

How to Play Bocce at Venetia – effective 01/01/2025

These Rules have been primarily taken from the Bocce Standards Association
(for more detailed information visit www.boccestandardsassociation.org)

These are Rules for **General Play/Local Play at Venetia**

EQUIPMENT:

A set of bocce balls is composed of 8 large bocce balls (4 of one color and 4 of another color) and one smaller ball called the "Pallino".

TEAMS:

The sport is typically played between two teams with from 4 players on each team. There may be instances where you do not have a full team:

- 2 Players - 2 balls each player & walk end to end
- 3 Players - 2 balls each for 2 players at one end and 4 balls for 1 player at other end.
(The team with 2 Players can designate a player to float or walk between two teams.)
- 4 Players - 2 balls each with 2 players at each end

GAME DESCRIPTION:

The object of the sport of Bocce is for a team to get as many of their balls as close to the pallino as possible.

1. Begin the match with the flip of a coin between teams. The winner of the coin flip takes the first toss of the pallino, or chooses the color of the team's balls. A team member throws the pallino and rolls the first bocce ball as close to the pallino as possible. (The pallino must end up across the centerline and at least 12 inches away from the sideboards or backboard without hitting the backboard.) If a thrower fails to do this, the thrower gets a second throw. If the pallino fails to cross the centerline, the pallino throw goes to other team. The original thrower of the pallino always throws the first bocce ball.) Next, a player of the opposing team rolls a ball and tries to get closer to the pallino. A team must continue to roll their bocce balls until it gets closer to the pallino than the closest ball of their opponents.
2. Players must deliver all balls from behind the pointing foul line. Balls may be bounced or played against the sideboards. A bocce ball hitting the backboard without first touching the pallino or another bocce ball is a dead ball and is removed from play.
3. If a player steps OVER the pointing line, they receive one warning. If they step over the pointing line again during any frame of a game, the ball being thrown is removed from the court and all balls that may have been moved stay in their resting spot. A throw is valid if any part of the foot is on the line.

4. When all balls have been played, one team is awarded one point for each bocce ball closer to the pallino than the closest ball of the opposing team. Thus, a team may score 1-4 points for each end of play. The other team scores no points. If the closest ball of each team is equal in distance from the pallino, no points are awarded for the frame. If a ball actually rests against the pallino, that ball is worth 2 points.
5. The team that scores in one frame starts the next frame by throwing out the pallino and playing the first bocce ball.
6. The game is won by the first team scoring 12 points. The game ends when the 12th point is scored, and the other team has played all 4 bocce balls. League play consists of 3 games, one point for each game won.
7. Consecutive or alternating throws by teammates shall be at the option of the players.
8. If the teams play another game, the team members switch ends of the court, and the winning team throws out the pallino and delivers the first bocce ball.
9. The designated "Captain" of a team assigns either themselves or another team member for determining points if measurements are required, and keeping the scoreboard current.
10. If during a measurement, a ball/balls are moved by a player, the ball(s) are returned to approximate positions and the point(s) are awarded to the opposing team. If balls are sufficiently moved and the original position cannot be determined, the offended team is awarded 4 points and the frame ends. Determinations are made by the Captains.
11. If a player throws the wrong color ball it is replaced with the correct color ball after all balls come to rest.
12. If a player throws when the other team should throw or if a player throws more than 2 balls, that ball is removed from play.

Source: <http://www.boccestandardsassociation.org/>
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