IRHC Broomball Presents:

The Blue Book

http://www.broomball.mtu.edu
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Foreword

Broomball Players and Fans,

I’m sure you are all itching to get back out on the rinks and play the game we all know and love. The season is not far off, and as always, the IRHC Broomball Committee has been working hard to improve all aspects of Broomball. In addition to putting on the regular season, your Broomball Committee has been meticulously planning and improving all Broomball-related events. I would like to take some time to thank all the following individuals involved in making Broomball what is today: previous committees who laid the framework for what we hope to achieve in the future, the current committee for their hard work and dedication, Jeremiah Baumann for being a great advisor, rink staff for all of those cold nights preparing the rink, referees for managing the games, and the cocoa shack workers who supply us with the best free cocoa on campus. Many thanks to you all.

This year we have a few events to kick off the semester. During O-week, Broomball will be putting on Slip-n-Slide Broomball for the incoming first-years, so they can get a feel for what Broomball is about. This will take place on the Walker Lawn on Saturday, August 29, and all students are welcome! Of course, we will also be holding our annual Welcome Week Broomball event at the MacInnes Student Ice Arena on August 30th. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get some time on the ice, no matter what their skill level. Broomball will provide basic equipment, but supplies are limited. It is recommended that you bring your old brooms and pads to save equipment for those that have never played. Bring your friends and have fun! We also will be out at K-day putting your skill to the test with our accuracy board and shot speed competition. Come out and show us what you’ve got.

After K-day, we will continue preparing for the 2016 season. Watch for updates through our social media and table tents for dates and times for meetings and events. During the first few months of the fall semester we will also be hiring our referees, rink staff, and cocoa staff for the upcoming season. All of these positions are a great way to get involved in Broomball and all are welcome to apply even if you have no experience with Broomball (P.S.—These positions are all paid!)

I’m sure you noticed the trailer Broomball was using last year for an on the rink office and cocoa shack replacement. This was a huge project that will continue to be worked on, but has resulted in smoother operations out at the rinks. We will be adding to and improving the trailer throughout the season. Remember to stay away from the rinks and trailer when construction starts in the fall.

Lastly, a few more notes about our events throughout the year: the Alumni Tournament was a great success this past year and will remain during Winter Carnival. This will not interfere with our Skills Competition or All-Star game, both of which will take place (as always) during the Wednesday of Winter Carnival. The All-Star game has always been my favorite game of the year, and if you only watch one game this season make it this one! Monday Night Broomball will also be making a comeback this year. Be on the lookout for our online polls so you can see your favorite teams face off under the lights.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the Broomball Committee or myself. We all have weekly office hours starting the second week of classes and can be easily contacted via email. Can’t wait to see you take the ice this season!

Thank you,
Patrick Wolfer

IRHC Broomball Chair
Broomball Overview

In the early 1990s, broomball captivated the interest of a small pack of Huskies and eventually took Michigan Tech by storm. Once a small student organization, broomball has grown to become one of the largest, with around 2,000 students participating.

Today, broomball is played on three outdoor ice rinks in front of Douglass Houghton Hall. There are currently six leagues that hold a total of 240 teams: 4 on-campus leagues (DHH, McNair, East Wads, and West Wads), a women’s league, and an off-campus league.

As early as mid-October, team registration begins the broomball season. Students’ return from winter break marks the commencement of the playing season.

Even on the most bone-chilling nights in Houghton, large and loud crowds gather around the rinks to watch or play their favorite game. Six players from each team step out onto the ice, but not in skates: players wear tennis shoes and a full-cage hockey helmet. A softball-sized rubber (D-Gel) broomball ball is the projectile of choice, and is slapped around with duct-taped brooms.

As spring approaches (usually slowly), teams with the most points earned from wins in the regular season play in the campus-wide playoffs to fight for the title of Broomball Champions and a year of boasting about their superiority on the ice.
Broomball History

For many students, it is hard to imagine a winter in Houghton without broomball. However, there was a time not long ago when it didn’t exist. Broomball itself was invented in Canada in the early 1900s. Originally, the game was played with normal brooms and players wore normal shoes and no helmets. Today, professional broomball players use specialized brooms and shoes, but Tech continues the original tradition with tennis shoes and duct-tape covered brooms. IRHC Broomball first began in the early 1990s, with the earliest rules dating back to 1994-95.

