



BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION RULES

2nd EDITION 2nd Draft September 2021

BASED ON BISFED CLASSIFICATION RULES, 4th EDITION

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Canadian Cerebral Palsy
Sports Association



L'Association canadienne de sports
pour paralytiques cérébraux

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1. General Provisions

1.1 Adoption

These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred throughout this document as the Classification Rules. They have been prepared by Boccia Canada to implement the requirements of the 2017 International Paralympic Committee Athlete Classification Code and International Standards and are adapted from the BISFed Classification Rules to be tailored for use in Canada.

These Classification Rules are in 2nd draft.

These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These appendices form an integral part of the classification rules

These Classification Rules form part of the Boccia Canada Rules and Regulations

These Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist in Athlete Evaluation. These forms are available from Boccia Canada and can be amended from time to time as required.

1.2 Classification

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 define who is eligible to compete in Boccia.
- b. To group athletes into sport classes 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, and a Sport Class will be allocated based on the existence of an eligible impairment, compliance with Minimal Impairment criteria and the degree to which their impairment impacts upon sport performance (activity limitation).

1.3 Application

These Classification Rules apply to all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with Boccia Canada and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by Boccia Canada.

These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of BISFed and Boccia Canada including but not limited to the Sport Technical Rules of Boccia. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other rules, the Classification Rules shall take precedence.

2 Classification Personnel

Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. Boccia Canada will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, implementation and administration of Classification for Boccia

2.1 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.

There are two types of Boccia Classifiers:

2.1.1 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.

2.1.2. Sports Technical Classifier

Individuals with an extensive coaching background or other relevant experience in Boccia, or those with degrees in physical education, biomechanics or kinesiology. These individuals must have a strong working knowledge of Boccia and individuals with neurological and /or physical impairments.

2.2 Classifier roles

On a voluntary basis, there are also different roles a classifier may be asked to perform, in addition to being a classifier on a panel.

2.2.1 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.

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

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

- a) Administer and coordinate classification matters related to Boccia Canada for a specific competition;
- b) Liaise 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;
- c) Liaise with organizing committees before a competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for classifiers;
- d) Work with national classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during a specific competition;
- e) Collaborate 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
- f) Complete a competition report normally within thirty (30) days of a particular Competition and send to the person responsible for classification at Boccia Canada
- g) Accept and manage Protests in consultation with Boccia Canada and may act as a 3rd classifier in a Protest panel at Boccia Canada events where classification panels consist of only 2 classifiers.
- h) Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifier in their duties as members of the Classification Panels to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies at the competition.
- i) Return the completed classification forms to Boccia Canada following competition so that the database may be updated.

2.2.2 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.**

The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities and/or transfer specific tasks to designated Classifiers, or other authorized persons within Boccia Canada.

Nothing in these Classification Rules prevents the Head of Classification to be certified as a classifier, from being appointed to a Classifier panel or from being the lead classifier at a Boccia Canada competition.

2.3 Levels of Classifiers in Boccia Canada

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 National Classifier

An individual who has completed and has met all the requirements of the BISFed entry level training 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.

2.3.3 International classifier

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

2.4 Responsibilities of Classifiers

2.4.1 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** rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

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

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

- e) attendance at classification meetings
- f) participate on the classification committee

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

2.5. Classification personnel pathway

Classifier Competencies

A Classifier will be authorised to act as a Classifier, if the Classifier has been certified by Boccia Canada as having the relevant Classifier Competencies. Classifier training is based on a competency based approach. Classifiers are expected to develop and maintain the following knowledge and competencies:

2.5.1 Technical Knowledge

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

2.5.2 Behavioural Competencies

- Fully adhere to the Classifier's Code of Conduct
- Attend classification meetings at competitions and other organized events as required
- Participate on the classification committee
- Contribute to the development and evolution of Boccia classification in Canada.
- Possess and/or develop the following skills:
 - 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
 - all any items outlined in the classifier course

2.5.3 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.

2.5.3.1 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.

2.5.3.2 Training

Attendance at a BISFed Basic Classifier training course **OR**

Attendance at Boccia Canada 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 **OR**

Attend a Boccia Canada refresher course (NEW)

2.5.3.3 Practical

After at least 2 years, or classifying a minimum of 20 athletes (combined) at different competitions as part of a panel that includes a certified National Classifier, the Entry Level Classifier may be eligible to apply 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 the relevant section of the current BISFED rules and regulations.

2.5.4 Maintaining National Boccia Classifier Certification

National Boccia Classifiers must maintain their certification and will be notified annually by the Boccia Canada Lead 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.

Maintenance Criteria

In order to maintain their certification, a classifier 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 annually 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

2.6 Classifiers Code of Conduct

The integrity of classification in the Paralympic movement, BISFED, CCPSA, and Boccia Canada rest on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual

General Principles

All classifiers must comply with 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.

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

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 will 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 in public.
- 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.

