

Article VII – The Rules

All members must abide by the rules of the Club. Rules must be kept at the courts at all times and copies made available for all members.

The Official EAST PORTAL BOCCE CLUB LEAGUE RULES are as follows:

Section 1. Teams

All league players MUST be members of the Club. A team shall consist of a minimum of two (2) players and a maximum of six (6) players. Teams are encouraged to name more than two players on their roster. **NOTE: A player listed on one team's roster in the current league season cannot play on another team during the same league season.** However, a player can play in two different leagues, for instance, an evening league and a morning league. During the summer season a player can play in three leagues (morning, evening and the three-person league).

All roster changes shall be made prior to the first match of the season. Failure to abide by the rule shall be forfeiture of any matches played with this player not on a roster by the first match of the league season. **EXCEPTION:** If a player(s) on a team can no longer play bocce due to injury or for health reasons, the captain may petition the Board to permit a roster change after the first match of the season. This petition will be reviewed by the Board on a case-by-case basis. If the Board approves the petition for a roster change, the players that were removed from the roster are no longer members of the team and thus cannot return to the team for the rest of the season.

Section 2. Substitutions

There can only be two (2) or four (4) (optional) players from each team participating in a game, although another player on the team roster may substitute in after any frame. The three-person teams must have three people playing. Any player who substitutes out of a game will not be allowed back in the same game. However, said player may return to play in a subsequent game.

Section 3. Make Up Matches

Matches can be rescheduled ONLY due to inclement weather (heat, cold, rain). A rescheduled match must occur within two (2) weeks of the originally scheduled match. The team unwilling or unable to reschedule a match will take a forfeit. If both teams opt not to reschedule, both games will be recorded as a “0” for each team. Before a proposed cancellation, communication must occur between the two captains no later than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled match.

Section 4. Forfeiture

In the event a team must forfeit both games of a scheduled match, the captain of the forfeiting team shall provide notification to the opposing team’s captain. Such notification shall be provided no less than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled match time for evening leagues, or by the calendar day preceding the match for morning leagues.

Section 5. Arrival and Court Preparation (Courts 1 – 5)

After the gate combination lock is opened to gain access to the courts, FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, PLEASE SCRAMBLE THE NUMBERS ON THE OPENED LOCK SO THAT THE COMBINATION IS NOT OBSERVABLE TO ANY NON-MEMBER WHO WALKS UP AND LOOKS AT THE LOCK.

All teams should report to the courts at least one-half hour prior to the start of their match to see if the courts need attention prior to game play.

Minimum court prep before play should be as follows:

- a. Remove any leaves and debris from the court.
- b. Squeegee any overt moisture.

Section 6. Start of Play

Warm up is 15 – 30 minutes prior to play. Teams are required to check in with each other and then warm up. Matches are to begin promptly as scheduled.

If a team is not present after five (5) minutes from the start time of the first game, the first game will be forfeited. If a team is not present to play after 15 minutes from the start time of the first game, the second game will be forfeited as well.

If a team knows that it cannot arrive in time for the first game but can be present for the second game **AND THE TEAM CAPTAIN CALLS THE OPPOSING TEAM CAPTAIN THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH**, the first game will still be forfeited but the forfeiting team will have 30 minutes from the scheduled start of the first game to begin the second game. If the second game cannot be scheduled to begin promptly 30 minutes from the scheduled start of the first game or earlier, then the second game will be forfeited as well.

Section 7. Ending Games that Start at 5:00 pm

For league games scheduled to commence at **5:00 P.M.**, no new frame shall begin on or after **7:00 P.M.** Upon the conclusion of the final frame, the team that has achieved **15 points** or holds the higher score will be declared the winner. In the event of a tie score after the final frame has been played, a **tie-breaker frame** will be permitted, as games cannot end in a tie.

Section 8. End Goal of the Game

Games will be played until one team has reached 15 points. There cannot be any ties.

Section 9. General Playing Rules

a. Bocce Balls

The bocce balls to be used for league play are composition balls. Bocce balls provided by the East Portal Bocce Club for league play (“house” balls) are located in the locked ball racks on the courts. Balls brought in from the outside can be used for league play as long as **both** teams are in agreement with their use. If not, the “house” balls must be used for league play by both teams. If outside balls are to be used in a match, the balls must be composition and be 107 centimeters in diameter and weigh 920 grams.

b. Start of Game

Begin the match with a flip of a coin between captains of each team. The winner of the coin flip may have the first toss of the pallino or choose the color of the balls when “house” balls are used.

c. Pallino

A player may toss the pallino any distance as long as the pallino completely passes the centerline of the court and does not hit the back wall. If a player fails to toss the pallino completely past the center line or if the pallino hits the backboard at the opposite end, the opposing team will toss the pallino and put it into play. If the opposing team fails to properly toss the pallino after one attempt, the pallino reverts to the original team, and so on. **Regardless of which team throws the pallino, the player that originally tossed the pallino will throw the first bocce ball.** Should the first ball hit the backboard without touching the pallino, it is a dead ball and removed from the court. The same team must throw again and continue rolling until a valid point is established.

d. Play of Game

There are three formats for play:

- 1) The **Default Format** is two players against two players positioned at opposite ends of the court. Each player throws four balls per frame.
- 2) The **Social Format** is two players versus two players. All four players are at the same end of the court. Each player rolls two balls per frame in any order they choose. All four players walk to the opposite end of the court to begin the next frame.
- 3) The **Full Court Format** is four players versus four players. Each team places two players at each end of the court. Each player rolls two balls per frame in any order they choose.

