



BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION RULES

1ST EDITION MARCH 2018

BASED ON BISFED CLASSIFICATION RULES, 3RD EDITION

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Canadian Cerebral Palsy
Sports Association



L'Association canadienne de sports
pour paralytiques cérébraux

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1. Purpose, Eligibility and Definitions

1.1 Purpose

Classification refers to the ongoing process by which athletes are assessed to determine the impact of their physical impairment on sport performance and to ensure that there is fairness for all athletes within the sport. Classification provides a structure for competition and takes place on a Club, Provincial, National, Regional and International level.

Classification has two important roles:

- a. To determine eligibility of athletes to compete.
- b. To group athletes for competition.

Every athlete wishing to compete in a Boccia event or competition must be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class status in accordance with the Boccia Canada and BISFed Classification Rules. All athletes will be assessed individually to determine the effect of their impairment functionally and on their sporting ability.

1.2 Eligible Participants

Boccia Canada provides an opportunity for individuals with severe neurological impairment affecting the central nervous system, including spastic hypertonia, dystonia, athetosis and ataxia in all four limbs and individuals with severe locomotor dysfunction in all four limbs of NON-Cerebral origin such as musculoskeletal disorders and limb deformities to compete in sport. All athletes must provide a Certificate of Diagnosis indicating their underlying condition and clinical diagnosis.

Eligible participants for national competitions must be 15 years or older before the first day of January. Exceptions are made for youth events.

2. Athlete Evaluation

Classification ensures that sporting success is a result of an athlete's training, skill level, talent and competitive experience rather than their degree of impairment. Classification will ensure that an athlete fulfils the physical criteria (as detailed in each classification physical profile) and assesses the functional impact of their impairment on sport performance.

2.1 Principles of Classification

Classifiers utilise a sport specific classification system developed for Boccia that includes physical, technical and observation components.

Classification in Boccia is composed of three distinct parts:

1. Physical assessment
2. Technical assessment including a range of sport specific tests and non-sport tests, and
3. Observation assessment consisting of observation of sport-specific activities on and off the court.

2.2 Classification Personnel

The following personnel have a key role in the process of Classification:

2.2.1 Head of Classification

The Head of Classification (HOC) is the person that is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for **Boccia Canada**. **Boccia Canada is the boccia delivery arm of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association, the national sport organization for boccia.**

2.2.2 Lead Classifier

The Lead Classifier will be a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific **Boccia Canada** Competition.

2.2.3 Classifier

A Classifier is a person authorised as an official by **Boccia Canada** to evaluate athletes for a sanctioned competition, while serving as a member of a Classification Panel.

2.2.4 Classification Panel

A classification panel is a group of three (3) Classifiers, appointed by **Boccia Canada** for a particular competition, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

The panel will generally consist of a physician (ideally specialising in Rehabilitation or Neurology), a physiotherapist and a sports technical **individual**. **In the event that no physician is available – a second physiotherapist may be appointed to a panel.**

2.2.5 Classification Master List

Boccia Canada will maintain a Classification Master List of all athletes, which tracks the athlete's name, **province of residence**, Sport Class and Sport Class Status and **date of classification**.

2.3 Provincial Classifications

All athletes eligible to participate in boccia should receive an initial classification from their **province**. **Provincial** classifications should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the BISFed Classification and Sport Profiles, and, in particular,

Provincial Classifiers should be trained according to the IPC Classification Code and BISFed approved standards.

2.4 Classification at Sanctioned Competitions

2.4.1 “Classification” refers to the process of classification that is undertaken at, or before, a competition. It is required before an athlete may compete at such an event.

2.4.2 Classifications must be carried out by an accredited and appointed multidisciplinary **classification** panel **as defined above**.

2.4.3 Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relationship with an athlete (or a member of athlete support personnel) that might create any actual or perceived bias, conflict of interest, and/or have no involvement with any decision being appealed. Should conflict arise the parties concerned should raise these with the Lead Classifier. Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a competition other than in connection with classification.

2.4.4 A major competition should have two (2) classification panels and one Lead Classifier.

2.4.5 At the discretion of the Head of Classification, one classification panel may be deemed sufficient for smaller competitions. If only one classification panel is present, no protests will be dealt with **and this information will be included in the initial entry package**. **When only one classification panel is present, new (NS) athletes will be given priority for classification and review athletes will be seen if time permits**.

2.4.6 At smaller competitions, the Lead Classifier may also act as a Classifier.

2.4.7 Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a competition for athlete evaluation. At major competitions, a minimum of **one full day** is recommended, depending on the number of athletes to be classified.

2.5 Classification: Scheduling, Substitutions and Preparation

2.5.1 The Head of Classification (HOC) appoints the classification panel(s) and Lead Classifier at the time **that the location of the event** is confirmed, ideally at least three (3) months prior to a competition. Classification Panels **will** be appointed **at the same time**.

2.5.2 The HOC may also act as the Lead Classifier at a Competition. The HOC and the Lead Classifier are to work with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the competition to prepare athlete lists. **A minimum of four (4) weeks** prior to the first day of the competition must be allowed for athletes’ names to be submitted to the HOC.

2.5.3 The Lead Classifier should provide the LOC and **participants** with a classification evaluation schedule **at least one (1) week** before their arrival at the competition. After

that time, any substitutions must be approved by the Lead Classifier and Technical Delegate for the Sport.

2.6 Classification: Athlete Evaluation

“Athlete Evaluation” is the process by which an athlete is assessed so as to determine both Sport Class and Sport Class Status. It is the responsibility of the Team **Manager or designate** to ensure that the athlete attends evaluation. The athlete must appear at classification at the assigned time in the appropriate attire with a recognised form of identification.

