**The Lucy Berry USA Boccia MidWest Regionals -KC**

**May 4-5, 2024**

**Time is precious. Both in Life and in Boccia**

Dear Athletes and Coaches:

This is a very special tournament because it has been dedicated to Lucy Berry, whose life ended way too soon this past year. She and her family have contributed so much to Boccia and especially this tournament in the Kansas City area over the years, and we will feel her impact for years.

**Location** : Blue Valley NORTH High School

12200 Lamar Ave, Overland Park, KS 66209

* Use the Main Entrance (on 123rd St.) - There is a BIG Mustang Statue in the front of the building.
* Come through the Front Doors. Registration will be in the Entry. The Gym is to your left.

**Schedule:**

**Friday, May 3**

* 4:00-7:00 pm Classification is at Blue Valley NORTH High School

For Friday Classification – Use the Main Entrance and follow the signs to the Classification room.

If you do not have an official USA Boccia Classification, you must attend Classification on Friday, May 3. To schedule your classification time, contact Cathy Drobny cathy.drobny@gmail.com

* 4:30 pm Referee Training starts (come as you are able!)

If interested, contact Micah Flora-Swick mfloraswick49@gmail.com

**Saturday, May 4**

* 8:00 am building opens
* 8:30 am Call Room opens for the 9:00 am games
* 9:00 am-6:00 pm Tournament

**Sunday, May 5** 9:00 am -2:00 Tournament, followed by Award Ceremony

**Food:**

* An award-winning BBQ Lunch will be provided on Saturday - Opens at 11:30 If you are on court, be sure to send word to the kitchen to reserve your lunch!
* Snacks and bottled water are available Saturday and Sunday.
* You are welcome to bring your own food and water into the gym.

For “all things” for the Lucy Berry USA Boccia MidWest Regionals KC, go to the [www.usaboccia](http://www.usaboccia).org website

Choose the Tournament tab. Or use this link <https://usaboccia.org/blue-valley-usa-boccia-regional-tournament/>

**The** **Link for the tournament schedule and results will be sent out after classification on Friday night by e-mail from Kevin Berry.** Please contact Kevin if you cannot attend the tournament, **berrybasher@gmail.com**

**A Special Tribute to Lucy Berry**

This opportunity is open to Athletes and their Staff and to Game Staff.

If you’d like to be a part of a special salute to Lucy, there will be a paper in the call room. You will sign it and take it into the call room with you at the time of your first game. Let your referee know that you plan to present it on court prior to your 2-min. warm up. The referee will start the warm up clock and all on that court will pause for 20sec. Your time will be extended, if you need it, in order to complete your warm up. After the tournament, the papers will be given to the Berry family. The paper says, “I choose to let the precious time tick (symbolically) as I remember a great friend to USA Boccia.”

**Boccia Rules:**

The tournament will follow the BISFed International Boccia Rules 2021-2024 v.2.2

Male and Female Athletes will be combined. Divisions are: BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4, BC5 and Open

If the numbers in your division are small, the tournament will combine divisions in order to give you at least 3 games.

Balls are not required to have an official stamp. Balls will randomly be weighed and measured in the call room.

There will be a set of ball measuring equipment in the gym for you to test your equipment.

The on court 2-minute warm-ups will be held simultaneously.

**Rules to be featured at the Lucy Berry USA Boccia Midwest Regional**

* Call Room = a designated area where you gather before your match. You check in at the call room desk and then go to your court # that is posted IN the call room. Bring all you staff and equipment with you when you check in to the call room. The rule 7.4.1 For Individual Divisions, all Athletes must be registered between thirty (30) and fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time of a match in which they are scheduled to participate. Once in the call room you do not leave until your referee leads you to court.
* *The call room rules will be relaxed, and no games will be automatically forfeited if you are there in a reasonable amount of time.*
* 2.1 Coaches will be allowed in the call room and on the court per the rules. One Coach or one Coaching Assistant may accompany each side in all divisions to the Court. During each end the coach/coaching assistant must sit in the designated area at the end of the court. If you wish to assist an athlete in between Ends, you need to come to the call room with the athlete and accompany the athlete to court.
* The Coach may approach their athlete in between Ends AFTER the referee announces, “1 minute.” The Coach should go back to their bench at the end of the court when the ref/or timekeeper calls 15 seconds. Sports Assistants and Ramp Operators may talk to their athlete during the 1-minute session between Ends. All communication must End (except by the athlete whose turn it is) when the referee presents the Jack (or begins the End)
* Out of the way Rule: 10.6.1 All Athletes must be “Out of the Way” to allow opponents free access to the playing area. Getting “Out of the Way” must be done quickly. In the BC3 Division ROs and equipment (including the ramp and RO’s chair) must be “out of the way”. An athlete is also allowed to ask their opponent to move. As we get used to this rule, the refs at this KC tournament will ask you to move if you forget.
* **You need to move completely out of your box when it is your opponent’s turn to play.**

