



# **A2 NERF HERDERS**

*Han Shot First*

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# 1. Introduction

## Welcome Message:

Welcome to A2 Nerf Herders! We are thrilled to have you join our community of Nerf enthusiasts. Our group is dedicated to providing a fun, family-friendly environment where players of all abilities can enjoy exciting Nerf blaster games.

## About A2 Nerf Herders:

A2 Nerf Herders is a local play group based in Ann Arbor, MI. We organize a variety of Nerf blaster games that promote physical activity, teamwork, strategy, and, most importantly, fun. Our mission is to create an inclusive and supportive community where everyone feels welcome.

## Our Mission and Values:

Our mission is to foster a love of Nerf blaster games while emphasizing the importance of safety, inclusion, and good sportsmanship. We believe in the power of play to bring people together and create lasting memories. Our values are centered around respect, teamwork, and a positive attitude.

## 2. Outline of Our Sport

### What is Nerf Blaster-Based Gaming?

Nerf blaster-based gaming is a fun and engaging activity that involves using foam dart blasters to participate in various games and challenges. It combines elements of physical activity, strategy, and teamwork, making it an exciting and dynamic sport for players of all ages.

Players use Nerf blasters, which are toy guns that shoot foam darts, discs, or balls. These blasters come in a variety of styles and designs, each offering different features and capabilities. Games can be played indoors or outdoors, depending on the available space and weather conditions.

### Benefits of Participation

Participating in Nerf blaster games offers numerous benefits, including:

- **Physical Activity:** Nerf games involve running, dodging, and aiming, which helps improve physical fitness and coordination.
- **Teamwork:** Players must work together to achieve common goals, fostering a sense of camaraderie and cooperation.
- **Strategy:** Success in Nerf games often requires planning and tactical thinking, which helps develop problem-solving skills.
- **Fun and Enjoyment:** Above all, Nerf games are designed to be enjoyable and provide a great way for players to have fun with friends and family.
- **Inclusivity:** Our games are designed to be inclusive, accommodating players of all abilities and ensuring that everyone can participate and enjoy.

### 3. Player Pledge

All players of A2 Nerf Herders are expected to adhere to the following pledge to ensure a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experience for everyone. By participating, players agree to uphold these principles:

#### Safety First:

- I will always wear the required safety gear, including protective eyewear.
- I will use my Nerf blaster responsibly and avoid aiming at faces or heads.
- I will be aware of my surroundings and play within designated safe areas.
- I will follow all safety guidelines and listen to instructions from referees and volunteers.

#### Inclusion and Respect:

- I will treat all players with respect and kindness, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds.
- I will be inclusive and supportive, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and valued.
- I will not engage in bullying, teasing, or exclusionary behavior.

#### No Rough Housing:

- I will play in a controlled and respectful manner, avoiding physical contact or roughhousing.
- I will maintain a safe distance from other players during games.

#### Sportsmanship:

- I will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, both in victory and defeat.
- I will follow the rules of the game and play fairly.
- I will respect the decisions of referees and volunteers.

Maintaining a Positive Attitude:

- I will keep a positive and cheerful attitude, encouraging others and contributing to a fun atmosphere.
- I will handle conflicts or disputes calmly and respectfully, seeking help from referees or volunteers if needed.

By agreeing to this pledge, I commit to contributing to a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all participants of A2 Nerf Herders.

## 4. Safety Guidelines

### Required Safety Gear

- **Protective Eyewear:** All players must wear protective eyewear to shield their eyes from foam darts.
- **Appropriate Clothing:** Wear comfortable, non-restrictive clothing and closed-toe shoes to ensure ease of movement and protection.
- **Blaster Checks:** Ensure that all Nerf blasters are in good working condition and do not have any modifications that could pose safety risks.

### Safe Play Rules

- **No Aiming at Faces or Heads:** Always aim for the body or legs to avoid injuring other players.
- **No Physical Contact:** Avoid physical contact with other players to prevent injuries.
- **Boundary Awareness:** Stay within the designated play area and be aware of your surroundings.
- **Blaster Handling:** Handle blasters responsibly, never pointing them at anyone outside of active gameplay.
- **Respect for Equipment:** Treat all equipment with care, ensuring it is used properly and returned in good condition.

### Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:** Know the location of the first aid kit and how to use it. A designated first aider should be present at all games.
- **Emergency Contact Information:** Keep emergency contact information for all players readily accessible.
- **Incident Reporting:** Report any injuries or unsafe behavior to a referee or volunteer immediately.
- **Emergency Evacuation:** Be familiar with the emergency evacuation plan for the play area.

## 5. Example Games and Rules

### Capture the Flag

- **Objective:** Retrieve the opposing team's flag and return it to your base without being tagged.
- **Teams:** Divide players into two equal teams.
- **Rules:** Players who are tagged while carrying the flag must drop it, and return to their base to respawn.

### Team Deathmatch

- **Objective:** Tag players on the opposing team to score points.
- **Teams:** Divide players into two equal teams.
- **Rules:** Tagged players must return to a designated respawn point before rejoining the game.

### Zombie Invasion

- **Objective:** Survivors must avoid being tagged by zombies. Zombies must tag all survivors to win.
- **Teams:** One or two players start as zombies, the rest are survivors.
- **Rules:** Tagged survivors become zombies. The game continues until all survivors are tagged or time runs out.

### Stationary Defense

- **Objective:** Defend a designated area or object from the attacking team.
- **Teams:** Divide players into defenders and attackers.
- **Rules:** Defenders cannot leave the designated area. Attackers must tag all defenders or reach the defended object to win.

### Target Shooting Competitions

- **Objective:** Score points by hitting stationary targets within a set time limit.
- **Teams:** Players compete individually or in small teams.
- **Rules:** Players take turns aiming and shooting at targets. Points are awarded for accuracy.



## 6. Teamwork and Good Sportsmanship

### Importance of Teamwork

- **Collaboration:** Success in Nerf games often requires players to work together, strategize, and communicate effectively.
- **Roles:** Assign specific roles within the team (e.g., offense, defense, scout) to maximize effectiveness.

### Examples of Good Sportsmanship

- **Respect:** Always respect your opponents and teammates.
- **Fair Play:** Follow the rules and play honestly.
- **Encouragement:** Cheer for your teammates and offer positive reinforcement.

### Leadership and Role Models

- **Lead by Example:** Encourage older or more experienced players to set a good example for others.
- **Mentorship:** Pair new players with experienced ones to foster learning and camaraderie.

# 7. Communication and Conflict Resolution

## Effective Communication

- **Clear Instructions:** Ensure all players understand the game rules and objectives.
- **Open Dialogue:** Encourage players to communicate openly and respectfully with each other.

## Handling Disputes

- **Stay Calm:** Address conflicts calmly and without escalation.
- **Mediation:** Involve referees or volunteers to mediate and resolve disputes fairly.

## Encouraging Positive Interactions

- **Positive Feedback:** Provide positive feedback to reinforce good behavior.
- **Team Activities:** Organize team-building activities to strengthen bonds among players.

## 8. Inclusivity and Adaptations

### Ensuring Inclusivity

- **Welcoming Environment:** Make sure all players feel welcome and included.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure the play area and activities are accessible to players with different abilities.

### Game Adaptations for Different Abilities

- **Modified Rules:** Adjust game rules to accommodate players with mobility issues or other disabilities.
- **Adaptive Equipment:** Provide adaptive equipment or assistance as needed to ensure everyone can participate.

# 9. Conclusion

## Key Points

- **Safety:** Always prioritize safety and follow the guidelines.
- **Inclusion:** Respect and include all players.
- **Fun:** Maintain a positive attitude and have fun!

## Encouragement and Motivation

- **Keep Playing:** Encourage players to keep participating and enjoying Nerf games.
- **Stay Active:** Promote the benefits of physical activity and teamwork.

# 10. Contact Information

## How to Reach Us:

- **Email:** [xephius@gmail.com](mailto:xephius@gmail.com)
- **Website:** [a2nerfherders.com](http://a2nerfherders.com)
- **Social Media:** TBA.

This publication was produced with the assistance of LLM's, and other grammar and writing computer aids. The idea was formed in early 2024 when Spyder Cooney wanted to create a local playgroup for his friends to safely play blaster games. With the help of his father, John Cooney, these documents were created.