good looking games

Coup Bocce

Find two other people. Look over a set of bocce balls. Notice that they are grouped by color most obviously, but also are grouped by their scoring pattern—the pattern of lines cut into their sides. The black balls are the balls of the government. The red balls are the rebel balls. Always throw the balls scored with parallel lines first and remember who threw which balls.

The oldest player collects the two black balls of the government scored with parallel lines. The youngest player collects the two red rebel balls scored with parallel lines. “el Presidente,” the oldest player, throws first. Play bocce.

Here's the trick: the first person required to throw their third ball is deposed by the third player who finishes the round for them with the remaining balls—scored with perpendicular lines—of their color. As a result, in every round, only one player will throw all four balls of one color. The other two players throw two balls each.

The winner of the round, regardless of who was deposed, becomes “el Presidente” for the next round. Only the player who began the round as “el Presidente” can score points.

“You should totally sell this game and call it Coup Bocce.”

-Phil Gaebler
the Round House, Indiana