The following should be noted in relation to Athlete Evaluation:

- All athletes must sign an Informed Consent Form
- **All athletes must provide evidence that establishes the existence of a health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment by presenting completed** Certificate of Diagnosis before they may be evaluated;
- The athlete may be **filmed** for classification and education purposes;
- If an athlete does not appear in appropriate attire they will not be classified;
- If an athlete has a health condition that causes pain that limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation they will not be evaluated at that time. The Lead Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation;
- The athlete must provide information to the panel regarding impairment, medication and any surgery that may affect sport performance. If an athlete has an unusual or complicated impairment it is required that the athlete brings written information about the impairment.
- Athletes must present a full list of medications to the Classification Panel;
- The athlete must present with all necessary sports equipment that they use at competition;
- **If an athlete requires a Performance Partner to compete, the partner (or designate) must attend classification**
- Athletes may have one **Athlete Support Personnel (in addition to their Performance Partner)** accompany them at the evaluation. This person should have an understanding of the athlete's impairment and sport performance. If needed, the person may be asked by the Classifiers to assist with communication.
- If required, athletes may also bring an interpreter.

2.7 Classification: Athlete Evaluation Process

The Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that respects the provision of the International standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training.

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

2.7.1 Physical Assessment

The Classification Panel will commence by gathering information on the athlete's medical background and history in the sport.

The Classification Panel will conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with methods of assessment stipulated in the Classification Rules of Boccia Canada and BISFed. The physical assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination by the medical members of the classification panel (Doctor, Physiotherapist). Classifiers must be confident that the athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the physical assessment.

2.7.2 Technical Assessment

The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to, evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the athlete participates. Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the athlete in order to observe how the athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions. Classifiers must be confident that the athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment.

2.7.3 Classification in Competition

The classification panel will observe the athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the sport during training practice, in an event and/or during pool play. Classification in competition shall not be deemed to have been completed until the classification panel has observed the athlete sufficiently during competition. If for any reason the classification panel is not satisfied with observations at a specific competition, the athlete may enter the next competition with Review status (R) and will be **classified** at the next Boccia Canada sanctioned event.

2.7.4 Completion of Athlete Evaluation

Athlete Evaluation **is considered** complete once **2.7.1**, **2.7.2** and **2.7.3** have been completed to the satisfaction of the **assigned** Classification Panel. **A sport class and status will be assigned.**

2.7.5 Data protection

All Classification data such as Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or a Third Party to the Classification panel and collected by the Classification panel through assessments, Video footage and/or photography taken that the Athlete consented to will be processed in order to allocate a Sports Class.

The data processed will be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date in a secured Boccia Canada database.

Individual Classifiers may only use the Classification data collected during the classification process including video and photographs, notes, comments or records written in connection with the role as a classifier on the panel and may not retain or disclose any of the Classification data after Athlete Evaluation is completed.

Classifiers are NOT allowed to publish any video or photograph, obtained during or after the classification process, on any form of social media no matter what the purpose or intention are.

Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition and if the athlete consented, used for training purposes.

2.8 Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status

2.8.1 Sport Class

A Sport Class is a category in which athletes are categorized by reference to an activity limitation resulting from impairment, and the degree to which that impairment impacts upon sport performance. A range of function will exist within each Sport Class.

Non-Eligibility (NE) for Competition is considered a Sport Class. Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class based on the BISFed Classification **profiles**.

2.8.2 Sport Class Status

Following Athlete Evaluation, athletes will also 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 Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

The following designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status:

Sport Class Status New (N)

Sport Class Status New (**N**) is assigned to an Athlete who has not been previously evaluated **by a national classification panel at a sanctioned national competition**. **N** athletes include athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their **Province** for entry purposes. **N** Athletes must complete an Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at Boccia Canada sanctioned competitions.

Sport Class Status Review (R)

Sport Class Status Review (**R**) is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by a national Classification Panel but is still subject to further re-evaluation. The athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or

during a Competition. Athletes with impairments that are expected to change over time will maintain a review status, and will be evaluated regularly.

R status athletes include, but are not limited, to:

- 1) Athletes who have fluctuating or progressive impairments
- 2) Athletes who have only undergone one previous evaluation at a national classification
- 3) Athletes who have yet to have their status confirmed

Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (RFD)

Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (RFD) is assigned to an Athlete required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Date.

Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)

Sport Class Status Confirmed (**C**) is assigned to an Athlete who has been evaluated by a Boccia Canada Classification Panel and the Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class **will not change**.

C status will be assigned if:

- The Athlete has the same Sport Class assigned by two different national classification panels ('different' being defined as panels with at least two members who were not on the previous panel) at two (2) Boccia Canada sanctioned Competitions within two (2) years
- The Athlete is deemed permanently unable to grasp, release or propel the ball into the Field of Play by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation (i.e. BC3 Sport Class)

Boccia Canada will aim to have two (2) national classification panels at the Canadian Boccia Championships to be able to confirm status of athletes who are in review and/or to be able to resolve protests arising from classification.

Due to the variable nature of recovery after Acquired Brain Injury the athlete with an Acquired Brain Injury will not be given Confirmed status (C) until at least 4 years post injury.

An athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete an evaluation prior to competing at Canadian Competitions, except in the case of a Protest lodged under "Protest in Exceptional Circumstances (3.4). An athlete will not be allocated a Confirmed "C" Sports Class Status until other competitors have had an opportunity to observe the athlete in competition.

If the criteria or methodology used to allocate a Sport Class changes, Boccia Canada may re-designate Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) and Athletes with Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (RFD) as being Sports Class Status Review (R).

Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)

Sport Class Not Eligible (**NE**) will be assigned to an Athlete if that Athlete does not have an impairment or activity limitation that sufficiently impacts their ability to play the sport under Boccia Canada and BISFed rules, as determined by the athlete evaluation.

In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a Competition, and a Sport Class Status of "Not Eligible to Compete" (NE) is allocated, the athlete will be examined by a second Classification Panel. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further right to Protest. **If the second panel is not available, the second assessment will take place at the next available opportunity where the athlete competes and a national classification panel (where at least two of the three classifiers are different than those who assessed the athlete on the first occasion, where the athlete was made ineligible) is present.**

The above shall not apply to an evaluation conducted following a Protest made under Exceptional Circumstances.

An Athlete deemed NE **cannot** be substituted or replaced by another Athlete. In the case of team events, the sport rules shall apply to teams that lack one or more players as a result of such players being designated NE.

2.9 Classification: Notification of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

2.9.1 Sport Class Status New Athletes

Athletes with Sport Class Status N will receive Sport Class Status "Competition Review Status" (R) following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2). Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), Athletes with Sport Class Status N will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status R or RFD.

2.9.2 Sport Class Status R or RFD Athletes

Athletes with Sport Class Status R or RFD will receive Sport Class Status "Competition Review Status" ("CRS") following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2). Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), Athletes with Sport Class Status CRS will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status R, RFD or C.

Athlete Evaluation Pathway

Pre-Competition	Post-Evaluation Period	Post-First Appearance
$N \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD *$	$N \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD *$	$N \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD *$
$R, RFD \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD, C$	$R, RFD \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD, C$	$R, RFD \rightarrow CRS \rightarrow R, RFD, C$

*BC3 Athletes may be given Confirmed Status as per 2.8.2.

2.9.3 Notification to Athlete

Following Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), the athlete shall be informed of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made. Written notification will be provided to the athlete and given to the athlete and their representative and will include:

- the athlete's name
- the athlete's assigned Sport Class
- the athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- date of classification
- the names of the classification panel members

2.9.4 Notification to Third Parties

At the end of the classification session, the lead classifier will arrange to have the classification results posted in a location determined in consultation with the Technical Delegate and Competition Host.

2.9.5 Changes in Sport Class after Observation

If any changes to an Athlete's Sport Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of Classification in Competition, **and all protests (if any) are complete:**

- change of Sport Class is effective immediately;
- the **Lead** classifier will inform the athlete and their team representative of the Classification Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible;
- the Technical Delegate and the LOC will be informed **as soon as is logistically possible;**
- previously posted results will be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of Boccia Canada **immediately;**

- the LOC will make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of Boccia Canada; and
- the LOC will advise other teams and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as logistically possible.

Written notification of any changes resulting from Classification in Competition period must be provided to the Athlete. This will include:

- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class;
- The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status; and
- Details of any associated Protest procedures

If an athlete protests a change in sport class and a second panel is available, the athlete will proceed to athlete evaluation with the second panel as soon as it can be arranged.

If an athlete protests a change in sport class and no second panel is available, the athlete will have a review status assigned and will be seen at the next available opportunity.

2.9.6 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition

The Lead Classifier for the competition must confirm each Sport Class and Sport Class Status assigned by the Classification Panels before the end of each competition.

2.9.7 Post-Competition Notification

The results from Classification at each competition will be posted for all attendees at the competition to view (either in paper or electronic form). They will also be posted on the Boccia Canada website, normally within four (4) weeks of the end of the event.

2.9.8 Competing in a Higher Sport Class

An athlete may compete in a higher (less impaired) Sport Class at a specific competition at the discretion of the Lead Classifier and Technical Delegate. If the athlete competes in a higher Sport Class they will remain in that Sport Class for the remainder of the competition.

2.10 Classification: Identity Cards

Following Classification, a Classification Identity Card will be issued to the Athlete or their designate as soon as is practicable. The Classification Identity Card will contain details of an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status, and must be presented to the Lead Classifier at each Competition.

The name on the Classification Identity Card will be the name provided by the Athlete at classification and that name must be used for registration purposes.

If cards are lost, the Athlete or their designate must contact the Boccia Canada office for replacement.

2.11 Classification: Master List

Boccia Canada, through the Head of Classification and Boccia Canada staff, will maintain a Classification Master List of all Athletes, with details such as Athlete's first name and surname, Date of Birth, Sport Class, Sport Class Status and Review Fix Date (if applicable). The Classification Master List will be published on the Boccia Canada website. Following a Competition, the Lead Classifier must liaise with the Head of Classification and Boccia Canada staff, so that the Classification Master List can be updated.

2.12 Classification: Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation

If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that competition.

Should the Lead Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend evaluation, an athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation.

Failure to attend evaluation includes:

- Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or
- Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or
- Not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

2.13 Classification: Suspension of Athlete Evaluation

An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition.

If the Athlete fails to co-operate during Athlete Evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that **competition**.

A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Lead Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to in one or more of the following circumstances:

2.13.1 A failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;

2.13.2 A failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;

2.13.3 The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;

2.13.4 The Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with the requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;

2.13.5 If an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;

2.13.6 If in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;

2.13.7 The Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or

2.13.8 The Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

Should the Lead Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps will be taken:

- An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and their Provincial Sport Organization;
- If an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Lead Classifier or Head of Classification, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed
- If the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed

A Suspension of Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

Any Athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation **by a national classification panel** for boccia for twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to cooperate.

2.15 Classification: Intentional Misrepresentation

An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition.

