



**PRIDE SPORTS USA**  
**BOCCE**

**OFFICIAL RULEBOOK**

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## INTRODUCTION

**Pride Sports USA** is an adult sports organization consisting of all genders, sexualities, and races ranging from 21–80 years old.

Bocce is a game consisting of two teams of 6–8 players per team, 8 bocce balls, 1 pallino, sweatbands, tube socks, and short shorts :)

For the enjoyment of the game, proper respect and sportsmanship are required of all participants toward one another.

Fighting is not tolerated.

There is zero tolerance for discrimination towards race, gender, sexual orientation, or anything for that matter.

There is also zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike behavior.

## 1. COURT SET-UP

### 1.A Court Dimensions

The court measures 40 feet long by 12 feet wide.

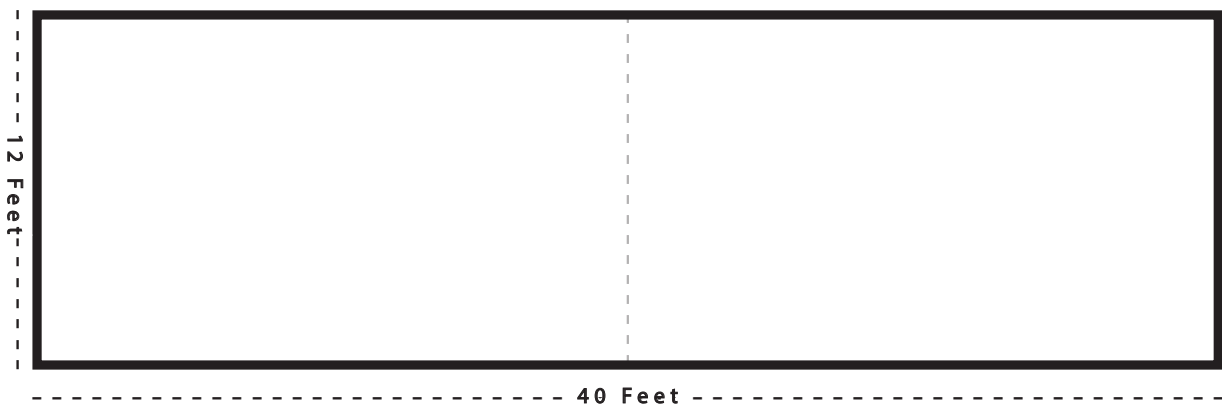
Each court will be roped off on each side.

Cones will be placed at the four corners of the court.

All play must occur within these boundaries.

### 1.B Court Preparation

The Bocce Manager, with assistance from players, is responsible for setting up and confirming the field prior to play.



## 2. EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

### 2.A Official Equipment

Each bocce set includes:

- 8 Bocce Balls (4 balls per team color)
- 1 Pallino (White Ball)
- 1 measuring tape
- 4 cones
- 4 stakes
- White rope to outline the court

All equipment is supplied by Pride Sports USA.

### 2.B Uniforms

All players must wear their current season Pride Sports USA league t-shirt while participating. No uniform means you will not play that week.

Alterations – Players may cut off sleeves or crop their shirts. Please be sure not to cut into anything already printed on your shirt.

Players cannot print or draw on their uniform.

Additional layers may be worn due to weather conditions (under the league shirt).

The league shirt does need to remain visible.

If you lose your uniform or break the rules listed above, you must order another. Please allow 6 days for shipping. Order it ASAP so it arrives for the following week of games.

Order a replacement uniform at [PrideSportsUSA.com/store](https://PrideSportsUSA.com/store)

## 3. PARTICIPATION & TEAM REQUIREMENTS

### 3.A Player Eligibility

All participants must:

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Sign the Pride Sports USA liability waiver.
- Be officially registered on a team roster for the current season.

Players on other teams are not allowed to play with your team.

### **3.B Team Structure**

Teams consist of 6–8 registered players.

