



2021 Bocce Return to Activity Guidelines

Screening Process

- All Return to Activity (RTA) pre-event screening protocols must be followed. Protocols may be found at <https://www.sonj.org/sports/sonj-return-to-activity-guidelines/>. The screening process includes athletes, coaches, volunteers, and any family members/caregivers that remain for the duration of practice.
- Athletes must have current medical and COVID waiver prior to the start of training
- Volunteer certifications are required prior to the start of training
 - Coaches (age 18+) – Updated Class A Form/Background Screen, Protective Behaviors, Concussion and COVID waiver
 - Volunteers (age 14+) – Updated Class B Form and COVID waiver
 - Unified Partners (if applicable) – Updated Class A Form, protective behaviors and COVID waiver

Venue

- All programs must adhere to venue capacity rules and regulations. As such, spectators may be asked to leave venues if capacity limits are met and are expected to comply. Current guidance – no more than **fifty (50)** total individuals
 - 50 total all-inclusive to athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators
- Confirm with venue regarding additional restrictions
- Locker rooms or restrooms may not be available based on venue guidelines – check with venue prior to training

Training Guidance/Equipment

- All practice structure must align with the current Special Olympics New Jersey RTA guidelines
- Athletes can practice no more than one (1) time per week
- While at the venue, ensure all participants practice social distancing and maximum group number limitations as outlined in the current RTA plan
 - Staging/Waiting areas must be social distancing compliant
 - For larger programs, consider splitting athletes and coaches into 2 squads practicing on opposite ends of the field
- Mask Compliance – Masks must be worn at all times by all participants
 - Includes athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators
 - Mask is required by athletes during active play
 - Mask may be removed for hydrating or brief medical reasons only



2021 Bocce Return to Activity Guidelines (cont.)

- Game Training – No equipment should be shared between athletes and must be sanitized between athlete use
 - Equipment per bocce court
 - One bocce set - Each athlete will use same 2 bocce balls for duration of the game. If bocce ball color is the same for a pair, they may be marked to identify which bocce balls are for which athlete/partner.
 - Example: One set would include 8 bocce balls; 2 green (no marks), 2 green (with marks), 2 red (no marks) and 2 red (with marks)
 - Markings may include chalk or paint as examples
 - Each athlete uses own pallina or equivalent marker (golf ball or cue ball)
 - Athletes are encouraged to bring own chairs to practice. If team/program is providing chairs, they must be sanitized between athlete use
 - Chairs need to be at least six (6) feet from each other and six (6) feet from perimeter of the bocce court
 - Practice should have all throws be from one end and do not switch to the opposite side
 - Athletes must retrieve own bocce balls on the court following play. If a volunteer is utilized, he/she must use foot or rake to return balls to athlete. Do NOT use hands.
- Sanitizing Equipment – Equipment must be sanitized between games
 - Wipe down/spray all bocce and pallina balls
 - PPE equipment is available in the Coach Tool Kit (available by SONJ)

Volunteers/Spectators

- Programs must use the minimum number of volunteers possible for training/practice
 - Volunteers are required to be pre-registered through Special Olympics New Jersey
 - Volunteers must always wear a mask and maintain social distancing protocols
 - Volunteers are counted as part of the total number of individuals allowed at a venue



2021 Bocce Return to Activity Guidelines (cont.)

- Spectators are discouraged to attend training/practices
 - Spectators must always wear a mask and maintain social distancing protocols
 - Spectators are counted as part of the total number of individuals allowed at a venue

Competition

- June 11-13 – Location TBD
- Events Offered: Athletes may select one (1) event
 - Traditional or Unified Doubles