

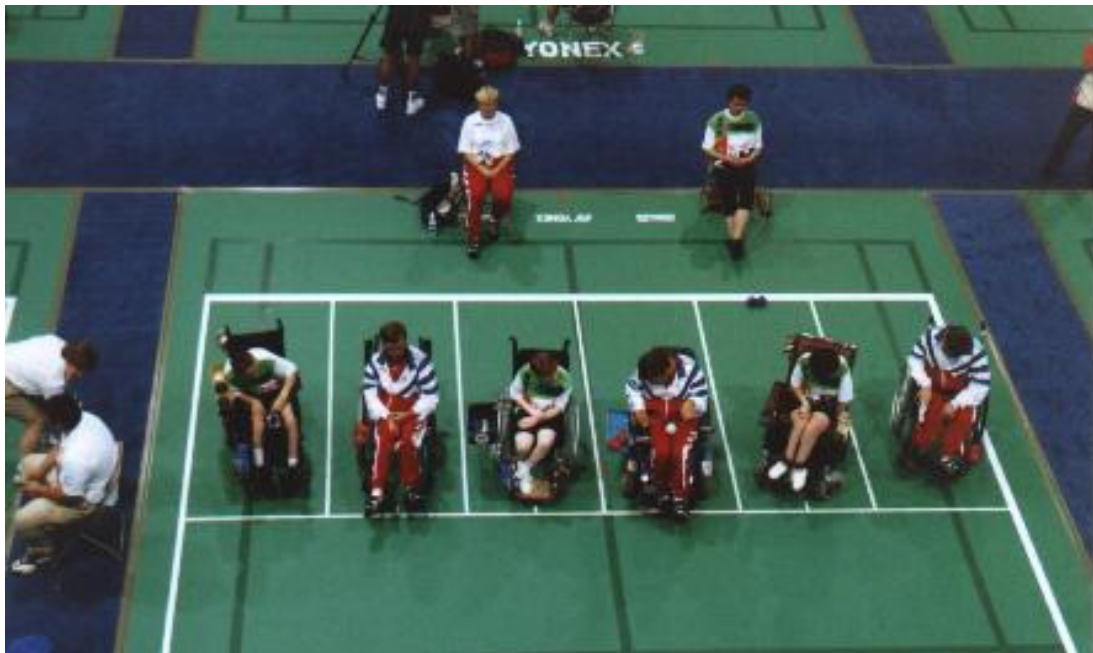
# Rules

## Boccia Game

Boccia (pronounced 'botcha') originates from a Greek ball tossing sport and is a cross between the Italian version of Bocce and lawn bowls. Boccia can be played by anyone socially but it was originally designed for people with cerebral palsy\* (However just recently the world body (IBC) that controls the sport has decided that athletes with other disabilities can compete in International competitions.) The sport can be played at many different levels from recreational up to Paralympic status. Boccia is sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and is a full Paralympic Sport

## Singles, Teams and Pairs

Boccia is a game that can be played by singles, pairs, or teams. The team's games consist of three players plus reserves. As in all sports a captain is appointed for the Boccia pairs and teams event. It is the captain's responsibility to implement the on court tactics. It's a game of precision, strategy and cunning, Like lawn bowls, accuracy and muscle control are everything. Subtle maneuvering takes place throughout the game, as players, in wheelchairs, throw, kick or use a ramp to propel leather balls as close as possible to the target, or jack.



## **Boccia classes**

The players are classified into classes and the criteria for these classes depend on the player's degree of disability. The classes also determine whether a player is required to throw, kick or use a ramp device to propel the ball onto the boccia court. (The ramp players use an assistant.)

## **The Jack (white ball)**

To begin the game a white ball - the 'jack' is thrown by the individual or team/pair member into a part of the court which advantages him/her or their team/pair. The white jack ball is thrown out by each individual in turn or by each team member in turn to start each end.

## **The Object of the game**

A game of Boccia consists of four ends in the singles and pairs but consists of six ends in the teams. The object of the game is for players/teams to get their coloured red or blue boccia balls closer to the jack than their opponents. The referee will spin a coin and the winning side chooses whether to play red or blue. The game begins with the red side throwing the jack ball onto the court following up with one of their coloured balls. Opponents then take turns playing balls' depending who is closest to the jack. The turns are determined by the player/team that has their balls furthest away from the jack. The individual or team/pair member who does NOT hold shot will play the next ball. When all the balls have been thrown the end is completed. At this stage the referee determines the points awarded to the individual or teams based on measurement on how many balls they have closer to the jack ball than their opponent. If the scores are equal at the finish of the game a tiebreaker end is played to find a winner.

