Boccia Canada National High-Performance Program
2027 Selection Criteria

Important Notes

The ultimate goal of Boccia Canada's National High-Performance Program is reaching International performance Excellence by Delivering a sustainable World Class High Performance Program.
Decisions related to the selection of athletes are made with this objective in mind.

Athletes joining the Boccia Canada High Performance Program for 2026 will be confirmed by the end of January 2027 and cards for eligible athletes will be awarded retroactively from early January 2027.

1. Introduction:

The year 2027 represents the third year of the quadrennial on route to the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

The High-Performance Program of Boccia Canada requires athletes to compete at a high level. In order to enhance the development of high performance athletes across Canada, nominated athletes will be separated into two groups under the supervision of Boccia Canada's National Coaching staff.

The two national teams will be renewed in January 2027 as follows:

- Up to 10 athletes will be selected to the 2027 "National Team".
- Up to 8 athletes will be selected to the 2027 "National Espoir Team".

Following these nominations, the number of athletes to represent Canada at International events in 2027 will depend on program prioritization and funding capacity.

Athletes for each event will be selected in priority from the "National Team" however "Espoir" athletes may be considered for specific events. Due to various external factors not withing the control of Boccia Canada (event schedule, athlete preparation, physical and mental health problems) the selections may take place shortly before the events.

2. Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee will be comprised of the National Coaches hired by Boccia Canada or under contract during the selection period, the High-Performance Director of Boccia Canada, and the Chair of the High performance 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 necessary, the final decision on nominations 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 Aged 15 years old before January 1st, 2027 to be selected to the "National Team"
3.2 Aged 13 years old before January 1st, 2027 to be selected to the "National Espoir Team"
3.3 Capacity to meet the National Boccia Squads requirements (Section 9)

4. "Rising Star" athletes will be eligible for consideration based on the following criteria: *(for definition see item 6.2)*

4.1 Athletes must have never participated within the last five years:

4.1.1 In a Major Games event (e.g., Parapan Games, Paralympics or World Championships)

4.1.2 In more than two "World Boccia" events.

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

5. Health Circumstances and Program Priorities:

If an athlete is unable to attend a required event or training camp due to **illness, injury or pregnancy**, the athlete may remain eligible for selection, if they submit to the Head Coach and the High-Performance Director:

i. A doctor's medical document 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 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 the Head Coach) at a level where the athlete minimizes risks

to the athlete's physical and mental health and ensures optimum return to full training and events.

iii. A written letter of intention indicating a return to full-time high-performance training and competition within the prescribed timeframes (may evolve) by the medical team 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 nomination rests with the Head Coach and the High-Performance Director.

Program Priorities:

In the event that an athlete is unable to attend a required event due to **unforeseen circumstances,** the athlete remains eligible for selection if the athlete notifies the Head Coach and the High-Performance Director in writing of the reasons for his/her absence. Each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

If an international event conflicts with a national event, the national program reserves the right to decide what is best for the athlete. The main objective of the program remains to bring the athlete to the best of his/her abilities to perform internationally. If the decision is not unanimous, the final decision on participation will rest with the head coach.

6. Selection process for 2027 "National Team" and "National Espoir Team".

The following will be taken into consideration for the selection of the athletes to **the National Team in 2027**:

1. Individual play results from the 2026 Canadian Boccia Championship:

   - Final ranking at the Canadian championships : **20% of the selection score**

2. Observations, Progression and Performance Evaluation during the season with Boccia Canada Gold Medal Profile (GMP) at National and International events in 2026. (80% GMP)

   - Technical aspect GMP : **16% of the selection score**
   - Tactical aspect GMP : **16% of the selection score**
   - Mental aspect GMP : **19% of the selection score**
   - Environmental aspect GMP : **16% of the selection score**
   - Physical aspect GMP : **13% of the selection score**

The following will be taken into consideration for the selection of the athletes to the **National Espoir Team in 2027:**

