

Sun City West Bocce Club

League Rules of Play

Updated January 2024

PURPOSE: The SUN CITY WEST BOCCE CLUB (the Club) has developed the **League** Rules of Play (the Rules) to provide a form of standard participation by its club membership. It is not intended that the Rules deter in any way from the Club's objective of fostering good fellowship and providing wholesome enjoyment. Only club members can participate in league play or other club activities.

League captains and their members are encouraged to use mature judgment and common sense in the application of the Rules. League captains have the authority to deviate from the letter of the rule when they believe it is appropriate, i.e., a warning might suffice instead of a penalty. However, during inter-league play, such as spring tournaments, or other tournaments scheduled by the Club, the Rules must be followed in detail.

GENERAL RULES

1. DEFINITIONS:

- a. A LEAGUE will consist of 8 teams (16 players) with one of the players designated as the League Captain.
- b. A TEAM will consist of two players of any gender.
- c. A SIDE will consist of 2 teams or 4 players.
- d. BOUNDARY LINES will be the white foot fault lines and center line only.
- e. GAME BALLS will consist of 8 Bocce balls, 4 each of two contrasting colors, and one Pallina ball (the pallina).
- f. LOFTING is when a thrown bocce ball lands at or beyond the first hash mark on the side rail.

2. SCHEDULE OF PLAY:

- a. The Board of Directors will develop a schedule of play, which will provide for each league to play on the same day and same time each week.
- b. A team will play 3 games whenever its league is scheduled to play.

- c. League captains should rotate their courts of play each week based on a numerical rotation, beginning with their opening court numbers.
- d. Any games canceled due to bad weather will not be rescheduled, and the court rotation will follow as originally scheduled.

3. THE GAME OF BOCCE BALL:

- a. One side (2 teams) will deliver balls of one color and the other side will deliver balls of the contrasting color.
- b. Each side will place two players, one from each team, at each end of the court. No player shall play both ends of the court.
- c. Assignment of the color of balls to be played, the court(s) to be used, and the composition of each side, will be coordinated by the league's captain.
- d. All bocce balls will be stored in their appropriate court corners so that all players can easily determine the number of balls remaining to be played.
- e. The team assigned to the blue balls will always deliver the ball first to start the game.
- f. Players opposite the throwing end of the court should take turns refereeing. Only the referee may remove balls needed to determine the score. The referee shall announce the score to both ends of the court before the court is cleared and prior to changing the score.
- g. The game begins with delivery of the pallina, which may be rolled straight or rebounded off a sideboard before coming to rest between the center line and the farthest foot fault line, with no part of the pallina touching the center line or foot fault line. Thereafter, the side scoring the last point will roll the pallina. Members of a side will alternate rolling the pallina. The pallina and any thrown ball must come to a complete stop before the next ball is thrown. Penalty is removal of the thrown ball. The player throwing the pallina must also throw the first bocce ball.
- h. A player may choose to hold two balls, but only when in the process of delivery.
- i. When delivering a ball, both feet must be inside the court, and neither foot may touch or go beyond the delivery line. All bocce balls must be rolled, not lofted. Lofting can only be determined by the referee. The penalty for lofting is removal of the thrown ball.
- j. When a bocce ball jumps the court sideboard after being delivered, it

will remain out of play.

- k. When a pallina is hit and jumps off the court, all balls will be returned to the delivering end and the entire service replayed
- l. When a measurement is necessary to determine the closest ball(s) to the pallina, a standard technique/device is to be used. A member of each side should agree on the measurement before any balls are removed. Any player may request a measurement.
- m. **Club Measuring Technique:**
The measuring device is carefully placed over the pallina, the tape is pulled parallel to the court surface until it reaches the front edge of the Bocce Ball. The tape will hold in place and then can be swung from ball to ball to determine which Bocce Ball is closest. Note: When measuring is complete you only need to press the tape button which will release/retract the tape while HOLDING and guiding the tape into its case. Also note that you DO NOT measure from the center of the Bocce Ball, you measure from the Front Edge of the Ball.
- n. If the referee cannot determine which balls are closest or a player requests a measurement, the referee will request a member of the opposing team from the opposite end to assist with the measurement. No other players should enter the court or walk up to the referee's area beside the court while measurements are taking place.
- o. When the referee declares a tie measurement, the teams will alternate rolling until the tie is broken. When the tie remains after the delivery of all balls, or no balls remain to be played when the tie occurs, that service is declared a tie and no points are scored for either side. Play goes to the opposite end of the court and the side scoring the last point delivers the pallina.
- p. A game is complete when one side has obtained a total of eleven (11) points and the opponents have no balls remaining to be played.

