

Bocce Ball Is Our Heritage

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A community is full of heritage that is important to preserve: buildings, parks, traditions, archives, and collections of objects gathered by citizens. In school, it is the history class that documents the local heritage by interviews with the elderly or pictures found in the attic. However, why is heritage not part of PE? Heritage is whatever each of us individually or collectively wishes to preserve and pass on to the next generation.

In the small community in which I was raised, many nationalities came to work in the coal mines. Yearly, we honor the pioneer women and coal miners with parades, along with other traditions that our ancestors brought from Europe. The game of bocce is one of those traditions and is a lifelong activity.

A bocce ball tournament is played by young and old, father and son, mother and daughter, and friends. The high school football field acts as the bocce court and has many sets of bocce balls that are brought by the participants to be used.

Bocce Ball Rules

Step 1

Understand that open bocce is played between two players or two teams of up to four players on a team.

Step 2

Assemble nine balls: eight large balls, four of one color, four of another. The ninth ball is the target ball, called a "jack" or "pallino."

Step 3

Appoint a designated official under the scrutiny of each team. They will determine the points scored.

Step 4

Position each player in a line.

Step 5

Throw the target ball, called the "jack," or "pallino," any distance and in any direction you choose.

Step 6

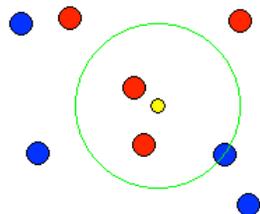
The person that threw the jack ball will then roll or throw their two bocce balls as close to the jack as possible. Then a player on the opposing team rolls and tries to place his balls nearer the target ball. A second player from your team throws his two balls, followed by the last player from Team B. If there are four players on a team, each player throws one ball.

Step 7

Throw, pitch or bowl your ball as close to the jack as possible; try to displace your opponent's ball if it is closer than yours. You have the option of rolling, throwing, bouncing or "banking" the ball down the court provided it does not go out-of-bounds or you do not violate foul markers. You can also "spock" a ball (hit out an opponent's ball) trying to obtain a point, or decreasing your opposing team's points.

Step 8

Count the number of your balls closer to the jack than your opponent's balls. This can be determined by sight or by actual measurement. Each ball is worth one point. If a ball is touching "jack," it is still worth one point. The length of game is typically played to 11.



Tips & Variations

- In case of a tie between two balls of opposing teams, the balls can cancel each other's score or may be played again by the same players. (An agreement on this point must be reached before the game begins.) If 2 balls from one team are tied, both balls will score.

- To replace a “jack” that has been lost or stolen, you could use a golf ball or a tennis ball.
- **How to Buy a Bocce Ball Set-** Purchase an authentic set of balls - they'll perform better and last longer. The cost could be as much as \$70 to \$150. Inexpensive sets run about \$34.
 - **Lighted Glo Bocce Sets**
Our Own Product at Wholesale Prices Choice of Flash/Static Lifetime LED
www.PlayaBoule.com
 - **Over 100 Bocce Products**
Engraved bocce sets. Free shipping. courts, pallinas, trophies, scoring
www.BuyBocceBalls.com
- **Frisbee Bocce (You may use bean bags instead of Frisbees)**
 - Equipment: 3 Frisbees per player (2 of the same color and one of a different color.)
 - Form teams of 2 or 3 players. Each player has 2 Frisbees of the same color.
 - One team starts by throwing the different color Frisbee (“jack”).
 - Player who threw the Frisbee (“jack”) throws the regular Frisbee, trying to land it close to the “jack.”
 - Player from the opposing teams throws a regular Frisbee, trying to land it closer to the “jack.”
 - Players continue to throw the Frisbees toward the “jack.”
 - After all have thrown their Frisbees, add up the score:
 - Team with Frisbee closest to or touching the “jack” = 1 point
 - If team has 2 Frisbees closest to “jack” = 2 points
 - Team with 11 points wins

Resource: Fitness For Life – Middle School 2007, www.ehow.com, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bocce>