depth'
(X = 8 models)

Match Roster Selection - K) 'Move and Counter Move'

Credits: Jamie Perkins, Mat Hart, Richard Loxam, David Harbord, Max Horseman, Geoff Porritt. **Additional Material Provided By:** Tom Fretwell, Liam Jordan

SEASON ONE GUILD PLOTS

<p>SECOND WIND</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>Return one or more friendly models to play using the Ice Sponge rule.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>All friendly models returning to play in the current Maintenance Phase may make an Advance up to their max-move (instead of base-move).</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>MAN DOWN</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>A friendly model suffers the taken-out condition as a result of an Attack or Play from an enemy model, resulting in less friendly models on the Pitch than enemy models.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>All friendly models gain [+1] ARM until the end of the turn.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>DON'T TOUCH THE HAIR!</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>When an Attack or Charge is declared against a friendly model.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>Immediately after the active model resolves their Attack action, if able, the target model may then make a [2'] Dodge.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>
<p>SIDELINE REPAIRS</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>Remove the taken-out condition and return a model to play using the Ice Sponge rule.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>The returned model may be placed anywhere in base contact with any table edge in your half of the Pitch.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>MAN MARKING</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>An enemy (Captain) model suffers the taken-out condition as a result of an Attack or Play from a friendly model.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>During the next Maintenance Phase, add [+2] Influence to your team's Influence Pool.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>KEEP BALL</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>Generate [1] MP from a Pass.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>The model currently in possession of the ball-token gains Close Control until the end of the turn.</p> <p><i>Close Control</i> Once per turn, this model may figure the first Tackle result against it.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>
<p>VENGEANCE</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>A friendly model suffers the taken-out condition as a result of an Attack or Play from an enemy model.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>Mark the enemy model with a vengeance-token. Models attacking the marked model may remove the vengeance-token to add [+4] net-hits to any single Attack action.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>MIRACULOUS RECOVERY</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>An enemy model inflicts the taken-out condition on a friendly model who may be given Ice Sponge tokens.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>The taken-out model immediately gains maximum Ice Sponge tokens.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>KNEE SLIDER!</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>A friendly model scores a goal.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>Before the subsequent Goal Kick is resolved, the model that scored may immediately make a Dodge up to their max-move.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>
<p>WHO ARE YA?</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>An enemy model scores a goal.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>Mark the enemy model with a vengeance-token. Models attacking the marked model may remove the vengeance-token to add [+4] net-hits to any single Attack action.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>PROTECT YOUR BALLS</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>A friendly model suffers a Tackle result and loses possession of the ball-token.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>The friendly model may make an immediate Counter-attack without spending MP.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>	<p>MAKE A GAME OF IT!</p> <p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>Concede the first goal.</p> <p>REWARD</p> <p>During the next Maintenance Phase, add [+2] Influence to your team's Influence Pool.</p> <p>SEASON I</p>

GUILD BALL PLAYER RECORD SHEET

Player Name

Guild

Round	Result	Your VPs	Opponent's Name	Opponent's VP's
1	W L D 10 0 1			
2	W L D 10 0 1			
3	W L D 10 0 1			
4	W L D 10 0 1			
5	W L D 10 0 1			
6	W L D 10 0 1			
7	W L D 10 0 1			

	Team Roster	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7
Captain								
Mascot								
Model 1								
Model 2								
Model 3								
Model 4								
Model 5								
Model 6								
Model 7								
Model 8								