In addition:

- The athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for Boccia for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;
- The Lead Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the athlete from the **Boccia Canada** classification master list;
- The athlete will be designated as IM (Intentional Misrepresentation) in the **Boccia Canada** classification master list;
- **The Provincial Sport Organization will be informed of the decision**

An athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from **Boccia Canada** events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by **Boccia Canada**.

2.16 Classification: Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel

Boccia Canada shall enforce **penalties** on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an athlete to fail to attend athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way. Those who are involved in advising athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to **penalties**, which are at least as severe as the **penalties** given to the athlete.

In this circumstance, reporting the athlete support personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the athlete.

2.16 Publication of Penalties

Boccia Canada will disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in writing to the Athlete and his/her Provincial Sport Organization.

2.17 Medical Review

A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct. This review is

referred to as 'Medical Review'. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request'.

2.17.1 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport due to medication, device/implant or change in function due to degenerative conditions e.g. Muscular Dystrophy.

2.17.2 A Medical Review Request must be completed by the athlete or their designate and must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. This must support all relevant supporting documentation.

2.17.3 A Medical Review might also be requested on granting an Athlete the permission to use a substance/medication on the list of prohibited medication.

2.17.4 The Head of Classification will decide whether or not the Medical Review Request must be upheld as soon as is practicable following receipt of the Medical Review Request.

2.17.5 If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (R) or Review Fixed Date (RFD).

3.0 Protests/Appeals

3.1 Definitions

The terms "protest" and "appeal" are both used in these Rules as they are in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals.

"Protest" refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an **Athlete's Sport Class** is made.

"Appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the **manner** in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted.

A protest **or appeal** that is accepted will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a classification panel, which will be referred to as a "Protest Panel". An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted in Exceptional Circumstances. Protests should be **decided** in a manner that minimizes the impact on competition participation, and competition schedules and results.

3.2 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest

Protests may only be submitted for an athlete by the athlete, athlete's coach or **Lead Classifier**.

3.3 Provincial Sport Organization Protest

3.3.1 A Provincial Sport Organization may make a Protest on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete may not make a Protest without the authorisation of the Provincial Sport Organization.

3.3.2 A Provincial Sport Organization may protest the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who at the time of being enrolled at the Competition, holds a Sport Class that has been designated Sport Class Status New (N), Review (R) or Review Fixed Date (RFD).

3.3.3 A Provincial Sport Organization protest must be made at a Competition the Athlete has entered in.

3.3.4 The Provincial Sport Organization making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are complied with.

3.3.5 A National Federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another National Federation. If a National Federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to such and Athlete it may request BISFed to make a Protest.

3.4 Provincial Sport Organization Protest Procedures

3.4.1 A Provincial Sport Organization protest must be made by way of a Classification Protest Form. Protests may be submitted by **an athlete**, their coach or the athlete's designate.

All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest Form must be submitted with the Protest Form, or as soon as is reasonably practicable following the submission of the Protest Form.

The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest Form must include the following:

- The name and **province** of the athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
- Details of the decision being protested;
- The reason for the protest;
- Any documents and other evidence to be offered in support of the protest;
- The signature of the **athlete**, coach or the Lead Classifier, where applicable; and
- **The fee for a protest is twenty (\$20) Canadian dollars and must be paid in cash.**

An Athlete's Sport Class may be protested within one (1) hour (sixty (60) minutes) of the Classification Panel's decisions regarding Sport Class being posted. Decisions must be posted in a clearly visible location and the Technical Delegate notified by the Classification Panel that the results have been posted.

The Lead Classifier for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive protests on behalf of Boccia Canada.

If it appears to the Lead Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Lead Classifier will decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Lead Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the athlete or their designate as soon as is practicable. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.

3.4.5 If the Lead Classifier declines a Protest, the athlete or their designate may resubmit the Protest if they are able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Lead Classifier. The time frames for resubmitting a Protest will be 1 hour (60 minutes) from the time the Athlete or their designate were informed of the decline.

3.4.6 If it appears to the Lead Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures, the Protest must be accepted.

If the Protest is accepted:

- The Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;
- The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, if possible at the Competition the Protest was made

3.5 Boccia Canada Council Protest

3.5.1 The Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association, through the Boccia Canada Council, may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.

3.5.2 Boccia Canada Council, in the person of the Head of Classification and/or Lead Classifier, if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification, may make a Protest if he/she has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.

3.6 Boccia Canada Protest Procedure

3.6.1 The Head of Classification will advise the relevant Provincial Sport Organization at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is to be made.

3.6.2 The Head of Classification will provide the Provincial Sport Organization with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest is justified.

3.6.3 If Boccia Canada makes a Protest:

- The Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (R) as appropriate;
- A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible

3.6.4 A Lead Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of Boccia Canada at a Competition if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.

3.7 Resolving a Protest: the Protest Panel

3.7.1 A Lead Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in resolving a Protest if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.

3.7.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions in the IPC Code and International Standards relating to the Appointment of a Classification Panel.

The protest panel shall consist of a minimum of three (3) Classifiers, of equal or greater level of certification as those involved in the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class.

3.7.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who:

- Was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision (unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 1 year prior to the Protest being submitted); or
- An person who has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, save that the athlete or designate may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person

3.7.4 The Head of Classification or the Lead Classifier at a competition will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest form to the Panel. The Head of Classification or Lead Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.

3.7.5 The Protest Panel will conduct the Athlete Evaluation following the same process as described in sections 2.6 and 2.7 – Athlete Evaluation and Athlete Evaluation process. Protest panels should conduct the initial evaluation without reference to the classification panel which allocated the athlete's most recent Sport Class.

The Protest Panel may seek medical, sport or scientific expertise, including making enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Lead Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.

