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History and Theory of Games  
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### Bocce

The game I chose to write about is called “Bocce.” I came across this game while remembering games I used to play with my grandmother. She was from Italy and this is a game she used to play as a child and as an adult. She has passed away so I wasn’t able to interview her but my father grew up playing the game as well while he lived in Italy and from his mother playing the game with him, so I was able to get the information about the game from him.

The game of “Bocce” is a boules game in close relation to bowls and petanque, which were developed in the Roman Empire. The present form of bocce was developed in Italy. Bocce is a game that can be played almost anywhere, to play a real game of bocce, it’s played on a bocce court which is a rectangle that is 76’ long and 10’ wide and the border edges are 1’ 6” high. Bocce has been played as an actual sport game where there are competitions between teams, but families who want something to play together also play it as a family game. Bocce is a very old game so it appeals more to elderly people who grew up with the game, but it is can really be played by anyone old enough to understand the rules and hold the balls that are required for playing.

When playing bocce, the players must stand in certain spots so they don’t break the rules. The players pick a side of the rectangle that will be side where they throw the balls. From the backboard of that side the players have 10’ into the court for throwing

the balls. The 10' mark is the foul line; you must stand behind that mark for the ball thrown to count towards play. All players throw from the same side.

Bocce is either played by families or sport team. If you're playing bocce with your family then it's a very social game, so the game is fun and environment while playing is fun making the game for a nice relaxing game that can still be competitive. If you're playing bocce on a team for sport then the emotions of the game may be more aggressive and the game may be more competitive, but that doesn't mean that the game isn't still fun.

Bocce has a very limited amount of equipment needed for playing the game. There is a bocce court that can be used, but isn't entirely necessary unless you're playing in a competition; otherwise you can just play in your back yard, the front lawn, the beach or any other flat surface. You also need the bocce balls. These consist of eight larger balls called "bocci" and one smaller ball called the "pallino." If you've got all this, you can play a game of bocce.

Bocce consists of a few unique terms used to describe parts of playing the game. These definitions are:

"Bocce" – one of the eight large main ball used for play, these balls are usually colored with four being all one color and another four being another color,

"Bocci" – the plural term for bocce,

"Pallino" – the smaller ball used as the center point for what your throwing your bocce towards, this ball is also colored and it is a different color than the bocce,

"Baci kiss" – the term refers to a bocce that is touching the pallino after thrown and is awarded 2 points if it stays in place touching the pallino at the end of the giro,

“Foul line” – the line that designates where the player can’t cross while throwing their bocci and it is 10’ from the border of the side that you are throwing from,

“Volo line” – this line designates where the pallino must go past on the initial throw,

“Inside” – this refers to the position of the player or team who has a ball closest to the pallino,

“Outside” – this refers to the position of the player or team who doesn’t have a ball closest to the pallino,

“Giro” – the term refers to the scoring period of each round,

“Giri” – the plural term for giro,

“Round” – the term used to describe each play of throwing all the bocci and scoring points.

These words are used in presenting the rules of the game and are used during gameplay.

Bocce is a very simple game to get the hang of; the rules are very easy to learn and it’s very easy get a game going once the rules are learned.

The rules of bocce are:

- First off you need to find the place where you’re going to play the game. You can any flat surface you can find or you can use a regulation bocce court, which is 76’ long and 10’ wide.
- Next you need to divide the players up into teams. You can play with one, two, or four players per team. You split the bocci in half keeping the bocci of the same color on one team. If you play with one player per team then each player gets four bocci of the same color, if you’re playing with two players per team then each player gets two bocci of the same color, and if your playing with four players

per team then each player gets one bocce. Each player with the same color bocci is on the same team.

- The team to start the game is decided randomly by using a coin or another method of randomly choosing the starting team.
- The starting team then has a player throw the pallino from behind the foul line onto the court and passed the volo line.
- Then the player who started also throws one of their bocce towards the pallino trying to get it as close as possible to the pallino. This team is now considered to be “inside” team since they have the only ball thrown onto the court making it the closest to the pallino. Since they’re the “inside” team they must now let the other team throw their bocci since they’re the “outside” team.
- The “outside” team throws their bocce towards the pallino trying to get it closer than the “inside” teams bocce. This team continues to throw their bocci until they become the “inside” team which would mean the other team becomes the “outside” team and they now throw or they keep throwing until they run out of bocci to throw and then play is then given back to the “inside” team to let them finish throwing their bocci.
- This method of play continues until all eight bocci have been thrown.
- The team with the closest bocce to the pallino is awarded one point for each of it’s bocci that are closer to the pallino than the other team’s closest bocce.
- If the two teams closest bocci to the pallino are an equal distance from the pallino, then no points are awarded to either team.

- The giro ends once all eight bocce have been thrown and all points have been awarded to the winning team.
- The scoring team from the last giro starts the next giro. If no points were awarded in the last giro than the team that threw the pallino last begins the next giro.
- You play as many giri as is necessary for a team to reach 9 points in which that team is then declared the winner. (15 point rounds are used in international tournaments.)

The game of bocce is simple enough to pick up and start a game right away. Some boundary rules that may be seen in the game are that if a person steps over the foul line they are penalized by that bocce not being counted as a throw. Also, a player is not allowed to touch the bocci after it has been thrown passed the foul line. There are also no throw re-do's allowed, after the bocce has left your hand it can not be picked up again until the end of the giro.

There aren't very many strategies to use while playing Bocce. It's really a game of skill and some luck. A good thing that a player can try to do is throw their bocce at an opponents bocce to try and make it farther away from the pallino and they can try to hit the pallino to move it closer to their bocci. Also, practice always helps you to get better and get used to throwing the bocci so that your throws are more consistent.

The game of Bocce is meaningful in the sense of the player throwing their bocci towards the pallino. The game responds in the sense of scoring those bocci that are closest to the pallino and not scoring the bocci that are farther away from the pallino. This makes the player want to make their throws more accurate in order to gain points and win the game.

The impact of the game on the audience of players and non-players is pretty big. Players may get anxious, scared, nervous, happy, or sad among other things while playing Bocce. If a player is about to win then they may feel happy, and if a team is about to win then the non-players who want that team to win might be happy too. If non-players don't want that team to win then they might be sad if they're winning, and if a team is losing they might be sad that they won't win. The game also gets people active in something and gets people outside and moving around and socializing with other people. It helps bring people together as do most other games.

The game of Bocce is a good game for everyone to play since it is so easy to start a game and to play the game. It helps bring families together to play a nice relaxing game or friends together to play a game. The game itself isn't so easy as to not be enjoyable and not complex but it is easy enough to play and to enjoy it while still competing with the other players and having fun.