

Humans Vs. Zombies: Rulebook

V.1.3

Humans vs. Zombies is a massive game of tag, played with two teams: Humans and Zombies. Humans must survive the week by completing missions and stunning zombies with Nerf and sock weaponry. Zombies attempt to infect humans by tagging them.

Rules Of Spirit

These rules are meant to help the keep the game running smoothly, please respect them and follow them.

- This is a game, it's meant to be fun.
- Read **all** the rules.
- Do not lie about the rules to other players.
- Attempting to exploit loopholes in the rules will not be tolerated, and moderators will rule against you. Try to read both the letter and the spirit of the rules.
- Play safe. There are many things on campus which can hurt you if you are reckless. Please do not do anything to injure yourselves while playing, and opt instead to have fun.
- There are no winners, there are no losers. Whether you're a zombie or a human, whether you survived five days or five hours, or whether you ate 500 brains or 2, your goal is to have fun. Don't consider being tagged as losing, think of it as way to meet new friends and a chance to hunt your old ones.
- Respect university authority. If you think what you are going to do will make the university's administrators, or other administrators, angry at you, don't do it. Also, do not interfere with any University of Waterloo events or administration.

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Chapter 1:

Teams & Moderators

Zombies

Zombies wear headbands. They try to chase and convert humans to their side. There are special types of zombies with abilities beyond regular zombies.

Humans

Each Human wears **2 armbands on the same arm**. They are able to defend themselves using Nerf blasters and socks.

Infected Humans

Infected Humans are humans who have been tagged, and will soon become zombies. Each Infected Human wears 1 armband and 1 band around their neck. They can still defend themselves using Nerf blasters and socks.

Moderators

The game is being run by a team of moderators, who can be identified by the orange sashes they wear. They organize the events of the game, and clarify any rules that cannot be resolved by players using the conflict resolution guide. The mods are lead by The Necromancer, who has the ultimate authority on any game matters.

Non-Players

Players are not allowed to enlist the help of non-players in the game. Players may not ask for help:

- Scouting and spying
- Collecting food, ammunition, or notes (to avoid class)
- Send messages between players
- Act as a shield

Players should make every effort to discourage non-players from interacting with the game, and encourage them to be impartial for the sake of fairness. **Players should also take precaution when playing near non-players, as to not shoot or hit them accidentally.**

Identifying your Team

When players are off campus, they are not required to wear their identifiers. However, if asked directly which team a player is on (in person), they must reply truthfully. In addition, any **photos or videos** used during the game must not misconstrue a player's team, whether the player is on campus or not. **Players may lie about their team in any other form.**

Apparel & Equipment

Equipment

ID Cards

Every player is required to have two copies of their HvZ ID at all times during play. A custom ID for each player is available on the website.

NERF Weapons

All **NERF** weapons used in this game should be ranged NERF blasters, and clearly distinguishable from real weapons (bright colors such as orange and red, not camouflage models).

Painted blasters and non-NERF blasters will be permitted on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by a moderator. **Modified NERF blasters will be allowed if they fire under 100 FPS and after being analyzed and registered by the moderators. Modded ball-shooting blasters are banned.** If it is unclear if your blaster is valid for play (such as if your blaster is not manufactured by NERF), contact the mod team before proceeding.

As an option, Nerf ammunition may be thrown by hand. While attending classes or other official University of Waterloo events, all blasters must be stowed away out of sight. Foam dart or ball-launching grenades are also banned. **Hard-tipped NERF darts are banned, per mod discretion.**

Zombies should not carry NERF blasters or socks (unless explicitly allowed).

Sock weapons

Sock weapons must be entirely comprised of socks and cannot contain any other components. They can be melee weapons (such as a sock whip) or thrown weapons (such as balled up socks). Sock weapon which moderators determine to be dangerous are not allowed.

Note that sock weapons are only valid when wielded with your hands. This means sock armor, kicking people without your shoes, or placing “sock traps” are useless endeavours.