3.7.6 The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

3.7.7 The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest or appeal.

3.8 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available

If a Protest is made at a Competition but there is no opportunity for the Protest to be resolved at that Competition:

3.8.1 The Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete with Review status within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;

3.8.2 All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the next available opportunity.

3.9. Procedures for Protests submitted out of Competition

Protests made out of competition may be submitted by an athlete, their coach or the athlete's designate.

Protests made out of competition may be made within thirty (30) days of the last day of a competition in which the athlete has competed or ninety (90) days prior to a competition when the athlete will compete.

Protests must be submitted on the Boccia Canada official protest form to the Head of Classification. There will be a fee of twenty (\$20) Canadian Dollars for the protest outside of competition.

Regardless of the outcome of a protest, Boccia Canada will retain the protest fee.

Upon receipt of the official protest form and the protest fee, the Head of Classification shall conduct a review to determine whether all relevant rules concerning the submission of a protest have been complied with and accept or reject the protest.

If the relevant rules have not been complied with or there are no substantial grounds for a protest, the protest shall be dismissed and the protest form returned.

If the protest is accepted to proceed, the Head of Classification shall determine a time, date and competition event for the protest evaluation following consultation with all parties and shall notify all parties a minimum of twenty-eight (28) calendar days prior to the protest evaluation date. If the protest is rejected, the reasons why the protest was rejected will be given.

Athlete Evaluation following a protest made out of competition shall follow the same process as described in protest procedure during competition. All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following athlete evaluation.

The decision of the protest panel made following an out of competition protest is final and is not subject to any further protest or appeal.

4.0 Classification Profiles

As per Section 4.0 of BISFed Classification manual.

5. Classification personnel and classifier pathway

5.1 Boccia Canada Classification Personnel

The IPC Classification Code, BISFed and Boccia Canada recognise Classifiers as games officials.

There are two types of Boccia Classifiers:

5.1.1 Medical Classifier

- **Medical Doctor** who has experience in dealing with people with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or physical impairments as defined in the Athlete profiles (ideally a physician with a specialty in Rehabilitation or Neurology).
- **Physiotherapists** or related disciplines trained to work with individuals with the clinical manifestations of cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke and other physical impairments.

5.1.2. Sports Technical-Individual

Individuals with an extensive coaching background in Boccia, or those with degrees in physical education, biomechanics or kinesiology, or individuals who have a strong working knowledge of Boccia and individuals with physical impairments.

5.2 Classifier Knowledge and Competencies

Classifier training is based on a competency based approach. Classifiers are expected to develop the following knowledge and competencies:

5.2.1 Technical Knowledge

- Thorough understanding of the Boccia Canada classification rules and regulations
- Know how to complete an athlete evaluation as part of a classification
- Know how to participate in an protest panel
- Know how to complete the classification forms
- An understanding of Boccia sport rules
- An understanding of the Classification code and the international standards

5.2.2 Behavioural Competencies

- Analytical Thinking
- Communication
- Decision Making
- Teamwork and Cooperation
- Values & Ethics
- Organizational Awareness
- Organization & Planning
- Capacity to contribute as part of a panel
- Ability to communicate respectfully with athletes
- Ability to work with the Lead Classifier
- Leadership

5.3 Levels of Classifiers in Boccia Canada

5.3.1 Entry Level Classifier

An individual who is classifying in his or her province and attending National Boccia competitions in the process of training as a National Boccia Classifier. An entry level National Boccia trainee Classifier, attending a national competition as an observer/trainee, shall have no other responsibilities. Having no such official duties allows entry level classifiers to participate fully in their classification training.

5.3.2 National Classifier

An individual who has completed and has met all the requirements of the BISFed Accredited Basic Classifier's Course or the Boccia Canada equivalent. This individual may allocate a national sport class and sport class status as part of a classification panel to Canadian athletes.

5.3.3 Lead Classifier

An individual who is an experienced National Classifier, appointed for a specific competition, by the Boccia Canada Head of Classification and/or staff responsible for Classification.

5.3.4 International classifier

The description of and process to become an international classifier is described in Section 5.2 of the BISFed classification rule book.

5.4 Responsibilities and Duties of Classification Personnel

5.4.1 National Classifier/ Entry level Classifier

A National Classifier/Entry Level Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest **Boccia Canada Classification Manual** and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the Entry Level / National Boccia Classifier include:

- classifying at a National level in **Canada**
- keeping a log book of Classifications **completed**
- active participation and observation to learn classification rules
- developing **and maintaining** competencies and proficiencies for certification
- attendance at classification meetings

Note: Entry level classifiers will not participate as members of a protest panel.

5.4.2 Lead Boccia Classifier

The duties of the Lead Boccia Classifier may include but are not limited to:

- Administering and coordinating classification matters related to Boccia Canada for a specific competition;
- Liaising with Boccia Canada staff, organizing committees and teams before a competition to identify and notify athletes who require evaluation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
- Liaising with organizing committees before a competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for classifiers;
- Working with national classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during a specific competition;
- Collaborating with classifiers and entry level classifiers in their duties as members of classification panels and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies at the event; and
- Completing a competition report normally within thirty (30) days of a particular Competition and sending to the person responsible for classification at Boccia Canada

5.5 Boccia Canada Classifier Accreditation Process

To become a National Boccia classifier, an individual must complete a combination of Parasport training, classifier training and practical experience.

5.5.1 Pre-requisite

Completion of the Intro to Parasport online course (found on the IPC Academy of Sport website). This must be completed prior to attending any further training and present the certificate of completion with the request to become a classifier.

Optional: Classifier candidates can apply to mentor with a currently certified National or International Classifier.

