



# SUFFOLK COUNTY BOCCE GENERAL RULES



1. Bocce is played with eight large balls and one small target ball called the pallino.
2. The object of bocce is to get one or more of your teams' balls closer to the pallino than any of your opponents' balls.
3. There are four balls per team with each team a different color to distinguish one teams' balls from the balls of the opposing team.
4. Roll Off: One player from each team tosses one ball simultaneously at the count of three.
  - a) The team whose ball lands closest to the back wall without fouling gets to throw the pallino and choose the color of their game balls.
  - b) If both teams foul, a different player from each team repeats the ball toss.
5. The pallino is the first ball put into play and is thrown underhand from behind the pointing foul line. The pallino may be bounced off the sideboards.
  - a) The pallino must end up across the center line and not hit the backboard.
  - b) If a thrower fails to do this, the throw goes to other team.
  - c) If the second throw fails to place the pallino into play, the pallino is placed approximately in the center (left-right) of the field and 12" from the backboard in order to speed up play.
6. The player who threw the pallino must deliver the first bocce ball.
  - a) In the event of a foul, the ball is removed from play and the same team will again throw to set the point.
7. The opposing team will then deliver their bocce balls until the point is taken or they have exhausted their four balls.
8. The "nearest ball" rule governs the sequence of thrown balls. The ball closest to the pallino is called the "in" ball and the opposing teams ball is the "out" ball. Whenever a team gets "in" it steps aside and allows the "out" team to throw.
9. A team has the option of rolling, bouncing, banking, etc. its ball down the court. If the player throws a foul, the ball is considered dead and removed from play.
10. A player also has the option of "spocking" or hitting out any ball in play when trying to obtain a point, or decrease the opposing team's points.
11. At the end of each frame (when both teams have exhausted all balls) the captains of each team will determine the points scored, or the referee can be summoned to make the final determination.
12. Points are scored for each ball from the one team closest to the pallino than the closest ball of the opposing team. This can be determined by viewing or by mechanical measurement.
  - a) If each team's closest balls are tied, no score is made and play continues at the opposite end with the team scoring the point(s) in the previous frame delivering the pallino.
13. If the pallino is knocked out of bounds during play, the frame is dead and started over.



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### CONTINUED:

14. A ball is foul when:

- a) The ball does not reach the center line.
- b) The ball does not hit the turf before crossing the center line.
- c) The ball hits the back stop before hitting any other balls.
- d) The ball travels out of bounds.
- e) The ball is thrown overhand.
- f) Once a ball is foul, every effort by all players should be made to prevent it from striking any other balls.
- g) If possible, any balls moved because of the action of the violation ball are reset to their approximate original position.
- h) If balls are sufficiently moved that the approximate original positions can not be determined, the opposing team has the option to leave the balls as they lay or replay the frame.



## SUFFOLK COUNTY BOCCE HOUSE RULES



1. Minimum age: 21
2. Each team plays at least one game per night.
3. A Minimum of four players per team.
4. If a team has only 3 team members, 1 team member plays alone and forfeits one ball per round. If a team has only 2 team members, both team members play alone and forfeit one ball each per round. A team with less than 2 players forfeits the game.
  - a) We recommend at least four to six players per team so that players can fill in for one another if a teammate is unavailable.
5. At the 20-minute time mark, teams are notified of "down and back" indicating a maximum of two frames of play remain.
6. In the event of a tie, teams will play one more frame.
7. All games will have a league provided referee.
8. Players **MUST** have a drink in their hand when throwing a ball.
9. Team standings are sorted by percentage of games won, followed by average point differential, followed by total points scored.
10. The 10th week is playoffs.
  - a) Teams in 4th place and below will compete for a single wild card position.
  - b) The top three teams and the wild card team play three rounds (best out of three games) to determine season championship.
12. Code of Conduct
  - a) We desire a family friendly atmosphere.
  - b) No swearing in English.
  - c) No Bolognese on capellini.
  - d) Call your mother.