2.6.1 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 sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a Classifier of Boccia Canada.

2.7 Administration and Development 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 Boccia Canada Classification committee consists of **all** Canadian Boccia Classifiers and is chaired by the Head of Classification in Canada.

The role of the committee is to assist in the development of classification within Canada and to act as a resource for other classifiers.

The duties of the Classification Committee include:

- Liaise with the Boccia Canada High Performance Committee in the areas of classification development with focus on provincial and national level, via the Head of classification
- 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.

2.7.1 Classification Administration Processes

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

- Call for Classifiers
- Call for Classifiers in Training.
- Appointment of Classification Panels and Notification Process.
- **Assign** Lead Classifiers for each competition

2.7.2 Classification Panels for Athlete Evaluation

“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.

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

2.7.2.1 Classification Panel

A classification panel is a group of three (3) Classifiers, appointed by **Boccia Canada** for a particular competition, to conduct some or all of the components of an Athlete evaluation to determine the Sport Class and Sport Class Status of an athlete.

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.**

A trainee classifier may be part of a classification panel in addition to the required number of certified classifiers and may participate in Athlete Evaluations.

Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relations with an athlete or support personnel that may create any actual or perceived bias or conflict of interest **and have no involvement with any decision being appealed**. Classifiers should not have any other official responsibilities within a competition other than in connection with Classification.

Should conflict arise the parties concerned should raise these with the Lead Classifier.

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

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

2.8 Classification: Scheduling, Substitutions and Preparation

2.8.1 The Head of Classification (HOC) appoints the classification panel 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**.

2.8.2 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.

2.8.3 Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a competition for athlete evaluation. At major events, a minimum of **one full day** is recommended, depending on the number of athletes to be classified. **45 minutes per athlete evaluation should be allocated.**

2.8.4 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.

2.9 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 in order to determine who should be classified at an event.**

2.10 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 Sport Profiles, and, in particular, **Provincial** Classifiers should be trained according to the IPC Classification Code and BISFed approved standards.

3.0 Athlete Evaluation

General Provisions

Boccia has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class and designated a Sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.

Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps and these Classification Rules, therefore, include provisions regarding:

- An assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for the sport.**
- An Assessment of whether an Athlete complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for the sport (as detailed in each classification physical profile); and**
- The allocation of a Sport Class (and designation of a Sport Class Status) depend on the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities**

fundamental to the sport and assesses the functional impact of their impairment on activity limitation during sport performance.

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.

A classification panel is responsible for conducting the Athlete Evaluation session. As part of this Evaluation session the Classification Panel will:

- Assess whether an athlete has an eligible impairment resulting from a health condition
- Assess whether an athlete complies with the minimum impairment criteria
- Assess the extent to which an athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sports; and
- Conduct observational assessment in competition (as necessary)

3.1 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 medical document indicating their underlying condition and clinical diagnosis.

Eligible participants for international competition must be 15 years or older on the first day of January. Exceptions are made for youth events.

3.1.1 Eligible Impairment

Any Athlete wishing to compete at the international level in Boccia as governed by Boccia Canada must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent. Appendices 1 and 2 of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in Boccia governed by BISFed and Boccia Canada. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix 1 (Page xxx) is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Athletes with non-eligible impairments can compete in Canada in the Open class.

Appendix 2 (Page xxx) includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments in line with IPC Standards.

BISFed and Boccia Canada must determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment.

- In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, Boccia Canada will require any Athlete to demonstrate that he or she has a permanent Underlying Health Condition. As detailed in the IPC's International Standard for Eligible Impairments detailed in Appendix 1.
- BISFed and Boccia Canada provides examples of Health Conditions that are not eligible for BISFED in Appendix 2.
- Boccia Canada provides an opportunity for individuals presenting with a permanent Health condition resulting in severe Neurological Impairment of the Central Nervous System (CNS) including a presentation of either /or Hypertonia, Ataxia and Dyskinesia including Athetosis and Dystonia.
- Boccia Canada provides an opportunity for individuals presenting with a permanent Health condition resulting in severe Musculoskeletal Dysfunction of Non-Neurological Impairments (Non-CNS) affecting all four limbs, including Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement or Limb Deficiency.
- All Athletes must supply Boccia Canada with Diagnostic Information by having a Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) completed by their health practitioner.

3.1.2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)

An Athlete who wishes to compete in a sport must have an Eligible Impairment that complies with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) for that sport.

- BISFed and Boccia Canada has set Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) to ensure that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment affects the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport and within each Sport Class.
- The BisFed 4th edition of the Classification rules and regulations contain the Boccia Sport Profiles, which are considered part of these Classification Rules. These profiles specify the Minimum Impairment Criteria applicable to Boccia and the process by which an Athlete's compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria is to be assessed by a Classification Panel as part of an Evaluation Session.
- Any Athlete who does not comply with the MIC for Boccia must be allocated Sport Class Open. Sport Calls Open athletes are allocated Not Eligible (NE) status for internationally sanctioned competitions.
- A Boccia Canada Classification Panel must assess whether or not an Athlete complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria. This will take

place as part of an Evaluation Session. Prior to participating in an Evaluation Session, an Athlete must first satisfy Boccia Canada that he or she has an Eligible Impairment.

