



## **2019 National Boccia Training Squad Selection Criteria**

### **1. Introduction**

Up to 16 athletes will be selected to the 2019 National Boccia Training Squad.

Following these nominations the number of athletes to represent Canada at International events in 2019 will depend on program prioritization and funding capacity. Athletes for each event will be selected from the squad. These selections will be made closer to the specific event.

### **2. Selection Committee**

The Selection Committee is composed of the National Coaches hired by Boccia Canada or under contract for the selection period and the High Performance Chair of the Boccia Canada Council. The Selection Committee reserves the right to make decisions in the best interest of Boccia Canada when selecting athletes for events. The final decision for nomination rests with the Head Coach.

### **3. “Rising Star” athletes will be eligible for consideration based on the following criteria**

- 3.1 Athletes must have never participated in a Major Games event (e.g., Parapan Games or Paralympics) during the last five years or more than two BISFed events.
- 3.2 Athletes must be at least 15 years old before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the competition they are selected to attend takes place.

### **4. Athletes (who are not considered to be ‘Rising Stars’) will be eligible for consideration based on the following criteria**

- 4.1 15 years old before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019;
- 4.2 Ability to meet the training requirements;
- 4.3 Athletes will need to send their expected training planning for the year 2019 to Head Coach by October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018;
- 4.4 Attendance at the 2018 Evaluation Camp and completion of the evaluation process;
- 4.5 Attendance at the 2018 Boccia Blast;
- 4.6 Attendance at the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship;

## 5. Evaluation Camp

An Evaluation Camp will be held in London, Ontario on October 18, 2018. No fee will be charged for the Evaluation camp but athletes will be responsible for all costs related to camp participation (which could include transportation, food, accommodation, etc).

Athletes will be invited to attend the camp following the process below:

- 5.1 Invitations will be sent to potential athletes by August 10th 2018;
- 5.2 Invited athletes will need to inform Boccia Canada of their intention to participate in the Evaluation camp by sending an intent to register by September 7<sup>th</sup> 2018;
- 5.3 Following the first round of invitations some spots might become available for the 2019 Evaluation Camp. If available, a second round of invitations will be sent by September 14<sup>th</sup> 2018;
- 5.4 During the Evaluation camp, coaches will work with groups of athletes. Athletes that will participate in the Evaluation camp will be notified of the time they need to show-up in London on October 18th 2018

## 6. Illness, Injury or Unforeseen Circumstance

If an athlete cannot attend the 2018 Evaluation Camp or 2018 Boccia Blast or Canadian Boccia Championship because of illness, injury or an unforeseen circumstance, the athlete in question must notify BOCCIA CANADA in writing at the latest on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 for the Evaluation camp and November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 for the Canadian Boccia Championship.

In the event that an athlete is unable to attend a required event or camp due to **illness or injury**, the athlete may still remain eligible for selection, if they submit to the Head Coach and National Office:

- i. A doctor's medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the illness or injury with the prescribed rehabilitation program and estimated recovery period. A full recovery must be possible within the next 6 months.
- ii. Agreement that for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfill the National Team Program commitments, that the athlete will train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of the Head Coach (or a person designated by Head Coach) at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health, and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date.
- iii. A written intention to return to full high performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury.

Boccia Canada reserves the right to obtain a second and third medical opinion at any time. The final decision on eligibility for the National Boccia Training Squad nomination rests with the Head Coach and Boccia Canada Council Chair of High Performance.

In the event that an athlete is unable attend a required event or camp due to **unforeseen circumstances**, the athlete may still remain eligible for selection if they

notify the Head Coach and National Office of the circumstances in writing. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

If an athlete can't participate in the Evaluation Camp in London, Ontario on October 18, 2018, the athlete in question will have to be available before or during the 2018 Canadian Championship in St-John's Newfoundland to complete the evaluation process with National coaches.

## **7. Selection process for the 2019 National Boccia Training Squad**

The following will be taken into consideration for the selection of the athletes to the National Boccia Training Squad in 2019:

1. Evaluation results from the 2018 Evaluation Camp  
25% of the selection score
2. Individual play results from the 2018 Boccia Blast (final ranking);  
25% of the selection score
3. Individual play results from the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship (final ranking);  
25% of the selection score
4. Observations with regards to the qualities needed in a prospective National Team athlete;  
25% of the selection score

### **7.1 Evaluation Camp**

National Coaches will conduct different evaluations during the Evaluation Camp.

The different evaluations may include the following important skills for Boccia but are not limited to those:

- Precision skills/placement (including first balls)
- Contact skills (including ability to displace and push balls)
- Rebound/Ricochet skills
- Lob/flop skills
- Defensive skills

Evaluation results from the Evaluation camp will be considered for 25% of the selection score.

## 7.2 2018 Boccia Blast

Individual play results from the 2018 Boccia Blast will be considered for 25% of the selection score.

## 7.3 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship

Individual play results from the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship will be considered for 25% of the selection score.

7.4 Observations with regards to qualities that Coaches are looking for in a prospective National Team athlete will be considered for 25% of the selection score. These include Tactical play, Mental skills, Training environment, Quality of equipment and Physical capacities.

