

# ***CLASSIFICATION POLICY***

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## **1. Scope**

- 1.1 This procedure defines the principles and methods to be followed when establishing an athlete's category of classification.

## **2. Boccia England - Classification**

- 2.1. Classification is the grouping of athletes based on functional ability. The process is designed to include issues such as muscle tone, range of joint movement and co-ordination but it purposely excludes the evaluation of learnt skills and training development of participants for a chosen sport.
- 2.2. Boccia International Sport Federation (BISFed) has designed a system of 4 classes appropriate for Boccia, BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC4. There is a range of physical disability within each class. The full BISFed classification rules can be found here - <http://www.bisfed.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/BISFed-Boccia-Classification-Rules-2nd-Edition-2013.pdf>
- 2.3. Boccia England recognises BC5, BC6, BC7 and BC8 in addition to the BISFed international classification.
- 2.4. Boccia England aims to classify every competitor prior to competition.

## **3. Who can classify**

- 3.1. Classification will be undertaken only by people who have the appropriate experience and training and who are approved by Boccia England. There will be no proxy.

## **4. Self-Classification**

- 4.1. Entry forms, sent to new competitors for regional events will have an accompanying classification overview sheet. This document gives a brief overview



of the BISFed classes BC1-8, enabling the athlete, teacher, coach or parent to indicate on the entry form which class they think is appropriate.

4.2. Athletes are entered into the programme on the basis of that classification.

## **5. Regional Classification**

5.1 Classification at regional events aims to check self classification is correct, and adjust where necessary.

5.2. This is important, as qualification for national events is dependent upon regional results.

5.3. Regional classification is performed by at least 1 Boccia England approved National Classifier (appendix 1).

5.4. Provision of these classifiers is the responsibility of Boccia England.

5.5. Provision of an appropriate venue for classification is the responsibility of the event organiser.

5.6. Regional Classification will be recorded on the appropriate form and lodged in the Boccia England Office. Boccia England considers that boccia is not a gender affected sport under the Equality Act 2010 and consequently there are no restrictions on participation by transgender athletes.

## **6. National Classification**

6.1. All athletes qualifying to compete at a national competition will be classified by a panel of at least 3 National Classifiers (ref:11), who have been approved by Boccia England and comprising the following disciplines: -



At least 1 Medically Trained Professional (Doctor, Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist or related disciplines)

At least 1 Sports Technical Expert

6.2. National Classification will be recorded on the appropriate form and lodged in the Boccia England Office.

6.3. Athletes will be issued with a classification card and number following national classification. This number must be quoted on future entry forms.

## **7. Athlete Evaluation**

7.1. The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

7.1.1. Athlete Assessment – this can include specific tasks relating to the sport as well as a physical assessment as stipulated in the Classification Rules of BISFed

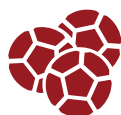
7.1.2. Athlete Observation – the Classification Panel will observe the athlete performing specific skills that are part of the sport during a Boccia competition, this could include training practice or competition during pool play.

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

8.1. Following Athlete Evaluation, athletes will be given a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an athlete will be required to undertake further evaluation, and whether, and by what party the Athlete's sports Class may be subject to Protest

8.2. New Status (NS)

8.2.1. New Status (NS) is assigned to an athlete who has not been previously evaluated by a Classifier/Classification Panel



### 8.3. Competition Review Status (CRS)

8.3.1. Competition Review Status (CRS) is assigned to an athlete who has competed Athlete Assessment prior to competition allowing them to compete and be observed by the Classification Panel.

### 8.4. Review Status (RS)

8.4.1. Review Status (RS) is assigned to an athlete who has been previously evaluated by the Classifier/Classification Panel but is still subject to further re-evaluation. The Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the sport class maybe changed before or during a competition.

### 8.5. Confirmed Status (CS)

8.5.1. Confirmed Status is assigned to an athlete who has been evaluated by a Classifier/Classification Panel and the Classifier/Classification Panel that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change.

8.5.2. CS will be assigned if the athlete has the same Sport Class at a minimum of 2 consecutive competitions at the same level or above.

### 8.6. Not Eligible (NE)

8.6.1. Not Eligible (NE) will be assigned to an Athlete if that Athlete does not meet the classification guideline for BC1-4.

### 8.7. Notification to Athlete

8.7.1. Following completion of Athlete Evaluation the athlete shall be informed of the Classifier/Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

8.7.2. Written notification will be provided to the athlete and will include:

- The athletes assigned Sport Class.
- The athlete's updated Sport Class Status.
- Details of associated Protest Procedures.

### 8.8. Changes in Sport Class After Observation



The most up to date BISFed Boccia Classification Rules should be followed

## 9. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

### 9.1. Protests

- 9.1.1. The term 'Protest' refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an athlete's sports class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 9.1.2. Appeal and Protest Panels will be made up as follows
  - Regional - 2 Boccia England National Classifiers.
  - National – 3 Boccia England National Classifiers
- 9.1.3. An athlete sport class may only be protested once. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances (ref: BISFed Boccia Classification Rules *Protests in Exceptional Circumstances*)
- 9.1.4. A protest in respect of a Sports Class allocated by Boccia England may only be resolved by Boccia England
- 9.1.5. Protests should be resolved in a manner that minimises the impact on competition participation, and competition schedules and results.

### 9.2. When Protests May Take Place

- 9.2.1. The most up to date BISFed Boccia Classification Rules should be followed
- 9.2.2. Athlete, coach, or Chief Classifier can Protest

### 9.3. Protests during Competitions

- 9.3.1. The most up to date BISFed Boccia Classification Rules should be followed
- 9.3.2. Athlete, coach, or Chief Classifier can Protest

### 9.4. Protests in Exceptional Circumstances



9.4.1. The most up to date BISFed Boccia Classification Rules should be followed

9.4.2. Athlete, coach, or Chief Classifier can Protest

9.5. Procedures for Protests submitted out of Competition

9.5.1. The most up to date BISFed Boccia Classification Rules should be followed

9.5.2. Athlete, coach, or Chief Classifier can Protest

9.6. Appeals

9.6.1. The term Appeal refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

9.6.2. The Boccia England Sports Development Sub Committee will act as the Board of Appeal Classification (BAC).

9.6.3. The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decision in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate procedures have been followed.

## **10. Classification Personnel**

10.1. There are 3 levels of Classifier in Boccia England

10.1.1. Boccia England National Classifier – An individual who has completed the process of formal training by Boccia England

10.1.2. BISFed National Classifier – An individual who has completed the formal training by BISFed

10.1.3. BISFed International Classifier - An individual who has completed the formal international training by BISFed

10.2. Chief Classifiers will be appointed at individual events by Boccia England.

## **11. INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION**



- 11.1. All athletes eligible for international competition must have a National Classification and a confirmation of diagnosis prior to selection.
- 11.2. International Classification is the responsibility of BISFed
- 11.3. International classification panels are comprised of a doctor, a paramedic and a sports technician. All International Classifiers are appointed by BISFed.

