

BOCCE RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. Pallina and Color
 - a. A coin toss/paddle flip by the referee will determine which team has the pallina or choice of ball color.
2. Sequence of Play
 - a. The pallina is rolled or tossed by a member of the team having won the coin toss/paddle flip to start the game.
 - b. The player tossing the pallina must deliver the first ball to establish the point (the ball closest to the pallina).
 - c. The opposing team will then deliver their bocce balls until the point is taken or they have exhausted their four (4) balls.
 - d. This "nearest ball" rule governs the sequence of played balls.
 - e. The side whose ball is closest to the pallina is called the "in" ball and the opposing side the "out" ball.
 - f. Whenever a team gets "in", it steps aside and allows the "out" team to deliver.
3. Initial Point
 - a. It is always incumbent upon the team with the pallina advantage to establish the initial point.
 - b. Example:
 - i. Team A tosses the pallina and delivers the first ball.
 - ii. Team B elects to hit Team A's ball out of position.
 - iii. In doing so, both balls fly out of the court, leaving only the pallina.
 - iv. It is incumbent upon Team A to re-establish the initial point.
4. Ball Delivery
 - a. A team has the option of rolling, tossing, banking, etc. its ball down the court, provided it does not go out-of-bounds or the player does not step over the foul lines.
 - b. A player also has the option of "spocking" or hitting out any ball in play in trying to obtain a point, or decreasing the opposing team's points.
 - c. If at any point the pallina is knocked outside the court, the pallina will be placed at the point it exited the court.
 - d. All ball delivery attempts must be of an underhand style.
 - e. Both teams will throw from one (1) end of the court for the duration of the match.
5. Number of Balls Played by each Player
 - a. 4-person Team – each player is allowed to play one (1) ball per frame.
6. Rotation of Players
 - a. The players of any given team may elect to play their ball in any rotation provided the player who tosses the pallina delivers the first ball.
7. Scoring
 - a. At the end of each frame (when both teams have exhausted all balls), points will be determined as follows:
 - i. Scoring points are all those balls from one (1) team closer to the pallina than the closest ball of the opposing team, which can be determined by viewing or by mechanical measurements.
 - ii. The scoring team for each frame will also win the pallina advantage for the subsequent frame.
 - iii. The referee will be responsible for validity of the scorecard at the end of each frame.

8. Ties During Frame
 - a. In the event that two (2) opposing balls are equidistant from the pallina (tied), the team that rolled last will continue to roll until the tie is broken.
 - b. Example:
 - i. Team A rolls a ball for the pallina, and Team B rolls its ball for the pallina.
 - ii. The referee determines that both balls are 13 inches away from the pallina.
 - iii. Team B must roll until it has a point closer than 13 inches away from the pallina.
9. Ties at the End of Frame
 - a. In the event that the two (2) closest balls to the pallina belong to the opposing teams and are tied, no points will be awarded.
 - b. In the next frame, the pallina returns to the team which delivered it in the previous frame.
10. Winning Score
 - a. The first team to score 12 points or the leader when the time limit (30 minutes) is reached will be declared the winner.
11. Substitutes
 - a. Teams may make unlimited substitutions.
 - b. Except in the case of an emergency, substitutions are only allowed between matches.

COURT AND EQUIPMENT

1. The court is an area 12-feet by 60-feet.
2. Court markings
 - a. Foul lines: 10-feet from both backboards behind which competitors may toss their bocce balls. The foul line opposite the players throwing is also known as the 50-foot marker.
 - b. Half-court line: 30-feet from both backboards that marks the midway point, also known as the 30-foot marker.
3. Bocce is played with eight (8) balls and one (1) smaller target or object ball called the pallina.
 - a. There are four (4) balls to a side or team, and they are generally made in two (2) colors to distinguish the balls of one (1) team from those of the opposing team.

