



# **A2 NERF HERDERS**

*Han Shot First*

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# 1. Introduction

## Welcome Message:

Welcome to the A2 Nerf Herders volunteer and referee team! Your involvement is crucial in making our games safe, fun, and inclusive for all players. We appreciate your commitment and enthusiasm.

## About A2 Nerf Herders:

A2 Nerf Herders is a local play group based in Ann Arbor, MI. We organize Nerf blaster games that promote physical activity, teamwork, and strategy in a family-friendly environment.

## Our Mission and Values:

Our mission is to create an inclusive and supportive community where everyone feels welcome. We value safety, respect, teamwork, and a positive attitude in all our activities.

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

### Volunteer Roles:

- **Game Facilitator:** Help set up and manage games, ensuring they run smoothly and safely.
- **Safety Officer:** Oversee safety protocols, check equipment, and ensure players follow safety guidelines.
- **Inclusion Advocate:** Ensure all players, including those with different abilities, feel welcome and included.

### Referee Roles:

- **Game Referee:** Oversee the rules of the game, make fair calls, and manage gameplay.
- **Conflict Mediator:** Handle disputes between players and ensure fair play.
- **Game Coordinator:** Plan and organize games, ensuring they are engaging and inclusive.

### General Responsibilities:

- Arrive on time and be prepared for your role.
- Follow all safety guidelines and ensure players do the same.
- Be a positive role model and encourage good sportsmanship.
- Communicate clearly and effectively with players and other volunteers.

## 3. Safety Protocols

### Player Safety:

- Ensure all players wear protective eyewear and appropriate clothing.
- Monitor gameplay to prevent roughhousing and unsafe behavior.
- Be prepared to administer basic first aid if necessary.

### Equipment Safety:

- Regularly inspect Nerf blasters and equipment for safety.
- Ensure equipment is used properly and not modified in a way that could cause harm.

### Emergency Procedures:

- Know the location of the first aid kit and how to use it.
- Have emergency contact information for all players readily available.
- Follow the emergency evacuation plan if needed.

### Informing Local Dispatch:

- Call the non-emergency dispatch the morning of the event to inform them about the games, including time, location, and number of kids.
- Ann Arbor Non-emergency Dispatch: 734.994.2911, Option 8

## 4. Game Management

### Setting Up Games:

- Ensure the playing area is safe and free from hazards.
- Clearly mark boundaries and safe zones.
- Set up equipment and targets as needed.

### Running Games Smoothly:

- Explain the rules and objectives clearly to all players.
- Ensure teams are balanced and roles are assigned.
- Start and stop games on time, maintaining a smooth flow.

### Managing Game Flow:

- Keep an eye on the pace of the game and make adjustments if necessary.
- Address any issues or conflicts promptly to keep the game enjoyable.
- Ensure all players are engaged and having fun.

## 5. Inclusivity and Support

### Ensuring Inclusivity:

- Make sure all players feel welcome and included, regardless of their abilities.
- Modify games or rules as needed to accommodate different abilities.
- Be patient and supportive with all players.

### Supporting Players with Different Abilities:

- Provide adaptive equipment or assistance as needed.
- Encourage teamwork and support among players.
- Celebrate the achievements of all players.

### Handling Conflicts and Disputes:

- Address conflicts calmly and fairly.
- Listen to all sides of a dispute before making a decision.
- Involve other volunteers or referees if needed to resolve conflicts.



## 6. Communication and Leadership

### Effective Communication:

- Speak clearly and make sure all players understand instructions.
- Use positive reinforcement to encourage good behavior.
- Be approachable and open to feedback from players and other volunteers.

### Leadership and Role Modeling:

- Lead by example, demonstrating respect, fairness, and good sportsmanship.
- Encourage older or more experienced players to mentor younger ones.
- Take initiative in organizing and managing games.

### Conflict Resolution:

- Stay calm and neutral when addressing conflicts.
- Seek to understand the root of the conflict and find a fair resolution.
- Encourage players to resolve conflicts amicably.

## 7. Code of Conduct

### Expectations for Volunteers and Referees:

- Adhere to all safety guidelines and rules.
- Treat all players and fellow volunteers with respect.
- Maintain a positive and supportive attitude at all times.

### Handling Misconduct:

- Address any misconduct or rule violations promptly and fairly.
- Use appropriate disciplinary actions as outlined by the organization.
- Document and report any serious incidents to the group leaders.

### Reporting Procedures:

- Report any safety concerns or incidents to the designated Safety Officer.
- Provide feedback on games and suggest improvements to the Game Coordinator.
- Ensure all incidents are recorded and communicated to the appropriate parties.

## 8. Training and Development

### Volunteer Training Sessions:

- Attend training sessions to learn about safety protocols, game management, and inclusivity.
- Participate in ongoing training to stay updated on best practices.

### Referee Certification:

- Complete a certification process to become an official referee.
- Stay informed about the latest rules and guidelines for Nerf blaster games.

## Continuous Improvement:

- Provide feedback on training sessions and suggest areas for improvement.
- Stay engaged with the community and participate in volunteer meetings.

## 9. Conclusion

### Recap of Key Points:

- Safety, inclusivity, and fun are our top priorities.
- Volunteers and referees play a crucial role in making our games enjoyable for everyone.
- Follow the guidelines and be a positive role model.

### Encouragement and Appreciation:

- Thank you for your dedication and commitment to A2 Nerf Herders.
- Your efforts help create a supportive and exciting environment for all players.
- Keep up the great work and continue to inspire others!

# 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.