IBSA GOALBALL WORLD RANKING SYSTEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

International Blind Sports Federation
Goalball Sub Committee
1 April 2019

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1. Introduction to Goalball and the Goalball World Ranking System

Goalball was invented in Austria after the 2nd World War to help in the rehabilitation of blinded war veterans.

As its name suggests, GOALBALL is a ball game; it is also a team game. It has three characteristics that distinguish it from all team ball games played by people who are sighted: (1) it is played with a ball that is audible so that players can hear it when it is in motion; (2) it is played on a court with tactile markings so the players can find their positions; and (3) players wear eyeshades to completely block out all sight. Goalball is a very interesting spectator sport from two perspectives. First, spectators must close their eyes for only a moment to appreciate the sport skill that the athletes have to be able to track a ball thrown over 70 km/h and to throw it with accuracy and speed. Secondly, fans must cheer silently during the game because noise interferes with the athletes' ability to hear the ball.

The game was introduced to the world in 1976 at the Paralympics in Toronto and has been played at every Paralympic Games since. World Championships are held every four years; the first was in Austria in 1978. Goalball is now played competitively in over 100 countries.

As the sport continues to grow, so does the need for a ranking system. The IBSA Goalball World Ranking System was implemented as a tool to assess a country's relative standing as it relates to the international goalball community. The IBSA Goalball World Ranking System uses the basic logic that any team that actively and successfully competes in international goalball competitions will earn points that will enable that team to climb up the world ranking list.

2. How World Rankings are Used

IBSA Goalball continually strives to become more transparent in the use of the IBSA Goalball World Rankings.

As more teams compete internationally on a consistent basis, a team can use these rankings as an assessment tool for measuring their relative performance against others.

Additionally, the world rankings may be used as part of selection criteria for competitions where a qualification system is used.

3. How World Rankings are Calculated

Rankings are based on ranking points that are calculated by using the results of each game played during qualified ranking tournaments. They are not based on final tournament standings.

These rankings points are calculated and posted to the IBSA website on a monthly basis. Teams will be placed in rank order based on their earned ranking points, with the highest ranking score receiving the highest monthly ranking.

Rankings are based on tournament results from the last 48 months. Game results older than 48 months are dropped from ranking points calculations.

Ranking points of single match
Are determined by using the following factors:

- **Game Result:** Did the game have a winner or was there a draw?
- **Game Importance:** Was this an open international tournament, the Paralympic Games, or some other level of tournament?
- **Opposing Team Strength:** How strong was the opposing team based on their current world ranking?
- **Global Strength Score:** How strong is the team over a perceived period of time?
- **Game Weight:** How recent is the game being used in the calculation?

Points = Game Result x Game Importance x Opposing Team Strength x Global Strength Score x Game Weight

Total monthly ranking points (referred to as **Points** on the monthly ranking report) are determined by using the following factors:

Total monthly ranking points= team's total number of points over a 48-month period + average number of ranking points (per game) gained from all games played during the previous 48 months.

IBSA Goalball World Rankings
31 January 2019
Women's Division

Rank	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Team	Region	Points	Last Played
1st	1	3	3	3	2	Brazil	Americas	680.456	Jun/18
2nd	2	1	1	1	1	Turkey	Europe	615.487	Jun/18
3rd	3	2	2	2	4	China	Asia Pacific	559.343	Oct/18

Game Result

The Game Result will be weighed in the following manner:

- **3 points:** a victory in regulation time
- **2 points**: a victory in extra time or penalties
- **1 point:** a loss in extra time or penalties
- **1 point:** a draw in regulation time (where a winner is not required)

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- **0 points:** a loss in regulation time

Game Importance

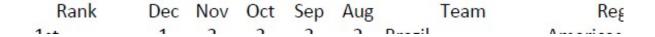The Importance of a Game will be weighed in the following manner:

- **2.5 points:** any finals game played in IBSA World Championships or Paralympic Games (finals)
- **2 points:** any regulation game played in IBSA Goalball World Championships or Paralympic Games
- **1.5 points:** an international game, including games played in Paralympic Qualification Tournaments or Regional Qualification Tournaments (competition finals)
- **1 point:** an International game, including games played in Paralympic Qualification Tournaments or Regional Qualification Tournaments (that lead directly to Paralympic Games or World Goalball Championships)

Opposing Team Strength

The opposing team strength is based on their world ranking.

- The team at the top of the world ranking always receives a strength factor of 100 points; the second team receives a strength factor of 99, subsequent teams receive strength factors in decreasing order between 98 and 62. Teams ranked 61 and below receive a strength factor of 40.
- The opponent's ranking position (used to determine strength) is taken from their overall ranking from the most recent monthly IBSA Goalball World Rankings List that is posted to the IBSA website.

