

Examples

This is a guideline to help standardize Spirit of the Game (SOTG) scoring. These are examples. Players are not limited to these examples. Please use reasonable judgment. Consider the competition setting, unclear situations and instances of both good and bad actions in the same category.

	Rules Knowledge and Use	Fouls and Body Contact	Fair Mindedness	Attitude	Communication
Bad (0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For the competition setting, they repeatedly showed a lack of knowledge of the rulesThey often disregarded the rulesThey repeatedly ignored outside feedback about the rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">After repeated calls they continued to commit the same foul(s) and/or contact violation(s)They made dangerous or reckless plays (e.g., colliding with a mostly stationary opponent, diving at a player’s back or legs, initiating contact with a player’s head, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The opposing team repeatedly took the stance that their calls and contests were correctThey did not give their opinion on calls where the result could have gone against themThey made many unjustifiable calls / contests and took advantage of the rules; for example: intentionally drawing fouls to reset the stall countThey unduly delayed the game	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Players and/or their sideline often used offensive language, including but not limited to racist, sexist, homophobic or other slursPlayers and/or their sideline often used offensive hand gestures and demonstrated complete disregard for others. They were often unresponsive to input about changing offensive behaviorThey did not show restraint in contentious situationsThey regularly taunted opponents after errorsPhysical and/or verbal confrontation occurred on/off the fieldSeveral instances of confrontational or offensive celebrations, or celebrations that targeted us (ex: pointing at an opponent after scoring on them or clapping in opponents face after a drop); celebrations that display joyous emotion and aren’t targeted at the opponent should not be considered unspiritedSeveral instances of damaging or misusing equipment (e.g. edge down spiking)During an unevenly-matched game, they played in a manner that further highlighted the disparity in skill between the two teams (e.g. scoober only points, trick plays, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They frequently refused to discuss issues / calls or showed an unwillingness to engage in discussionsThey frequently directed offensive language at others, such as cursing or racist, sexist, homophobic and/or other slurs
Not Good (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For the competition setting, they sometimes showed a lack of rules knowledgeThey disregarded the rules a few times during the gameThey were resistant to feedback and/or implementing changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There were noticeable instances where body contact affected playThere was at least one significant instance of them making a dangerous or reckless play	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They sometimes gave the impression they would only see things in a manner favorable to their teamThey were inconsistent in their calls throughout the gameThey called many insignificant breaches, (e.g. a very small travel or incidental contact that didn't affect the throw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On one or two occasions, they used offensive language and/or hand gestures and demonstrated complete disregard for othersThey were occasionally unresponsive to input about changing offensive behaviorSometimes they did not show restraint in contentious situationsThey sometimes taunted us after errors.One or two instances of confrontational or demeaning celebrations that are targeted at the opponent (ex: pointing at an opponent after a score or D); however, celebrations that display joyous emotion and aren’t targeted at the opponent should not be considered unspiritedOne or two instances of damaging or misusing equipment. (e.g., edge down spiking)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On one or two occasions, players not involved in the play got involved without having best perspective, being asked, or getting permissionOn one or two occasions, they directed offensive language at othersDiscussions about calls often extended longer than the amount of time that should have been necessary
Good (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For the competition setting, they showed good knowledge of the rulesThey followed the rulesIf they had questions about the rules or about a call, they asked for clarification and implemented feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No significant physical contact occurred beyond incidental contactNo players seemed to play in a risky or hazardous mannerThe game flowed smoothly without frequent fouls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They only made calls on infractions that affected the outcome of the playEven when they disagreed with us, they acknowledged our opinions on callsThey accepted accountability and/or apologized in situations where it was appropriate (like an uncontested foul)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They generally showed restraint during contentious situationsPlayers and/or their sideline were responsive to input during contentious situationsThey played with appropriate intensity irrespective of the score	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Conflicts were resolved without incidentThey effectively explained their point of viewThey listenedDiscussions about calls were resolved efficientlyIf asked for input, their sideline/other players were helpfulThey understood and occasionally used official hand signals to indicate fouls, scores, etc.
Very Good (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For the competition setting, they showed an above-average knowledge of the rulesThere was at least one case where they offered to help us learn some of the rules (Note: It’s good Spirit to accept the offer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They actively avoided contact at least onceThey played in a style that avoided the potential for fouls or unnecessary body contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There was at least one case where they informed teammates when they made wrong or unnecessary calls / contestsThey made adjustments to their play based on our feedback in a way that improved the enjoyment of the gameThey only called breaches that affected the outcome of the action and avoided calls such as a minimal travel on an unmarked thrower, or fouls on throws they made that would not have been caught anyway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They interacted with us off the field before, during or after the game in a way that left a favorable impression on us.There were several instances where they clearly showed restraint during contentious situationsThey communicated their point of view effectivelyThey complimented us on a good play or celebrated good plays by either teamThey shared with us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They clearly communicated calls to all the players on the field and the sidelinesThey made use of official hand signals throughout the game to indicate fouls, scores, etc.They communicated their point of view effectivelyIf asked, they provided clear, factual explanations to support their callsThey introduced themselves to us and knew our team nameTheir captain/leaders communicated with our leaders very effectivelyThey brought up spirit issues and general concerns as early as possible, directly or through (spirit) captains
Excellent (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For the competition setting, they showed excellent knowledge of the rules, including intricate detailsThey explained rules we didn’t know well clearly, effectively, and in a way that added to our knowledge and joy of the game	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They played in a style that avoided the potential for both fouls and unnecessary body contactThey made several clear decisions that avoided contact to keep other players unharmedConsidering the competitive nature of the game, they played with the highest level of care and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Their initial reaction to calls / contests made against them encouraged dialogueThere were several clear examples of opposing players seeking to uphold the truth of the situation, even if it did not benefit them.In crucial situations (e.g. double-game point), they remained fair-minded and consistent, as outlined in this category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They took the initiative to diffuse contentious situations and to continue the flow of the game.They went out of their way to make sure that everybody had an enjoyable gameThey demonstrated excellent restraint on and off the field during potentially stressful situationsThey exhibited the highest level of respect from start to finish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">They provided clear, factual explanations to support their callsAfter listening to our perspective, they asked follow-up and clarifying questions if neededThey acknowledged specific examples of our spirited play

It is expected that a typical game is a Good game with scores of 10 from both teams. It’s better to address problems early than to mark the other team down at the end – your opponent should not be surprised by the score given. Spirit scoring is a group effort, so discuss this as a team.

Don’t give half (x.5) points. When in doubt, trust the other team. Not all examples need to have occurred in order to warrant a certain score. Spirit is not only scored but also earned as a team. Calls or issues from a single player can become an issue if they are not held accountable by their own team. You may also consider factors that are not described here.

And remember, ***Spirit of the Game*** is *mindful behavior practiced by players worldwide prior to, during and after a game, in a mutual effort to protect the basic joy of play*. You can adjust these criteria appropriately for the region, event, playing style and/or customs of your local ultimate community. These revised examples are based on WFDF’s spirit score sheet and examples. Translated and condensed versions of WFDF’s score sheet and examples are available on the WFDF website. Feedback and ideas are encouraged at national_spirit_director@usultimate.org.
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