## 7.5 Tie Break Procedure

In the event of a tie between athletes in the same classification after the completion of the selection process, the Selection Committee will unanimously determine who will be selected in the best interest of BOCCIA CANADA. If the decision is not unanimous, the final decision for nomination will rest with the Head Coach.

## 7.6 "Rising Star" athletes

At the discretion of the Selection Committee up to three (3) additional athletes may be selected to the National Boccia Training Squad who are considered to be Rising Star athletes.

Rising Star athletes must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2.

Rising Star athletes may be added to the National Boccia Training Squad at any time.

Rising Star athletes are not required to attend the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championships or the Evaluation process and may be selected to the training squad and to events based solely on the best interests of the program.

## 7.7 Notification Process

Within 5 days of the close of the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship (November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018), the Selection Committee will meet to select the athletes who will be invited to join the 2019 National Boccia Training Squad; [L]  
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Within 10 days after the close of the 2018 Canadian Boccia Championship (November 28<sup>th</sup> 2018) the athletes taking part in the process will be contacted and will be notified of their status with us for 2019; [L]  
[SEP]

An official public announcement will be made at the beginning of January 2019;

## **8. Deadline to Appeal Team Selection**

Athletes have up to 21 days after they have been notified of the National Boccia Training Squad selection decision to submit an appeal. The Appeal Policy is available through Boccia Canada.

## **9. Financial obligations and responsibilities**

Athletes will be notified of their financial obligations (for example: assessment fees) when they are named to the National Boccia Training Squad. The ability to pay a fee will not determine whether or not an athlete will be chosen for the Squad.

9.1 After notification, athletes will:

1. Provide their yearly training plan to the Head Coach or notify the Head Coach if they do not have one;
2. Participate in the training and evaluations activities identified by Boccia Canada;
3. Participate in the competitions identified by Boccia Canada;
4. Provide Boccia Canada with the name and contact information of their Performance partner;
5. Ensure their Performance partner is a member in good standing of their Provincial Sport Organization;
6. Complete and sign the following forms and return them to the Boccia Canada office;
  - Personal identification profile
  - Medical health questionnaire
  - Travel form
  - Uniform information
  - Athlete profile
  - Athlete/NSO agreement
  - Team Member Agreement
  - Athlete Assistance Program documents (if they are eligible according to the AAP criteria)
7. Provide Boccia Canada with their provincial and/or personal coach contact information;
8. Send personal training reports to the Head Coach on a weekly or monthly basis (to be determined by the Head Coach considering the training periods);
9. Communicate through phone or email and follow-up with Coaches in an effective manner.

*Note: Failing to meet these obligations could result in expulsion from the Squad. If the athletes are named for the Athlete Assistance program of Sport Canada this may have a direct impact on carding.*

## **10. Schedule of events and Training camps**

The 2019 Schedule of events depends on funding, prioritisation, BISFed rankings and BISFed decisions around International events. The International calendar for Team Canada will be confirmed at the beginning of 2019. All available events will be evaluated based on congruity with the HP plan and the capacity of Boccia Canada.

Details around Training Camps will be confirmed in January 2019. Athletes going to events should plan to attend a training camp at the National Training Centre in Montreal prior to each international event.

## **11. National Boccia Training Squad requirements**

11.1 Athletes need to train technically/tactically for a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week. Training more than twelve (12) hours per week is recommended for most and athletes who do so may receive a higher score.

11.1.1 Developing and improving the following skills is a priority:

- Precision skills, including first ball and open placement accuracy
- Displacing and pushing a ball skills
- Rebound/Ricochet skills
- Lob/flop skills
- Defensive skills
- Tactical and decision making skills

11.1.2 In order to train short, mid and long range and to work properly on angle shots, a minimum of eight (8) of the twelve (12) training hours must be done on a court of legal dimension (12.5m by 6m);

11.1.3 Training with other athletes is recommended but not required;

11.1.4 Training regularly with a personal coach or a performance partner in touch with the National coaches is recommended but not required;

11.2 Athletes need to train in the field of mental preparation.

11.2.1 Meeting with and being followed by a sport psychologist or a mental trainer is recommended but not required. Athletes who do so may receive a higher score;

11.3 Athletes need to train in the field of physical preparation.

11.3.1 Meeting with specialists and being followed by physical trainer, physiotherapist, massage therapist, etc. is recommended but not required. Athletes who do so may receive a higher score.

11.4 Number of overall hours per week spent on training technically/tactically (court training) physically, and mentally must be a minimum of 20 hours per week;

## 12. Key performance factors to look for and susceptible to be evaluated by coaches for selection purposes

### Tactical skills

Decision-making  
Shot selection  
Ball selection  
Game planning  
Communication  
Time management

### Technical skills

First ball  
Placement  
Push  
Displacement  
Ricochet  
Slice  
Climb  
Push and thumble  
Lob  
Flop  
Positioning

### Mental skills

Confidence  
Focus & Intensity  
Resilience and Emotional control  
Leadership  
Team player  
Coachability

### Physical skills

Range of motion  
Postural control  
Performance endurance  
Grip skills  
Power generation

### Training Environment

Daily Training facilities  
Coaching / Performance partner at training  
Access to specialist

### Equipment

Ball quality  
Ramp quality  
Performance equipment  
Chair set-up

### Life Skills

High Performance attitude  
Nutrition  
Performance Partner Selection  
Independent living  
Traveling