- In relation to the use of Adaptive Equipment, BISFed has set Minimum Impairment Criteria as follows:
- For Eligible Impairments, Minimum Impairment Criteria must *not* consider the extent to which the use of Adaptive Equipment might affect how the Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;

3.2 Process of Classification

Classifiers utilise a sport specific classification system developed for Boccia for an athlete evaluation.

Athlete Evaluation is the process by which an Athlete is assessed 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 the assigned evaluation session. The athlete must appear at classification at the assigned time in the appropriate attire with a recognised form of identification.

In respect of the athletes, the following should be noted in relation to Athlete Evaluation:

- All athletes must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the classification panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card, event accreditation etc.
- All athletes must sign an Informed Consent Form and **provide a** medical information form before they may be evaluated;
- The athlete may be **recorded** for classification and education purposes;
- 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;
- The athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by the Classification Panel members
- Athletes may have one person (and, if required, an interpreter) 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;

- Where possible an athlete should supply Boccia Canada with Medical Diagnostic information prior to the competition using the appropriate for
- 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;
- Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition.

Athlete Evaluation 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.

3.2.1 Physical Assessment

The Classification Panel **will** conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with methods of assessment stipulated in the current edition of the Classification Rules of Boccia published by 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.

The physical assessment is conducted using the techniques described in Appendix 1: Methods of Assessment.

The evaluation of activity limitation includes, but is not limited to:

- Upper limb (thrower)/Lower limb (kicker) Coordination, defined as the ability to voluntarily execute fluid, and accurate movements rapidly.
- Sitting Balance, defined as the ability to maintain the line of gravity (vertical line from the centre of mass) of a body within the base of support with minimal postural sway or compensatory activity.
- Trunk and Upper/Lower limb symmetry, defined as the correspondence and/or movement similarity on opposite sides of a dividing line or plane.
- Range of movement, defined as the full movement or optimal potential of a joint, usually its range of flexion and extension, including follow through after throw or kick.

- Upper limb impairment, defined as the impact of spasticity or tonal influence/lack of muscle strength to perform the whole movement.

This evaluation takes place in a controlled non- competitive environment (preferably on a Boccia court) that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities for Boccia (i.e. reliable/validated test and pre- designed technical situations that allows the athlete to demonstrate all shot types to all areas of the court) and relevant chair skills, including: application of brakes, driving, propulsion (relevant to the sport) and operating joystick or driving devices for power chairs.

3.2.2 Technical Assessment

A Technical Assessment will be conducted by a Technical Classifier. This assessment will focus on determining the activity limitation under simulated sport conditions. Evaluation of the activity limitation includes, but are not limited to:

- Manual dexterity including manipulation, grasping and releasing of the ball for the throw.
- Movement coordination between the trunk and Upper limbs (Thrower)/ Trunk and/or Lower limbs (Kicker).
- Trunk control and compensatory strategies (observing and recording the Athlete's set up and use of strapping, backrest, footrest and assisted devices)
- An Assessment of the different throws/kick to determine the impact of the impairment on speed/power, accuracy, strength, control.
- The relationship between the athlete and sport equipment use, for example delivery of the ball down the ramp (BC3).
- Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the Technical Assessment, using all the equipment and technical aids e.g. straps that the athlete is going to use in competition.

3.2.3 Observation Assessment in Competition

Boccia Athletes **may** be asked to undertake Observation in Competition before a Classification Panel allocates a final Sport Class and designates a Sport Class Status to that Athlete.

- The Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation

Session which comprises the Physical Assessment components of: Assessment of an Eligible Impairment, Assessment of Minimal Impairment Criteria (MIC) and the Technical Assessment of the Athlete's ability to perform specific tasks and fundamental activities for Boccia

- Observation Assessment in Competition should take place during the Athletes First Appearance or following appearances during the Pool rounds of the individual event. First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an event during a Competition in a particular Sport Class.
- If First Appearance during a Competition is in the pool rounds of the Team/Pair event a Sport Class can be allocated or changes can be made only if enough Observation Assessment can take place to determine the athlete's function.
- Observation Assessment in competition can take place in the elimination rounds of an event. **NO CHANGES will be made to the Sport Class of an athlete during the elimination rounds.**
- A Classification Panel can maintain Observation Assessment for the next match/matches in the pool rounds if they do not achieve a final consensus for Sport Class Allocation. Some of the reasons are, but not limited to:
- The Athlete did not participate enough during the game at the discretion of the Classification Panel (This may occur in Team or Pair events if the Athlete is not on court for enough time or does not throw/deliver enough balls).
- The level of the match does not challenge the Athlete's potential.
- The Athlete is injured.
- The Classification Panel could not conduct OA (e.g. many Athletes to observe in the first round of matches)
- The Classification Panel must allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status upon completion of Observation Assessment during pool rounds.