**For BC3 ramp players, your Ramp Operator can go into an open adjacent area.**

* 10.14 Dropped ball: If an Athlete drops a ball, it may be replayed. Balls that land in the playing area are "balls in play" Balls that stay on or behind the throwing line, even in the opponent’s throwing box, are "dropped" and may be replayed. There is no limit to the number of times a ball may be replayed, and the Referee is the sole arbiter. In this case, time will not be stopped. ● As long as the ball is not fully grasped by the athlete (e.g. while picking up a ball from anywhere the ball is stored or while the assistant is giving the ball to the athlete, or while placing the ball on the ramp), any ball that drops is clearly dropped by accident and unrelated to throwing. The ball is returned to the athlete, regardless of where it lands. ● Once the athlete holds the ball and has started shot preparation and/or execution, if that ball is then dropped, it is only returned to the athlete if it has not entered the playing area.
* BC3 ramp players must do a two-way swing, 8” to the left and right, for Individual Competition

 Rule: 4.1.6 1) After the Jack is presented and before the release of the Jack.

2) In a tie-break, prior to propelling their first colored ball

3) Before propelling a penalty ball

4) After going out onto the court on their time to look at the balls, before they

propel their ball.

If you don’t make the 2-way swing, the penalty is Retraction of the thrown ball.

* We will be using electronic scoreboards and timekeeping.

There will be balls available to borrow in the call room. Let your referee know if you need to use tournament balls. If you bring your own balls into the call room, you may only use tournament balls to replace any balls that you are missing.

There will be equipment available in the gym for you to use to see if your personal Boccia Balls have the legal size and weight and density.

If you have questions about the rules, please contact Micah, the Head Referee. mfloraswick49@gmail.com

**There are 2 active gyms at this tournament.**

* Be aware that 2 gyms are available for this tournament.
* Tournament courts may be in BOTH gyms. The games’ organizers are still determining the location of the call room.
* Warm up courts are available in the auxiliary gym
* Pick up/Spontaneous Games are encouraged in the auxiliary gym

BC1: Troy Berry, Ryan McHenry, Katy Miller, Wyatt Struxness

BC2: Deja Barber, Ryan Brooks, Dylan Schneider

BC3: Olga Barth, Kalvin Blauert, Laura Estrada, Candace Gregg, Austin Hanson, Shavonna King, Anthony Randolph,

Chad Simmons, Dustin Winfrey, Zack Winkle

BC5: Adam Burnett, Sarah Cromer, Lee Jennings, Christine Ledger Parish, Becca Payne, Brian Richard, Trenton Robertson, Chris Rodgers, Alex Russo

Open: Aaron Carr, Rita Cospelich, Renee Franklin, Jeremy Harry, Tempus Helton, Eric Hoerner, Bryan Lohmeyer, Darius Thompson, Sherri Watson

To be placed in competition classes: Mellisa Gaskins, Kirstianna Guerrero, Judy Hale, Victoria Jennings, Elisha Jensen, Tony Waterhouse-Leal, Evan Hinrichs

Please contact cathy.drobny@gmail.com with any questions or corrections in this Competition Letter.

**National Games:** Check out the following websites below for information regarding other competitions.

* Check <https://usaboccia.org> for events and dates for USA Boccia.

2024 Nationals are in Omaha, Nebraska/Council Bluffs, Iowa- August 7-11 Iowa West Field House

* Sunflower State Games are in Topeka, KS, July 13. Contact

cathy.drobny@gmail.com or Lee Graybeal graybealla65@gmail.com

**Lodging:** Please see tournament info at [www.uasboccia.org](http://www.uasboccia.org) for lodging options close to the event

**We look forward to seeing you at Blue Valley North!**

**Let’s Play Boccia!**