IBSA Goalball World Rankings
31 January 2019
Women's Division

Rank	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Team	Reg
1st	1	2	2	2	2	Brazil	Americas

Global Strength Score

A team's global strength will be calculated by their performance over the previous two (2) Paralympic Games and previous two (2) IBSA Goalball World Championships. The result of these performances is the Global Strength Score. This score will be used as a multiplier for that team in all game ranking point computations until the next Paralympic Games or IBSA Goalball World Championships when a new Global Strength Score will be computed.

- How the Global Strength Score is calculated:
  - After each tournament, all competing teams will be placed in rank order for their division (men and women) based on their tournament finish.
  - Ranking of teams finishing 5th-8th places: determined by their total points and point difference against opponents from their round robin games.
  - The ranking of teams finishing outside of "knock-out" games (9th to 16th places) will be determined using rule 50 of IBSA Goalball Rules and Regulations based and based each team's total points and each team's goal difference against opponent from their round robin games.
  - Each team will then be allocated a Global Strength factor depending on their total order of finish which will be based on the number of teams competing in that division of the competition.
    - The winner will be given a Global Strength factor of 1.000 with the score decreasing equally down the each competition position.
      - For example, if there are sixteen (16) teams in the competition
        - 1st place receives a Global Strength factor of 1.000
        - 2d place receives 0.9375
        - 3d place receives 0.8750
        - 16th place received 0.0625
  - Any team not competing in the Paralympic Games or IBSA World Goalball World Championships for that year will receive a Global Strength factor of 0.0500.
  - The overall Global Strength Score becomes the average of the Global Strength factors received for the past two Paralympic Games, IBSA World Goalball World Championships, or the 0.0500 factor given for teams that do not compete in these competitions.

Game Weight

Game weight is based on a 48 month period with points depreciating as follows:

- **100% weight**: any game held in the last twelve months.
- **75% weight:** any game played in the past 13-24 months
- **50% weight:** any game played in the past 25-36 months
- **25% weight**: any game played in the past 37-48 months
- **0% weight:** any game more than 48 months old

4. Where World Rankings are Maintained

Goalball world rankings are produced on a monthly basis and are maintained on the Goalball section of the IBSA website:
http://www.ibsasport.org/sports/goalball/general-documents/

5. Ranking Tournament Conditions

IBSA Goalball strives to become more transparent in its use of the IBSA Goalball World Rankings. For consideration to be included in the rankings, tournament organisers will need to qualify through application that their tournaments will meet certain conditions that will be considered by the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee:

- Tournaments will require at last three international teams in each category played (men's and / or women's).
- There can be no more than one team from each country in each category in the same tournament.
- Tournaments must be played under full IBSA rules. Any minor modifications must be approved in writing by the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee prior to the tournament commencing.
- All referees officiating in the tournament must be either IBSA Level I, II or III accredited or must be participating at an IBSA Level Accreditation Clinic at this tournament.
- Tournaments must first be advertised on the IBSA website.
- Unless the tournament is used as part of the qualification process for the Paralympic Games, IBSA Goalball World Championships, IPC sanctioned regional championships, IBSA sanctioned regional championships, or other regional or sub-regional championships approved by the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee, the tournament <u>must be open to all countries</u>. This does not mean that a tournament cannot be limited at a certain number of teams.
- Results from the tournament must be sent to the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee, goalball@ibsasport.org, not later than 15 calendar days after the conclusion of the tournament. Any results submitted after that time or any results that are incomplete may be disallowed for ranking consideration purposes.

Tournaments sanctioned by the IPC, Regional Paralympic Committees or IBSA will be automatically ranked. No application will be required for these tournaments.

6. IBSA Goalball Ranking Tournament Application Form

Tournament Name					
Location					
City			Country		
Dates	From			To	
Gender	Men's			Women's	

Proposed Teams	
Men's	Women's

Officials		
Will IBSA level I, II or III referees be used for this tournament?		Yes / No
Referee Name	Nationality	IBSA Level

Possible modifications to the IBSA Goalball Rules (any modification must be approved by the IBSA Goalball Sub-Committee.)

Contact Details			
Name			
Email			
Phone No		Skype	

Declaration

We, the undersigned agree:

- the details on this form are true and correct;
- the above tournament will have at last three teams in each category and that all teams will be (for the most part) full international teams;
- the tournament will be played under full IBSA rules unless approved in writing by the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee;
- all referees officiating the tournament will be current IBSA Level I, II or III
- we have posted, or permit the IBSA Goalball Committee to advertise this competition on the IBSA website
- unless this is a sanctioned tournament with specific qualification criteria, the tournament will be open to all countries;
- the Technical Delegate will send the results from this tournament to the IBSA Goalball Subcommittee: goalball@ibsasport.org and publish them on the IBSA Goalball website not later than 15 calendar days following the conclusion of the tournament.

Full Name	
Signature	
Date	_____ /_____ 20_____

7. Summary of Changes:

1 April 2019: Publication of IBSA Goalball World Ranking System, Policies and Procedures.