3.3 Completion of Athlete Evaluation

Athlete Evaluation is considered complete once 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 (if necessary) have been completed to the satisfaction of the assigned Classification Panel. A sport class and status will be assigned

3.3.1 Changes in Sport Class after Observation

If any changes to an athlete's Sports 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 the provincial team representative of the Classification Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible;

- the Technical Delegate and the LOC will be informed;
- 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/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as logistically possible.

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.

3.4 Allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

3.4.1 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. Athletes will be allocated a sport class based on the current BISFed Classification profiles found in the BISFED Classification Rules.

Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)

Non-Eligibility (NE) for Competition is considered a Sport Class. A Sport Class Not Eligible (**NE**) will be assigned to an Athlete if, during the athlete evaluation, it is determined that the Athlete does not have an eligible health condition **or** an impairment or activity limitation that sufficiently impacts their ability to play the sport as outlined in the Boccia Canada and BISFed classification rules.

In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a Competition, and a Sport Class 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.**

Boccia Canada Rules shall provide that 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.

3.4.2 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 (NS)

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

Sport Class Status Review (RS)

Sport Class Status Review (**RS**) 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.

RS 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 within 2 years**
- 3) **Athletes who have yet to have their status confirmed**

Sport Class Status – Review Fixed Date

Sport class status Review Fixed date is assigned to an athlete, if the classification panel believes that further evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date.

The athlete will be required to attend an evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant review fixed date.

Sport Class Status Confirmed (CS)

Sport Class Status Confirmed (**CS**) 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**.

CS 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.

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 (CS) 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.

3.5 Classification Not Completed (CNC)

If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Sport Class to an Athlete, the Head of Classification or the relevant Lead Classifier may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).

The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will, however, be recorded for the purpose of the master classification list.

An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in the sport of Boccia until they are able to complete their evaluation.

3.6 Classification: Notification of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

3.6.1 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.

3.6.2 Notification to Athlete

Following Completion of Athlete Evaluation, 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

3.6.3 Notification to Third Parties

At the end of the classification session, the lead classifier will arrange to have the classification results posted.

3.6.4 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.

3.7 Competing in a Higher Sport Class

An athlete may compete in a higher 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.

3.8 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.

3.9 Classification: Non-Cooperation during 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**.

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.

3.10 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;
- 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.

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

Boccia Canada shall enforce sanctions 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 sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions 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.

4.0 Protests and Appeal

4.1 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 and subsequently resolved.

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

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 resolved in a manner that minimizes the impact on competition participation, and competition schedules and results.

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

4.2. When Protests May Take Place

When the **entry** status is New (NS), an athlete or Lead Classifier may protest the sport class allocated following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class Status. Following the resolution of the protest, the athlete shall be designated:

- Review Status (RS); or
- Not Eligible to Compete (NE)

When the **entry** status is Review (RS), an athlete may protest their sport class following completion of Athlete Evaluation and allocation of Sport Class. Following the resolution of the Protest, the Athlete shall retain RS or be designated:

- Confirmed (CS) Status; or
- Not Eligible to Compete (NE)

Athletes **who enter a competition** with Sport Class Confirmed Status (CS) may be protested only in Exceptional Circumstances by the Lead Classifier of the competition.

4.3 Protest Procedures during Competitions

Protests made during competition may be submitted by **an athlete**, their coach or the athlete's designate, or the Lead Classifier.

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.

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.

Protests must be submitted on a designated protest form that should be made available by the Lead Classifier at a competition. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:

- The name, **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.**

Upon receipt of the protest form, the Lead Classifier shall conduct a review to determine if there are grounds for a Protest and if all the necessary information is included.

If it appears to the Lead Classifier that the protest form has been submitted without all necessary information, the Lead Classifier shall dismiss the protest and notify all relevant parties.

If the protest is declined the Lead Classifier shall state why the protest is not accepted.

If the protest is accepted, the Lead Classifier shall appoint a protest panel to conduct an Athlete Evaluation. 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.

The members of the protest panel should have had no direct involvement in the evaluation which led to the most recent allocation of the Athlete's Sport Class, **unless the most recent evaluation took place more than 1 year prior to the Protest being submitted.**

The Lead Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the protest panel.

All documentation submitted with the protest form shall be provided to the protest panel. 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 in reviewing an Athlete's Sport Class including from the initial panel if necessary.

Athlete Evaluation following a protest shall follow the same process as described in sections Athlete Evaluation and Athlete Evaluation process. All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.

The decision of the protest panel is final and is not subject to any further protest or appeal.

4.4 Protests under Exceptional Circumstances

Protests under Exceptional Circumstances may only be lodged by the Lead Classifier at any time during a competition period.