Each team must designate a Team Captain.

Captains are responsible for:

- Understanding the Rules
- Score confirmations
- Reading the Captains Handbook
- Resolving disputes with opposing captains
- Consulting the Bocce Manager when necessary

### **3.C Minimum Attendance**

A minimum of 2 players must be present at the scheduled start time.

### **3.D Playing with Fewer Than Four Players**

Teams always throw four balls per frame, regardless of roster size.

If 2 players are present, both must throw 2 balls each from the same side.

If 3 players are present, all 3 players must throw each frame. The extra 4th ball must rotate between the players.

Late-arriving players may join at the start of the next frame.

### **3.E Player Rotation & Participation**

Teams play with 4 players each frame. (All players can play in all games.)

If your team has 4 or more players on a given week, an individual player cannot throw more than 1 ball per frame.

Teammates must alternate throws.

Pallino throws should rotate among teammates.

## **4. GAME TIMING**

### **4.A Regulation Length**

Games are played in a 55-minute time period.

No new games can start after 50 minutes have passed.

### **4.B Start of Play**

Matches officially begin when the Bocce Manager signals the start.

Play as many games to 11 points as you can within the allowed time.

#### **4.C End of Game**

A game ends when the first team reaches 11 points at the conclusion of a frame.

#### **4.D Time Expiration**

No new frame may begin after time has expired.

If time expires mid-frame, the team with the higher score at the end of that frame wins.

If that final game is tied at the end of match time, no points are awarded.

Matches may end in a tie during regular season play.

### **5. GAME PLAY RULES**

#### **5.A Determining First Throw**

Before each match, captains play rock–paper–scissors.

The winner chooses either:

- To throw the pallino and first ball, OR
- Their preferred ball color.

The remaining option goes to the opposing team.

#### **5.B Balls & Objective**

Each team plays with four balls of their assigned color.

The white ball is the pallino.

The objective is to place as many balls as possible closer to the pallino than the opposing team.

#### **5.C Frame Structure**

A frame consists of:

- One pallino throw
- All eight balls being thrown

#### **5.D Pallino Rules**

Valid Throw:

The pallino must:

- Be thrown from behind the starting boundary line.
- Land between the center line and within one foot of the opposite side boundary lines.

The player who throws the pallino throws the first ball.

Invalid Throw:

One re-throw is permitted.

If the second attempt is invalid, the opposing team gains possession and throws first.

Pallino Out of Play:

If the pallino:

- Is knocked out of bounds, OR
- Is knocked in front of the halfway line

The frame is dead and restarted from the opposite end by the original starting team.

### 5.E Order of Play

Teams rotate throws. When Player 1 on Team A throws the pallino and their first bocce ball, Player 1 on Team B throws their bocce ball. Then Player 2 on Team A throws their bocce ball, and so on until all 8 balls are thrown.

### 5.F Fouls & Dead Balls

Live Ball:

A ball is live if it:

- Rests inside the boundary, OR
- Is touching a boundary line.

Dead Ball:

A ball is dead if it:

- Comes to rest completely outside the boundary.

Dead balls do not count toward scoring or throwing order.

Foot Fault:

Players may not step into the field of play while throwing. If a violation occurs, the opposing team may reset the frame OR declare the ball dead.

## 6. SCORING

### 6.A Scoring

Only one team may score per frame.

A team earns 1 point for each live ball closer to the pallino than the opposing team's closest ball.

Maximum of 4 points per frame.

First team to 11 total points or more wins.

Do not need to win by two.