5.5.2 Training

Attendance at the BISFed Accredited Basic Classifier Course or Boccia Canada equivalent Classification training program that consists of the following elements:

- IPC Classification Code
- IPC International standards for the sport of Boccia
- Current sport class rules and regulations as defined by BISFed
- Athlete's rights and responsibilities
- Processes for athlete evaluation
- Processes for Protests and Appeals
- Processes for obtaining, certifying, and maintaining proficiency in classification
- Processes for dealing with non-compliance of any portion of the Classification code
- The course will be a minimum of 8 -12 hours in length and will consist of a practical component observing or performing the classification process with actual athletes

To attend classifier training, the prospective classifier will submit an application to the Head of Classification detailing their interest and relevant background.

The Head of Classification will then convene a selection panel consisting of the Chair, Participation Development Committee and 1-2 currently certified National or International Classifiers.

The following criteria will be considered when selecting candidates for the BISFed Accredited Basic Classifier Course or Boccia Canada equivalent:

- Commitment to the organization to classify for the next quadrennial
- Regional representation from across the country (east, west, central)
- Discipline representation – sport technical, medical (doctor, physiotherapist)
- Classifier is (or willing to be) active in boccia in their local community or region

5.5.3 Practical

After at least 2 years, or classifying a minimum of 20 athletes at least two different competitions as part of a panel that includes a certified National Classifier, the Entry Level Classifier may be eligible to apply through Boccia Canada to the Head of Classification for certification as a National Classifier.

After at least 4-6 years as a National Classifier, or a minimum of classifying an additional 25 - 30 athletes, a National Classifier may be eligible to apply to be nominated by Boccia Canada to move on to the next level of the BISFed Classification Certification process as defined in section 5.4 of the BISFED rules and regulations.

Classifier Pathway – see Section 13

5.6 Maintaining National Boccia Classifier Certification

National Boccia Classifiers must maintain their certification and will be notified annually by the Boccia Canada Head of Classification and/or staff responsible for Classification regarding the status of their certification and how to develop further competencies. Classifiers who fail to meet the maintenance criteria after four years will lose their status and become INACTIVE until they have been able to upgrade their skills and recertify.

5.7 Maintenance Criteria

In order to maintain their certification, Entry Level and National classifiers must:

- Respond to communications on a regular basis, including responding to calls for classifiers for provincial/national competitions indicating availability
- Be active within their region or province, classifying at least a minimum of 5 athletes per quadrennial.
- Submit an annual classification log to indicate activity each year that can be certified by the Lead Classifier, meet official or provincial sport organization representative.
- Attend classification seminars or meetings (sometimes held prior to a competition) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current Boccia Canada classification rules
- Attend and classify at a minimum of one Boccia Canada sanctioned competition and one Canadian Boccia Championships per quadrennial

6.0 Classifiers Code of Conduct

6.1 General Principles

- The role of classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an Athletes Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

- The integrity of classification in the Paralympic movement, BISFED, CCPSA, and Boccia Canada rest on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual classifier.
- All classifiers must adhere to the IPC code of Ethics (see IPC handbook), the IPC Classifiers Code of Conduct and the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association Code of Conduct.
- All classification personnel must sign and adhere to the IPC Code of Ethics annually indicating an agreement to act in a professional manner according to a set of guidelines for professional conduct and behaviour.
- Classifiers will value and respect the Athlete and Athlete support personnel and;
- Treat athletes and athlete support personnel with understanding, patience and dignity,
- Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties for all Athletes, regardless of team affiliation.
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with athletes and athlete support personnel in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation, the International Standard for Protest and Appeals, and BISFed and/or competition rules
- Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Maintain confidentiality of athlete information whenever possible, according of the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals

Classifiers should respect the classification rules and;

- Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions.
- Understand the theory and practical aspects of the classification rules and make them widely known and understood by athletes and athlete support personnel.
- Continuously seek self-improvement through study of the sport, classification rules, mentoring lesser experienced classifiers and developing trainee classifiers. Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure.

- Recognise that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided.
- Disclose any relationship with a team, athlete or athlete support personnel that would otherwise constitute a conflict of interest.
- Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information
- Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment
- Treat other classifiers with professional respect, dignity and courtesy, recognising that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticise other classifiers, games officials or technical advisers.
- Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision making process of fellow classifiers, games officials and technical advisors whether you agree or not.
- Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced classifiers and assist with the training and development of classifiers in accordance with the International Standards for Classifier Training and Certification.

6.2 Consequences of NON compliance with the Classifiers Code of Conduct

Classifiers perform a professional role and voluntarily observe a high- level of professional and ethical conduct and behaviour, not because of fear of penalty but out of personal character and responsibility. Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of **penalties** from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a Classifier of Boccia Canada.

7.0 Administration of Classification Outside of Competition

In Canada the Classification Committee is responsible for overseeing the boccia classification pathway in Canada. This committee is a standing sub-committee of the Participation and Development Committee of the Boccia Canada Council.

The duties of the Classification Committee include:

- Liaise with the Boccia Canada Participation and Development Committee in the areas of officials development with focus on provincial and national level
- Advise the Boccia Canada Council on the implementation of a domestic

- system to develop classifiers up to the Canadian Boccia Championships level
- Recommend standards relating to training and certification of national classifiers
- Contribute to review and revision of policies related to Classification as required

The Terms of Reference for the Classification Committee are available from Boccia Canada.

7.1 Classification Administration Processes

The following administration processes will be followed in the appointment of Classifiers for national events.

- 1) Call for Classifiers
- 2) Call for Classifiers in Training.
- 3) Appointment of Classification Panels and Notification Process.
- 4) **Assign** Lead Classifiers duties pre-event, during the event and post event.
- 5) Classifiers duties regarding Classification results and 'posting' results back to Boccia Canada

8.0 Glossary

See BISFed Classification Rules.