Since it is a subcommittee of the Inter-Residence Hall Council (IRHC), the IRHC Vice President served as the original Broomball Chair. This did not change until the 2000s, which saw the first Chair apply and be chosen by a selection committee. Teams originally paid a team fee, which was dropped in favor of a player fee in 2003 to ensure that players were actually playing and not just holding a spot so a team could be in a certain league. This year also required that at least five members from the team must have residency in their league and that players could only play on two teams. Originally, teams would just “apply” to a league and did not have to have any members with that residency.

Broomball began with only one rink. This full-sized playing surface was located on the site that now contains the Rozsa Center. The rink changed location in 1997 because of construction.

The second rink was added in the 2003 season. This rink was originally added to allow more ease in rescheduling games due to weather. These two rinks had to be made smaller than the previous full-sized rink. Scoreboards were also added at this time. The third rink was added in 2007. In 2009, the rink was moved to its current location at the east end of Lot 14, in front of DHH.

More safety equipment has been added since the sport came to Tech. As late as 2001, goalies were not required to wear helmets while on the ice. Residence halls also originally bought helmets for their leagues, but this practice was discontinued after helmets kept being stolen. In 2003, nets were added behind the goals and players were allowed to wear elbow pads. Waivers were added after the 1999 season when two lawsuits were threatened after players sustained a broken ankle and a concussion.

Other rules have also changed in broomball. Originally, teams could only have two off-campus players, which was changed to five non-resident players in 2003. Tie games also used to end in a shootout, which also changed in 2003 to two sudden-death, five minute overtime periods. This was later dropped to one sudden death overtime period during the regular season, with unlimited overtime periods during the playoffs.

In 2014, Broomball purchased a trailer to act as an on-the-rink office and cocoa shack replacement. This was a huge project that involved many man hours to bring to Broomball. In 2015, the trailer was wrapped in decals to represent Broomball and the sponsors that helped make a warm retreat near the rinks a reality.

Written by Megan Gayeski
Edited & updated by Yuritzi Garcia, Kara Bakowski, and Justin Nicholas
The Broomball Committee

The Broomball Committee is the year-round staff that works to keep the organization running smoothly and effectively. They are responsible for organizing the broomball season, in addition to advertising, merchandise, employment, and putting on additional events and tournaments throughout the year.

Meet the Committee!

Patrick Wolfer
Position: Broomball Head Chair
Year: 4th
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Year on committee: Third
What is Broomball all about: Having fun. There is definitely a competitive aspect to the game, but the main goal is to have a good time with your friends.
Why you joined the committee: I loved Broomball my first year and wanted to get more involved.

Justine Reed-Sandum
Position: Broomball Vice Chair
Year: 3rd
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Year on committee: Second
Why you joined the committee: I love this sport and the people who play it are the best. I joined to get more people involved.

Henry Brewer
Position: Referee Manager
Year: 5th
Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology
Year on committee: First
Craziest Broomball Memory: Reffing a game that was in an endless shootout. Neither team could score and the shootout lasted 30 minutes while everyone watched and waited.

Anna Polk
Position: Rink Manager
Year: 4th
Major: Material Science & Engineering
Year on committee: First
Best Broomball Advice: Don’t take the game too seriously, and when all else is lost, flail.
Nicholas Fisher
Position: Web Developer
Year: 3rd
Major: Computer Engineering
Year on committee: First
What is Broomball all about: Campus camaraderie. The competitiveness and uniqueness of Broomball is one that almost anyone can enjoy and be a part of no matter your skill level.

Chris Iaes
Position: Webmaster
Year: 4th
Major: Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering
Year on committee: Second
Craziest Broomball Memory: Wearing dresses as the team uniform, also causing a new rule to be instituted.

Jacob Soter
Position: Treasurer
Year: 2nd
Major: Electrical Engineering
Year on committee: First
Best Broomball Advice: Use the boards around the rink to move quickly, you can dribble the ball down the ice.

Justin Nicholas
Position: Public Relations Manager
Year: 5th
Major: Engineering Management
Year on committee: Second
Craziest Broomball Memory: Taking pictures during the All-Star game and narrowly avoiding taking a broomball to the camera.

