



2022 Boccia Australia Rule Changes to comply with COVID Safety - referees

In the observance of these changes, commonsense must be used

- **Masks.** Please wear a mask unless you have a medical reason. It may be necessary for some athletes to remove their mask to communicate with their support worker.
- **Gloves.** There are only one-size-fits-all gloves available. They are single use. If you wish to use them, you will need to take several with you on court. Bins should be available to discard after use. I have asked for hand sanitizer at the timekeepers' desks as well as referees table. Please use frequently particularly before and after handling referee equipment.
- **On Court Social Distancing.** Athletes and their sports assistant will be required to move out into the next box before their opponent and their sport assistant move into their box to play their shot – the Boccia Dance. The time clock will not start until they are in their box. In box should be 4 wheels and/ or 2 feet. The process is: the referee shows the paddle to the player then waits for them to be in their box before showing the paddle to the timekeeper.
 - Each athlete will have a one minute warm up on court before each game - most BC3s only need to put 3 or 4 balls down. This will allow the social distancing. The Referee calls 15 seconds then time.
 - Players are asked to move quickly into their box –hurry the Ramp Operator (RO) if they appear to be taking too long.
 - Rammers may prefer to stay outside to line up (rather than come in then out). If so, the clock starts as soon as they start lining up.
 - Athletes may go directly onto the court to look at the Head. The clock starts as soon as they cross the base line into the court.
 - Athletes going onto the court to check measures at the finish of an end should maintain social distancing.
- **Handling balls.** Balls are only to be handled by the athlete and their sport assistant.
 - If a ball must be moved by the referee, they should use single use gloves/ hand sanitizer
 - Jacks will not be handled by the referee. They can be placed on the side of the court. Or remain in the athlete's box throughout the game.
 - Balls not thrown should be put by the Sports Assistant or RO into the empty box next to the playing box.
 - Should a referee need to move a ball on court they use wear gloves/hand sanitizer.
 - If a ball leaves the court, try to avoid using your hands to control the ball, using your bat instead. Line balls up along the side of the court.
 - Athletes in all classifications are encouraged to have a sport assistant near the court who will collect the balls for their player at the finish of each end.

- If an athlete does not have a sports assistant they may ask the referee to handle their balls. If the referee is comfortable doing this then do so, otherwise find a sports assistant or the Head Referee.