



## Bocce – Sport Rules Modifications, Interpretations, and Points of Emphasis

The International Federation for Bocce is Special Olympics Inc. and therefore the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Bocce dated March 2016 will be in effect for the 2017-2018 SONC program year. This document is intended to be used in conjunction with the SOI Rules; therefore, those rules are not repeated here but they will be enforced unless in direct conflict to SONC modifications.

### Appropriate Attire and Equipment

- Comfortable athletic attire, weather appropriate, doubles and teams should be dressed alike.<sup>1</sup>
- Athletes and Unified Partners should wear collared (short or long) polo shirts and athletic pants. No jeans of any color will be permitted at state-level competition. Teams and doubles members' shirts and pants must also be alike in color. Athletes and Unified Partners not in compliance will play for participant ribbons.
- All athletes and Unified Partners must wear close-toed shoes.
- Bocce ball sets (size of bocce balls should be 107-110mm and the pallina should be 55-57mm<sup>2</sup>)

### Competition Interpretations and Modifications

- The minimum to register a team is four players. Should a traditional team drop to three players after divisioning on Friday of Fall Tournament, the team will remain in team competition, but each athlete will only be able to roll once.<sup>3</sup> If an athlete drops from a Unified Team, the local program has the option of moving an athlete from singles to Unified Team, or moving the remaining athlete to singles.
- Local Program will be assigned a specific time on Friday for athletes and Unified Partners to go through divisioning.
- Substitutes on four-person teams must be registered on that team. A substitute must also notify the official before the game begins if a substitute is enacted or the team forfeits that match.
- Teammates may consult with each other on strategy, however discussion with any athlete and/or partner is prohibited once the athlete and or partner steps onto the court. **If an official determines that a coach, partner, or spectator is violating this rule, the official may sanction the offending individual. Sanctions may include: verbal warning, citing the coach/partner with unsportsmanlike conduct or expulsion from the game.**<sup>4</sup>
- Athletes and teams will change ends of the court after the last ball of the frame has been thrown.<sup>5</sup>
- If the pallina is struck and knocked out-of-bounds (including crossing back over the midpoint line), the frame is considered dead and the frame will restart.<sup>6</sup>
- At the start of the frame, the pallina must reach and pass the half-court marker and land no further than the 10' end boundary.<sup>7</sup>
- Within each frame of doubles and team play, the pallina must be delivered by the same person for each attempt to put the pallina into play. That person must also deliver the first ball.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to SOI Sports Rules for Bocce Section 4.20.1.

<sup>2</sup> SONC competition uses a more specific range versus SOI's recommendations of 48-63mm.

<sup>3</sup> Modification of Section 14.1.1. Please note that per SOI rules, teams (4-person) are allowed to carry a substitute on their roster. Substitutes must adhere to the rules per Section 4.13.3

<sup>4</sup> SOI Section 4.9.2 rule regarding coaching

<sup>5</sup> Interpretation of rules of competition

<sup>6</sup> Interpretation of SOI 7.2.2

<sup>7</sup> Per Section 4.3.1

<sup>8</sup> SONC interpretation of SOI Section 4.11.2.1

- Duration of games: Singles, doubles, and team games will be played for 40 minutes or until one player/side reaches 12 points. If, at the 40 minute mark, the pallina has already been thrown, that frame shall be played in its entirety.<sup>9</sup>
- At the end of a frame, the referee announces the winning points and color to the players outside the court at the pallina end and before the balls are removed. The players have a right to request a measurement if the players disagree with the referee. When the player or team agrees with the number of points awarded, the court official then proceeds to remove the balls to start the next frame.<sup>10</sup>
- Officials will assess and enforce all penalties for committed fouls. This includes removing a ball from the court after it has been declared dead, and moving disrupted balls back to their original position.<sup>11</sup>
- If a ball that is thrown is declared dead the official will make an attempt to stop and remove the dead ball before it reaches the pallina and the other balls “in contention.” If the ball is not able to be stopped and hits the pallina and/or other balls “in contention,” the official will place the balls back as close to their original position as possible.<sup>12</sup>
- No player may play his or her ball until a pallina or another ball has come to a complete rest. If the pallina has not come to rest before the first ball is played, the ball that has been played is considered to be a dead ball. In a team situation, the team committing the foul will still need to establish the initial point meaning another athlete on the same team must play the next ball to establish the initial point.<sup>13</sup>
- While checking the position of points, one player from each team may proceed down the outside of the court before delivering his/her ball. The player must remain outside of the court.<sup>14</sup>
- The team possessing the pallina will have three attempts at placing the pallina past the (30-foot) mark and before the (10-foot) mark on the opposite end: the pallina coming to rest on the half-court marker or on the (10-foot) mark on the opposite end is deemed to be an unsuccessful attempt. If these three attempts are unsuccessful, the opposing team will have one opportunity to place the pallina. If this attempt is unsuccessful, the referee will place the pallina in the center of the court at the (40-foot) mark.

#### Special Notices

- **Please indicate visually impaired athletes on registration forms.** Local programs may bring a bell on a handle (needs to be long enough to reach center of the court), or other comparable device for the official to indicate the location of the pallina. Mechanical aids such as bells and brightly colored cones may be used for visually impaired athletes.<sup>15</sup>
- Hearing impaired athletes are to refer to the flags/paddles to understand which color is next to roll.
- All divisioning measures will be taken by SONC bocce officials on the Friday of Fall Tournament.
- Additional competition opportunities are being researched for Unified Sports. This is being done in anticipation of potentially removing all Unified competition from state-level events starting in the 2018-2019 program year.

<sup>9</sup> SONC modification of Section 4.10.2

<sup>10</sup> SOI clarified rule for Section 4.10.7

<sup>11</sup> SONC modification to SOI Section 5.5.1.4

<sup>12</sup> Per SOI Section 5.5.2.2

<sup>13</sup> SONC modification to SOI Section 4.18.4

<sup>14</sup> SOI Section 4.17.1

<sup>15</sup> SOI Section 4.18.5.2