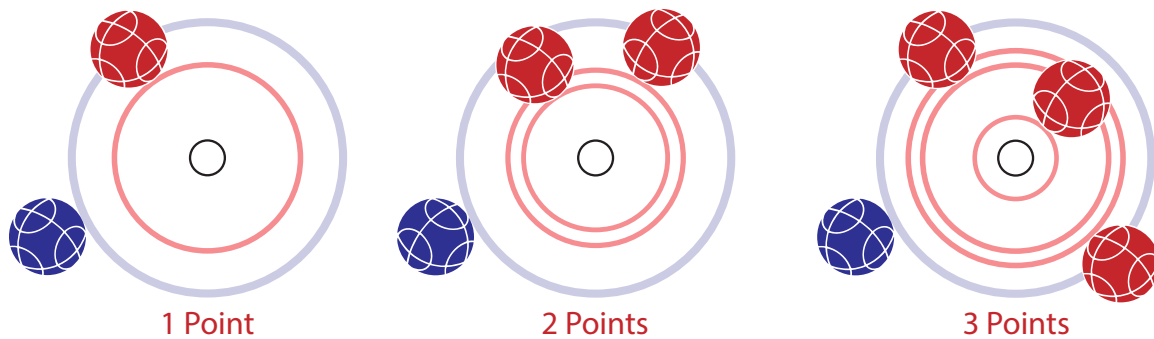
Tie Situations:

If the closest balls are equidistant, no points are awarded for those balls or any further balls.

If tied for closest overall, no team scores.

There is no win-by margin requirement.

There is no mercy rule.



### 6.B Measurement & Dispute Resolution

Only captains (or their designees) may measure.

Measurement must remain consistent (edge-to-edge OR center-to-center).

Balls may not be moved until scoring is finalized.

If teams cannot resolve a dispute, the Bocce Manager will issue a final decision.

Forfeits will be recorded as 5-0.

### 7. Subs

Subs are players not signed up for the current season on any team.

Subs can only play with 1 team per week.

Subs are only allowed if you have less than 4 players on a given week.

If you have 3 players, 1 sub is allowed.

If you have 2 players, 2 subs are allowed.

If you have 1 player, 3 subs are allowed. (3 subs max per week)

No subs are allowed in playoff games.

No subs allowed if you have 4 or more players on a given week.

Subs MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE and WEAR A BLACK T-SHIRT WITH NO LOGOS.

### **Subs Registration**

Subs MUST register before games start.

The sub must create their own account and register on their own.

They must pay the weekly sub fee at the end of registration. (\$15)

Registration for subs can be found at [PrideSportsUSA.com/subs](https://PrideSportsUSA.com/subs)

## **8. END-OF-SEASON PLAYOFFS**

### **8.A Playoff Format**

Playoffs may take place in one week or two weeks, depending on the size of the league.

Single-elimination format.

Only players on the first and second place teams that are present for the final week of playoffs will receive a medal.

### **8.B Playoff Game Rules**

Best 2 out of 3 games to 11 points.

No breaks between games.

Elimination Tie Rule:

If tied 1-1 after 2 games, then we will do a tie breaker throw.

Each team will pick 1 player to throw 1 bocce ball. The team with the player that throws their bocce ball closest to the back line without touching it wins.

The team that scored in the last frame will throw their tiebreaker ball first.

If both teams are touching the back line, both players will throw again.

If both players throw past the back line, the ball closest to the line wins.

## **9. National Tournaments**

Join the fun at one of our National Tournaments. [PrideSportsUSA.com/tournaments](https://PrideSportsUSA.com/tournaments)

## PRIDE SPORTS USA, LLC CODE OF CONDUCT

1. **Purpose and Values.** For purposes of this Code of Conduct (the “Code”), “Pride Sports” means Pride Sports USA, LLC, and “League” means Pride Sports, together with the recreational sports leagues, divisions, programs, games, events, tournaments, practices, social events, and other activities organized, operated, sponsored, or sanctioned by Pride Sports, whether conducted on a seasonal or one-time basis.

Pride Sports is committed to fostering an athletic and social environment that is inclusive, respectful, safe, and welcoming. The League exists to bring people together through recreation and community, and to affirm the dignity and value of every participant and attendee.

