



## ***Special Olympics*** ***Georgia***

### **BOCCE**

#### **GENERAL RULES**

The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall govern all Special Olympics Bocce competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon the International Federation for Bocce rules for Bocce competition. International Federation for Bocce rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules shall apply.

#### **OFFICIAL EVENTS OFFERED**

1. Mixed Unified Team – Any combination of males and females (1 Special Olympics Athlete and 1 Unified Partner)
2. Traditional Team – Any combination of males and females (4 Special Olympics Athletes)

#### **SECTION A – GENERAL RULES**

1. Competition will follow the International Federation for Bocce rules except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules.
2. Athletes will follow bracket play as assigned prior to competition.
3. All Athletes and Unified Partners are required to have assessment scores submitted prior to competition.
4. Athletes or Unified Partners in a wheelchair are able to compete only if they are able to transport the ball, and release the ball, independently.
5. All Athletes and Unified Partners on a team must be able to roll the ball independently.
6. Legal line up for team competition:
  - a. A Traditional Team must register 4 Athletes for a Traditional Team to be eligible. However, if a team is short-handed, the legal line up shall consist of three players with the fourth position counted as a “blind” roll. (The 4<sup>th</sup> ball is considered a “dead ball”).
  - b. A Unified Team must register 1 Athlete and 1 Unified Partner to be eligible. NOTE: The “blind” roller on a short-handed Unified Team can only be a Unified Partner. (If this

occurs, 2 balls are considered “dead balls”). If the Athlete drops from competition, the team will forfeit all remaining games of the competition.

- c. No “Alternate” players can be entered on Games paperwork.
  - d. If teams show up for competition and a player becomes ill and is unable to compete, the team will either follow the “blind” rules or forfeit from competition. **NO SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE MADE AFTER COMPETITION BEGINS.**
7. Any team late or missing a bracketed game time, will forfeit that spot in the bracket and be placed in the loser’s bracket for competition.
  8. Any protests or rules infractions must be brought to the attention of the sports rules committee.
  9. Coaches, chaperones, parents, etc. are not allowed on the playing field during competition. Once competition begins, coaches and spectators are not allowed to coach.

**NOTE:** “Special Needs Athlete or Unified Partner” – If Special Needs is noted, this athlete’s coach will be allowed on the field for consultation with the volunteer during a special time period set up just prior to the beginning of competition. A “special needs athlete” is one who has a communication limitation, hearing impairment, visual impairment, or behavioral need.

10. Athletes and volunteers are not allowed to smoke, eat food or drink during competition. Water will be provided for hydration.
11. Athletes, coaches, volunteers or any other Special Olympics supporters are not allowed to smoke at the competition site. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs are prohibited from all Special Olympics events.
12. Uniforms / clothing – Athletes must be neat in their dress and wear proper bocce clothing. No cut off shorts or shirts with advertising will be allowed. Teams must wear like shirts. No jeans or camouflage (pants, capris, or shorts) shall be worn for competition. It is suggested that players wear khaki or colored shorts, slacks, or sweat pants and a collared shirt or nice tee.  
**Closed toed shoes must be worn!**

## **SECTION B – RAMP BOCCE**

1. Ramp Bocce is not offered at this time. Therefore, all Athletes and Unified Partners must be able to participate independently in order to compete.

**6/9/10**