



## Bocce

We are pleased to provide you with instructions below:

### Equipment

A set of bocce balls consists of eight large bocce balls (boules), four of each color (traditionally red and green) and a smaller object ball called the "pallina" or "jack ball". Some boule sets have four colors, two balls of each color. Tournament boules according to The International Standards of Bocce are 107mm (4.2 inches) in circumference and weigh 920grams (2.03 lbs.) per ball. There are variations for different types of play. For more information see the link <https://backyardsidekick.com/what-makes-a-quality-bocce-ball-set-best-sets-by-category/>

### Playing Surface

The playing surface at Fisher's Park is a uniformly-ground basalt stone [HarTru Brand bocce surface]. It is acceptably flat and level and has an underground drainage field. The surface is easily damaged by bicycles, heeled shoes, strollers and inappropriate play. Please help us keep the surface playable for everyone by limiting the use of the courts to playing the game of bocce. Surface maintenance, particularly repair of damage, is a time-consuming process. Your respect for our efforts to minimize non-bocce activities is appreciated.

### Players

The game is a contest between two teams; each team can have one, two, or four players

**Four Players** - each player throws one ball; **Two Players** - each throw two balls; **One Player** - player throws all four balls

### Object

The object of the game is for one team to get their boules closer to the pallina than the opposing team's closest boule.

### Play

A coin toss (or mutually agreed process) determines which team starts. The starting team chooses the color ball they will use. A starting team member first throws the pallina and then rolls his/her first ball (boule) as close to the pallina as possible. When thrown, the pallina must be thrown from behind the near-end red foul line marker. It must come to rest beyond the black half-court marker, and it cannot be within 12 inches of the sideboard or beyond the far-end red foul line marker. A throw not meeting these criteria is a foul and the throw of the pallina passes to the opposing team. If both teams foul, then the pallina is manually spotted at mid-court and the starting team throws the first boule.

After the first boule is thrown, the opposing team attempts to roll a ball closer to the pallina than the starting team. If the opposing team succeeds in placing one of their balls closer to the pallina, then the opposing team is "in" and the starting team then rolls again attempting to get even closer or "better the point". Play proceeds with each team throwing until it beats the point of the opposite team or throws all four of its balls. If a team throws all four balls and fails to get closer to pallina than the starting ball or the "in" ball, their opponent rolls each of their remaining balls, trying to place them closer than the opponent's closest ball. The object is to get boules close to the pallina. It is permissible for a player to bounce a boule off the side wall, knock an opponent's ball away from the pallina or knock the pallina toward his/her own team's balls. The pallina is always "in play" regardless of its location on the court. *Note: any boule striking the back wall prior to hitting any other ball is a "dead" ball. It cannot score a point and should be removed from the court for that frame.*

### Scoring

A "frame" concludes when all balls have been played. A team earns one point for each ball which is closer to the pallina than the closest opposing team's ball. Distance from the pallina is typically determined "by eye" or with a tape measure for difficult-to-discriminate distances. Bocce-specific phone apps are available for this purpose. For beginners, a stout string works perfectly well. A team may score up to four points per frame. If four points are scored in any frame it is a bocce tradition for that team to "ring the bell". A bell is attached to each scoreboard for that purpose. *Exception: If a boule is touching the pallina it scores two points and five points are possible.* If the closest ball of each team is equal in distance from the pallina, NO points are awarded. For all frames, the team that scored in the most recent frame starts the new frame by throwing the pallina and the first ball. Play continues until one team wins by reaching a score of eleven points. There are no ties in bocce.

Now you're an expert; tell your friends and PLAY BOCCE.