Observations, Progression and Performance Evaluation during the season with Boccia Canada Gold Medal Profile (GMP) at national and international events in 2026 : (**100% GMP)**

- Technical aspect GMP : **20% of the selection score**
- Tactical aspect GMP : **20% of the selection score**
- Mental aspect GMP : **24% of the selection score**
- Environmental aspect GMP : **20% of the selection score**
- Physical aspect GMP : **16% of the selection score**

Important notes:

- GMP observations and collection of data will be made during the 2025 season and at the 2026 Canadian Championship.
- In the best interest of Boccia Canada's high-performance program, we will consider the events format implemented by World Boccia (BISFed) when selecting athletes.
- Athletes will be selected based on the specific needs of the program.
- The number of athletes in each division (male/female) as well as the best options for mixed teams and mixed pairs will 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:

- It’s an athlete with a High Performance Profile (GMP), who according to the coaching perspective should be selected on the national team as the athlete demonstrates the potential of a future Paralympic athlete.
- At the discretion of the Selection Committee up to three (3) additional athletes considered to be Rising Star athletes may be selected to the National team or national Espoir team.
- 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 Team. The ability to pay a fee will not determine whether or not an athlete will be chosen for the Team.

7.1 After notification, athletes will:

- Provide their yearly training plan to the Head Coach for approval or notify the Head Coach if they do not have one.
- Participate in the training and evaluations activities identified by Boccia Canada
- Participate in the events identified by Boccia Canada.
- Provide Boccia Canada with the name and contact information of the Performance Partner **(mandatory).**
- Ensure the athlete and their Performance Partner are a member in good standing of their Provincial Sport Organization
- Ensure their Performance Partner is in possession of a valid Vulnerable Sector Check
- BC3's Performance Partners **must be Canadian citizen**
- Complete and sign the following forms and return them to the Boccia Canada office
    a. Personal identification profile
    b. Medical health questionnaire
    c. Travel form
    d. Uniform information
    e. Athlete profile
    f. Athlete/NSO agreement
    g. Team Member Agreement
    h. Athlete Assistance Program documents (if eligible according to the AAP criteria)
- Provide Boccia Canada with their provincial and/or personal coach contact information
- Send personal training reports to the Head Coach on a monthly basis.
- Complete training reports on Hexfit after each session.
- Communicate and follow up effectively and in a timely manner as specified in the athlete agreement (within 7 business days) with the Boccia Canada High Performance staff.

Note: Failing to meet these obligations could result in a non-selection or expulsion from the High-Performance program of Boccia Canada. 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 2027 schedule of events will be finalized once key information has been confirmed such as: overall operating budget, athlete prioritization, “World Boccia” rankings and “World Boccia” decisions around international events. The International calendar for Team Canada should be confirmed in January 2027. All available events will be evaluated based on congruity with the High-Performance plan and the capacity of Boccia Canada in 2026.

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

9. National Boccia High-Performance Training 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 Performance factors and components is a priority (see GMP)

- Technical skills
- Mental skills
- Tactical skills
- Physical skills
- Environment

9.3 In order to train short, mid, and long range shots and to work properly on angle shots, the training hours must be done on an official boccia court (12.5 by 6 meters).

9.4 Training with other athletes in the program is recommended 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 Boccia Canada’s National coaches is required. The coach must have the coach level of “Introduction to Competition” for boccia at the time of the selection.

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 strongly recommended.

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

TECHNICAL	TACTICAL	MENTAL	PHYSICAL	ENVIRONEMENTAL
1st ball	Game planning	Emotion Management	Energy management	Training
Placement	Decision making	Confidence	Posture	Coaching
Push	Ball selection	Concentration	Power	Performance Partner
Displacement	Shot selection	Resilience	Nutrition/ General physical health	Specialist
Lob (BC1-BC2-BC4)	Time management	Leadership	----	Equipment
Box utilization & Ramp Alignement. (BC3)		Communication	-----	-----