

# Sons of Italy Bocce League Rules (Revised 4/15/2026)

1. League Fee: \$200. This fee is due by the second week of June. The fee includes League operation, court maintenance costs, and SOI operations.
2. Rosters will be limited to 8 players. Players will only play for one team. Players may be added or dropped at anytime during the season until August 1<sup>st</sup>. After August 1<sup>st</sup> rosters are set.
3. A team will consist of 4 players and substitutes. A substitute must enter the game prior to their team reaching 2/3 of the game's total points. The substitute must then finish the game.
4. A team MUST play a match with 3 players. The players will rotate, oldest to youngest, throwing two balls. The player with two balls must lead off every inning, then throw the second ball 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. If a player quits during a game, his team will finish the game with 3 balls.
5. Once 3 players are present the match MUST begin. Upon arrival of the 4<sup>th</sup> player, the current inning must be concluded prior to the player entering the contest.
6. All matches will be played with SOI balls and steel pallino only will be used.
7. League games will be played to 15 points. Team captains will ensure that the match results are recorded after the match has ended.
8. Team Captains will be responsible for making sure that all players follow the rules. Measurements will be performed ONLY by any players who have already thrown their ball. If the players cannot determine who has a point they will notify a member of the Bocce Committee or other unbiased person to decide on point.
9. Players on each team may have two practice innings, up and back only. After the practice, the captains will flip a coin. Winner will select the ball color and have pallino advantage to start the game.
10. To begin the next inning, the previous inning's winner will play the pallino between the center line and the far point line, side wall has no restrictions. The team possessing the pallino will have one attempt to legally place the pallino. If the pallino is "on the line", it is out of play.
11. A player who has thrown their ball may return to half court to talk to their teammates. Players who have not delivered their ball may walk to half court to talk to their teammates who have already thrown their ball. PLAYERS WHO HAVE NOT THROWN THEIR BALL MAY NOT PROCEED BEYOND THE HALF COURT LINE FOR ANY REASON! ANY PLAYER WHO HAS YET TO PLAY THEIR BALL WHO GOES BEYOND THE HALF COURT LINE WILL RECEIVE ONE WARNING PER TEAM. EVERY TIME AFTERWARDS ANY PLAYER WHO HAS NOT YET PLAYED GOES BEYOND HALF COURT THEIR BALL WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE INNING.
12. In order to speed up the pace of play, all playing members who have yet to deliver their ball MUST be behind the red hit line on the playing end of the court AND NOT GO BEYOND MID COURT FOR ANY REASON! Each captain may call out opposing team members for not being within the playing region (behind the red line). SEE RULE 11 ABOVE FOR PENALTY If seats are needed at the ends of the courts to accommodate those who need to sit seats shall be provided. Remember, during your scheduled playing time the game of Bocce comes first.

13. A player must HAVE ONE FOOT behind the point line when rolling their ball for pointing. Players who are spocking (hitting) must start their approach from behind the point line and release the ball with at least one foot behind the hit line. Fouls can only be called by an official.
14. If a ball ricochet's out of the court that ball will remain out of play for the duration of the inning. If the pallino is hit out of the court play will resume with a new inning. The team who held the pallino advantage will start the next inning. Play will resume from the same end of the court as the previous inning.
15. If the wrong color ball is thrown, the ball cannot be touched until it is stopped. The ball will then be replaced with a correctly colored ball in the exact spot.
16. If a player interferes with his team's ball while in motion, the ball is automatically removed from play and play continues.
17. If a player interferes with an opposing team's ball while in motion, the team fouled against has the following options:
  - a. They may play the ball over.
  - b. They may declare the inning dead and start a new inning, no points awarded.
  - c. They may accept the lie of the touched ball and play continues.
18. All league matches must be played on Sons of Italy courts.
19. Each team will mark the score after each inning to avoid confusion.
20. When a player from each team visually agree as to who has the point and the next ball is thrown, there can be no further measurement between those two balls, the point is conceded. TOUCHING ANY BALLS IN QUESTION FOR POINTS AT THE END OF AN INNING UNTIL A PLAYER FROM BOTH TEAMS AGREE ON POINTS WILL RESULT IN ONE (1) POINT BEING AWARDED TO THE OPPOSITE TEAM.
21. If a player throws their ball when their team is in and the other team still has balls remaining, the ball in question remains where it comes to rest and play continues.
22. A measurement can be called at any time.
23. In the event of a tie during an inning, the last team to throw must continue throwing until they beat the point. At the end of an inning, IF A POINT CANNOT BE DETERMINED NO POINTS ARE AWARDED AND THE GAME CONTINUES.
24. If a point ball or the pallino is moved illegally while measuring, the non-offending team shall be
25. Players shall act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Any act, which is deemed by the bocce committee as poor sportsmanship, insulting language, gestures, etc., may result in ejection from the contest and/or disqualification from the league.
26. Women's League is on Wednesday evenings and is women only. Open League is Thursday evenings and can be coed.
27. Interpretation and intent of these bocce rules will be decided by the bocce committee.