

MBBL

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Middletown Bocce Ball League?

The Middletown Bocce Ball League (MBBL) is being formed to provide entertainment and sociability seasoned with some competitive flavor for the residents in the greater Middletown area. MBBL is organized as a 501(c)(7) non-profit corporation with a Board of Directors responsible for League play at our bocce ball facility about a mile south of downtown Middletown. League play will start in 2019, with specific schedules posted on our Web site.

Will there be a meeting where I can learn about MBBL, League play, and rules and regulations?

Yes. There will be a general meeting for all members just before our first Season begins. We will describe MBBL, its activities, and its rules and regulations. We will answer any questions you may have, and we will provide all the information you need to become an MBBL member. The date, time, and location for this introductory meeting will be posted on this Web site.

What is Bocce Ball?

Bocce Ball, or more simply bocce, is a game similar to lawn bowling or curling. Specifically, a series of larger balls (bocce) are rolled toward a smaller target ball (pallino). The primary difference between bocce and those other two games is that bocce is usually played on a hard, sand court rather than grass or ice.

How is Bocce Ball played?

You can read our Rules and Regulations in another part of this Web site that offer more detail, but fundamentally, during a Game, teams alternately roll their bocce toward the pallino at the other end of the court. The team with the bocce nearest the pallino when all bocce have been rolled scores a point for each of their bocce closer to the pallino than the opposing team's nearest bocce. The first team to reach 12 points wins the Game, and three Games constitute a Match.

How long does a Match take?

A Match consists of three Games, and each Game is played until one team scores 12 points. On average, a Match can be completed in 2 1/2 hours.

How long are the Spring and Fall Seasons?

Each Season will be eight weeks long with a break of two weeks during mid-June.

What days of the week are Matches held, and what time do they start?

Matches will be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and/or Thursdays as we open League play. As more teams join MBBL, we will play on other days of the week as well. All Matches begin promptly at 6:00pm.

How many bocce courts does MBBL have?

We have two bocce courts currently, and when membership grows sufficiently, we will add additional courts.

Where are the MBBL bocce courts located?

Our bocce courts and other facilities will be located behind the church at 21433 Pine Street in Middletown. This is roughly halfway between Middletown and the Twin Pine Casino and Hotel off the West side of Highway 29.

How much does it cost to join MBBL?

Annual team membership fees covering play in both the Spring and Fall Seasons are \$40 per team member. Fees are due before Spring Season play commences in April.

Can I join MBBL as an individual?

Yes, you can sign up as an individual, but you will be a stand-by member until you become a permanent member of an existing team or form a new team. You are not charged a membership fee when you sign-up as a stand-by member, so you will pay your membership fee when you join a team.

How do I join MBBL?

It's easy. Get the agreement of at least four of your family, friends, neighbors, or associates to form a team. Choose a team name, designate a Captain and an Assistant Captain, and then fill out the online team application. Once you and your team members have signed the Liability Release form and paid your membership fee, your team is eligible for all the League play and good times that MBBL membership provides. See our Web site Home page for easy-to-follow instructions on joining MBBL.

How can my team membership fee be paid?

MBBL currently accepts checks and cash, and we hope to be able to accept credit card payments on our Web site in the future.

Is there a maximum or minimum age for joining MBBL?

No and yes. One of the most appealing features of bocce ball is that it can be played by anyone who can stand for a few minutes at a time and roll a two-pound bocce ball that's about the size of a softball. That said, we do restrict membership to age sixteen and over at this time.

How many team members play in a Game?

Two teams and four members from each team are needed to play a Game. Team A sends two members to each end of the court, and Team B does the same. Once the Game starts, bocce rolls alternate from each end of the court, and all players remain at their end of the court until the Game ends.

How do I decide how big my team should be?

Team size is a trade-off between maximizing playing time for each member (smaller team) and making sure that you can field a four-person team for each Match (larger team). We recommend forming at least a six-person team so that when a team member is unable to play a Match, you have a team member to fill in.

How do I form a team if I have less than four players?

MBBL will maintain a list of individual stand-by members who are available to join a team. We will list our stand-by members on our Web site, and you can contact them directly. Stand-by members may also act as substitute players to cover team member absences.

How often do I get to play during the year?

The answer depends on the size of your team. MBBL runs two Seasons of League play (Spring and Fall), and each Season consists of eight weeks of play several evenings per week. A member of a four-person team will play three Games per night for sixteen weeks or 48 Games annually. A member of an eight-person team will play fewer Games assuming all eight team members compete in different Games each night.

Who is responsible for representing a team when questions arise?

Each team designates a Captain ("Capo") and an Assistant Capo when they submit their membership sign-up. Team Capos speak for their team when questions arise. See the "MBBL Capo Responsibilities and Authorities" link on the Home page of our Web site.

Are there awards for the winning teams?

Yes. Season winners get individual awards, and some of them move on to the Annual Championship at the conclusion of Season play. Awards are presented for the first three places in the Annual Championship.

Do I have to attend every Match?

It depends. If your team has only four members and you want your best shot at a Season or Annual award, then you need to be available for every Match because if you don't show up , you team will play short-handed and won't be able to roll as many bocce as your opponent . . . obviously, a severe disadvantage. If you belong to a six- or eight-member team, then you can miss a Match and your teammates will be able to field the four-person team needed for each Game.

Is MBBL League play recreational or competitive?

Both. Some teams will be going after Season or Annual awards while others will get more out of the social aspects of getting together with friends, old and new.

Do I need my own set of bocce balls?

No. All of the equipment needed to play bocce is provided by MBBL. In fact, we cannot allow you to use your own bocce balls because we need to ensure that all Matches are played with identical equipment.

Can I bring my own food and beverages to a Match?

Absolutely. That's one of the appeals of playing bocce because it gives team members a chance to socialize, eat, and drink while their teammates are engaged in a game. Alcohol is allowed in moderation, and stable glass containers are encouraged since they're less likely to fall than plastic cups, and since we're on sod, breakage will be minimal. All garbage and refuse must be removed from the court area when you leave as we will have no refuse pick-up at the site.

Where can I sit when I'm not playing?

MBBL will provide picnic tables near the bocce courts so you can see much of the action while enjoying a break from the competition.

Can I park close to the bocce courts?

Yes. There is free parking in a paved lot just a short walk from the bocce courts.

Can I smoke at the bocce courts?

Smoking is permitted only in a designated part of the parking lot.