Both teams must agree to use either format two (the Social Format) or three (the Full Court Format) instead of the Default Format.

Active players are individuals who are on the court rolling the bocce balls. **ONLY** the four or eight (optional) individuals playing the match are authorized to be on the bocce courts during the match. Only the six individuals playing in the three-person league are authorized to be on the bocce courts during the match. Active players are to remain in the court

while a game is being played. The player who has the next roll is not allowed to cross the center court line without permission from the opposing team. If the player who has the next roll wants to walk down to the opposite end of the court to get a closer look at the balls and at the pallino in play, it will be allowed ONCE per frame and in a timely manner (**NOT TO EXCEED 1 MINUTE**). When a player steps up to the foul line to throw a ball, all active players should be standing near the backboard. DO NOT crowd or disturb players when they are taking their turn.

Players may use the side boards at any time. If a ball hits the backboard without first touching another ball or the pallino, it is a dead ball and is removed from the court. If a ball is shot and hits the backboard without touching another ball or the pallino and then rolls back and strikes a stationary ball/balls, the shot ball is removed from the court, and the stationary ball/balls are placed in their approximate original position(s). If a ball is shot and knocks another bocce ball out of the court, that ball is considered a dead ball and removed from play.

If during the play of the game, the pallino is struck and either leaves the court or bounces back in front of the center court line, the frame is considered void and the team that started the frame will begin again at the opposite end of the court.

e. Throwing/Rolling and Shooting

A throw or roll is done with the player's foot placed behind or directly on the foul line. A throw or roll is valid as long as any part of the foot is behind the foul line or touching the line at the moment the ball is released from the player's hand.

ONE WARNING will be given to those who step completely over the foul line at the moment the ball is released from the player's hand. After that, if another foul is committed, the tossed ball will be taken out of play. The pallino or any balls struck by the disqualified ball will be returned to their original position on the court prior to the disqualifying throw.

f. Courts

Only the active players are authorized to be on the bocce courts during matches.

g. Taking Measurements

Balls may be measured at any time. In the event a tie is determined after measurement, the last team to roll a ball must roll again until the tie is broken. If after all balls are played there is still a tie, no points are awarded and play resumes with the team that scored in the previous frame tossing the pallino from the opposite end of the court. At no time will any of the balls be moved during the measuring process. If a member of a team currently playing detrimentally moves the ball to the point that it cannot be replaced for accurate measurement to the satisfaction of both teams, then the point is awarded to the opposing team.

All measurements are to be done in the following manner:

1. The players that threw the balls will remain at the end of the court where they were shooting.
2. The teammates at the opposite end of the court will do the measuring.
3. Hold the measuring tape in one hand, gently slide the end of the tape to the inside edge of the ball closest to the pallino.
4. Stretch the tape over the center of the pallino.
5. Read the measurement to the center of the pallino.

AT NO TIME will any of the balls be moved during the measurement.

h. End of Game

It is the responsibility of the last teams playing to put away all the bocce equipment (balls, pallinos, tapes, etc.) and lock the equipment in the ball racks, turn off the lights, and lock all locks and the gates. Please test all the locks including the equipment shed and league box and make sure they are securely locked. Please change the numbers on the lock tumbler so that the combination is not readily displayed. Team captains shall enter their match results in the scorebook located in the box next to Court One. The scorebook shall be placed inside the box to prevent any weather damage to the scorebook.

i. Disputes

In the event a question or dispute arises during a game, any member of the Board of Directors that are present shall act as referees and their decision **shall be final**. At present (January 2026) the Board Members are Jay James, Joe Pane, Iggy Lopez-Alvarez, Catherine Travers, Steve Choe, John Leonard, Romano Luchini, Dennis Siebert, Albert Velasquez, Annette Miller, Ryan Tracy and Karen Finn.

j. Court/League Etiquette

Please observe court etiquette at ALL times and refrain from any actions or activities that might distract other players. Courtesy and respect to all shall be displayed at ALL times. Profanity and unsportsmanlike conduct WILL NOT be tolerated or permitted. The Board should be notified in writing of complaints regarding unsportsmanlike conduct, and the complaint will be addressed and responded to at the next scheduled Board meeting.

- 1) Smoking is prohibited and illegal on the courts AT ALL TIMES. (It is illegal per the City of Sacramento Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment regulations.)
- 2) Please limit cell phone usage to EMERGENCY calls only while in or around the court areas and while teams are playing game for league play.
- 3) NO children are to be on the court during matches unless they are a dues paid team member.
- 4) All Club members and guests are strongly encouraged to clean and pick up debris from the courts prior to vacating the premises. Trash, screw caps, recyclables, soda cans, etc. are to be discarded in the appropriate containers.

k. Safety

The personal safety of each Club member, guest, or visitor is of the utmost and primary importance. The prevention of play or facility induced injuries is of such consequence that it will be given precedence over all other league activities, whenever necessary. To the greatest degree possible, the Board of Directors, in keeping with the highest standards, will attempt to maintain our

facility while conforming to the best practices of clubs and facilities of this type.

To be successful, our program must embody proper attitudes toward safety and injury by ALL Club members, guests and visitors. Only through such a cooperative effort can safety, in the best interest of all, be established and preserved. Members, guests and visitors are requested to report all unsafe acts or conditions to the Board members IMMEDIATELY.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND SAFE PLAY