



**WorldBoccia**

**BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION RULES**

**6th Edition March 2026**

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## **CHAPTER ONE: Purpose of Classification and Scope of the Classification rules**

### **1. Adoption**

- 1.1 These Classification Rules and Regulations are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'. They have been prepared by World Boccia to implement the requirements of the current International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code and International Standards.
- 1.2 The Classification Rules have been adopted by World Boccia.
- 1.3 These Classification Rules form part of the World Boccia Rules and Regulations and may be amended by World Boccia from time to time.
- 1.4 These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices, which are an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.5 The Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms that have been prepared to assist in Classification. These forms are available from World Boccia and may be amended by World Boccia from time to time.

### **2. The purpose of Classification**

- 2.1 The purpose of Classification is to enable athletes with Eligible Impairments to participate in competitive Para sport with a pathway to sporting excellence, the pinnacle of which is the Paralympic Games.
- 2.2 Classification establishes a unique framework that promotes fair and meaningful competition by minimizing the impact of athletes' impairments on the outcome of competition so that the outcome is determined by factors other than impairment. Classification is therefore essential to the Paralympic Movement and World Boccia, as Para sport cannot exist without Classification.

*[Comment to Article 2.2: The term 'impairment' refers to a loss or abnormality in body structure or physiological function. "Abnormality" here strictly refers to a significant variation from established statistical norms (i.e. as a deviation from a population mean within measured standard norms) and should be used only in this sense.]*

- 2.3 To achieve its purpose, Classification performs two critical functions
  - 2.3.1 The determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Boccia;  
and

- 2.3.2 The grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport of Boccia.
- 2.4 Classification is not designed to group athletes into classes based on their sport performance. Rather, the unit of Classification is an athlete's impairment, and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact an athlete's ability to perform the fundamental activities in Boccia. An athlete who improves their sport performance will become more competitive within their allocated Sport Class, but improved performance does not of itself provide a basis for changing an athlete's Sport Class.

### **3. Scope and Application of these Classification Rules**

- 3.1 These Classification Rules apply to the following Competitions within World Boccia:
  - 3.1.1 Paralympic Games
  - 3.1.2 World Championships
  - 3.1.3 World Boccia Challengers
  - 3.1.4 World Cups
  - 3.1.5 Regional Championships
  - 3.1.6 Any other competition run under World Boccia rules
- 3.2 Subject to Article 3.1, these Classification Rules will be binding on:
  - 3.2.1 World Boccia and its representatives, including its board members, directors, officers and employees who are involved in any aspect of Classification;
  - 3.2.2 Each of World Boccia's National Federation members and all National representatives
  - 3.2.3 All Participants, including all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are registered and/or licensed with World Boccia and/or participate in any Events or Competitions organised, authorised or recognised by World Boccia.
  - 3.2.4 All Classification Personnel

- 3.2.5 All persons participating in Evaluation Sessions (whether in person or virtually); and
- 3.2.6 Any other person who agrees in writing to be bound by the Classification Rules
- 3.3 Each of the above people mentioned in section 3.2, as a condition of their participation or involvement in Boccia, must agree to and be bound by these Classification Rules, and must submit to the authority of World Boccia to enforce these Classification rules.

#### **4. Interpretation**

- 4.1 Defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) in these Classification Rules have the meaning given to them in Glossary of Terms.
- 4.2 Headings used in these Classification Rules are used for convenience only and have no meaning that is separate from the Articles to which they refer.
- 4.3 These Classification Rules have been adopted pursuant to the provisions of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards and are to be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with those documents. Aimed at implementing a global and harmonised approach to Classification, the Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of IPC Members, RIFs, or governments. When applying and interpreting the Classification Rules, all courts, arbitral tribunals and other adjudicating bodies should be aware of and respect the distinct nature of the Classification Rules, which implement the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and the fact that the rules represent the consensus of a broad spectrum of stakeholders around the world as to what is necessary to protect and ensure fair and meaningful competition.
- 4.4 These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of World Boccia 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 of World Boccia, these Classification Rules shall take precedence.
- 4.5 Comments to these Classification Rules are deemed to be part of these Classification Rules and will be used to interpret these Classification Rules.

## **5. Use of the IPC's 'Para' mark**

- 5.1 The word 'Para' is a registered trademark of the IPC, which the IPC Protects and registers for the benefit of the Paralympic Movement. Any use of the 'Para' mark must be in accordance with the IPC Constitution and the IPC's Intellectual Property Regulations.

## CHAPTER TWO: Classification

### PART I: INTRODUCTION

#### General Provisions

World 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.

