BOCCIA ENGLAND

National League

Handbook and Rules

2025/26 Season

Version 1.1 / February 2026

Handbook and Rules

Welcome to Boccia England's 2025/26 National League season!

The National League provides an opportunity for boccia players to compete at a local level while offering a pathway to the National League Finals in May 2026.

The competition is open to anyone with a disability, though we strongly encourage participation from players within the BC1–BC5 boccia classifications. For more information on these classifications, **please click here**.

This handbook contains the procedures, guidelines, and rules for the National League. Please take time to read it carefully and share the information with all players, coaches, and volunteers in your team.

Important Dates

Monday 20 October 2025	Entries open for National League 2026
Sunday 30 November 2025	Entries close for National League 2026
Friday 5 December 2025	Provision groups distributed to registered teams
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Deadline for teams to request amendments to provisions groups
Friday 12 December 2025	Groups finalised and distributed
Wednesday 7 January 2026	Deadline for teams to register players
Monday 12 January 2026	National League group stage fixtures commence
Sunday 26 April 2026	Deadline for all group stage fixtures to be completed
Monday 27 April 2026	Deadline for results from group stage fixtures to be recorded on CompeteBoccia
Sunday 24 May 2026	The 2026 National League Finals

1.0 Registration

1.1 Club Membership

Each club must hold a valid Boccia England Club Membership to enter a team(s) into the National League. This ensures that all teams have appropriate public liability insurance cover.
BE Club Membership can be purchased via Boccia Base – **Click here to purchase membership**.

1.2 Entry

Member clubs can enter their team(s) into the 2025/26 National League season via the Events page on Boccia Base – **Click here to enter**
Entries must be received by 11.00pm on Sunday 30 November 2025.
The entry fee is £22.50 per team.

1.3 Player Registration

Each team may register a minimum of 3 and maximum 10 players. Only these players will be eligible to participate in National League matches.
All players **must** hold valid Boccia England membership to compete.

1.4 Conditions of Entry

By entering the National League, teams and players agree that:

- They are bound by all rules and regulations of Boccia England (BE) and understand that all BE decisions are final.
- They adhere to the following policies:
    - Boccia England Codes of Conduct
    - Complaints and Disciplinary Policy
    - Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
    - Safeguarding Adults Policy

1.5 Team Composition

Teams are strongly encouraged to register at least one female player.

1.6 Player Eligibility

- A player cannot represent more than one National League team during the 2025/26 season.
- A player cannot compete in both the National League and the Super League in the same season.

1.7 Registration Deadline

All players must be registered on Boccia Base no later than Wednesday 7th January 2025. No additional players may be registered after this deadline, exceptional in exceptional circumstances outline in 1.10.

1.8 Playing with Fewer Players

If a team has only two eligible players, they must contact the opposing team at least three days before the fixture to request a postponement.
If this is not possible and the team still wishes to play, the match may proceed with two players, each using three balls, or be forfeited.

1.9 Unregistered Players

If a team fields an unregistered player, the match will be forfeited, and the opposing team will be awarded a 10–0 win.

1.10 Exceptional Circumstances

No additions will be permitted to squads once the registration period closes, except in exceptional circumstances. These may include long-term injury, illness, or bereavement. In such circumstances, teams may apply to replace a player.

Requests must be submitted in writing to competition@bocciaengland.org.uk at least one week before the next match.

All cases will be reviewed at the discretion of Boccia England.

2.0 Format of the National League

2.1 League Structure

The National League will be divided into regional leagues, each operating locally. Regions may be subdivided depending on the number of teams entered.

2.2 League Size

Regional leagues will consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 teams.

2.3 Playoffs

Where a region has multiple leagues, a playoff may be required to determine qualifiers for the Finals. Details will be confirmed once league groupings are finalised.

2.4 Notification of Groups

Teams will be notified of their final league groupings by Friday 12th December 2025.

2.5 Season Dates

Local league matches will run from Monday 12 January – Sunday 26 April 2026, culminating in the National League Finals on 24 May 2026.

2.6 League Finals

Winners of each local league will be invited to the 2026 National League Finals, which will take place on Sunday 24 May 2026 at Castle Farm Leisure Centre in Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

2.7 Team Manager Responsibilities

Each team must appoint a Team Manager, responsible for:

- Confirming and arranging fixtures
- Entering results into CompeteBoccia
- Acting as the main point of contact with Boccia England

2.8 Fixture Completion

All league fixtures must be completed, and results uploaded to CompeteBoccia by Monday 27 April 2026 Any issues must be reported directly to Boccia England by emailing competiton@bocciaengland.org.uk

2.9 Intra-Club Matches

Teams from the same club must play their intra-club fixtures first.