Apparel

Your clothing and anything else you're wearing is considered part of your person (backpack, etc.) and thus can be hit with NERF darts to stun or touched to tag. This includes NERF blasters, but not sock weapons

Bandanas & Armbands

Your bandana can be any piece of cloth you can wrap around your head, neck or arm. All bandanas (or alternatives) must be clearly distinguishable from all sides, even in the dark or at a distance. It should not match or be close to the color of your hair or clothes. If a moderator states your bandana is not obvious enough please find a better alternative.

Humans wear their bandana around their upper arm. Zombies wear their bandana around their head if they are active, or around their neck if they are stunned.

If you are employed on campus, remove your bandana for the entirety of your work shift. You are considered out of game while at work, you are a non-player. You must wear your bandana on the way to and from work, or when you are on break (since you are in play during the journey).

Equipment requirements from Police Services:

- No camouflage, military, or tactical gear
- Holstered, pocketed or stowed away blasters must have bright tape on the handle. They should not be concealed within coats.
- Trench coats are not allowed
- No carrying non-sock melee or prop weapons
- **No masks or face coverings**
- Light face paint is okay

Tagging & Stunning

Tagging

A zombie player may tag a human by touching them with their hands. The tagged human is temporarily out of play, must give their player ID to the zombie (for the zombie to report on the website) and move one armband to their neck. Now, the human player puts their hands above their head and counts out loud to 10, counting the time until they re-enter play as an Infected Human.

For the next 15 minutes, the infected human may play as a human, with all regular rules applying. At the end of these 15 minutes, the infected human removes their armband and becomes a stunned zombie, starting their 15 minute timer to spawn as an active zombie. If tagged again, the infected human becomes a stunned zombie, starting their 15 minute timer to spawn as an active zombie.

There is no need to wait for the tag to be registered on the website before the new zombie tags new victims.

Stunning

A human player may stun a zombie by either hitting them with a sock or nerf dart. A zombie stunned by a human remains so for 15 minutes.

While stunned a zombie must put their bandana around their neck. A stunned zombie may not interact with humans in any way, nor may they provide information regarding humans, explicitly or implicitly, to other zombies. For example, a zombie may not use GPS to report their location while stunned. This rule also pertains to newly tagged humans. They may, however, report that they have been stunned, or follow an unstunned zombie. Zombies do not have to tell the truth about how long they have been stunned for or at what time they become unstunned.

Points from Stunning

When humans report a stun on a zombie, they can receive points. With enough points, a human will earn rewards that will help them survive the week.

To report a zombie stun, a human must collect the zombie's player code within the zombie's stun time and submit it to the website. The human cannot make the zombie move (e.g. to a safe area) while they are collecting the code. A human must physically collect a code from the zombie even if they already know the zombie's player code. This means collecting a print out from the zombie (if they offer one), copying down their code or taking a photo. This process must take some time.

If a zombie doesn't have their code written down on their person (ie. on paper,

skin, easily accessed on phone page), the human can ask for the stunned zombies name and request it from the mods. The process of bringing up their code should take approximately 5 seconds.

Chapter 2:

Human Point Rewards

When a human player has earned enough game points through various activities, certain reward items can be collected from moderators. Usually these points can be collected through stunning or completing certain missions. Rewards are **not** cumulative; points have to be spent to earn them.

How many points each reward is worth will be determined at the start of the game and will be stated in the first email. Passes and badges can be picked up wherever indicated in an email sent out by the mod team. **Players must not misconstrue which rewards they possess.** Human rewards can only be used by humans, and may include:

Supplied

On the last day of the game before the final mission all humans below a certain threshold of points will be killed off. Players above this threshold are considered “supplied.”

Pass Rules

A pass allows a player to move safely through areas in which they would normally be at risk of death. The following rules apply to all pass types:

- A pass is only active while a player has raised the pass over their head with their hand.
- To activate their pass a player must raise it over their head either before entering the pass’ area of effect, or in a safe zone within the pass’s declared building.
- You may deactivate the pass at any time within the pass’ area of effect by putting down the pass. See the above rule to reactivate the pass.
- Passes cannot be shared, loaned, or given to a player in any way, nor can they be stolen.
- **While using a pass in the appropriate area, the human player is considered in a Safe Zone (see Chapter 3: Boundaries). All Safe Zone rules apply for this player.**
- Mission emails will give alternative or new rules for using a pass during a mission.

