

2026 Special Olympics Montana Bocce Information

STATE SUMMER GAMES DATES AND LOCATIONS

Thursday May 14th – Herb Klindt Field (Rocky Mountain College Campus)

- Traditional Doubles and Half-Court Modified Singles Bocce – 9:00am-3:30pm

Friday May 15th – Herb Klindt Field (Rocky Mountain College Campus)

- Unified Doubles Bocce – 9:00am-3:30pm

COMPETITION REMINDERS

- Credentials MUST be worn to the team check-in and marshaling area to ensure the proper doubles pair and singles competitors are competing on the correct court. Without credentials, pairs and singles competitors will not be escorted to their court. Credentials do not need to be worn during competition.
- Competitors and coaches should only be in the staging area during their scheduled check-in time. At no time should other team members or coaches enter the staging or competition area unless they are checking in or competing. Please stay in the team area until the designated 30-minute check-in time ahead of your pair or individuals first game. There will be warm-up courts available to use once you check in for competition.
- The bocce schedule is final. There will be no substitutions or changes made for bocce pairs or singles competitors at the State Summer Games. If a member of a pair scratches, the doubles team scratches. Schedules may be modified by the SOMT Sports Department if full pair or singles scratches occur (as needed).
- Coaches are not allowed to coach their athlete or Unified partner from the sidelines. Coaches must stay off the turf field and behind any barriers set in place by the competition director and venue director. **Exception: Half Court Singles (referenced below under Modified Competition) and registered 1:1's.*
 - **Modified Half Court Singles:** A 1:1 assistant is allowed to be on the turf. Coaching in Half Court singles is permitted. Please register the 1:1 on the roster and final registration.
 - **Doubles:** Coaching is not allowed at any time when the competitor is in the kitchen on the court. 1:1's are allowed for athletes who need additional support, but it MUST be recorded on the roster/registration. 1:1's may assist the athletes into the kitchen (competition area), but may not converse or coach once they are in the kitchen. If a 1:1 walks onto the courts and was not approved ahead of time, the competition committee, officials, and venue director reserve the right to move through unsportsmanlike conduct protocol: 1)Warning 2) Point awarded to the other pair 3) Forfeit of the game. These sanctions will remain through round robin play.
- Officials are being recruited, but if there are not enough officials on the courts, the Venue Director may ask coaches or team volunteers to help measure and keep score. Coaches and team volunteers may not keep score or measure on a court where one of their doubles or singles teams is playing. They may not coach when down on the turf infield when assisting*. Please be respectful of the game and the rules.
- Please highlight your pairs and singles competitors' game times on the bocce schedule. When submitting your bocce pairs and single competitors on the roster and registration, please indicate both members of the pair's first initial and last name along with any team name the pair chooses (i.e. Teddy Bears - R.Smith/B.Bush).
- The playing surface will be turf, with pvc courts.

RULES

Updated competition rules will be implemented for the 2026 State Summer Games. They can be found here:



BOCCE

UNIFORMS

- Team shirts must be worn. Collared shirts are preferred, but matching shirts with the program or team name are allowed.
- NO JEANS (denim). Athletic Pants, Khakis of any color, or athletic shorts are required.
- Closed toe shoes are REQUIRED.

RAMPS

Ramps must be approved by the SOMT Sports Department and ramp use MUST be indicated on the final registration.

IMPORTANT:

Athletes who cannot throw the bocce ball more than 20 feet and demonstrate a lower ability level, must register for Half-Court Singles.

This placement supports fair competition and athlete success.

Coaches should evaluate ability level carefully before registering athletes for Traditional or Unified Doubles.

Bocce Rating Levels for Divisioning

Special Olympics Montana Staff and competition directors will use this information to division doubles teams and half court modified singles teams for competition.

Using the criteria below as a guide, please rate each of your bocce doubles or half court modified individual players in one of the 3 levels. Please be sure that this information is indicated in registration materials for every doubles pair or half court modified singles player on your team.

Higher Ability Level

- Experienced pair or individual or high ability for a new pair or individual
- Usually wins matches against other teams in training
- Has ability to score multiple points in frames often
- One or both players are very accurate on a variety of distances
- Understands strategy

Medium Ability Level

- Pair or individual has some experience or ability
- Wins some matches against other teams or individuals in training
- Some accuracy at a variety of distances
- Some understanding of strategy