3.0 Team Responsibilities

3.1 Team Manager Duties

The Team Manager is responsible for

- Setting up the team account on Boccia Base and ensuring all players are registered
- Managing fixtures through CompeteBoccia
- Arranging matches and ensuring all fixtures are logged before play
- Organising qualified officials for each match
- Confirming fixture details with opponents at least two weeks in advance
- Submitting match results and squad lists to CompeteBoccia within seven days of play
- Liaising with the Boccia England Office as required

3.2 Home Team Responsibilities

The first-named team in each fixture is the Home Team. The home team is responsible for

- Booking a suitable venue
- Providing the senior official for each match (the Away Team supplies the second official)
- Confirming match details (date, time, venue, directions) at least five days in advance via email
- Supplying a set of standard boccia balls, unless the Away Team wishes to use their own
- Ensuring the court meets BISFed standards (see Appendix C)
- Undertaking a risk assessment of the venue prior to commencement of the fixture

3.3 Minimum Fixture Requirements

- Accessible venue for all athletes, officials, other volunteers, and spectators – e.g. Ramp entrance, accessible toilets.
- Standard size court as per Appendix C
- Access to refreshments - drinking water, teas and coffees.
- Appropriate temperature for playing boccia – recommended of between 18 & 21 degrees Celsius.
- Qualified officials to referee matches – a minimum of a Level 1 referee.

4.0 Results Procedure

- All match results are managed via CompeteBoccia. Fixtures, results, and standings will be visible online.
- A paper or electronic scoresheet must be completed for every match (see Appendix A).
- The Home Team Referee is responsible for completing the scoresheet and ensuring both captains sign it before submission.
- Final scores must be entered into CompeteBoccia within seven days of the match.
- Failure to submit results or provide scoresheets upon request may result in a loss of points.
- The winner of each group will qualify for the National League Finals. If unable to attend, their place will be offered to the next highest-placed team.

5.0 League Rules

The National League aims to promote fair play, inclusion, and sportsmanship within a supportive environment.

5.1 Rule Framework

The League is governed by and adapted from the BISFed International Boccia Rules 2025–2028 (Version 1.1).

5.2 Substitutions

- Teams may make up to three substitutions per match, only between ends.
- Substituted players may not re-enter the same match.

5.3 Fixtures

Each team will play every other team twice (home and away).
By mutual agreement, both matches may be played at the same venue on the same day.

5.4 Match Format

Each fixture will consist of **six ends**.

5.5 Tie Breaks

If a match ends in a draw, a tie break must be played to determine a winner.
Tie break scores do not count towards final points or goal difference.

5.6 League Progression

The top team in each local league qualifies for the National League Finals or regional playoffs.

5.7 Determining Final Standings

If teams are tied on wins:

1. Head-to-head results between tied teams
2. Points difference (excluding tie-break scores)
3. Total points scored (excluding tie-breaks)
4. Number of ends won across all matches

5.8 Forfeited Matches

Forfeited games must be recorded on a scoresheet and submitted to Boccia England.
The non-offending team will be awarded a 10–0 win.

6.0 Incomplete Fixtures

Teams should make every effort to complete all matches. Postponements and forfeits should be a last resort.

- If a team fails to offer a fixture date, they forfeit the match (submit a completed scoresheet or update CompeteBoccia).
- If teams cannot agree on a date, both will receive 0 points.
- If a team believes they have made reasonable efforts to arrange a fixture, they may submit a Fixture Complaint Form (Appendix B). Boccia England will review both accounts and issue a final decision.
- If a playoff fixture is unplayed, the team with the highest average points difference will qualify for the Finals.

7.0 National League Finals Day

- The 2026 National League Finals, which will take place on Sunday 24 May 2026 at Castle Farm Leisure Centre in Kenilworth, Warwickshire.
- Teams will compete in group stages followed by elimination rounds.
- The Finals format will be determined by Boccia England, with details communicated to Team Managers following the conclusion of the group stage.

And finally...

Thanks to everyone - players, organisers, teachers, carers, parents, support staff and boccia enthusiasts - for your support for this league. It enables a wider range and greater number of people to experience and enjoy competitive, but still friendly, boccia.

Appendix A – Scoresheet

SCORESHEET

BOCCIA ENGLAND

Competition:		Date:	
Team	B☐ Pair		BC4 **Pair**

Time:	Court	Referee	Linesperson	Timekeeper

Team Name		
Player Names (Mark Captain with c)		
Colour		

End	Time remaining	Score
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
Final score		
Tie-Break		
Tie-Break		

Violations / Subs. / Time Out!.

