

Herons Glen Men's League Bocce Rules

THE TEAM:

1. A team on the court has 4 players maximum (2 stationed at each end of the court) with each player throwing 2 balls. Players are not allowed to switch ends during a game.

SUBSTITUTION:

1. It is the responsibility of each team player to notify the League Director to get a substitute if they cannot play a scheduled game.
2. Substitutes must be players on the team or on the League Substitute Roster.
3. Substitutions may only be made between games or between frames. A late arriving missing player or substitute may enter the game in a vacant position at any time between frames.
4. If substitutes are unavailable and a team has only two or three players, the players will take turns throwing the other player's shots, by rotating around the court in a clock-wise manner to fill the empty position. If a team has only one player that team forfeits the game and will receive 0 points. The opposing team will be awarded 16 points.
5. No substitutes are allowed in the final round by any team with a possibility of taking a first or second place position in that final round. If a team cannot field enough regular team players, it must forfeit the round.

TEAM PLAYERS:

1. A designated team player from each team participates in the coin toss to begin the game.
2. Players from either team may go on the court for measurements. Any team player may observe and call for measurements to determine the official score for a frame.
3. Any team player may approach on the sideline outside the court and observe the positions of balls in play. All players after observing the balls, must return behind the pointing foul line before play resumes.
4. Players from each team shall return balls for the next frame after points have been determined.
5. Any player is responsible for assuring that the team's points are posted correctly and for reporting final game scores to the record keeper.
6. Players shall not talk to or interfere with a thrower on the court prior to the release of the ball. COIN TOSS:

1. Begin the match with the flip of a coin between the players of each team. The winner of the coin flip has the first toss of the pallino and chooses the color of the team's balls.

PALLINO THROW:

1. 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.
2. The pallino must end up across the center line and at least 12 inches away from the sideboards and come to rest short of the foul line at the opposite end of the court. If a thrower fails to do this, the throw goes to other team. If the second thrower fails to place the ball into play then throw continues by alternating between team players until the pallino is "in play".

3. If a player throws pallino and/or first ball when other team should throw the pallino, the balls are returned and the frame starts over.

4. Once the pallino is in play, the pallino can be knocked anywhere on the court except back over the center line or out of the court. If this happens, the frame is considered void and the game resumes at opposite end of the court and the same team throws the pallino.

BOCCE BALL THROWS:

1. The initial pallino thrower always throws the first bocce ball. All balls are thrown underhand. If the first ball hits the backboard without hitting the pallino first, the ball is removed and the team throws again until they have a ball in play.

2. All bocce balls are thrown from behind the pointing foul line. Any ball released behind the pointing foul line is considered a throw for points. **Foul Line rules apply.**

3. Each succeeding ball is thrown by the team that does NOT have the ball closest to the pallino. A team whose ball ties the opponent's closest ball must throw again. The "IN" team only throws if opponents have thrown all 4 balls. Team members alternate their throws.

4. Balls may be bounced off or played against sideboards.

5. A ball hitting the backboard without first touching the pallino or another bocce ball is a dead ball and is removed from play. **Standard Penalties apply.**

6. If a player throws wrong color ball, it is replaced with a correct color ball after the ball comes to rest.

7. If a player throws when the other team should throw or throws more than 2 balls, that ball is removed from play. **Standard Penalties apply.**

8. If a player throws when other team should throw because of a miscall by a player, the ball is returned and the correct player throws. **Standard Penalty #2 applies.**

9. If a team's legally thrown ball is interfered with while moving by someone or something not on the playing surface before the throw, the ball is returned to be thrown again. If possible, any balls moved by the throw are reset to their approximate original position. If balls are sufficiently moved that the approximate original positions cannot be determined, the frame is replayed. However, if the interference is caused by a team member, the ball is removed from play. **Standard Penalties apply.**

10. If a team's legally thrown ball is moved (accidentally or intentionally) from its resting position by an opposing player before the points are determined and the end of the frame is declared, it is reset to its approximate original position. If the ball is sufficiently moved that the approximate original position cannot be determined, the offended team has the option to leave the balls as they lay or replay the frame.

11. If a team's legally thrown ball is moved from its resting position (accidentally or intentionally) by a team member, the ball is removed from play. **Standard Penalties apply.**

12. The person(s) doing the measuring must press and rotate balls and the pallino before measuring to mark their original position on the court surface. If a ball or pallino is accidentally moved while measuring, it is replaced to its original marked position.

13. A bocce ball, for whatever reason, that goes out of the court is a dead ball and is removed from play for that frame.

14. Raffa shooting at a target either by releasing the ball at ground level, slightly lofting the ball or rolling the ball in a forceful manner is permitted. Volo shooting (lofting the ball in the air beyond the center line of the court) is not permitted.

FOUL LINES:

1. Pointing foul lines must be clearly marked for foul line violations to be officially called and penalties applied.
2. Players may step on but not have their foot completely over the foul line before releasing the pallino or the bocce ball.
3. If a player exceeds the foul line before releasing a ball (bocce or pallino), they will receive one warning. Subsequent fouls will result in nullifying the pallino throw or removal of the thrown bocce ball from play. **Standard Penalties apply.**

STANDARD PENALTIES:

1. For the violation of any rule that requires the removal of a bocce ball from play, that ball is immediately removed from play until that frame has been completed. The violation must be called and the ball removed before the next ball is thrown. If the ball is not removed before the next ball is played, the ball remains in play for the rest of the frame.
2. If possible, any balls moved because of the action of the violation ball are reset to their approximate original position. If balls are sufficiently moved that the approximate original positions cannot be determined, the opposing team has the option to leave the balls as they lay or replay the frame.

SCORING:

1. The official score for frame is determined after all 8 balls have been played and measured to the players' satisfaction. One point is awarded for each ball of a team that is closer to the pallino than the opponent's closest ball (1 to 4 points).
2. The team that scores in the last frame throws the pallino in the next frame and play continues as above.
3. 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.
4. The team that first scores 16 points, wins the game.

Bocce Housekeeping Duties:

1. After each match the court shall be groomed for the next players using the court. The concrete areas should also be swept. If you suspect that you are the last player(s) using the court for that day, all sun umbrellas shall be closed. These duties are usually performed by the losing team on each court.