## **Reserve player**

It is within the rules to have a reserve player for Pairs and Teams event. Between ends this reserve can substitute a player during a game. One substitution is permitted per game

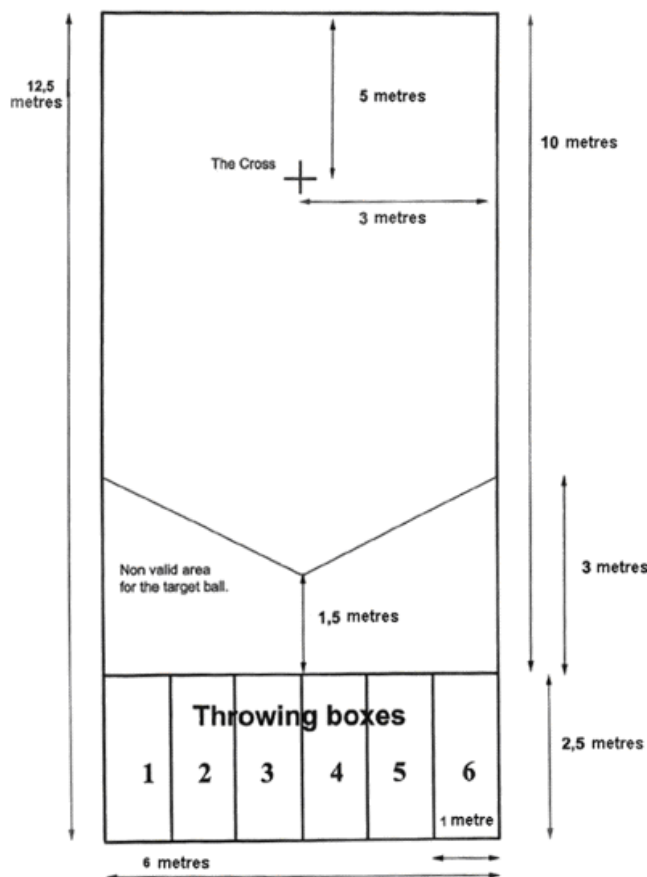
## **The Call Box**

At competitions players must go and wait in an area called a Call Box. Normally players must be in the Call Box fifteen minutes before the start of their game. Once in there the players can not leave, if they do they will be disqualified from that game. A referee will come and get the opponents from the Call Box and lead them onto the court to start the game.

## The Court

The game is played on an indoor court, which is on a hard smooth surface (Courts can be set up on virtually any hard surface.) A regulation Boccia court has two main areas: individual player boxes and a common playing area. The individual player boxes are equal in size and are where the players make their throws' from. Players and their equipment must remain completely within his or her box during play. The common playing area is where the playing and scoring occurs. It has a V line where the jack ball must cross before the end can commence. You can also see a cross marked on the court. This is used if the Jack ball is accidentally or even intentionally knocked outside of the playing area by a red or blue ball. If this happens, the referee will place the jack onto the cross and the game continues as normal.

## Boccia court layout



### **Ball specifications**

Boccia balls are mostly made by hand from natural or synthetic leather. Their approximate size is a circumference of 270mm, a size of a baseball and weight approximately 275gr. The balls are also available in different grades of softness and hardness.

Boccia Australia imports these balls for purchase throughout Australia



### **BC3 class**

The national and international class BC3 athletes are functionally unable to throw or kick the balls on to the court. Therefore these athletes use a ramp device to allow the athlete to propel their boccia balls onto the court. A player uses an assistant when using a ramp. The assistant sits with his or her back to the game in progress and is not allowed under any circumstances to view the playing court. Failure to comply with this rule leads to penalties and ultimately disqualification of player. Assistants must follow specific instructions from the player at all times.



### **Boccia opportunities**

This is a great game which can be played by anyone. It gives people many skills and opportunities. On court the players develop a tactical knowledge which includes the ability to think ahead and devise plans and strategies to combat opponents. For example experienced players hone their skills so that they can draw and drive their boccia balls with confidence to all parts of the court. They can also defend their led by blocking the pathway of their opponent's boccia balls. Off court the Players lifestyle is full of exciting new experiences including meeting and making friends from all over the country and the world.

### **Definition of C.P.**

Cerebral Palsy is a physical disability affecting muscle function and control. The consequence of this is that Co-ordination is impaired in various degrees.