

THE VILLAGES BOCCE CLUB

BASIC BOCCE COURT ETIQUETTE

1. Be polite and courteous to your teammates and opponents. When it is your turn to throw, be ready and do not delay.
2. Bocce is meant to be a sociable game, so just have fun. After a frame ends help return the balls to the corresponding rack. Learn and use the scoring hand signals.
3. Step off the bocce court when it is not your turn to throw. Make exceptions for handicapped or elderly players who have trouble getting on and off the courts.
4. Do not pick up the balls until it is your turn to throw, leave them on the court or in the rack. When it is your turn to throw, you may pick up and hold two balls if it improves your balance. **NO BALLS** are to be taken off the court or placed on the umbrella table during play.
5. Do not step on the other court if a game is in progress.
6. Do not stand on the divider between the courts.
7. Do not sit on the tables at the ends of the courts.
8. Be considerate when someone is making a shot by not talking and keep cell phone usage at a minimum.
9. If you have non-resident guests (adults or children) you or an informed adult should be present at the courts to make sure these rules of etiquette are observed.
10. Do not leave it up to other residents to supervise your guests playing bocce. It is uncomfortable for everyone.
11. Record only your own score, unless opponents ask you to record their score. During tournaments do not touch or kick the balls until final measurements and points have been made and announced by the referee. If you should accidentally move a ball during measuring, your team will be forced to forfeit the point since proper measurement can no longer be made.
12. If asked, be willing to referee. A referee determines the number of points scored by a team in a frame and lets all team players know the call.
13. Step back if you see that your shadow is falling on the court while a player is aiming and preparing to throw his/her ball.
14. Our scoreboard and bulletin board are very close to teams playing at the clock end of the courts. To avoid distracting players, please do not carry on conversations in that area during active games.
15. The new player benches (located at each corner of the courts) are for **“players only”** during game/tournament play.
16. The last person to leave the bocce courts should make sure that all balls are put away in the cabinet, the score boards are covered, and the umbrellas are carefully closed.
17. The Villages rules state that **“No Pets”** are allowed on or near any sports venue, including bocce courts. If you must bring a pet, make sure it is confined to your cart or tethered to a table or tree far enough from the courts so it will not disturb the players.

(Revised January 2020)