Kati Hook
Position: Public Relations Manager
Year: 3rd
Major: Scientific and Technical Communications
Year on committee: Second
Why you joined the committee: I wanted to be more involved with Broomball while being in other student orgs on campus, and the people running Broomball seemed fun, if a bit crazy!
Joe Nugent  
**Position:** Special Tasks Manager  
**Year:** 4th  
**Major:** Biomedical Engineering  
**Year on committee:** First  
**Best Broomball Advice:** My advice would be to get hockey shin guards or something similar. I didn’t have them for my first few games as a freshman and it makes it impossible to play effectively.

Lary Brant  
**Position:** Special Tasks Manager  
**Year:** 3rd  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Year on committee:** First  
**Craziest Broomball Memory:** Scoring a game-winning goal with 2 seconds left in OT.

Benjamin Slade  
**Position:** Special Tasks Manager  
**Year At Tech:** 2nd  
**Major:** Software Engineering  
**Year on committee:** First  
**Best Broomball Advice:** Help out your goalie. When shots are being taken call them out and help keep the crease clear.

The Broomball Blitz

The Broomball Blitz is published every other week throughout the season and includes season updates, weather forecasts, and game highlights. Pick one up from newsstands around campus, the Broomball Office, or the Operations Trailer!
The Broomball Office

The Broomball Office is located in Wadsworth Hall G24W. This is the place to turn in applications, schedule meetings with committee members, submit complaints, or ask questions. Broomball Committee members hold regular office hours, which are posted on the office door and on our website. We always enjoy talking with our captains, players, and fans, so feel free to stop by and say hello!

Operations Trailer

The Broomball Operations trailer is located on Walker lawn during the Broomball season. This is a place where you might find committee members holding office hours, working to improve Broomball, or just relaxing. As with our office in Wadsworth Hall, feel free to stop in and visit if the door is open!

Website

The broomball website is the official source for team stats and player lists, game schedules, and the game rules. Committee contact information, a Stick Making Guide, employment information, and news, and photos can also be found here. The website is updated throughout the year with information about special events and employment opportunities as they occur.
Equipment

In order to be allowed on the ice, players must be wearing a helmet with a full face cage. Although many players choose to purchase their own personal helmet, helmets are provided for game play by the Broomball organization.

Players supply their own broomsticks for play. The broom must be a corn broom with a wooden shaft. All excess metal must be removed, including any wire that holds the bristles together. The broom straw is trimmed down to the desired size and duct taped. In order for the broom to be allowed in game play, all bristles must be covered and the broom must flex when bent. Further information on brooms can be found in the rulebook and the Broomstick Making Guide, both located on the Broomball website.

In addition to the required helmet and broom, many players choose to wear additional safety equipment including shin guards, knee pads, elbow pads, gloves, and hockey pants. Hockey shin guards with attached knee pads are preferred by many players, although some prefer to wear soccer shin guards with volleyball or rollerblading knee pads. Hockey goalie pads and gloves are not allowed to be worn by any player. Elbow pads, such as those worn for rollerblading, basketball, or hockey may be worn by players who do not want to bruise their elbows. Many players also wear gloves to protect their hands from the cold and ice, ranging from thin and stretchy to padded hockey gloves.
Leagues and Residency

Broomball consists of six leagues: DHH and Apartments, McNair, West Wads, East Wads, Off-Campus, and Women's. In order for a team to play in a specific league, a minimum of at least five players must have residency in that league. The exception to this rule is the Women’s league, in which only females are allowed to play. All other leagues are co-ed.

**Off-Campus Player:** A player who does not live in McNair, Douglass Houghton Hall, Wadsworth Hall, Hillside Place, Daniel Heights, or other university-owned facilities.

**On-Campus Player:** A player who lives in McNair, DHH, Wadsworth Hall, Hillside Place, Daniel Heights, or other university-owned facilities.

**Residency:** Address of a player as of the beginning of team registration.

**Resident:** A player participating in the league corresponding to their residency

- A player living in McNair is a resident of the McNair league.
- A player living in Wadsworth Hall is a resident of either the East Wads or West Wads league, depending on their room location.
- A player living in Douglass Houghton Hall, Daniel Heights, or other university housing is a resident of the DHH and Apartments league.
- A player living off-campus is a resident of the Off-Campus league.
- Female students have dual residency. An on-campus female player is a resident of both her residence hall league and the Women’s league. An off-campus female player is a resident of both the Off-Campus league and the Women’s league. Women’s league teams must consist only of female players, and there are no further residency requirements for this league.