Team Name		
Player Names (Mark Captain with c)		
Colour		

End	Time remaining	Score
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
Final Score		
Tie-Break		
Tie-Break		

Violation / Subs / Time Out!.

Winner	
Red Player / Captain Approve	Blue Player / captain Approve
Referee Signature	
Finish Time	
Head Referee Signature	

Appendix B – Fixture Complaint Form

Team Manager Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Opposing Team Name: _____

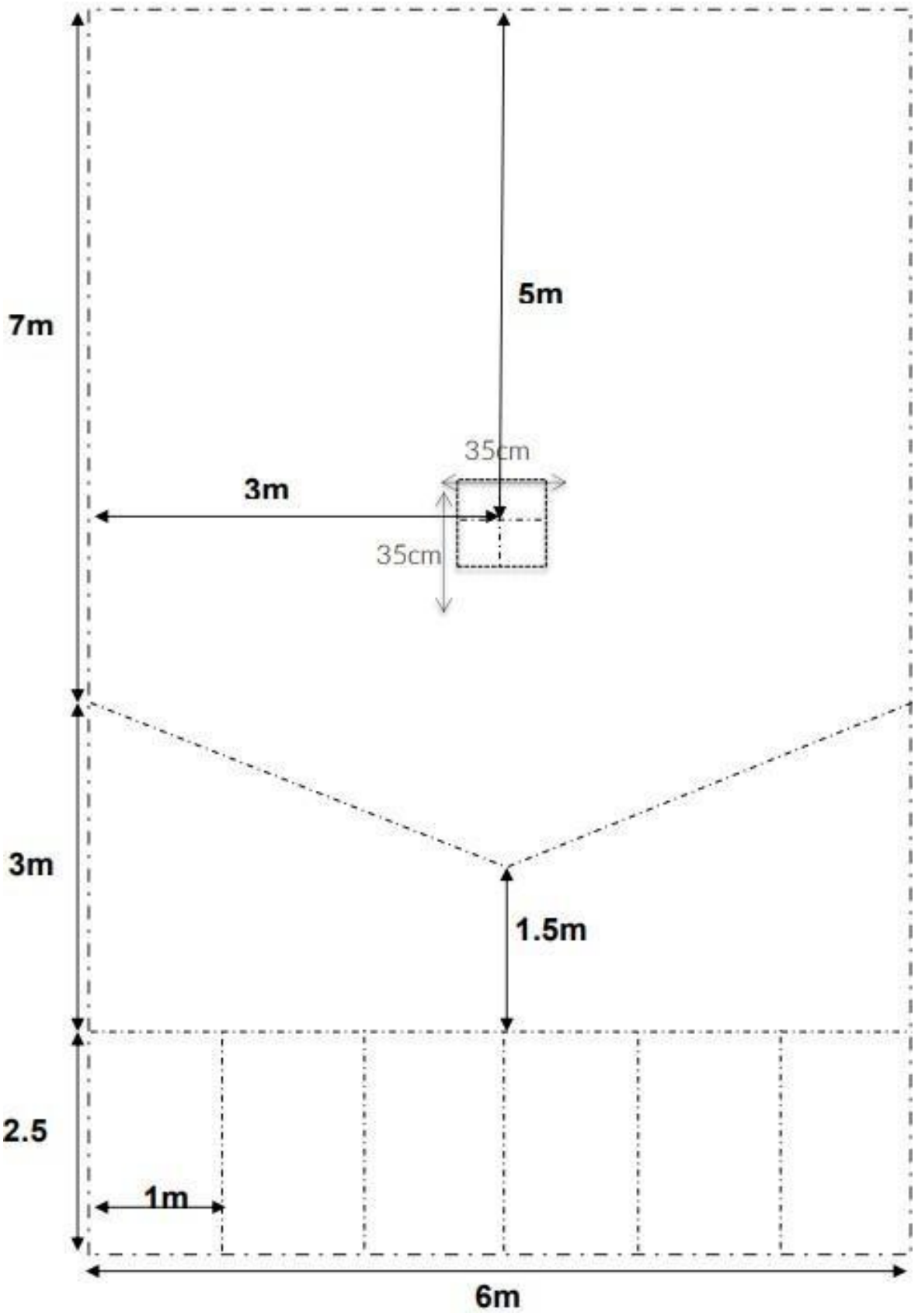
Please describe the nature of your complain

Please advise on the fixture dates you have offered the opposing team.

Please advise on how and the frequency you have attempted to make contact with the opposing team manager.

Please advise on any response/feedback you have received from the opposing team.

Team Manager's Signature _____

Date _____

Appendix C – Court Dimensions and Markings