An Exceptional Circumstance is defined as: when any athlete, including those with Confirmed sport class status, in view of the Lead Classifier:

- intentionally or unintentionally performs with significantly less or greater functional ability that does not reflect their current sport class profile during the competition, or
- that an error has been made by the classification panel during the classification evaluation period, which has led to the athlete being allocated a sport class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability.

Exceptional circumstances may result from:

- A change in the degree of impairment of an Athlete;
- Medical intervention which affects the athlete's eligible impairment;
- An Athlete demonstrating significantly less or greater ability prior to or during competition which does not reflect the athlete's current Sport Class;
- An error made by a classification panel which has led to the athlete being allocated a Sport Class which is not in keeping with the athlete's ability; or
- Sport Class allocation criteria having changed since the athlete's most recent evaluation.

The procedure for the making of a Protest in Exceptional Circumstances shall be as follows:

- 1) The Lead Classifier shall advise the Athlete and coach that a Protest under Exceptional Circumstances has been lodged;
- 2) The processes and procedures referred to in protest procedures during competition will apply to Protests made in Exceptional Circumstances.
- 3) Athlete Evaluation following a protest shall follow the same process as described in protest procedures during competition. All relevant parties shall be notified of the protest decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 4) The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further Protest or appeal

4.5. 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.

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.

5.0 Classification Profiles

As per BISFed Classification manual current edition.

6.0 Use of Athlete Information

6.1 Classification Data

Boccia Canada will only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is considered necessary to conduct Classification.

All Classification Data Processed by Boccia Canada must be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date on the Boccia Canada Database (spreadsheet).

6.2 Consent and Processing

Boccia Canada will only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.

If an Athlete cannot provide consent (for example because the Athlete is underage) the legal representative, guardian or other designated representative of that Athlete must give consent on their behalf.

Boccia Canada will only Process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.

6.3 Classification Research

Boccia Canada may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes. The use by Boccia Canada of Personal Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.

Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to Boccia Canada solely and exclusively for Research Purposes must not be used for any other purpose.

Boccia Canada may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If Boccia Canada wishes to publish any personal information provided by an Athlete for research purposes; it must obtain consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information.

6.4 Notification to Athletes

Boccia Canada will notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

The fact that Boccia Canada is collecting the Classification Data; and The purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and

The duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

6.5 Classification Data Security

Boccia Canada has to protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification or disclosure of Classification Data; and

Boccia Canada will take reasonable steps to ensure that any other party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

6.6 Disclosures of Classification Data

Boccia Canada will not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable National Laws.

Boccia Canada may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules and permitted by National Laws.

6.7 Retaining Classification Data

Boccia Canada will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is needed for the purpose it was collected. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed or permanently anonymised.

Boccia Canada will implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

Boccia Canada Classifiers and Classification Personnel can only retain Classification Data as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

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

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

6.8 Access Rights to Classification Data

Athletes may request from Boccia Canada:

- Confirmation of whether or not that Boccia Canada has Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- A copy of the Classification Data held by Boccia Canada and/or
- Correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by Boccia Canada.

A request may be made by an Athlete or a provincial Body or a National Paralympic Committee on an Athlete's behalf and must be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

Appendix 1: Eligible Impairments

Athletes with Physical Impairment Eligible Impairment Types

<p>Limb Deficiency Athletes with Limb Deficiency have a total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Limb Deficiency include traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (for example dysmelia/TARS syndrome).</p>
<p>Hypertonia Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system. Hypertonia is assessed through the degree of spasticity presented in the athlete's muscles</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Hypertonia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Ataxia Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Ataxia include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke and multiple sclerosis.</p>
<p>Dyskinesia including Athetosis and Dystonia Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Athetosis include cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.</p>
<p>Impaired Passive Range of Movement Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.</p>	<p>Examples of an Underlying Health Condition that can lead to Impaired Passive Range of Movement include Arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint.</p>

Appendix 2: IPC and Boccia Non-Eligible Impairments

Non-Eligible Impairment Types for all Athletes

Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscle tone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as the unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impairment metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes and motor perseveration.

Appendix 3: Health Conditions that are not Underlying Health Conditions for all Athletes

A number of Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment and are not Underlying Health Conditions. An Athlete who has a Health Condition (including, but not limited to, one of the Health Conditions listed in the above Appendices Appendix One and two) but who do not have an Underlying Health Condition will not be eligible to compete in Para sport.

Health Conditions that primarily cause pain; primarily cause fatigue; primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia, or are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature do *not* lead to an Eligible Impairment.

Examples of Health Conditions that primarily cause pain include myofascial *pain*-dysfunction syndrome, fibromyalgia or complex regional pain syndrome. An example of a Health Condition that primarily causes fatigue is chronic fatigue syndrome.

Appendix 4: Methods of Assessment

The following describes the methods used during the Physical Assessment component of Athlete Evaluation. The following tests will be completed by the Medical Classifiers within the Classification Panel (e.g. the Doctor, Physiotherapist or associated Professions).

