

LESSON 7: BOCCE BALL

Grade-Level Outcomes

Primary Outcomes

Throwing: Demonstrates a mature pattern for a modified target game such as bowling, bocce or horseshoes. (S1.M18.6)

Rules & etiquette: Identifies the rules and etiquette for physical activities/games and dance activities. (S4.M6.6)

Embedded Outcome

Social interactions: Demonstrates respect for self and others in activities and games by following the rules, encouraging others and playing in the spirit of the game or activity. (S5.M6.6)

Lesson Objectives

The learner will:

- learn the rules and techniques to play bocce ball.
- demonstrate the proper movement pattern for bocce.
- identify the shared characteristics between bocce ball and bowling.

Equipment and Materials

- Rule sheet
- Question sheet
- Dice per group of students
- Flour to mark off the playing area (full sized or modified) on a grassy area
- Up to 10 marked areas
- 10 bocce ball kits

Or

- 80 balls varying in size and color
- 10 small white balls or baseballs or softballs

Introduction

Discuss with students their choices for the target games they selected for the carnival.

We are going to play these games during the target games lesson. How many of you enjoyed bowling and croquet? Are you ready to learn another target game similar to the ones you learned so far? We are going to learn bocce ball. How many of you have heard of that before? I have an introductory video to show you. After the video, I will hand out a rule sheet and explain the outside target.

Instructional Task: Video Jumping Jack Flash

■ PRACTICE TASK

Show students a video with bocce ball

Have students read over the rules.

Have students get into small groups. Hand each group a rule and have students create a skit demonstrating the rule given.

Extension

Students can provide examples of following and violating the rules.

Refinements

- Make sure students are focused on learning the rules. Some students will be more interested in the skit than in learning the rules.
- Follow up with questions from the bocce question handout.

Student Choices/Differentiation

Have examples of skits if needed.

Students may choose groups.

What to Look For

- During the video viewing, students are attentive.
- Students are cooperating and following instructions.

Instructional Task: Tossing the Bocce Ball

■ PRACTICE TASK

Demonstrate the proper toss.

Students mimic the movement pattern without the ball.

Extensions

- In partners, have students peer-assess each other on the proper movement pattern.
- Have students practice the bocce ball toss, 10 times or more until they are comfortable with the motion.
- Repeat, aiming to get as close to the pallino as possible. Count the number within a set number of inches.

Student Choices/Differentiation

- Students select a practice ball that can be regulation or modified.
- Students can use different-sized balls to assist with accuracy.
- Students can toss the ball like an underhand pitch or using the four-step approach learned from the bowling lessons.

What to Look For

- Are students able to roll or toss the ball fluidly?
- Are they able to apply an appropriate level of force to get the right distance?
- Peer assessment: Students use a teacher-generated checklist to evaluate their peers on the underhand toss movement pattern.

Instructional Task: Game Play

■ PRACTICE TASK

Teach students how to score. Students pair off or play in small groups.

Refinement

Make sure students who are closest to the ball received the points.

Extension

After one round of play, students change partners or groups and play again.

Guiding questions for students:

- How do you score points in the game?
- After all balls have been thrown, who goes next after points have been totaled?
- What is the white ball called?
- What are the similarities between bowling and bocce?

EMBEDDED OUTCOME: S.5.M.6.6. Teach students the importance of respecting themselves and others by following the rules and encouraging others to perform their best during the game of bocce ball.

Student Choices/Differentiation

Students choose their partners or groups.

What to Look For

- Are students scoring the match correctly?
- If playing in small groups, are they communicating about strategy?
- Are students supporting one another with positive comments?
- Are they rolling or tossing the ball with appropriate accuracy and distance?

Instructional Task: Bocce Ball Strategy and Tactics

■ PRACTICE TASK

Demonstrate the blocking technique.

Have students practice rolling the balls to block the pallino from their opponents.

Extensions

- Demonstrate the spocking technique. Have students set up their court so the pallino has two or three balls around it. Have students practice spocking.
- After practicing both strategies, have students play another round (frame). Students can award a bonus point for a successful block or spock.

Student Choices/Differentiation

- Students choose their groups or partners.
- Students may review video clips of blocking and spocking.
- Students may choose the distance from the pallino to decrease or increase the level of challenge.

What to Look For

- Are students able to set up the block with their rolls?
- Are students able to make the high toss to hit the pallino?
- Are they able to implement the techniques in the game?

Formal and Informal Assessments

- Observing for proper scoring, strategy, and cooperation
- Peer assessment: underhand movement pattern

Closure

- What are two ways you can get your ball in play? Please demonstrate.
- Which team scores or receives points?
- How was this game similar to and different from bowling and croquet?

Reflection

- How well did the creating skits activity work for learning the rules?
- Did students cooperate well?
- Did students understand scoring?
- Were students able to implement the strategies of the game successfully?

Homework

Practice target games for the upcoming carnival.

Study for the cognitive test on basic rules, etiquette, scoring, and strategy of target games. Materials will be posted on the school's physical education website.

Resources

World Bocce League: www.worldbocce.org (rule sheet and much more)

Internet keyword search: "bocce," "pallino," "blocking in bocce," "rules of bocce," "spocking"

QUESTION SHEET FOR BOCCE BALL

1. How many balls do you use playing bocce ball? (Answer: eight players' balls and one target ball)
2. How many playing balls does each team have? (Answer: four)
3. How do you decide which team goes first? (Answer: coin toss, usually)
4. How do you start the game? (Answer: The pallino, the small white target ball, is tossed by the team who won the coin toss.)
5. How do you score points in bocce ball? (Answer: Get your bocce balls closer to the pallino than the other team.)

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