9.0 Evaluation of Athletosis/Dystonia

See BISFed Classification Rules.

10.0 Evaluation of Ataxia

See BISFed Classification Rules.

11.0 Certificate of Diagnosis



CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS FOR BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION



The person named below is required to undergo Boccia Classification to compete in boccia in Canada. During the classification process the approved Classifier (physiotherapist or medical doctor) will assess their Physical Impairment as relevant to the requirements for playing Boccia. To assist the classification assessment process, a confirmation of the medical diagnosis is required.

Athlete's Details (To be completed by the Athlete applying for Classification – Please print)

First Name:		Last Name:	
Gender	Male	Female	Date of Birth:
Address			
City		Province	Postal Code:
Telephone #		Email	
I hereby consent to the information below being released to the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association/Boccia Canada for the purpose of Boccia classification.			
Signature			Date

MEDICAL DETAILS (This section to be completed by a Doctor of Medicine only – please print clearly) Please attach a separate sheet of report if insufficient space.

Name of Applicant	
Diagnosis	
Test results to support the above diagnosis (i.e. MRI, CT, muscle biopsy, nerve conduction)	

Other relevant factors (i.e. epilepsy, diabetes, heart disease)	
Prescription medication taken by the athlete	

I hereby certify that I have followed this patient for _____ years and that the patient has the diagnosis specified above.

Please print

Doctor's Name:	
Address:	
Signature:	
Date:	

N.B. Information disclosed on this form will be dealt with confidentially by BISFed and in accordance to the IPC Code of Ethics for Classification.

Guidelines for the medical practitioner completing this form:

Requirements

Relevant and appropriate medical documentation is essential to the process of Classification of Athletes for competitions sanctioned by CCPSA/Boccia Canada.

This medical information should provide the results of medical tests and investigations which demonstrate that the Athlete has a diagnosis of a medical condition which leads to their presenting physical impairments.

It is not necessary to supply a report stating the symptoms such as weakness, pain, lack of sensation, inability to walk or perform certain actions. These limitations are assessed during the Classification process by Accredited Classifiers at sanctioned events.

For Classification any documentation or information provided such as a report from the neurologist or test results should be presented in English.

12.0 Consent Form

CLASSIFICATION RELEASE

I _____ agree to undergo the classification process as outlined in the **1st Edition Boccia Canada Classification Manual** and administered by the designated Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (CCPSA) classification team. I understand that this classification process will require me to participate in sport like exercises and activities. I understand that there is a risk of injury in participating in exercises and activities and that I am healthy enough to do so. I also understand that if I am injured during the course of this classification process I hold CCPSA blameless.

I also understand that classification requires me to give my best effort for the classification team. I understand the failure to give my best effort could result in me being disqualified from CCPSA competition. I also understand that discrepancies between the performance I demonstrate during the classification process and that which I demonstrate during competition could also lead to my disqualification from CCPSA competitions.

I agree to abide by the above and understand that classification is a judgment process and will agree to abide by the judgment of the classification team. If I do not agree with the results of the classification panel I agree to abide by the protest and appeals process as defined in the **1st Edition Boccia Canada Classification Manual**.

I agree to be videotaped and photographed during the classification process to include my activity on and off the field of play during the competition.