Assessment of Spasticity

The Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) is used to assess spasticity in the muscle groups of the upper limbs and lower limbs in Athletes who present with a Neurological impairment affecting the Central Nervous System (CNS) for example those Athletes who present with Spastic Hypertonic Cerebral Palsy.

The ASAS process has been modified to assess Athletes seated in their sport-specific wheelchair. The ASAS scale is outlined below:

Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS):

- 0** No catch on Rapid Passive Movement (RPM) [i.e. no Spasticity]
- 1** Catch occurs on RPM followed by release. There is no resistance to RPM throughout the rest of the remaining range.
- 2** Catch occurs in the second half of the available range (after halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range.
- 3** Catch occurs in the first half of the available range (up to and including the halfway point) during RPM and is followed by resistance throughout the remaining range
- 4** When attempting RPM, the body part appears fixed but moves on a slow passive movement.

Assessment of Dyskinesia: Athetosis/Dystonia

Component elements of the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (DIS) forms part of the Physical Assessment during Athlete evaluation in Athletes who present with a Neurological Impairment affecting the CNS (e.g those Athletes who present with Athetosis/Dystonia). The scale is used as a means of quantifying these impairments.

The Assessment is to observe and score both the Amplitude and Duration of the athetoid/dystonic movements during a set of activities/tests the athlete is asked to perform.

Assess if the Amplitude of movements during the specific test are:

- 0** Athetosis/Dystonia is absent
- 1** Athetosis/Dystonia is occasionally present in < 10% of the range of motion
- 2** Athetosis/Dystonia is frequently present in $\geq 10\% < 50\%$ of the range of motion
- 3** Athetosis/Dystonia is mostly present between $\geq 50\% < 90\%$ of the range of motion
- 4** Athetosis/Dystonia is always present in $\geq 90\%$ of the range of motion

Assess if the Duration of movements during the specific test are:

- 0** Athetosis/Dystonia is absent
- 1** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in small range of motion < 10%
- 2** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in moderate range of motion $\geq 10\% < 50\%$
- 3** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in submaximal range of motion $\geq 50\% < 90\%$
- 4** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in maximal range of motion $> 90\%$

Assessment of Dyskinesia in Boccia

The elements of the Scale that are used in the Boccia assessment are the following:

- 1) Walking/Wheeling into the room
 - a) Observe the athlete walking/wheeling into the room
- 2) Sitting at rest in a supported position
 - a) Observe the athlete in their wheelchair:
- 3) Sitting at rest in an unsupported position

- a) Observe the athlete on a plinth/typical chair/ have athlete sit forward of the backrest of the chair (ensure that there are people close by to maintain the safety of the athlete)
- 4) Turning head to left and to right
 - a) Ask the athlete to turn their head all the way to the left and then to the right
- 5) Trunk forward flexion and returning to midline (in a sitting)
 - a) Ask the athlete to bend all the way forward and then return back to their original position (x6)
- 6) Shoulder abduction with the throwing arm (in a sitting)
 - a) Ask the athlete to lift their arm up to their side and raise it above their head (x6)
- 7) Reaching and moving the ball from one side to the other
 - a) Ask the athlete to take a ball from a table (or the floor for foot player) in front of them and move it to the opposite side and then back to the original position (x2)
- 8) The ball should be placed within reach, but ensure that the movements include:
 - a) Forward reach, lateral reach, crossing the midline
 - b) You can use the athlete's wheelchair as a guide (have the ball outside the width of the chair and place the ball to the other side of the chair)
- 9) Foot Player – Alternate heel/toe tapping
 - a) Ask the athlete to do alternate heel/toe taps with the leg they use to propel the ball (x6)

Assessment of Ataxia

BISFed has adopted the SARA (Scale for the Assessment and rating of Ataxia) to determine the severity and to assess Ataxia in Athletes who present with a Neurological Impairment affecting the CNS. For example Athletes who may present with CP/Stroke or Acquired Brain Injury and incoordination.

Movements assessed include:

- a) Finger chase
- b) Nose-finger test
- c) Fast alternating hand movements

- d) Heel-shin slide (for foot playing athlete who presents with Ataxia)

Assessment of Ataxia in Boccia:

Taken from SARA (Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia)

Finger chase

Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. Examiner sits in front of Athlete and performs 5 consecutive sudden and fast pointing movements in unpredictable directions in a frontal plane, at about 50 % of Athlete's reach. Movements have an amplitude of 30 cm and a frequency of 1 movement every 2 s. The athlete is asked to follow the movements with his index finger, as fast and precisely as possible. The average performance of the last 3 movements is rated.

- 0 No dysmetria
- 1 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target <5 cm
- 2 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target 5-15 cm
- 3 Dysmetria, under/ overshooting target > 15 cm
- 4 Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

Nose-finger test

Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. The athlete is asked to point repeatedly with his index finger from his nose to examiner's finger which is in front of the Athlete at about 90 % of Athlete's reach. Movements are performed at moderate speed. The average performance of movements is rated according to the amplitude of the kinetic tremor.