#### 6. Athlete Evaluation - Stages of Classification

6.1 Classification comprises four main assessment stages, each of which will be conducted by World Boccia (or its representatives):

UHC Assessment	<p>Stage 1: <b>Underlying Health Condition (UHC) Assessment</b> is an assessment to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete’s National Federation (see Part IV.A)</p>
Evaluation Session	<p>Stage 2: <b>Eligible Impairment Assessment</b> is an assessment to verify (i) that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment recognised by WorldBoccia that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) that there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s) (See Part IV.B.1).</p> <p>Stage 3: <b>Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) Assessment</b> is an assessment as to whether the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment recognised within WorldBoccia (see Part IV.B.2)</p> <p>Stage 4: <b>Sport Class Assessment</b> is the allocation to the Athlete of:</p>

	<p>(i) a Sport Class based on an assessment of the extent to which the Athlete’s Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia; and</p> <p>(ii) a Sport Class Status to indicate whether and when the Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future; (see Part IV.B.3)</p>
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6.2 The UHC Assessment will always be performed first by evaluating the Medical diagnosis form and documentation submitted prior to a competition. The decision-making process will follow the four stages sequentially in the order set out above and this takes place in person at a competition.

## **PART II: BODIES RESPONSIBLE FOR CLASSIFYING ATHLETES**

### **7 UHC Assessor**

- 7.1 World Boccia is responsible for conducting UHC (Underlying Health Condition) Assessment which it may do through an appointed UHC Assessor/s.
- 7.2 The UHC Assessor is a Medical Doctor appointed by World Boccia with the qualification, skills and experience (diagnostic skills in the eligible impairments for Boccia and knowledge of these Classification Rules), to carry out an UHC Assessment.
- 7.3 The UHC Assessor must sign the UHC Assessor Confidentiality Agreement (Appendix 15) and is bound by appropriate confidentiality undertakings.
- 7.4 The UHC Assessor assesses the Medical Diagnostic form (Appendix 12) and relevant information submitted prior to a competition by the athlete or National Federation, to determine that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete’s National Federation (see Part IV.A) that may lead to an Eligible Impairment, catered for in Boccia, in order to proceed to be classified by a Classification Panel.

### **8 The Classification Panel**

- 8.1 World Boccia will appoint Classification Panels to conduct Evaluation Sessions

at World Boccia Sanctioned Competitions.

8.2 Except as provided in Article 8.3:

8.2.1 Each Classification Panel must consist of a minimum of two Certified World Boccia Classifiers of which at least one has to be a Medical Classifier.

8.2.2 At least one member of the Classification Panel must be of a different nationality to the Athlete being assessed; and

8.2.3 Where reasonably practicable, members of the Classification Panel must be of different nationalities to each other.

*[Comment to Article 8.2: These provisions are intended to help manage potential conflicts of interest, whether perceived or actual. Conflicts of interest are addressed more broadly in Chapter 6 Part III, with further examples. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 43.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may not consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete being assessed. Where reasonably practicable World Boccia will not appoint any Classifier who was involved in any assessment or evaluation of the relevant Athlete for the Classification purposes within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the anticipated Evaluation Session]*

8.3 In exceptional circumstances, World Boccia may authorise a Classification Panel to consist of a sole Classifier and/or Classifiers who are each of the same nationality as the Athlete being assessed, provided that:

8.3.1 any Sport Class issued to the Athlete must be accompanied by the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', with all resulting consequences; and

8.3.2 any sole Classifier must be a Medical Classifier certified to conduct all the assessments within the Evaluation Session.

*[Comment to Article 8.3: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties at a Competition (such as travel delays, Classifier illness, or conflicts of interest) that result in an insufficient number of Classifiers being available to constitute Classification Panels with two or more persons, or of different nationalities to the Athlete being assessed.]*

8.4 A Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of Certified Classifiers and may participate in Athlete

Evaluation.

- 8.5 Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with Classification.
- 8.6 A World Boccia Covered Competition may have two Classification Panels and one Chief Classifier that is not part of a Classification Panel in the initial Evaluation.
- 8.7 At the discretion of World Boccia, one Classification Panel of 3 classifiers may be deemed sufficient for a Covered Competition. If only one Classification Panel is present, no Protests will be dealt with, and nations will be notified of this in the initial entry information.
- 8.8 At smaller Competitions, with only one Classification Panel, the Chief Classifier may also act as a Classifier on the Classification Panel.
- 8.9 Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a Competition for Athlete Evaluation. At major events, a minimum of two full days is recommended, depending on the number of Athletes to be Classified.
- 8.10 At World Boccia Covered events where only one Classification Panel is present, one full day is required for Classification with a maximum of 12 Athletes to be Classified. If further Athletes require Classification a second day or second Classification Panel is required.
- 8.11 All members of the Classification Panel must sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings annually.

## **PART III: ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS**

### **9. Eligible Impairments for Boccia**

All Physical Impairments must be consistent with an Underlying Health Condition that:

- (i) originates from the central or peripheral nervous system; or
- (ii) is musculoskeletal.

