

THE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2024, THE NATIONAL COMPETITION PROCEDURES, THIS HEAD REFEREE LETTER AND OTHER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.USABOCCIA.ORG ON THE MAIN PAGE.

LETTER FROM LOUIS MITCHELL, HEAD REFEREE
2024 USA BOCCIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Coaches, Athletes, Sport Assistants, Ramp Operators and Team Administrators;

This is Louis Mitchell, the head referee for the 2024 USA Boccia National Championship competition.

On Wednesday at 7pm, there will be a Coaches and Athletes meeting held by ZOOM.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86031260964>

There are no COVID-19 restrictions for 2024. You should go to USA Boccia's tournament page to access the New International Rules v.2.2. Also, the New Rules can be found on **World Boccia's** web page.

The National Tournament will be run in accordance with World Boccia/BISFed International Boccia Rules 2021 – 2024 v.2.2 **except where abridged by USA Boccia.** Example: There will be Mixed Divisions (Male vs Female). Some rules that were put in place during the COVID period are now general rules of Boccia per BISFed mandate. These rules include but are not limited to the following:

There will still be separate warm-up times for each side in team and pairs competitions. Individual competition will have shared warm up times.

And the "Out of the way" rule now says "An athlete now only needs to go backward to a position in the box which gives the opponent space to play; there is no requirement to be behind the throwing box." They still can go behind the box if they choose to do so. **For BC3 sides, equipment has to be moved out of the way and the RO can be at the back of the box, behind the box or in an empty box.**

Also, referees now no longer need to wait until the athlete who is to throw is in their box before starting the time. **The procedure now is: After showing the color to the sides, once the side that is throwing starts moving/preparing, and the other side is moving to be out of the way, start the time.**

BC1 and Foot players are allowed a SA: Rule 9.2.2 says that a SA cannot have direct contact with the player when he/she is "playing" the shot. If the BC1 athlete has ball in hand or Foot players has ball on floor in front of foot and then the player asks the SA to move them, that is a penalty if the SA moves the athlete/wheelchair. **To avoid the penalty, before the athlete can be**

moved/repositioned from original the “playing” position, the ball must be moved from BC1 athlete’s hand or from floor in front of Foot player’s foot.

Please read the following points of interest and send me loumitchell@live.com your comments and questions. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. And, good luck to everyone!

- 1) Equipment check for all athletes will be held at the competition facility between 1:00 and 6:00 on Thursday Aug 7th.
- 2) Athletes who use communication devices on court must have them approved at equipment check. Coaches and Coach Assistants do not need a sticker for their devices.
- 3) Ramp check clarification: The base with all extensions fully extended must fit completely inside the 2.5m X 1m box. This includes any device that holds the ball in place beyond the extent of the ramp.
- 4) Ball Check is in the Call Room, before each match. There is also a post-match ball check. At the end of the match the referee will inspect each of the seven (7) balls a side has used during the match. This is a cursory inspection to see if the balls have been tampered with during the match.
- 5) Remember Bib numbers and Credentials ARE required for all participants to enter the call room.
- 6) Athletes will be asked to verify the final score. And, if someone other than the athlete signs the scoresheet, they must sign their own name.
- 7) There will be an unofficial ball check system available to athletes/team, outside the call room entrance.
- 8) Coaches who use smart watches/phones and tablets should be on airplane mode on ct.
- 9) Splints, gloves and w/c supports must have written approval from the classifiers. Any adaptation that could be seen to assist in the direction of the ball (such as something that could guide the hand/foot) is considered illegal.
- 10) Ready to **start the end:**
 - a) Equipment that an athlete wants to use during an end should be in their box (or firmly attached to the wheelchair) This includes the RO seat
 - b) The athlete who is to play the jack should be in the throwing box
 - c) The side who is not to play the jack should be out of the way.
 - d) Coaches/coaching assistants need to be back in their designated area
 - e) RO’s and SA’s are not considered equipment.
- 11) The rules say Equipment left just outside the box when the End starts may not be used for that end. If you want to use this equipment, it would be a delay of game. Yellow card assessed.

Looking forward to a great tournament. See you in Council Bluffs!