- 0 No tremor
- 1 Tremor with an amplitude of < 2 cm
- 2 Tremor with an amplitude of 2-5 cm

3 Tremor with an amplitude > 5 cm

4 Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

Fast alternating hand movements

Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. The athlete is asked to perform 10 cycles of repetitive alternation of pro- and supinations of the hand on his/her thigh as fast and as precise as possible. Movement is demonstrated by the examiner at a speed of approx. 10 cycles within 7 s. Exact times for movement execution have to be taken.

0 Normal, no irregularities (performs <10s)

1 Slightly irregular (performs <10s)

2 Clearly irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, but performs <10s

3 Very irregular, single movements difficult to distinguish or relevant interruptions, performs >10s

4 Unable to complete 10 cycles

Heel-shin slide (for foot playing athlete who presents with Ataxia)

Athlete lies on examination bed, without sight of his legs. Athlete is asked to lift one leg, point with the heel to the opposite knee, slide down along the shin to the ankle, and lay the leg back on the examination bed. The task is performed 3 times. Slide-down movements should be performed within 1 s. If Athlete slides down without contact to shin in all three trials, rate 4.

0 Normal

1 Slightly abnormal, contact to shin maintained

2 Clearly abnormal, goes off shin up to 3 times during 3 cycles

3 Severely abnormal, goes off shin 4 or more times during 3 cycles

4 Unable to perform the task

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Fancellu R et al. Responsiveness of different rating instruments in spinocerebellar ataxia patients. *Neurology* 2010;74:678-84

3. Weyer A, Abele M, Schmitz-Hübsch T, Schoch B, Frings M et al. Reliability and validity of the Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia: A Study in 64 ataxia patients. *Mov Disord* 2007;22:1633-16

4. Roldan, A., Sabido, R., Barbado, D., Caballero, C., & Reina, R. (2017). Manual Dexterity and Intralimb Coordination Assessment to Distinguish Different Levels of Impairment in Boccia Players with Cerebral Palsy. *Frontiers in Neurology*, 8, 582.

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Assessment of Muscle Strength

Athletes are to be assessed seated in their sport-specific wheelchair.

Muscle Strength of the upper limbs, trunk and lower limbs will be assessed against manual resistance using the Daniels and Worthingham Scale which is detailed below.

Muscle Testing -Daniels and Worthingham Scale (Strength)

- 0** Total lack of voluntary contraction
- 1** Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker)
- 2** Contraction with very weak movement through a full range of motion when gravity is eliminated
- 3** Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity without resistance
- 4** Contraction with a full range of movement against gravity and some resistance
- 5** Contraction of normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance

Daniels L, Worthingham K: *Muscle Testing – Techniques of Manual Examination*, 7th Edition. Philadelphia, PA: W.B Saunders Co.; 2002

Assessment of Active Range of Motion

Active and passive Range of motion at joints within the upper limbs or lower limbs will be assessed using goniometry to accurately record joint angles.

Assessment of Limb Loss/Limb Deficiency

Measurement of Limb Loss/Limb Deficiency must be taken in centimetres and a segmometer must be used to conduct the assessment. Measurements are taken from the measuring point on the nearest proximal joint to the distal point of the limb.

All measurements must be recorded to the nearest millimetre

For all measurements of Limb Loss/Limb Deficiency, the average of two (2) measurements is taken. If the difference between these two (2) measurements is greater than 1%, one (1) additional measurement is taken, and the median (middle) measurement is recorded on the Classification sheet as the final measurement.

Appendix 4: Medical Diagnosis Form

Appendix 5: Medical Review Process and Form

Appendix 6: Athlete Consent to classification Form

Appendix 7: Classification Form

Appendix 8: Athlete Notification Form

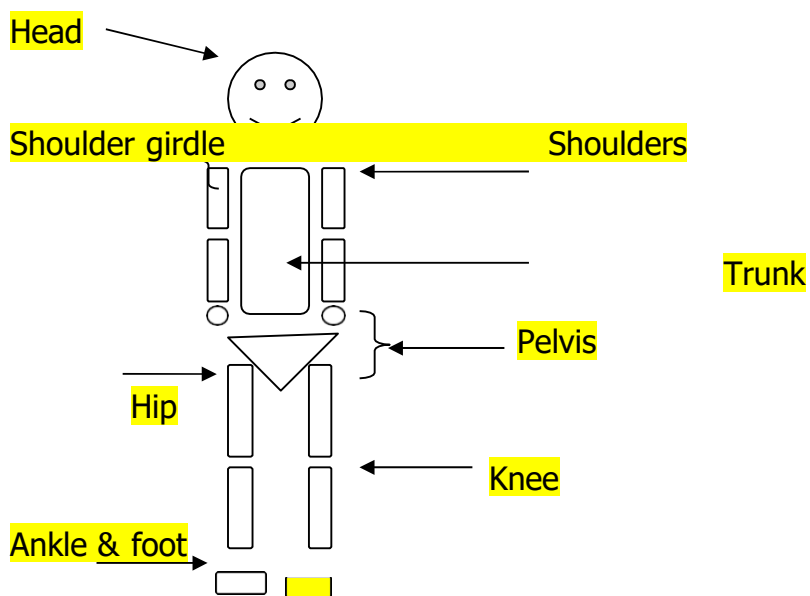
Appendix 9: Classifiers Log

Glossary of Terms

Activity Limitation:

Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities which may include attainment of high-performance skills and techniques.