4. GAME RESULTS:

- a. League captains will verify and post game results to the official score sheet weekly.
- b. Points earned by each team are cumulative. The team gaining the most points in a season of play will be acknowledged as its league's champion.
- c. Each league may provide special recognition to its champion.

5. PALLINA BALL ROLL VIOLATIONS:

- a. The pallina may not rebound off the backboard of the court when delivered. If the pallina is rolled short of the center line or beyond the foot foul line, or is touching the center line or foot foul line, it is a violation of placement. These would be fouls and the opposing team will deliver the pallina.
- b. If neither side places the pallina in fair territory, they will continue alternating until one side rolls it into fair territory. When the violation is a foot foul, it will be treated the same as a placement violation.

6. FOOT FOUL: At the time of delivery, if either foot is out of the court, a foot is touching or is beyond the delivery line, the offending side will lose its ball closest to the pallina.

7. DELIVERY OF THE WRONG COLORED BOCCE BALL:

- a. When the foul occurs before any other bocce ball has been played, the side committing the foul will lose one bocce ball and the delivered ball will be returned to the opposing side.
- b. When the foul occurs after both sides have placed balls on the court, the offending side will lose their ball nearest to the pallina. The wrong colored ball that was rolled will be returned to the appropriate team for replay once it comes to a complete stop.

8. OUT OF TURN OR EARLY DELIVERY OF THE BOCCE BALL:

- a. When a bocce ball is delivered out of turn, the offending side will lose their ball nearest to the pallina.
- b. When a bocce ball is delivered before the referee has indicated which color ball is closest to the pallina, the offending side is subject to the loss of their ball closest to the pallina. The referee will rule if a penalty is merited.

9. UNAUTHORIZED DELIVERY OF THREE BOCCE BALLS: When a member of a side delivers three balls that is not covered by Rule 15, the offending side will lose its ball nearest to the pallina.

10. UNAUTHORIZED HOLDING OF A BOCCE BALL: When a team member, not in the process of delivery, holds a bocce ball, the offending side will lose one undelivered bocce ball. *Only league players may deliver ball down the court. Unauthorized players on court of offending side will lose ball closest to the pallina.*

11. DELIVERED BOCCE BALL HITTING THE BACKBOARD: When a delivered bocce ball

touches the backboard, either directly or from a ricochet, it shall be removed from play after it comes to rest. No other ball shall be removed. When it is the first ball rolled after placement of the pallina, it will be removed and play will continue with the opposing side rolling their bocce ball.

12. PLAY INTERFERENCE: When a player goes on court while balls are in play, or fails to remain behind the court boundaries during play, the offending side will lose one undelivered bocce ball. When the violation is committed with the offending side having no undelivered balls, the penalty will be imposed on the next service of that side. The league's captain will rule if a penalty is merited.

13. ACCIDENTIAL MOVEMENT OF THE PALLINA OR BOCCE BALL:

- a. When more bocce balls are yet to be played, if a person, either in the process of measuring or otherwise moves a pallina or bocce ball, the referee may return the moved ball(s) to their approximate original position. However, at the referee's discretion, the frame may be considered dead and started over at the same end.
- b. If an accidental movement of a ball occurs after all balls are played, only the point or points that were obvious to the referee will be awarded. No uncertain points will be awarded.

14. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: When a member, team or side refuses to abide by the referee's decision, or in the referee's opinion engages in unsportsmanlike conduct, the league captain may declare a forfeit by the offending team.

15. TEAM PLAYER(S) FAIL TO SHOW:

- a. No bocce balls will be removed from play at either end of the court where a player is absent.
- b. When one member of a side is absent, the member of the side present will deliver 4 bocce balls.
- c. When two members of a team are absent, the two members of the side that are present will each deliver 4 bocce balls from opposite ends of the court. No points will be earned by the team that has both members absent unless they have at least one sub.
- d. In the event three or four members of one side are not present at the start of a game, the league captain will declare a forfeit. The two absent teams will receive no points and the side present will receive 11 points.

16 CLARIFICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULES OF PLAY: is the sole responsibility of the league's captain. The captain's decision is final.

*******QUICK REFERENCES*******

LOSE CLOSEST BALL

1. Both feet not in court
2. Foot touching or beyond delivery line
3. Touching ball without consent
4. Delivery of wrong color ball after other balls rolled
5. Rolls ball out of turn
6. Rolls three bocce balls when not applicable.
(not covered by Rule 15)

LOSS OF BALL

1. Interference on court.
2. Holding bocce ball not in process of delivery
3. Starting with wrong color ball