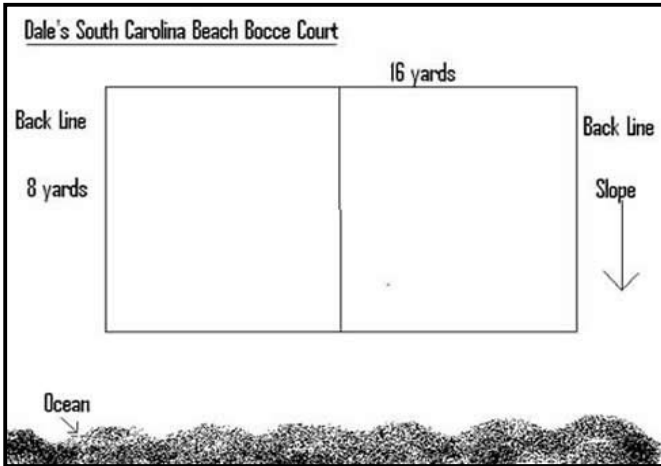


DALE'S SOUTH CAROLINA BEACH BOCCE RULES

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Court Location These rules are designed for playing bocce on a smooth, compacted, beach sand surface, when the tide is out. **Selecting the perfect court area** - Look for smooth, compacted sand, with a gentle slope toward the water. The slope is the BOMB in this game! You have to play the break. If there is no slope, you really miss this fun and challenging element. But be aware - if the slope is too steep, you will not be able to stop the ball and it will constantly roll out of bounds.

Draw the Court - Get a stick or sharp object several feet long and use it to draw the boundary lines for the court in the sand. The boundary line should be a very solid cut in the sand. The court looks like a singles tennis court. Draw it 16 yards long and 8 yards wide, with a dividing line in the middle, so you have two connected 8 yard squares. I use a yard (or meter if you are a metric person) because you can step it off without a measuring tape. For those non-USA-football people, one really big step is basically 1 yard. **IMPORTANT** - Remember to position the court over the sloping area you selected, with the 16 yard length being parallel to the water. Here's the picture.



Winning - Games are to 13 points.

Start the game

- **Singles** - Both players begin on the same end of the court, standing behind the boundary line. Each player has 4 balls of the same color. For example, one has 4 red balls and one has 4 green balls.
- **Doubles** - Each end of the court has a player from each team. The two opponents at one end each have the 4 balls for their team.
- Choose the player or team who will start first by throwing the white ball. In subsequent games between these two players, the loser throws first.
- The first player stands behind the back boundary line, anywhere along the back line they wish, and throws or rolls the white ball across the mid-court line, making the ball come to rest within the boundary of the far court. The player has two chances at getting the white ball to come to rest in the far court. After two chances, the other player gets two chances, and so on.
 - **NOTE** - it is perfectly ok for the white ball to roll out-of-bounds and

come back into the boundary area. This happens frequently in playing the break, when you are trying to place the white ball at the highest part of the course. You may throw it in the out-of-bounds area and let the ball roll down into the court.

- If the ball comes to rest on a boundary line, the ball is considered "in."

- Once the white ball has come to rest in the far court, that same player who threw the white ball that stayed in the court throws the first bocce ball. The bocce balls are to be behind the boundary line, generally lined up along the back boundary line. In order to count, the bocce ball must come to rest in the far court. Just as with the white ball, the bocce ball may roll out-of-bounds and back in, and it is considered "in" if it comes to rest on the line. If the first bocce ball does not make it inside the boundary lines for the far court, the same player continues to throw one ball at a time, until they get a bocce ball to come to rest in the far court, or until they run out of balls. Once getting a ball in the far court, this ball is the closest bocce ball to the white ball.
- Now it is the other player's time to throw their first bocce ball. That player will continue to throw one ball at a time until one of their bocce balls has come to rest in the far court, closer to the white ball than their opponent's ball.
- Once this player's ball is closer to the white ball, then the other player throws one bocce ball at a time until their ball is closer to the white ball than the closest ball of their opponent.
- This back-and-forth continues until the players are out of balls. Note that once a player has thrown all his bocce balls, the other player then throws all his remaining balls, one at a time.

Scoring - The player with the closest bocce ball to the white ball gets a point for that ball, and also gets a point for every other ball that player has which is closer to the white ball than their opponent's closest ball. Again, to be counted, the bocce ball must be within the boundary line of the far court.

Playing - Once the first round is over, the players begin the second round at the opposite end of the court from the first round, and so on.

- If you are playing doubles, the balls are then rolled to be behind the back boundary line where the other players have been waiting. These players will be throwing the white ball and their bocce balls toward the far court (from their perspective), in the same fashion as set out above.
- Remember, the loser of a round is the first one to throw the white ball in the next round.
- Do not move a ball that has come to rest in-bounds until the round is over and scored.
- The first player or team to score 13 points wins that game.

Strategy & Tips

- **Hitting the white ball** - It is perfectly ok to hit the white ball with your ball. If the white ball gets knocked out during a round, there is no penalty and a new round is started, with the same player throwing first. **Strategy Note:** If your opponent's ball is very close to the white ball and you don't think you can get closer, you may want to roll hard and try to hit the white ball, knocking it away from your opponent's ball and hopefully closer to your balls. You may even want to knock the white ball out-of-bounds. Better to start over than to lose the round.
- **Hitting your opponent's ball** - It is perfectly ok to hit your opponent's ball with your ball. Wherever your opponent's ball stops after you hit it is where it stays, even if it goes out-of-bounds. **Strategy Note:** If your opponent's ball is very close to the white ball, or if it is otherwise in your way, roll hard and try to hit your opponent's ball, knocking it away from the white ball, or out of your way, or out of bounds. This is a very useful tactic, so get good at it.
- **Rolling/Throwing the Bocce balls** - How you throw the bocce balls depends on you and the court. Some people roll the balls like bowling balls. Some lob them like throwing a slow-pitch softball underhanded. Personally, I like throwing the ball like a shot-put. I find that I can control the ball best this way, and get the ball to cover a distance without putting a lot of velocity on the ball.
- **Placement of the white ball** - Pay attention to the strength and weakness of your opponent. For example, maybe your opponent is really good if the white ball is close to the center line. Then, you may want to throw the white ball toward the back of the court, when it is your turn. Also, when the white ball is thrown very close to a boundary line, it requires more skill to get close to the white ball and not go out of bounds.
- **Using your feet** - After a round is scored, I generally don't try to pick-up the balls and carry them to the start of the next round. I just use my feet to roll the to the back boundary line, soccer style. It is kinda fun.