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<p>Ball sport</p>

<p>An Argentine family playing bocce in San Vicente, Buenos Aires, c.1902&

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<p>Bocce play in Cape Coral, Florida, US in 2007Bocce 😄 being pla

yeda typical bocce set</p>

<p>Bocce (,^[1]^[2] or ,^[3] Italian: [ˌbɔtˈtʰe]), sometimes anglicized as bo

cce ball,^[4] bocci^[5] or boccie,^[1] is 😄 a ball sport belonging to the

boules family.</p>

<p>Developed into its present form in Italy, it is closely related to Brit

ish 😄 bowls and French pétanque, with a common ancestry from ancie

nt games played in the Roman Empire.</p>

<p>Bocce is played around western, 😄 southern and southeastern Eu

rope, as well as in overseas areas with historical Italian immigrant population,

including Australia, North America, and 😄 South America, principally A

rgentina and the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.</p>

<p>Initially played just by the Italian immigrants, 😄 the game ha

s slowly become more popular with their descendants and more broadly.</p>

<p>History [edit]</p>

<p>Having developed from games played 😄 in the Roman Empire, Bocc

e developed into its present form in Italy,^[6] where it is called bocce, the plu

ral of 😄 the Italian word *boccia* which means 'bowl' in the gene

ral sporting sense,^[7] it spread around Europe and also in regions 😄 to

which Italians have migrated.</p>

<p>First form of regulation was described in the book "Gioco delle bo

ccchie" by Raffaele Bisteghi in 😄 1753.</p>

<p>[8] In South America it is known as *bochas*, or *bolas criollas* ('Cri) Tj T* BT /F1

<p>The accessibility of bocce to people of all ages and abilities has seen

it grow in popularity among Special Olympics 😄 programmes globally and

it is now the third most played sport among Special Olympics athletes.^[9]</p

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<p>Geographical spread [edit]</p>

<p>The sport 😄 is also very popular on the eastern side of the Ad

riatic, especially in Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, &

#128516; where the sport is known in Serbo-Croatian as *boćanje* ('playing bo) Tj T* B

<p>[10][11][12] In Slovenia the sport 😄 is known as *balinanje*^[13]

or colloquially 'playing boće', or *bale* (from Italian *bocce* and Venetia) Tj T* BT /F

<p>[14] There are 😄 numerous bocce leagues in the United States.&

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<p>Most have been founded by Italian Americans but contain members of all