Anatomical reference points



Athlete

For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in Boccia at an International Level (as defined by BISFed) or National Level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

Athlete Evaluation

The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the BISFed classification rules.

Athlete Support Personnel

Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

Balance

The ability to maintain equilibrium when stationary or moving (i.e. not to fall over) through the coordinated actions of sensory functions (eyes, ears and the proprioceptive organs in joints).

Static Balance

The ability to maintain the body in an upright position within the base of support in a stationary position e.g. preparing to throw or after follow through.

Dynamic Balance

The ability to maintain balance with body movement e.g. during the throw and follow through.

Competition

A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.

Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.

Compensatory Movement/ strategies

Due to lack of active ability to generate movement or to stabilise the trunk and maintain postural control and balance, athletes may demonstrate a number of different strategies to promote better control, especially when preparing to throw and throughout the throwing action and follow through.

This may be through the use of movement, fixation or passive stability options such as straps/seating systems and are not required if activity and control are normal.

The most commonly identified strategies may include but are not limited to the following and can be quite subtle so it is important to look out for these in the functional assessment of athletes:

- Use of the upper limbs to assist such as holding on with the non-throwing arm, fixing the opposite arm in a posture to limit involuntary movement out to the side or into the body.
- Fixing using the shoulder girdle/complex and neck musculature creating upper trunk rigidity and may also involve fixing with the head/jaw.

- Use of the lower limbs such as pushing down through the feet and legs to stabilise the pelvis, use of foot straps, knee blocks and thigh straps.
- Use of trunk movement such as leaning to one side more or rotating.
- Use of pelvis, waist or chest straps and seating systems to assist in stability of the trunk including thoracic supports.
- Use of the head to return to the midline or an upright position may be used in conjunction with the arm, fixing the head in a stable position to optimise trunk activation.

Dissociation (of movement)

The ability to move one area of the body or limb without affecting another area. Movement dissociation is the separation of movement of the extremities from the trunk itself, and cannot happen properly without a sufficient level of core stability.

Follow Through

The movement of the limb after the release of the ball.

Impairment

A deficiency in or loss of body function or structure.

International Classification

Athlete Evaluation that has been designated in advance by BISFed as being conducted with the aim of allocating a Sport Class that entitles the relevant Athlete to compete at Recognised Competitions.

International Federation (IF)

A Sport Federation recognized by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that have been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.

IPC

International Paralympic Committee.

Medical Intervention

Any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other treatment, which affects the Athlete's performance.

National Competition

A Competition where the National Federation or National Paralympic Committee is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

National Federation

The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.

National Paralympic Committee (NPC)

A national organization recognized by the IPC as the sole representative of Athletes with a disability in that country or territory to the IPC. In addition, the recognized National Federation of the sports for which the IPC is the IF.

Paralympic Games

Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Protest

The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class status is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Postural Control/Trunk stability

This is the ability to maintain a position/posture through co-contraction and background activity of the postural muscles (namely abdominals/ extensors in the trunk) in order to carry out a functional/skilled task or activity such as equilibrium reactions, righting reactions and balance.

It involves the ability to maintain different positions and postures and to lose and regain midline whilst maintaining stability and performing the functional activity.

It provides a reference frame and stability from which to move the head, eyes and upper/lower limbs.

Purposeful Direction

The direction is defined as the path that something takes, the path that must be taken to reach a specific place e.g. throwing to an intended target on the field of play.

Shoulder girdle/Complex

Clinical anatomy includes the joints of the shoulder which comprise the acromioclavicular, sternoclavicular, glenohumeral, scapulothoracic joints, and the associated muscles and connective tissue e.g. those attached to the scapula, to provide dynamic stability.

Sufficient Velocity

Velocity is defined as rapidity of motion or operation; swiftness; speed e.g. when throwing an athlete must demonstrate sufficient ball speed to enter the field of play.

Trunk

This is an anatomical term for the central part of the body including the thorax and abdomen.

Throw

Chest Throw - A two-handed throw from the chest.

Dart Throw - Single arm throws from shoulder height or below. The elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) on the active extension of the elbow when releasing the ball. It is, therefore, gravity assisted throwing action.

Pendulum Throw - An underarm throw where the arm swings forwards and back gaining momentum & using gravity to assist.