Registration

Registration occurs during mid-October and occurs on the broomball website, broomball.mtu.edu. Teams are put into leagues based on residency, and leagues are further divided into conferences based on teams’ registration time. The sooner you register, the more likely you will get a slot in the league. Generally, On-Campus leagues fill up slower than the Off-Campus league.

After registration, the Broomball Committee will notify team captains as to whether their team made the first cut or has been moved to the waiting list. Teams that made the cut then have a certain number of days to pay the team fee ($25/player), and all team captains must attend one of two captain meetings. Both of these tasks must be completed on time, or a team will be dropped from the season.
Employment

In addition to the Committee, Broomball has approximately 90 seasonal positions available for referees, rink staff, and Cocoa Shack staff.

- **Referees** are responsible for making sure all equipment is present before and after each game, checking in teams, keeping score, keeping time, and officiating games. Referees must attend both on- and off-ice training, which occurs prior to the season’s start. Referees are paid on an hourly basis: new referees make $9.00/hour and returning referees make $9.25/hour.

- **Rink staff** is responsible for shoveling snow from the rinks, general rink maintenance and cleanliness, putting out equipment before games, and storing all necessary equipment after games. The most common rink maintenance is making ice. Rink staff positions are also paid hourly. Staff members make $8.50/hour.

- **Cocoa Shack staff** is responsible for making hot cocoa for players and fans as well as selling broomball merchandise. They also maintain the shack and its supplies. Both new and returning Cocoa Shack staff members are paid $8.50/hour.

Applications and contact information regarding all seasonal positions will be made available in the fall. Broomball Committee applications are available in the spring.
2015 Champions

Overall champions: Pirate Sheep
Off-Campus champions: Pirate Sheep
DHH and Apartments champions: Dangles Unchained
McNair champions: Presto 02970 Professional SaladShooter
East Wads champions: Rambunctious Alpacas
West Wads champions: Hooskies
Women’s champions: Fluorescent Flirts 2.0

Getting Involved

You’ve read about broomball, you’ve read the history; you’ve read all the interesting tidbits we could fit into one 15-page book. So, how do you get involved?

The first step is to find a team (or two). If you live in the residence halls, your hall is a great place to begin searching for teammates as many houses will form their own team to play in the on-campus leagues. Talk to your neighbors or RA to see if they are interested in forming a team, and feel free to branch out to other houses as well. If you life off-campus, look to your friends, housemates, fraternity brothers/sorority sisters, and student organizations to form a team easily.

A team requires a minimum of six players, at least five of which must be residents of the league it is applying for. A team may have a maximum of five non-residents, and no two teams may have more than three members in common. To accommodate different schedules, many teams choose to register 10-12 players.

The second step is to register your team. Registration opens Sunday, October 25 at 10pm. Teams are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.
Contact Information

Broomball Chair .................................................. bbchair@mtu.edu
Broomball Vice Chair ........................................ bbvchair@mtu.edu
Referee Manager .................................................. bbref@mtu.edu
Rink Manager ....................................................... bbrink@mtu.edu
Webmaster .......................................................... bbweb@mtu.edu
Web Developer ..................................................... bbwebdev@mtu.edu
DHH & Apartments League Head ......................... bbdhh@mtu.edu
East Wadsworth League Head ......................... bbeastwads@mtu.edu
West Wadsworth League Head ......................... bbwestwads@mtu.edu
McNair League Head ............................................ bbmcnair@mtu.edu
Off-Campus League Head ................................. bboffcam@mtu.edu
Women’s League Head .......................................... bbwomen@mtu.edu
Advisor ........................................................... bbadvisor@mtu.edu
Important Dates

September 11—Referee, Rink Staff, and Cocoa Shack applications available*

October 7—Referee, Rink Staff, and Cocoa Shack applications due*

October 11 & 12—Captain’s Meeting, 7:00pm, DOW 641*

October 25—Team Registration opens @ 10pm*

October 28—Team Registration closes @ 10pm*

January 12—Ball drop, 5-6pm @ Broomball Rinks—2016 Season Begins

February 3—Skills Competition & All-Star Game @ Broomball Rinks

February 5 & 6—Alumni-Student Invitational @ Broomball Rinks

*Please check our website as these events approach for updates regarding date, time, and location changes.