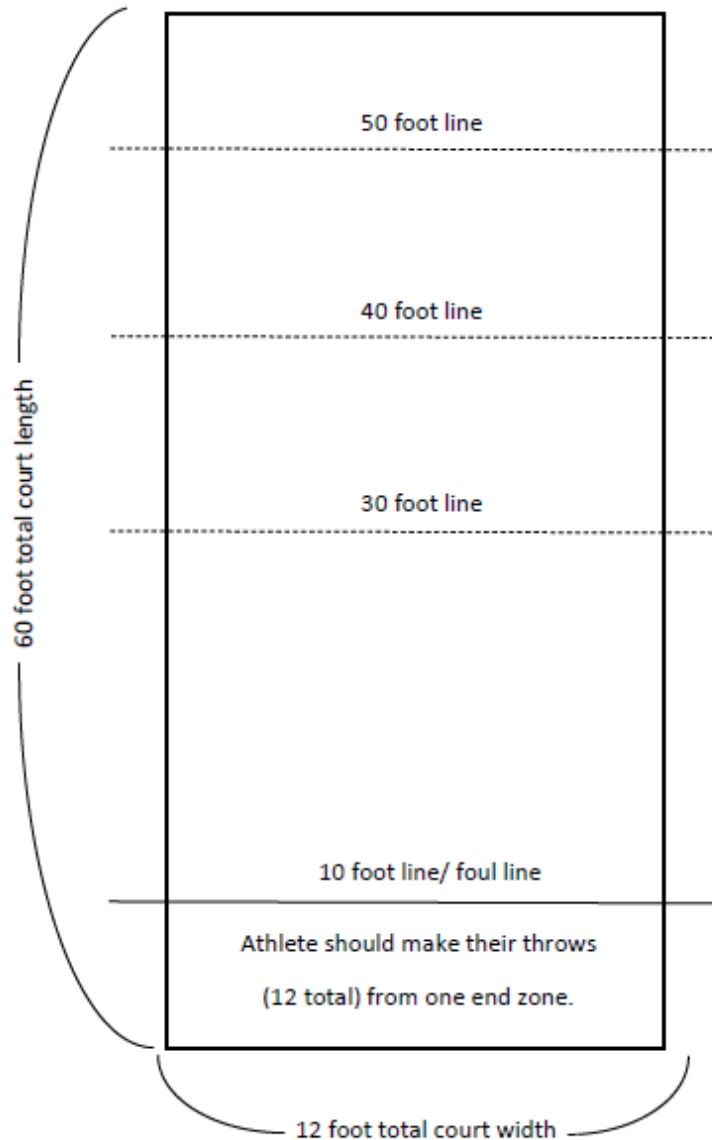
Low Ability Level

- Inexperienced team or individual
- Usually loses matches against other teams in training
- Lacks accuracy at some or all distances
- Lacks understanding of strategy

Bocce Scoring for Divisioning

Step-by-Step

- 1) Have the competitor stand in one end zone.
- 2) Coach will place the pallina at the 30 ft. line (half-court).
- 3) Competitor plays 4 balls.
- 4) Record the distance of all 4 balls to the pallina.
- 5) Coach will place the pallina at the 40 ft. line.
- 6) Repeat steps 3 and 4.
- 7) Coach will place the pallina at the 50 ft. line (opposite end zone's foul line).
- 8) Repeat steps 3 and 4.



Instructions on how to submit scores on registration

- 1- All measurements need to be made from the center of the pallina to the center of all four balls.
- 2- All measurements need to be done and recorded in centimeters.
- 3- To submit scores, add together all 12 measurements to calculate the athlete's score. For doubles, the athlete(s) and/or partner scores in pair should be added together. For half court modified singles, the athlete will start at the 30 ft end line and use the same measurements for pallina placement.

Modified Competition – Half Court Singles & Half Court Singles Ramp

- 1) **Half Court Singles Competition** is intended for lower ability athletes who cannot toss the bocce or pallina ball 20 feet or more. This is a singles event only.
- 2) **Half Court Singles Ramp Competition** is for athletes who do not have the physical ability to roll with their hand or hands. This is a singles event only.
- 3) When participant numbers do not allow for separate events, ramp and non-ramp competitors will be divisioned together.
- 4) Athletes should be prepared to throw a bocce ball ranging anywhere in size from 107mm to 113mm in this event.
- 5) Athletes with anatomical challenges (cerebral palsy, etc...) will be permitted leniency on underhand throwing rules and will be permitted to deliver the bocce ball in an overhand method if necessary.
- 6) Please note that the following modifications to the rules will apply to Half Court Singles Competition.
 - a. The court
 - i. This event will be played on a 12ft x 30ft court. Sidelines will be along the entire length of the court. The end line will be the 'foul' line. There will be no centerline in half court, so the pallina ball can end up anywhere on the court.
 - b. Athletes will always throw from only one direction in half court bocce.
 - c. Should the "three attempt rule" need to be employed in half court bocce, then the pallina will be placed 20ft from the throwing line in the center of the court (equal distance from each sideline).
 - d. Winning scores for Half Court Singles Competition = 8 points.
 - e. *Coaching in Half Court singles Competition is permitted, but only when an athlete is not at the foul line preparing to throw the ball. Once the athlete prepares to take his/her turn, then coaching is no longer allowed.
 - f. All ramps and other assistance devices may be used with the approval of the SOMT Sports Department.
 - i. If a ramp is used, the athlete can position the ball with or without assistance and pushes the ball down the ramp towards the target. An assistant (coach or volunteer) may help guide, align, or direct the ramp and athlete, but may not assist with the balls forward movement. In the divisioning process, the Sports Department will consider half court bocce players by overall ability and level of assistance needed in an effort to provide fair and meaningful competition for all. Please indicate any assistance needs on the registration form.
 - g. The half-court game will be played according to Special Olympics bocce rules, except where noted above.
 - h. Half Court Diagram

