
Title	Position statement on game classification for Tchoukball
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POSITION STATEMENT ON GAME CLASSIFICATION FOR TCHOUKBALL

The purpose of this position statement is to provide direction and guidance for practitioners, e.g., physical education teachers, coaches, and administrators, in the game classification for Tchoukball. This position statement is requested by the Tchoukball Association of Singapore and is based on the analysis of official game rules for Tchoukball, Basketball, Netball, Badminton, Squash, and Volleyball.

Mitchell et al. (2013) classified games according to their respective rules into “Invasion”, “Net and Wall”, “Striking and Fielding”, and “Target”. For example, Basketball and Netball are classified as Invasion games because teams score by moving a ball into another team’s territory and shooting into a fixed target, e.g., a basket. On the other hand, teams prevent scoring by stopping the other from bringing the ball into their territory and attempting to score. Badminton, Squash and Volleyball are classified as Net and Wall games because teams must move the opponents around the court to create the spaces needed to attack, and score by hitting the ball into a court space with sufficient accuracy and power that opponents cannot return. On the other hand, teams must best position themselves to defend court space and return the ball. For the brevity of this position statement, only the rules on scoring will be discussed.

In Net and Wall games, teams score by hitting the ball into a court space with sufficient accuracy and power that opponents cannot return. For Tchoukball, a player scores a point if the ball rebounding from the frame, touches the field of play before a defender catches it (Rule 8.1.1; International Tchoukball Federation, 2009). Needing to rebound the ball on the Tchoukball frame is similar to Squash, where the ball must be struck correctly and travel to the front wall without going out (World Squash Federation, 2022). Also, Tchoukball’s scoring a point when the ball touches the field of play is similar to Volleyball, where a team scores a point by successfully landing the ball on the opponent’s court (Federation Internationale de Volleyball, 2021). On the other hand, teams shoot into a fixed target to score a point in Invasion games. For Basketball, a goal is made when a live ball enters the basket from above and remains within or passes through the basket entirely (Article 16.1.1; International Basketball Federation, 2022). For Netball, a goal is scored when the ball is thrown or batted above and completely through the ring by Goal Shooter or Goal Attack from any point within the goal circle including the lines bounding the goal circle. (Rule 10.1; International Netball Federation, 2022).

In Net and Wall games, there is more than one way to score a point. For Tchoukball, a player scores a point if the ball rebounding from the frame, touches a defender who fails to control it so that it falls on the floor or is knocked out of the field of play (Rule 8.1.2; International Tchoukball Federation, 2009). This is similar to Volleyball, where a team wins a point when

an opposing player fails to hit the ball to a teammate or over the net, causing it to contact the floor or go out of play (Federation Internationale de Volleyball, 2021). On the other hand, scoring for Invasion games are limited to one way i.e., shooting into a fixed target.

In Net and Wall games, teams concede points to opponents because of erroneous shot attempts. For Tchoukball, a player concedes a point when he/she shoots and misses the frame (Rule 8.2.1; International Tchoukball Federation, 2009) or when the ball, rebounding off the frame after he shot, falls out of the field of play or into the forbidden zone (Rule 8.2.2). This is similar to Badminton where a point is conceded when a player commits a fault, e.g., sending the shuttle out of the boundaries, or failing to send shuttle over the net (Badminton World Federation, 2022). On the other hand, teams generally concede ball possession, not points (goals), after erroneous shot attempts in Invasion games.

Thus, **Tchoukball is a Net and Wall game** because of its rules and how games are classified according to them (Mitchell et al., 2013). To conclude, practitioners, e.g., physical education teachers, coaches, and administrators, should be aware of Tchoukball's classification and that Tchoukball is a unique team sport without physical contact between players or interception of the ball, can be played in most situations and sporting arenas, and is participated by players all skill levels, shapes and sizes (International Tchoukball Federation, 2021).

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