BOCCIA ENGLAND

National Championships 2026

Handbook and Rules

Version 2.0 / March 2026

Boccia England National Championships 2026

Handbook and Rules

This handbook is published as an updated version on 31 March 2026. It is subject to change at any time. Any changes made will be published and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

1. Competition Entries

1.1 The Boccia England National Championships are open to all classifications from BC1 to BC8.

1.2 Players may only enter their official classification.

1.3 Each player may compete in a maximum of three National Championship Qualifiers per season. Qualified players only will be invited to compete at the National Finals competitions.

1.4 All players must be current members of Boccia England and in good standing to participate at any level.

1.5 Entries must be submitted through Boccia Base (click here to access Boccia Base),

1.6 Entry fees are £15 per athlete per qualifying event. Full payment must made at the time of entry.

Late Entries & Withdrawals

1.7 Boccia England may, at its discretion, accept late entries after the closing date. A £5 late fee will apply in addition to the standard entry fee.

1.8 Withdrawals made within 10 days of the competition date without valid reason (e.g. illness) may incur a £5 withdrawal fee.

1.9 No refunds will be issued for non-attendance. In exceptional cases, payments may be transferred to a future competition. Any such refunds will be at the discretion of Boccia England.

1.10 If Boccia England must change a competition date or venue, at least two weeks' notice will be provided where possible. Boccia England is not responsible for any costs incurred for pre-booked accommodation or travel.

2. Competition Format

2.1 The **National Championships** consist of two stages:

- Qualifying Rounds
- National Finals

Qualifying Rounds

2.2 Five qualifying events will take place from **April to July 2026**, geographically distributed to provide national access.

BC1 – BC4 Qualifying Rounds

Date	Venue
Sat 18 April 2026	Leisure at Cheltenham
Sun 10 May 2026	University of Bolton Arena
Sat 13 June 2026	K2 Crawley
Sun 5 July 2026	University of Warwick
Sat 18 July 2026	Sunderland, Beacon of Light

BC5 – BC8 Qualifying Rounds

Date	Venue
Sun 19 April 2026	Leisure at Cheltenham
Sat 9 May 2026	University of Bolton Arena
Sun 14 June 2026	K2 Crawley
Sat 4 July 2026	University of Warwick
Sun 19 July 2026	Sunderland, Beacon of Light

Additional Notes

2.3 Each athlete may enter a maximum of three qualifying events in the 2026 season.

2.4 Qualifying points are awarded based on finishing position (see Section 3).

2.5 Competition formats will vary depending on the number of athletes entered for each classification. The World Boccia Competition and Ranking Manual will be used to determine the format of pools and elimination rounds.

2.6 To support meaningful competition for all ability levels, where entries exceed 8 players in any one classification group multiple divisions will be created. These divisions will be based upon the most recent Boccia England rankings - click here.

2.7 Boccia England aims to ensure a minimum of three fixtures per athlete at each competition. However, in rare circumstances out of our control this may not be possible – for example, late player withdrawals may affect the number of fixtures.

2.8 On occasion, classifications with low numbers of entries may be merged to ensure meaningful competition. Where this is required, players will be notified in advance and the conditions explained in full.

2.9 Seeding for fixtures will be based on the current Boccia England Ranking List – click here.

3. Qualification for National Championship Finals

3.1 Points will be awarded to players at the end of each qualification round based upon their finishing position at that event. Points will be awarded as shown in the table below.

Position	Points
1st	15
2nd	12
3rd	10
4th	8
5th	6
6th	4
7th	2
8th+	1

3.2 Players' total points across all entered events determine their overall qualifying position. An updated table will be published after each qualifying round.

3.3 Where two divisions are in place for a classification, the above points will be awarded to those competing in Division A. Qualification points for Division B will be as below

Position	Points
1st	4
2nd	3
3rd	2
4th +	1

4. National Championship Finals

4.1 The number of places available at the National Championship Finals for each classification is based upon the number of entries in Qualifying Events throughout the season. To ensure fairness across classifications, some classifications will have a larger entry to the Finals. This is shown in the table below.

