

HOW TO PLAY BOCCE



The objective of Bocce is to roll your balls closer to the pallino (jack) than your opponent. Bocce is played by 2-8 players who try to earn points by throwing their bocce balls closer to the pallino.

PLAYERS:

Play with 2-4 teams:

1 player per team = 4 balls per player

2 players per team = 2 balls per player

3 players per team = 1 ball per player

4 players per team = 1 ball per player

SET UP:

Bocce is best played on a firm, level surface. You can set up a game area known as a 'court' but you can always play in an open space.

A regulation court is 4m wide and 27.5m long. Other regulation court factors are:

- Must have a raised barrier around the edge of the rectangle. In most cases the barrier measures 20cm high.
- Mark a foul line, beyond which players cannot step as they bowl a bocce ball
- Some players prefer to put a regulator peg in the exact centre of the court. This is the point beyond which the pallino must pass when it is thrown out at the beginning of the game. This is a variation and not a standard rule.

PLAYING:

1. Randomly decide which team gets to throw out the pallino. This must be alternated each game.
2. **Throw out the pallino into the prescribed zone.** The zone is approximately 5m from the foul line and ends 2.5m from the endboard of your court. If the team that is throwing the pallino fails to land it in this area, the next team gets to throw the pallino.
 - a. An alternate set of rules says that the pallino needs to only travel past the regulator pin that marks the middle of the court (if you're using one).
 - b. If you're not playing bocce on a court, feel free to throw the pallino wherever, provided that it's far enough away from players so that gameplay doesn't become too easy.
3. **Once the pallino is thrown out, throw the first bocce ball.** The team that threw out the pallino is responsible for throwing out the first bocce ball.
 - a. The aim is to get the bocce ball as close to the pallino as possible.
 - b. Make sure to stand behind the foul line
 - c. There are several ways to throw a bocce ball. You can hold it underhanded, cupping the ball and either lobbing the ball higher into the air or bowling the ball from closer to the ground. Some choose to throw the ball cupping it from the top instead and lobbing it the same way they would have if held underhanded.
4. **Let the second team bowl their bocce ball.** The team which hasn't yet bowled gets a chance to now. One player from their team bowls, trying to get the ball as close to the jack as possible.

5. **Decide which team gets to continue bowling all their remaining bocce balls.** The team whose bocce ball is farthest away from the pallino now gets to bowl its remaining three bocce balls in succession, each time trying to get as close to the pallino as possible. (Note: International rules always give the next bowl to the team farthest from the pallino as opposed to the rules outlined here).
 - a. It is acceptable to hit the pallino when bowling with a bocce. The only practical effect of hitting the pallino is that it readjusts the nucleus of where you want to aim.
 - b. If the bocce ball is touching the pallino, it's typically called a 'kiss' or 'baci'. This throw is usually worth two points if the bocce ball remains touching the pallino at the end of the frame.
6. **Allow the team who hasn't completed their throws to bowl out.** At the end of the frame, all 8 bocce balls should be clustered at various distances around the pallino.

SCORING:

1. **Measure which team's bocce is closest to the pallino.** After everyone is done tossing, the team that collects points is the team whose ball is closest to the pallino. This team will collect one or more points, depending on the position of their other balls, while the other team won't score any.
 - a. **Score one point for each ball from the winning team that is closer than the closest ball of the other team.** Depending on the rules you choose to use, bocce balls that are touching or "kissing" the pallino at the end of play count as two points instead of one.
2. If the two team's balls are equal distance away from the pallino, no points are awarded and another frame is played.
3. **Switch ends on the bocce court and play another frame.** At the end of each frame, tally the points. Start the next frame at the opposite end of the bocce court.
4. **Continue playing until a team gets 12 points.** Alternately, play until a team reaches either 15 or 21.

Want your own Bocce set? The Formula Sports Family Bocce is available online or in-store at your local toys or sports retailer. Find out more information at: <https://www.formulasports.com.au/product/family-bocce-set/>

**Instruction are from <https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Bocce-Ball>*