



## Bocce Protocol & Etiquette

While casual or fun games of bocce can be full of banter, laughter and frivolity, whenever serious bocce is played, as in a tournament or competition, there need to be certain rules of good sportsmanship and conduct that each competitor must follow. This will allow the athletes to compete at their best without any distractions.

Whether during practice or competition, athletes should be encouraged to abide by the following:

### “Rules of the Court”

1. When it is not your turn, you should stand quietly out of the court.
2. Remain as quiet as possible from the time the other player has taken his/her stance until after he/she has delivered the ball.
3. Wait until the frame has been completed before moving to the other end of the court.
4. Always walk up the side of the court rather than up the middle of the court.
5. While waiting for another player to deliver the ball, always remain as motionless as possible.
6. Wait until the other player has delivered his/her ball and is about to move off the court before you step into the court to take your turn.
7. Always leave the balls as they lie until the official has instructed you to move them.
8. After you have delivered your ball, leave the court without undue or unnecessary delay.
9. Always observe safety rules when playing.
10. Always observe the instructions given by the official.
11. Always give your opponent the respect he/she deserves.
12. Always give the officials the respect they deserve.

### During Practice

#### Athletes

- Always listen to information conveyed by their coach.
- Follow the instructions given by their coach.
- Prepare themselves ready to practice physically.
- Always dress in appropriate attire to practice bocce, i.e. correct shoes, clothes, etc.
- Follow any safety messages given by the coach.
- Pass on to the right people any important information that may have been given to them by their coach.
- Ask questions if they are unsure as to what the coach is asking them to do.

#### Coaches

- Always be on time and ready to start any training sessions.
- Ensure that your athletes and fellow coaches understand what the goal is for this training session.
- Give clear and concise instructions to all people attending your training sessions.
- Listen to any clarification from your athletes regarding information they may not understand.
- Instruct your athletes and fellow coaches on any health and safety issues regarding this training session.
- Always provide elements of learning and fun in your training sessions.



### **During Competition**

#### **Athletes**

- ♦ Always listen to information conveyed by the court officials.
- ♦ Abide by the decisions made by the court officials.
- ♦ Show all respect and dignity to fellow competitors.
- ♦ Prepare themselves ready to play.
- ♦ Always dress in appropriate attire to play bocce, i.e. correct shoes, clothes, etc.

#### **Coaches**

- ♦ Ensure that your players are on time and ready to play.
- ♦ Ensure that your athletes and fellow coaches understand the local rules for this event as conveyed at previous training sessions.
- ♦ Ensure that your athletes' entry information is accurate, up to date and correct for this competition.
- ♦ Listen to any clarification from the competition/event manager.
- ♦ Abide by the instructions and decisions made by the court officials.

### **Sportsmanship**

Good sportsmanship is both the coach's and athlete's commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Below we highlight a few focus points and ideas on how to teach and coach sportsmanship to your athletes. Lead by example.

#### **Competitive Effort**

- Put forth maximum effort during each event.
- Practice the skills with the same intensity as you would perform them in competition.
- Always finish a match/event: Never quit.

#### **Fair Play at All Times**

- Always comply with the rules.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Respect the decision of the officials at all times.