Pronounced ‘botch-ya’. A target game requiring players to lob as many of their balls as close to a target ball as possible.

What you need

- Any suitable indoor or outdoor playing area. Choose suitable balls if an indoor surface is used. Choose dimension to suit your situation
- Playing area marked as shown
- For team Boccia – 13 balls: 1 jack, 6 red and 6 blue
- Boccia balls or alternative – bean bags, paper and tape balls, Koosh balls

What to do

**SETTING UP**
- Play 2 v 2, 3 v 3 or individually. Allocate a team colour, red or blue. Red throws first.

**PLAYING**
- The red team throws the target ball (called a ‘jack’) anywhere onto the ‘valid area’.
- The side throwing the jack also plays the first coloured ball.

Scoring

- The opposite side then plays their first coloured ball into court, then the teams take turns for a nominated number of bowls or until everyone has had a bowl.
- If the jack is thrown or knocked out of court, it is placed on the cross and play continues.

A tie-breaker is used if scores are level at the end. The jack ball is placed on the cross and sides toss a coin to determine the order of play.

**LEARNING INTENTION**

*Boccia* requires students to roll/throw their ball towards a target with accuracy whilst also taking into account the placement of their opponent’s balls.
Coaching

> Players choose a team captain. Rotate the role. The captain decides on the playing order.

Game rules

> Propel the ball with a foot or use an assistance device such as a ball-sending ramp, if necessary.

Vary the order of play – the side furthest from the jack continues playing their balls until they get nearer (or run out of balls), then the other team plays.

Play 6 ends – a round is called an ‘end’ and each player has a chance to throw the jack.

Number of rounds – vary.

Equipment

> Use different types of balls.

> Use an implement to propel the ball, e.g. rolled-up newspaper secured with tape.

Playing area

> Adjust the playing area and distances to make the game easier or harder.

Safety

> No one enters the target area during play.
> Throwing is confined to the designated area.

ASK THE PLAYERS

Throwers

> ‘How can you make it difficult for your opponents to get closer to the jack than you?’
> ‘Will you throw long or short? Which of these options provides the best opportunity to be closest to the jack at the end of the game?’