



Bocce Ball Basics

1. Played by two teams with one, two, or four players per team. Each team gets four bocce balls, divided equally among the players. Traditional bocce is played to 12 points, but can be played for any number of points between 9 and 15, as determined by the teams.
2. One team is chosen to start. Player 1 stands behind the foul line (10 feet from the throwing end of the court) and throws the small bocce ball (the pallino) towards the opposite end of the court.
3. Player 1 then throws one of the larger bocce balls, or boccia. The object is to get the boccia as close to the pallino as possible. Players may roll or lob the bocce but shooting (lofting the ball in the air beyond the center line of the court) is not allowed.
4. Players from the opposing team then take turns throwing their bocce ball, attempting to get one closer to the pallino than the starting player's ball. Players may use their boccia to knock the other team's balls away from the pallino, or to knock the pallino closer to their team's balls. If they fail to come nearer to the pallino, the starting team has a chance to better its first attempt.
5. If the second team gets a ball closer to the pallino than the starting team without using all of their bocce balls, players from the starting team then take their second turn.
6. Teams alternate turns until all eight bocce balls have been thrown. The team with the ball closest to the pallino gets one point for each of its balls that are closer to the pallino than the opposing team's best ball. A bocce that comes to rest touching the pallino (a baci) earns 2 points. Only one team receives points in a round. No points are awarded for a tie.
7. The team that scored throws first to begin the next frame. If no points were awarded, the team that threw the pallino last begins the next frame. Play as many frames as needed until one team has scored the number of points determined at the start.

Bocce Ball Courts are available to use, free of charge, at
North Lake Park, *Lee Street at Howard Avenue*,
and
West Park, *651 S. Wolf Road*.