Selection Criteria for the 2022 Boccia National Program

1. Introduction:

Because of the COVID-19 impact, 2022 now represents the first year of a triennial “en route” to a qualification for the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024. The High-Performance pathway of Boccia Canada is in need of athletes to play the game at the highest level and we want to support the development of these athletes across Canada by creating two distinct groups under our supervision starting in January 2022.

In these circumstances:

1. Up to 10 athletes will be selected to the 2022 “National Team”.
2. Up to 8 athletes will be selected to the 2022 “National Espoir Team”.

Following these nominations, the number of athletes to represent Canada at International events in 2022 will depend on program prioritization and funding capacity.

Athletes for each event will be selected in priority from the “National Team” but athletes targeted as “National Espoir” could be consider as well for some events. These events selections would be made close to the specific events.

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. If needed, the final decision for nomination rests with the Head Coach.

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

3.1 15 years old before January 1st, 2022 to be selected to the “National Team”
3.2 13 years old before January 1st, 2022 to be selected to the “National Espoir ”
3.3 Capacity to meet the National Boccia Squads requirements (point 10)

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

4.1 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 “World Boccia” events (BISFed).

4.2 Athletes must be at least 15 years old before January 1st of the year in which the competition they are selected to attend takes place.

5. **Illness, Injury, Unforeseen Circumstance or Program priorities:**

If an athlete is unable to attend a required event or training 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 the High Performance Chair of the Boccia Canada Council.

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.

6. Selection process for the 2022 "National Team" and the 2022 "National Espoir Team".

The following will be taken into consideration for the selection of the athletes:

1. Individual play results from the 2021 Canadian Boccia Championship (final ranking)
   25% of the selection score
2. Individual play results from the January 2022 Selection camp
   20% of the selection score
3. Results of the evaluations made at the January 2022 selection camp (evaluation in connection with the Gold Medal Profile)
   15% of the selection score
4. Observations with regards to the Gold Medal Profile evaluation
   40% of the selection score

The following will be taken into consideration for the selection of the athletes to the **National Espoir Team in 2022:**

1. *Observations with regards to the Gold Medal Profile evaluation and the capacity for High-Performance*
   100% of the selection score

Notes:

- GMP observations and collection of data will be made at the 2021 Canadian Championship.
- Invitations for the January 2022 Selection camp will be made after the 2021 Canadian Championship.
- GMP observations and collection of data will be made during the January 2022 Selection camp.
- In the best interest of the High Performance program of Boccia Canada we now must consider the new competition format from "World Boccia" when selecting athletes.
- The field of play in each division (male/female) and best options for mix gender Team and Pairs will now be considered for optimal potential results.

6.1 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.

6.2 “Rising Star” athletes

- At the discretion of the Selection Committee up to three (3) additional athletes may be selected to the National or Espoir Squad who are considered to be Rising Star athletes.
- Rising Star athletes must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 4.
- Rising Star athletes may be added at any time.
- Rising Star athletes may be selected for events if this is in the best interest of the program.

7. 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.

7.1 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 the Performance partner is mandatory;
5. Ensure their Performance partner is a member in good standing of their Provincial Sport Organization and in possession of a valid Volunteer Sector Check
6. BC3’s Performance partners must be Canadian citizen;
7. 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 eligible according to the AAP criteria)
8. Provide Boccia Canada with their provincial and/or personal coach contact information;
9. Send personal training reports to the Head Coach on a monthly basis;
10. Communicate and follow up effectively with coaches.

Note: Failing to meet these obligations could result in a non-selection or expulsion from the Squads. If the athletes are named for the Athlete Assistance Program of Sport Canada this may have a direct impact on carding.

8. Schedule of events and Training camps

The 2022 schedule of events still depends on the situation with COVID-19, funding, prioritization, “World Boccia” rankings and “World Boccia” decisions around international events. The International calendar for Team Canada should be confirmed in January 2022. All available events will be evaluated based on congruity with the HighPerformance plan and the capacity of Boccia Canada in 2022.

Details around Training Camps will be confirmed as soon as possible.

9. National Boccia Training Squad requirements

9.1 Athletes need to train technically/tactically for a minimum of eight (8) hours per week.

9.2 Developing and improving the following Perfomance factors and components is a priority (see GMP):

1. Technical skills
2. Mental skills
3. Tactical skills
4. Physical skills
5. Environment

9.3 In order to train short, mid and long range and to work properly on angle shots, the training hours must be done on a boccia court;

9.4 Training with other athletes in the program is highly required when athletes live within a 50km radius.

9.5 Training regularly and being followed by a national, provincial, or personal coach in touch with the National coaches is required. The coach should have “Introduction to Competition” or engage in getting to that level within the year.

9.6 Athletes need to train in the field of mental preparation, meeting with and being followed by a sport psychologist or a mental trainer is recommended.

9.7 Athletes need to train in the field of physical preparation, being followed by a physical trainer, physiotherapist, massage therapist, etc. is recommended.

9.8 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.

10. Key Performance Factors to Consider in the Gold Medal Profile. <u>These elements are likely to be evaluated by the coaches at any moments.</u>

TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL	ENVIRONMENT
1st ball*	Decision making	Emotion	Posture	Training
Placement*	Ball selection	Confidence	Power	Coaching
Push*	Shot selection	Concentration	Grip	Performance Partner
Displacement*	Game planning	Resilience	Endurance	Specialist
Lob	Time management	-----	----	Equipment
Ricochet		-----	-----	-----
Push and Tumble	-----	-----	-----	-----
Flop	-----	-----	-----	- ----
Body/Chair Positioning	-----	-----	-----	-----