Classification	Finals Places
BC1	8
BC2	12
BC3	12
BC4	8
BC5	12
BC6	12
BC7	8
BC8	8

4.2 Qualifiers for National Championship Finals will be determined as follows

1. UK Champion from the previous season (if relevant)
2. Any player accruing a total of 25 or more qualifying points in the 2026 season
3. Next highest placed players in the table of qualifying points from the 2026 season until the number of qualifying places is filled.

4.3 If players finish with equal qualifying points, the following will determine their overall qualifying positions

1. Highest finishing position in a 2026 Boccia England National Championships qualifying competition
2. Greatest total number of match wins in 2026 Boccia England National Championships qualifying competition
3. Aggregate head-to-head results between the tied players in the 2026 Boccia England National Championships qualifying competitions
4. Coin toss or playoff (as appropriate).

4.4 If a qualifier cannot attend the Finals, their qualifying position passes to the next highest-ranked player.

4.5 No wildcard entries will ordinarily be offered for the 2026 Finals.

4.6 Seeding for fixtures in the National Finals will use the Boccia England ranking list.

4.7 The 2026 National Champions will be those that finish in first place at the National Championship Finals event.

5. Ranking Points

5.1 Finishing positions also contribute to the Boccia England National Ranking System, which spans multiple seasons.

5.2 Rankings are updated annually, in line with the Boccia England Ranking Procedure.

6. Classification Requirements

6.1 The Boccia England Classification Policy is available online - click here.

6.2 National Championship Qualifiers: Players should hold at least a Regional Classification, where relevant.

6.3 National Finals: Players must hold a National Classification. Players without a National Classification must be assessed by the National Classification Panel on the Friday evening before competition.

7. Playing Rules & Regulations

7.1 All competitions will ordinarily follow the World Boccia Rules and Competition Manual. Where an exception is required to ensure the integrity of our competition programme, this will be communicated and explained to all relevant parties.

7.2 Where no relevant rule exists for a particular circumstance, Boccia England will decide based on fairness and sporting integrity.

7.3 By entering the Championships, players agree to:

- Follow Boccia England's competition rules, policies, and codes of conduct.
- Accept that Boccia England's decisions are final.

8. Match Format & Timing

8.1 Matches ordinarily consist of four ends.

8.2 Tied matches will be decided by an additional end. Should the additional end also result in a tie, additional end(s) will be played until a winner is decided.

8.3 Positional playoffs may have fewer ends to ensure timely completion.

8.4 Time limits per athlete for each end are show below for each of the eight classifications. These are as set out by World Boccia, where the rules give direction for an individual classification.

- BC1 = 4 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC2 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC3 = 6 minutes per end
- BC4 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC5 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC6 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC7 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end
- BC8 = 3 minutes 30 seconds per end

9. Equipment

9.1 All matches in the National Championship must be played using appropriate and approved equipment. Players may use their own World Boccia-approved boccia balls and assistive devices. Licensed sets are not mandatory.

9.2 In qualifying rounds there will be no call room in operation. Referees may conduct spot equipment checks at any time before, during and after the competition.

9.3 At National Championships Finals, there will be a mandatory equipment check on Friday evening. A call room will also be in operation at the National Championship Finals.

9.4 Boccia England provides a standard competition ball set on each court, if required by any players.

10. Warm-Up Procedures

10.1 A Warm-Up Area will be available 90 minutes before the first match of the day.

10.2 Players may use it 90 minutes prior to their first match (e.g. 9:00am warm-up for a 10:30am start).

10.3 Some venues may have limited warm-up space; participants will be informed in advance.

11. Call Room Procedures

11.1 Qualifying Rounds will have no call room. Players should report to their court 5 minutes before their match for the coin toss.

11.2 National Finals will have full call room procedures in place. Details will be communicated to athletes ahead of the event.

12. Registration

12.1 Players must register on the day of competition as directed by Boccia England.

12.2 Failure to register may result in disqualification from the event.

13. Protests

13.1 During a match, players or captains may request a ruling from the Head Referee if they disagree with an official call.

13.2 The Head Referee's decision is final and play continues.

14. Photography & Filming

14.1 Use of photography or filming equipment at Boccia England events is restricted to accredited users only.

14.2 Participants will be asked to give consent for photography and filming at the point of entry. Should there be any concerns about this or changes to be made, please contact Boccia England – competition@bocciaengland.org.uk or 0115 967 8455.