All participants, volunteers, officials, spectators, and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that supports these values. Conduct that undermines the inclusive purpose of the League, even if not intended to cause harm, may be inconsistent with this Code.

Participation in League activities is a privilege, not a right, and is conditioned on compliance with this Code. Participation in any League activity is at all times revocable and may be suspended, restricted, or terminated by Pride Sports at any time, with or without cause, notice, explanation, or formal process.

Pride Sports reserves the right to refuse registration, admission, or participation to any individual or team, or to remove any person from League activities, at any time and for any lawful reason, in its sole discretion.

2. **Scope of Application.** This Code applies to all League activities and to anyone participating in or attending such activities, including players, volunteers, officials, spectators, and guests. The Code may also apply to off-field or off-event conduct where such conduct has a direct or material connection to the League, including conduct that affects the safety, inclusion, or well-being of participants, interferes with League operations or activities, or undermines the League’s inclusive purpose or community environment. The determination of whether any off-field conduct falls within the scope of this Code shall be made by Pride Sports in its sole discretion.

3. **General Behavioral Expectations.** All individuals covered by this Code must, at all times:

- Treat others with respect, dignity, and courtesy.
- Act in a sportsmanlike and safe manner.
- Follow reasonable directions given by League staff or officials.
- Respect facilities, equipment, and shared spaces.
- Refrain from conduct that disrupts League activities or the experience of others.
- Comply with applicable laws, facility rules and venue policies.

Participants and attendees must comply with the directions and decisions of League staff, officials, and authorized representatives. Failure to follow such directions may result in immediate removal or other disciplinary action.

4. **Prohibited Conduct.** The following conduct is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

- a. Harassment and Discrimination. Unwelcome conduct directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived characteristics, including but not limited to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, appearance, or any other protected or personal characteristic, that reasonably undermines another person’s ability to participate in or enjoy League activities.
- b. Bullying and Intimidation. Conduct that is hostile, abusive, threatening, or degrading toward another person, whether verbal, physical, or otherwise, and that reasonably interferes with a safe and inclusive League environment.
- c. Violence and Threats. Physical violence, attempted violence, or threats of violence toward any person.
- d. Unsafe or Disruptive Behavior. Any conduct that creates a safety risk, causes disruption, or interferes with League operations or the experience of others.
- e. Alcohol and Drugs. Being intoxicated, engaging in illegal drug use, or otherwise behaving in a manner related to alcohol or drugs that is unsafe, disruptive, or inconsistent with the League’s inclusive and community-focused environment.
- f. Social Media and Public Conduct. Harassing, threatening, or disruptive conduct directed at participants, staff, officials, or the League through social media or other public communications that negatively affects the League environment or operations.

5. **Participant Pledge.** As a participant in the League, each individual agrees to the following:

- a. Treat all participants, officials, staff, and spectators with respect at all times.
- b. Cooperate with other participants and officials.
- c. Refrain from profanity, obscene gestures, or abusive language.
- d. Not engage in physical violence or intentionally cause harm to any participant, official, staff member, or spectator.
- e. Follow all reasonable instructions from officials and League staff.
- f. Ask officials, in a calm and respectful manner, to explain any rules I do not understand.
- g. Respect park fields, sports equipment, and facility amenities.
- h. Participate in a sportsmanlike and safe manner at all times.
- i. Read, understand, and comply with all League rules and policies.
- j. Demonstrate good sportsmanship both on and off the field.
- k. Conduct myself in a manner consistent with the League’s values and community standards.

Violation of this Participant Pledge may result in disciplinary action in accordance with this Code, up to and including suspension or expulsion from League activities.

