



Rules Sessions

Boccia New Zealand recommends using a qualified official to run rules sessions as these people are the best qualified to answer questions. If this is not possible, ensure that the person facilitating the session has a sound knowledge of the rules.

Why run a rules session?

Beginners often lack confidence and knowledge in their refereeing skills, and experienced players and referees can become rusty and forgetful with their interpretations. Bringing a group of people together to discuss tricky situations, the resources available, and share knowledge can rapidly improve the quality of play within your club.

Process

- Highlight common examples of the rules being applied in boccia, including retractions and penalties. Depending on your audience, select the most applicable rules. For example, a group of beginners will need to learn how to score.
- Facilitate a practical demonstration between two players. If possible, find two players of average ability (good enough to be able to create situations where retractions and penalties may occur) to play a couple of ends. Ask participants to take turns at refereeing.
- Hold a question and answer discussion on the demonstration and any other refereeing issues the group would like to raise. This should be an opportunity to ask questions, or exchange helpful refereeing hints.
- Hold a specific practical on measuring equipment for referees. Many people aren't confident referees because of the criticism they receive from players while measuring.
- Allow the group to sit the referee test. This is a good test of basic knowledge of the rules and if they pass, players will be officially qualified referees. The test is available here: <http://www.boccia.org.nz/officials.html>

Most importantly...try to keep the session short and fun.

For more resources: <http://www.boccia.org.nz/resources1.html>

Check YouTube for refereeing clips as well.