Rail Pass

Rail Passes allow a player to move safely through any overpasses and tunnels between buildings. As is the case for all passes, a player must have the pass over their head before entering the applicable area.

Building Pass

Building Passes allow a player to move safely through a specific building. Buildings are divided into Minor and Major buildings. When a Minor Building Pass is earned, any 1 building in the list of available Minor Buildings may be chosen for the pass. The same process applies for Major Building Passes. The available buildings for these passes will be chosen by moderators each term.

Officer Badge

Officer Badges allow a human player to die once and still remain human. A player with this badge (an officer) wears two armbands (one on each arm) instead of one, and they carry a card provided to them by the mod team.

When an officer is killed, they rip up the officer badge and take off one of their arm bands. The former officer is then out of game until they either reach a safe zone of their choice or ten minutes have passed, at which point they revive. They must also carry their ripped card in their hands until they revive.

Zom-B-Gone

This is a one-time use item, that is used to clear out Stunned Zombies.

This pass is held above the head and ripped to use it. The player loudly says "ZOM-B-GONE!". From where that player is standing at the time of use, all stunned zombies in line of sight (360° around) of the human must: leave the building or bridge/tunnel, if inside OR leave line of sight, if outside.

Escape Rope

This is a one-time use item, that is used to escape zombies.

To prepare this item for use, the player must hold it above their head while loudly counting to 5. At the end of this count, rip the pass while loudly saying "ESCAPE ROPE!". During this 5 second count to prepare the escape rope, the player may choose to not rip the item. It is not considered used until ripped.

After ripping the escape rope, for the next 10 seconds (which the human player must count out loud), the player is immune to zombie tags. The player must keep both hands above their head during this time. Zombies may follow the player.

Special Zombies

Occasionally the Necromancer will allow the zombie team to give one zombie special abilities. Once the team has informed the moderators on their choice the special zombie will be photographed by mods, and a picture of the special zombie will be emailed out to all players.

Wraith

Wraiths are like regular zombies, but they can use melee sock weapons. Wraith socks follow the same rules as human sock weapons, except that they cannot be thrown. Wraiths can block darts using their sock weapons. If a Wraith sock becomes entangled, as in cannot pull them apart, with a human sock, both socks are inert until untangled. Wraiths must have their socks visible whenever they are in-game. **A wraith wears a green sash as their identifier.**

Tank

Tanks cannot be stunned with nerf weapons, they can only be stunned by socks. A tank wears three bandanas, one on either arm, as well as one on their head **and an orange safety vest**. As with regular zombies, a tank's head bandana must be around their neck while stunned.

Zedic

Zedics can revive stunned zombies. They can be identified by a light purple sash, in addition to their headband. Each day a zedic will have 5 revival cards which they can use. These cards do not carry over between days.

To revive a zombie, the Zedic must:

- Point to a zombie within line of sight.
- Shout the incantation.
- Rip the card(s).

Following the ritual, the revived zombie must loudly count to 10 before becoming active (pulling their headband back on). The Zedic cannot revive zombies while the Zedic is in a safe zone. The Zedic also cannot revive others through a window. Regular zombies cost 1 card to revive, while special zombies cost 2.

Legionnaire

Are like regular zombies. They have a foam shield that is immune to socks and ammo. This shield does not make sock whips inert, however thrown socks and darts treat it like a wall. They may not tag at all with the shield arm or take off the shield.

Chapter 3: Boundaries

Spatial Boundaries



Humans vs. Zombies is only played on campus within the boundaries of:

- Columbia Street to the North
- The railroad tracks to the East
- University Avenue to the South

- Westmount Road to the West

The sidewalks on these boundary streets are also considered outside the boundary and five feet from these boundaries are safe following the safe zone rules. Overpasses that extend out of the boundaries are entirely in play. Although you may plan and communicate with allies out of the game boundaries, while out of bounds players cannot tag or be tagged. You also are not required to wear your equipment when out of bounds, though you are bound by the rules about lying.