6. **Enforcement and Disciplinary Authority.** Compliance with this Code is a mandatory condition of participation in any League or Activity. Pride Sports reserves the sole, absolute, and final discretion to interpret this Code, determine whether any conduct violates it, and impose any disciplinary, corrective, or preventive action it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Pride Sports may take action at any time, with or without investigation, and based on any information it considers relevant, whether obtained firsthand or from third parties. Pride Sports' determinations may be based solely on its judgment and are not required to meet any evidentiary or procedural standard. Pride Sports may take disciplinary or participation action based on any information it considers relevant, including reports, observations, complaints, or other sources, and is not required to rely on formal complaints, witness statements, or physical evidence.

Disciplinary action may include, without limitation:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Removal from a game, event, or facility.
- Temporary suspension from League activities.
- Expulsion from the League or Activity.
- Temporary or permanent restriction from future participation.
- Denial of registration or team placement.
- Any other action Pride Sports deems appropriate.

Certain conduct, including but not limited to violence, threats, harassment, discrimination, unsafe behavior, or conduct inconsistent with the League's values or community standards, may result in immediate removal, suspension, or expulsion at Pride Sports' sole discretion.

Pride Sports may also take disciplinary or exclusionary action for any conduct, whether or not expressly described in this Code, that Pride Sports determines is inconsistent with the League's values, operations, or community environment.

Pride Sports is not required to provide prior notice, warnings, investigations, hearings, explanations, or opportunities to appeal before taking disciplinary action. Disciplinary decisions may be communicated orally or by any other method, and Pride Sports is not required to provide written notice, documentation, or justification. All decisions made by Pride Sports under this Code are final and binding.

Participants acknowledge and agree that they have no right or entitlement to participate in any League or Activity, and that participation may be revoked at any time at Pride Sports' sole discretion.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, participants waive any claim, cause of action, or demand against Pride Sports arising out of or related to any disciplinary, eligibility, or participation decision.

Any disciplinary action, including suspension, removal, or expulsion, shall not entitle the participant or team to any refund, credit, or other compensation.

Pride Sports reserves the right to impose disciplinary action on an entire team, group, or organization where the conduct of one or more members creates disruption, safety concerns, or repeated violations of this Code. Pride Sports reserves the right to suspend or terminate any game, event, or activity, or remove any individual, when it determines that safety, order, or the League environment requires such action.

Pride Sports is not required to enforce this Code uniformly or to take action in every instance of misconduct, and the failure to discipline any individual or team shall not limit Pride Sports' authority to discipline others.

7. **Complaints and Reports.** Pride Sports encourages participants, volunteers, officials, and attendees to report conduct that they believe may violate this Code or otherwise undermine the safety, inclusion, or operation of the League. Complaints or reports may be submitted to Pride Sports through any method designated by the League, including in person, by email, or by any other communication channel provided by Pride Sports.

Pride Sports reserves the sole discretion to determine whether and how to review, investigate, or act upon any complaint or report. Submission of a complaint does not guarantee any particular action or result. All disciplinary and participation decisions remain subject to Pride Sports' sole and final discretion in accordance with this Code.

8. **Anti-Retaliation.** Pride Sports prohibits retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports a concern, submits a complaint, participates in a review, or provides information related to a potential violation of this Code. Retaliation includes any adverse action, threat, intimidation, harassment, exclusion, or other conduct that would discourage a reasonable person from reporting a concern or participating in the complaint process.

Any individual who engages in retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, expulsion, or permanent restriction from League activities, at Pride Sports' sole discretion.

9. **Relationship to Other Policies.** This Code is separate from, and in addition to, any release, waiver, or assumption-of-risk agreement required for participation in League activities. Pride Sports reserves the right to adopt, modify, or enforce additional rules, policies, or procedures at any time as it deems necessary for safety, operations, or the community environment.

10. **Severability.** If any portion of this Code is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

11. **Acknowledgement.** By participating in or attending League activities, individuals acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to comply with this Code.

I understand that Pride Sports may revise this Code of Conduct at any time, and it is my responsibility to stay informed of any updates. I also acknowledge that failure to comply with Code may result in suspension or termination of my participation in the League without refund.