

Rules for the Community Bocce League 2026

The League is separated into three divisions (Lakes, Sound and River). Each team was placed based on last year's W/L records. **Matches will only take place in your own division. The top 4 teams with the best win/loss record at the conclusion of the regular season will qualify for the playoffs. Each Division will crown its own champion.**

Each team will play 14 matches, alternating once or twice a week. **This season, the Sound and River Divisions each have 12 teams**, therefore, each team will be scheduled to play on a few Thursday afternoons, in order to complete the schedule.

Early games start at 3PM and late games begin at 5PM. The courts are blocked starting at 2PM for the early teams to practice if they wish. **The teams scheduled to play at 5PM CANNOT enter the bocce courts until all the early games are concluded.**

Each match is 2 out of 3. The first two games are to 10 points. If a third game is needed, only (Six) frames are rolled, or if the team scores 10 points before the sixth frame is needed, the match is over. The winner of the third game wins the match. If a tie were to occur after the sixth frame, 1 more additional frame will be rolled to decide the winner. **You are not allowed to substitute during the last roll-off.**

No player can play three games. Each team needs a minimum of 6 players for each match to be present in case a third game is needed. You may substitute for a player at any time, but once a player is taken out, they cannot return in that game. **Even if a player only plays one frame, that counts against them as a full game.**

The matches start with a flip of a coin. After that, the team that wins the point(s) will select a player who will toss the pallino and **must** roll the first ball. If the pallino does not cross half way, or touches the back wall, the opposing team will set the pallino. However, the team who failed to set it the first time, still rolls the first ball. **Players can only roll two (2) balls. If a player rolls a ball and it strikes the back wall before hitting another ball, that player will roll again, unless it is their third try.**

If it is determined that both color balls at the end of a frame are equal distance from the pallino, then **no point is awarded** to either team. The team who won the previous point will toss the pallino and the first ball starting a new frame.

Any ball striking the back wall without hitting another ball first is considered dead, and is removed from the court. If someone rolls the wrong color ball, wait for it to stop, mark it, and replace it with the correct color ball. **No takeovers are allowed.**

Forfeits are not good for any league. It is important to make sure you have enough players available for every match. Remember that no one can play three games, so you need at least

6 players minimum available for every match in case a third game is needed. **If a team does not have enough players 15 minutes after the first or second game is completed, that team will forfeit the entire match.**

No one is permitted on the court while a player is rolling. Only the person rolling is allowed to walk down the court to examine the field before they roll.

Referees are important and need to understand the rules of the game. They are there to inform the players on whose turn it is to roll. They should never touch the balls after a frame until both teams have agreed to who won the point. **If a measurement is needed, only the referee and one player from each team are allowed of the court.**

Please refrain from walking between of courts 1 and 2 as well as courts 4 and 5. It is a distraction to the teams who are playing on those courts.

The winning team captain is responsible to report the outcome of the match to the Commish by texting him **immediately after** the match is concluded. Only wins are reported, not the score of each game **Please text Bruce at (267-566-2323)**

In case of weather- related problems, or a need to cancel for any emergency, the matches for that day will only be made up at the end of the regular season, if time permits.

Good Sportsmanship is required at all times!!!!!!!!!!

Hope everyone has an enjoyable fun filled season!!!!!!

Good Luck , The Commish!!!!