Temporal Boundaries

The game runs all 24 hours of each day of the play period.

Safe Zones

For both administrative and safety reasons, certain areas and buildings on campus are considered safe zones. Both stunning and tagging are prohibited in safe zones, and no NERF or sock weapons may be used. Players must still wear their bandanas within these safe zones.

Most importantly, players should also try to avoid making a disturbance in safe zones by running around or acting reckless. These areas are out of play to keep both players and non-players safe, and to keep the game on good terms with the university. Please don't jeopardize the game by playing in these areas.

Safe Zone Boundaries

If any part of a player's body is within a safe zone, that player is considered in the safe zone. A player inside a safe zone can not tag or stun a player outside a safe zone. Jumping in and out of safe zones repeatedly is considered cheating and is considered a violation of the first rule of spirit.

All doorways have a semi-circular 5 foot buffer into the unsafe area it touches. This buffer is cut off by walls. This buffer exists whether the door is open or not.

When a player is exiting a safe zone, all opposing players must be at least 5 feet away from the exiting player (to prevent crowding). This space rule ends when the exiting player leaves their safe zone.

Permanent Safe Zones

Entire Buildings:

- Federation Hall
- Needles Hall
- Health Services

- Student Life Centre
- Tatham Centre
- Central Services Building
- General Services Complex
- COM (UW Police building)
- University Club
- Grad House
- Ron Eydtt Village

Smaller Safe Zones:

- Faculty-run food establishments (e.g. POETS, Coffee & Donut stores)
- Libraries and designated study areas
- Chapels and Multi-Faith prayer rooms
- Stores and other businesses
- Offices and Labs
- Society Offices
- Dorm rooms and their hallways
- Gyms
- Theatres
- Cafeterias
- Washrooms
- Balconies
- Open (non-fenced) construction sites plus a twenty foot boundary around the open construction
- The cafeteria of V1 is safe, but the rest of the central building is not

Common sense should also be used in regards to safe zones. If an area seems unsafe to play in, make this known to nearby players and settle the matter honourably.

Temporary Safe Zones

All buildings are safe zones between 10AM and 4PM although tunnels and bridges between buildings are not. The mine tunnel between EIT and ESC counts as part of EIT rather than a tunnel.

Rooms with an event (class, club event, etc.) are considered safe zones (with the applicable 5 foot radius) for the entire duration of the event plus the five minutes before the official event start time, and five minutes after the official event end time.

Vehicles

Anyone in a vehicle is out of play. This includes bikes, skateboards, cars, and scooters, rollerblades. Please note that it is against the rules to enter a vehicle specifically to run away from another player. You may also not use vehicles with the sole intent of helping yourself or your team in the game.

Locking up a bike or similar vehicle counts as a temporary safe zone and follows the rules for them above.

Safety & Conflict Resolution

Safety

Above all, use common sense. Don't risk yourself or others for what is, at the end of the day, a game. For fire safety reasons, do not hold doors closed and do not crowd doorways.

Do not climb trees, jump on people from above, or anything else which would jeopardize the safety of any human being. If a player is carrying a heavy object, or otherwise involved in a potentially hazardous activity, treat them as if they are out of play.

In case of an emergency, fire alarm, or injury, consider the area and anyone involved out of play. If you feel that a player has put the safety of themselves, other players, or non-players at risk, contact a moderator.

Conflict Resolution

If you do not know exactly where an area goes from safe to unsafe, ask another player or mod.

Players having a game-related discussion with a moderator are considered out of play. If you are unsure whether your discussion is game-related, ask the mod you are talking to. However the necromancer is the ultimate authority on any rule interpretations or events of the week.

If players are absolutely unable to come to an agreement after (civil) discussion, the official method of deciding the outcome is Rock, Paper, Scissors. While disputing a conflict, both parties are considered out of play until the dispute is settled and should together decide on when to enter play again..

Game Feedback

If you have feedback about HvZ, a meeting called the Postmortem is held after every game. These meetings are the best place to bring up comments or concerns

about the game itself, as during the week the moderators will be focused on running the event.