

The Rules of Bocce Ball

BOCCE BALL RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Bocce Ball can be played by two, four, or eight players on two teams (one, two, or four players per team). Each team throws four balls per frame.
2. Frames are begun by one team tossing the pallino (a specially marked ball, sometimes called a jack) between the center and four-foot line within the playing area. Teams alternate tossing the pallino each frame, with the first frame determined by the winner of a coin toss.
3. The team that tossed the pallino then throws their first bocce ball. Next, the opposing team throws their first bocce ball.
4. After the first two bocce balls are thrown, the team with the bocce furthest away then throws all of their remaining balls, trying to throw each as close to the pallino as possible.
5. The team that has not thrown their bocce balls now throws their remaining balls.
6. Hitting either the pallino or either team's bocce balls is permitted.
7. After all bocce balls have been tossed, the team with the bocce closest to the pallino wins the frame. The winning team begins the next frame.
8. Frames are played beginning from alternating sides of the court.
9. The game is finished once one team reaches a pre-determined score (typically 12).

HOW DO YOU PLAY BOCCE BALL?

1. A relatively flat, level outside space is needed for bocce ball. The size of a regulation bocce ball court is 90 feet long by 13 feet wide. For a friendly game, these dimensions do not need to be exact.
2. The bocce court is divided into areas by five lines. Lines are drawn four and ten feet from either end of the court, and a fifth line is drawn in the center. These lines can be marked by string, drawn in the sand or dirt, marked by objects at the courts edge, or whatever works best for the game's participants.
3. Gather your bocce ball sets. Most sets come with eight balls in two different colors as well as a single pallino.
4. Players toss from behind the 10-foot line on the near side of the court.

BOCCE BALL SCORING

1. The winner of the frame is the team with the bocce ball closest to the pallino
2. Once the winner is determined, the winning team scores one point for each bocce ball that is closer to the pallino than the opposing team's closest bocce ball. The winning team will always score at least one point and can score a maximum amount of four (assuming you are playing with the standard four bocce balls per team).
3. Frames are played until one team reaches the pre-determined score. Official rules list a score of 12 needed to win, but teams can agree at the beginning of the game to play to a lower or higher number.