Signature

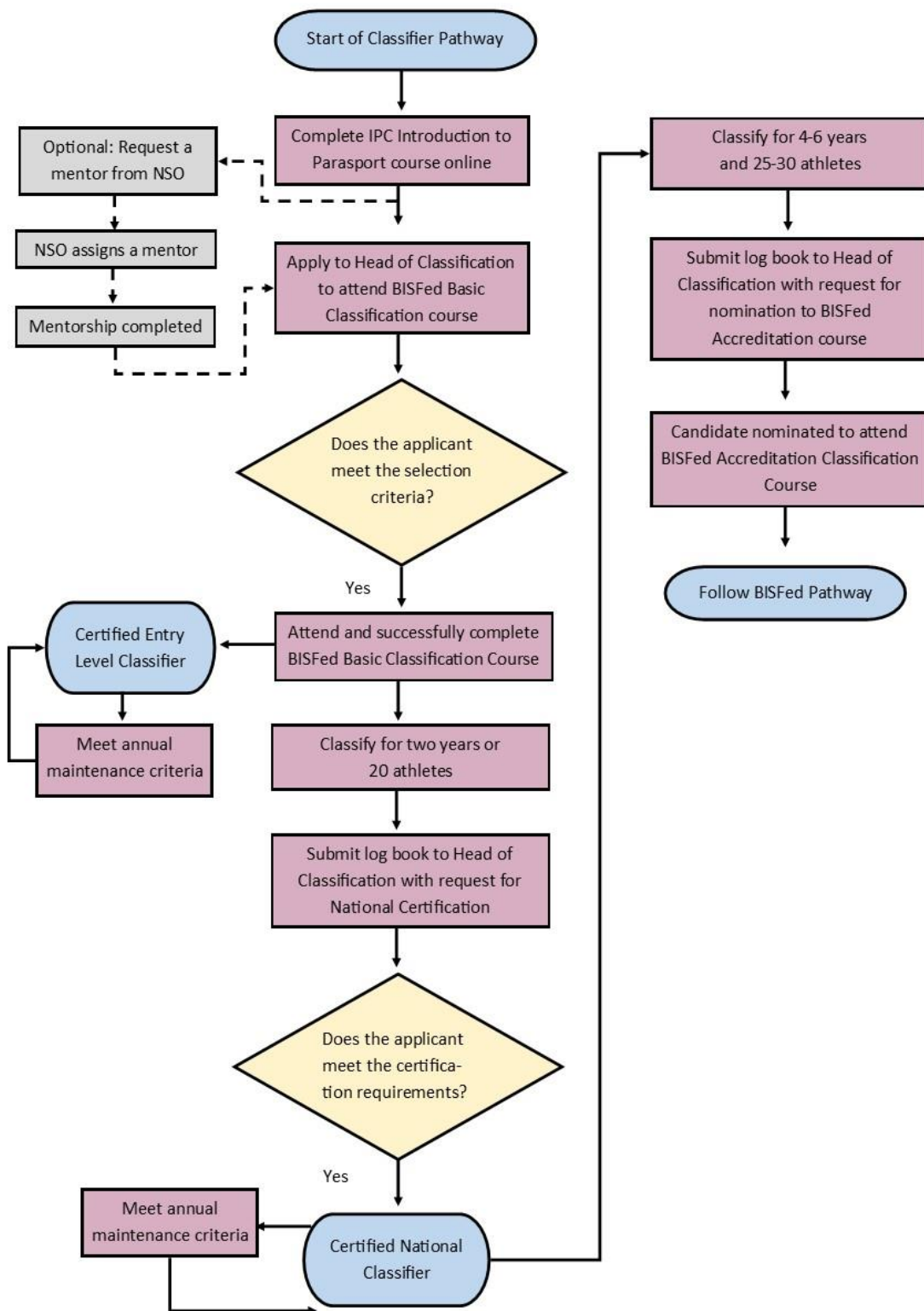
Date

Witness

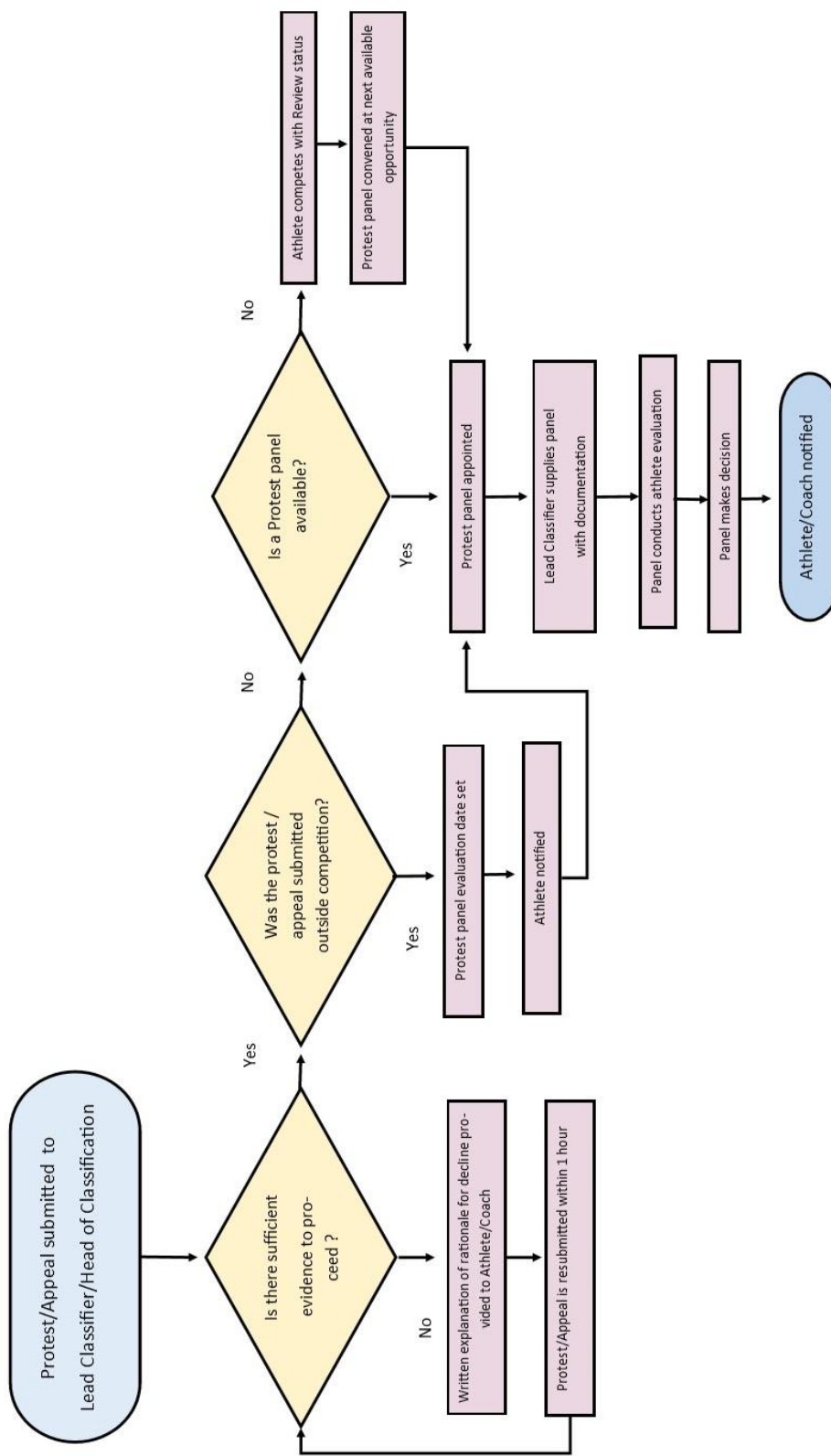
Date

13.0 Classification Administration Processes

13.1 Classifier Pathway



13.2 Classification Protest Process



13.3 Classification Process

