

Explanation of the WFDF/BULA Spirit of the Game scoring sheet

(Scoring sheet available in 27 languages at www.wfdf.net and www.beachultimate.org)

Objective of the sheet

The objectives of the Spirit of the Game (SOTG) scoring sheet are:

- 1) Educate players on what Spirit of the Game is
- 2) Help teams to improve specific parts of their Spirit
- 3) Celebrate SOTG by awarding a prize to the team that gets the highest score

To achieve this, every team needs to score in a similar fashion. We recognize that SOTG is hard to capture exactly and the specifics and the examples may vary by country, competition level, etc... but if players adhere to the guidelines below, the objectives of the scoring system will be achieved.

How to fill in the scores

- Filling in the scores is a team effort. This helps in educating your players too. While this might take several minutes the first few times, it will take only a minute after you get used to it.
- It is expected that teams display normal, good spirit. The system was designed in accordance with this expectation. Therefore the baseline in each category is “Good” which equals 2 Points. For each game, determine if the other team was *better than*, *worse than*, or *the same as* just a regular game and score accordingly.
- Focus on each question and answer that question only. **Do not** start with an overall score in mind and work backwards to get that score.
- There might be many times that nothing out of the ordinary occurred at a game. As such, each category should get 2 points. A final score of 10 points is considered Good Spirit.
- The question: “How was our Spirit compared to theirs?” is included because Spirit is also about your own behavior and allows you to reflect about it with your team. If you feel your behavior was worse, give the other team more points.
- Give a *real* score that reflects the items detailed on the sheet; **do not** score a team because you felt the team was ‘nice’ or because they made a funny game in the circle.
- Do your part of the job and bring back the sheet when requested by the TD.

If the SOTG scoring system is filled in by all teams using the guidelines above, it will consistently do well in praising teams that deserve it and help identify teams that need guidance. It is not perfect, but that is probably impossible for a broad concept such as Spirit of the Game. However, the WFDF SOTG Committee is actively trying to improve it and help maintain and grow SOTG worldwide. If you have any comments on the scoring sheet, please contact the WFDF SOTG Committee (sotg@wfdf.org).

Conflict resolution

The WFDF SOTG Committee suggests that if players had a problem with Spirit in a particular game, they talk to the other team afterwards and explain why they gave them a lower than “good” score. This can be done in the Spirit Circle or later. Alternatively you can write comments on the SOTG scoring sheet.

Guidelines for TD's

- 1) Assign a Spirit Chair that handles spirit related issues. The WFDF SOTG Committee suggests:
 - a. Announce this to the players.
 - b. The Spirit Chair should know the rules of the game well.
 - c. The Spirit Chair should be considered fair and impartial.
 - d. At the end of each day, The Spirit Chair looks at all the SOTG score sheets and talks to teams with unacceptably low scores.
 - e. The Spirit Chair also talks to the captains of the teams that *gave* the low spirit scores.

- 2) Communicate to the players what SOTG scores will be posted online/publicly. The WFDF SOTG committee suggests:
 - a. At the end of the tournament, publish the total average, and the averages in each category for all teams. An example can be found at:
<http://www.beachultimate.org/blog/2011/09/spirit-of-the-game-wcbu---fina.html>
 - b. Upon request, give detailed SOTG scores of a game to the captains involved.

- 3) Before the SOTG winner is announced, ensure that all the scores are counted and double checked.

- 4) When announcing the SOTG Award, try to avoid the phrase “Best Spirited team”. Instead, use something along the lines of "In celebration of Spirit of the Game, the Spirit Award goes to..."

Approved by BULA and the WFDF Spirit of the Game Committee – November 2011