

BOCCE

Quick and Easy Playing Guide

SPECIAL OLYMPICS Oregon



Special Olympics
Oregon

Important: Please refer to this to assist in understanding the SOOR modifications to the Special Olympics, Inc. (SOI) bocce rules. Please be sure to review the SOI bocce rules in their entirety.

You can get the SOI bocce rules at www.specialolympics.org – click coach, then click on sports rules, and then on the bocce icon.

2009 Special Olympics BOCCE Quick and Easy Playing Guide

EQUIPMENT

Pallina - The pallina is the small ball that is sometimes called a pallino, one ball, jack, cue or beebie. Its size may vary from 53 mm to 63 mm and should be of a color (preferably white) that is visibly distinct from the Bocce ball colors.

Bocce Ball - The Bocce balls are the larger balls. They may be made of composition, wood or metal but must be of equal size. Their size may vary from 107 mm to 113 mm. Ball color is not important as long as the four balls of one team are clearly and visibly distinct from those of the opposing team. **Note: SOOR uses 113mm bocce balls for regional and state level competition.**

Bocce Court - The Bocce ball court is an area 12' wide by 60' long and should be marked as pictured in the diagram. Special Olympics Oregon will use court boundaries that are marked by 2" vinyl lines at competitions. Grass will be the surface for the 2009 regional competitions (Eugene, Gresham & Milton-Freewater).

Training can be effectively conducted on a variety of surfaces such as grass, artificial turf, carpet (if weather is too bad to train outside), sand, or as some international bocce venues use – finely crushed oyster shells.

Small Steel Tape Measure - A small steel tape measure should be included with every Bocce set. It will be used to measure out the playing area for the Bocce court as well as determining Bocce Ball to Pallina ball distances.

COMPETITION

Event

For the 2009 Summer Sports Season, Special Olympics Oregon will hold competition in Unified Sports® Doubles competition and Half Court Singles competition (for lower ability and ramp athletes) only.

Unified Sports® Competition

Unified Sports Bocce is played with two teams of 2 players each— each team is comprised of one athlete (a person with intellectual disabilities) and one partner (a person without intellectual disabilities). At the beginning of the game the official determines which team has control of the pallina ball by coin toss.

The pallina is rolled or tossed by a member of the team having won the coin toss to start the game. The team winning the coin toss will set the initial point (target) with the pallina ball. **All ball delivery attempts must be of an underhand style – with the ball being released below the waist.** They will have three attempts at placing the pallina at the far end of the court past the mid-line (or touching) and not completely cross the foul line (50') at the other end of the court. If these three attempts are unsuccessful, the opposing team will have one opportunity to place the pallina. If this attempt is unsuccessful, the referee will place the pallina in the center of the court width at the 15.24m. (50') mark. The original team player that was tossing the pallina will then deliver the first ball.

The opposing team will then deliver their Bocce balls until they get one of their Bocce Balls closer to the pallina or they have exhausted their four balls. This “nearest ball” rule governs the sequence of played balls. The side whose ball is the closest to the pallina is called the “in” team and the opposing side is the “out” team. Whenever a team gets “in”, it steps aside and allows the “out” team to deliver.

It is always incumbent upon the team with the pallina advantage to establish the initial point.

Example: Team "A" tosses the pallina and delivers the first ball. Team "B" elects to hit Team "A" s ball out of position. In doing so, both balls, Team "A" s and Team "B" s fly out of court, leaving only the pallina in the court. It is incumbent upon Team A to re-establish the initial point.

At the end of each frame (when both teams have exhausted all balls), points will be determined as follows: Scoring points are all those balls of one team closer to the pallina than the closest ball of the opposing team, which can be determined by viewing or by mechanical measurements. The scoring team for each frame will also win the pallina advantage for the subsequent frame. Referee will be responsible for validity of scoreboard and scorecard.

In the event that two opposing balls are equidistant from the pallina (tied), the team that rolled last will continue to roll until the tie is broken. If at the end of a frame two balls closest to the pallina belong to opposing teams and are tied, no points will be awarded. The pallina returns to the team that delivered it.

Winning Scores

Unified Sports® Doubles = **12 points**

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 Bocce ball. The rotation may vary from frame to frame; however, no player may deliver more than his/her allotted number of balls per frame (which in doubles is 2 each per frame).

If a player delivers a wrong color ball, the ball may not be stopped by another player or the referee. The ball must be allowed to come to rest and replaced with the proper ball by the referee.

If a team wrongly delivers the pallina and its first ball, the referee will return both Pallina and ball and begin the frame over from same end.

DEFINITION OF PLAYING TERMS

1. Ball: Live and Dead

- a. A live Ball is any ball in play that has been delivered.
- b. A dead Ball is any ball that has been disqualified or forfeited. A ball may be disqualified if:
 - 1) it is the result of a penalty.
 - 2) it has gone out of the court.
 - 3) it has come in contact with a person or object, which is out of the court.
 - 4) it hits the top of the court boards.
 - 5) it hits the covering over the courts or any supports thereof.

2. Bocce Ball and Pallina

- a. Pallina is a small object ball also called pallina, cue ball, jack, beebie, etc.
- b. Bocce Ball is the larger playing ball.

3. Frame

- a. Frame is the period in the game in which balls are played from one side of the court to the other and points are awarded.

4. Foul

- a. A foul is a rule infraction for which a penalty is prescribed.

5. Medical Exemption

Athletes/Partners may request a medical exemption which would allow them to compete from only one side of the court (would not have to switch sides after each frame). A doctor's note stating the reason(s) submitted to the state office with registration is required for medical exemption.

In matches where this applies, the opposing team (without the medical exemption) will choose the side.

In rare instances, where both teams have medical exemptions, a coin toss will determine which team chooses the side.

6. Head and assistant coaches are not allowed to coach during bocce matches. However, athletes and partners are permitted to "coach" each other during a match. Once a teammate enters the throwing area, all "coaching" shall end.

Half Court Singles Bocce Competition

Half Court Bocce is intended for ramp bocce players and lower ability athletes that can not toss the Bocce or Pallina ball 20' or more. This is a singles event only.

When participant numbers allow, ramp competitors will be divisioned separately.

Athletes should be prepared to throw a bocce ball ranging anywhere in size from 107mm to 113mm in this event. NOTE: 113mm WILL be used for the Unified Sports doubles competition.

This event will be played on a 12' x 30' court. Sidelines should be along the entire length of the court. The end line will be the 'foul' line and be marked with chalk or marking paint or other indicator whenever possible. There will be no centerline or "kitchen line" in half court, so the pallina ball can end up anywhere on the court.

Athletes will always throw from only one direction in half-court bocce.

Should the "three attempt rule" need to be employed in half court bocce, then the pallina will be placed 20 feet from the throwing line in the center of the court (equidistant from each sideline).

Winning Scores

Half Court Bocce = **8 points.**

All ramps and other assistance devices may be used with the approval of the Special Olympics Bocce Competition Committee.

If a ramp is used, athlete can position the ball with or without assistance and pushes the ball down the ramp towards the target. An assistant (coach or volunteer) may guide, align, or direct ramp and athlete but may not assist with the ball's forward movement. In the divisioning process, the competition committee will consider half court bocce players by overall ability and level of assistance needed in an effort to provide fair and meaningful competition for all competitors.

The game will be played according to the Special Olympics Oregon Bocce rules except where noted above.

Coaching in Half Court Bocce is permitted, but only outside of the throwing area. Once the athlete enters the throwing area, then coaching is no longer allowed.