9.1 The Eligible Impairments that are catered for by World Boccia are:

#### **9.1.1 Impaired Muscle Power**

Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a reduced (or no) ability to contract

their muscles to generate force that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion).

### **9.1.2 Coordination Impairments**

Athletes with Coordination Impairment have one or more of the following three movement disorders that:

- (i) Adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately; and
- (ii) is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central nervous system:

#### **9.1.2.1 Hypertonia/Spasticity:**

An increase in muscle tension that may be velocity-dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

#### **9.1.2.2 Motor Ataxia:**

Limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

#### **9.1.2.3 Dyskinesia** (athetosis, dystonia, chorea):

Involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements.

9.2 Any impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Article 9.1 is a **'Non-Eligible Impairment'**.

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

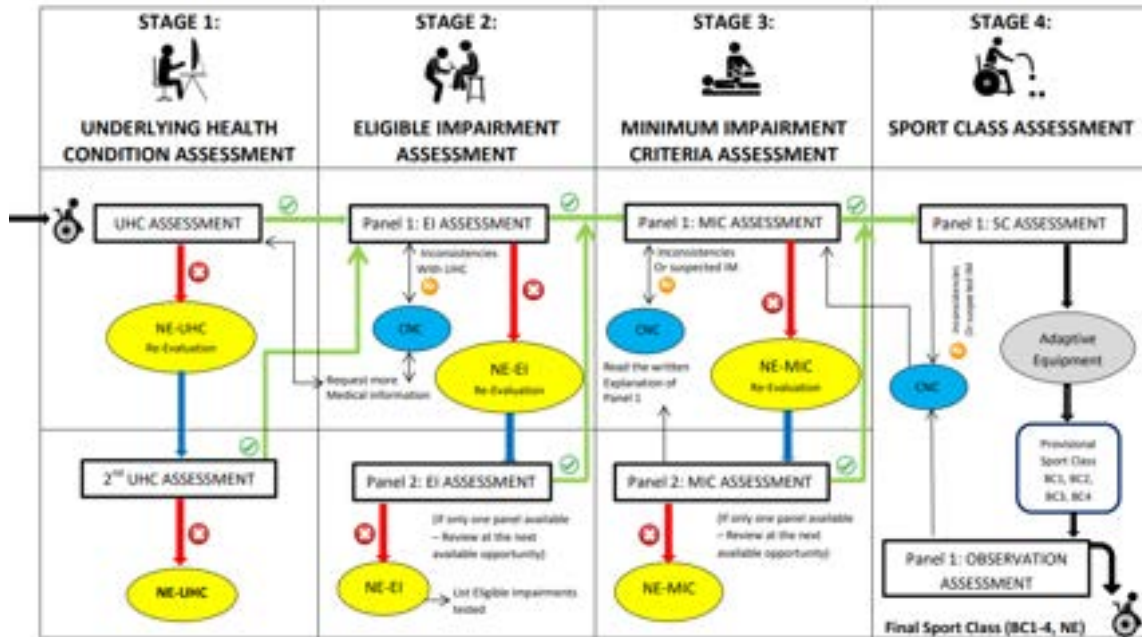
- 9.3.1 Pain;
- 9.3.2 hearing impairment;
- 9.3.3 low muscle tone;
- 9.3.4 hypermobility of joints;
- 9.3.5 joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint or recurrent dislocation

- of a joint;
  - 9.3.6 impaired muscle endurance or stiffness;
  - 9.3.7 impaired motor reflex functions;
  - 9.3.8 impaired cardiovascular functions;
  - 9.3.9 impaired respiratory functions;
  - 9.3.10 impaired metabolic functions;
  - 9.3.11 tics and mannerisms, motor stereotypies, and motor perseverations;
  - 9.3.12 vestibular impairment;
  - 9.3.13 impairments in muscle metabolism resulting in fatigue; and
  - 9.3.14 impairments stemming from psychological and/or psychosomatic causes
- 9.4 An Athlete who has both an Eligible Impairment and a Non-Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of their Eligible Impairment, provided that their Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct an Evaluation Session (including Observation Assessment) and allocate a Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 9.4: For example, an Athlete with Muscular Dystrophy might have Impaired Muscle Power (an Eligible Impairment) and pain (a Non-Eligible Impairment). If the presence of pain restricts a Classification Panel's ability to conduct the evaluation session, the Athlete might not be allocated a Sport Class, notwithstanding that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment and a designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' will be allocated (Article 31).]*

## PART IV: THE CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

World Boccia Classification Process – Flowchart



### A. Stage 1: Underlying Health Condition (UHC) Assessment

#### 10. UHC Assessment – Diagnostic Information

10.1 In order to begin the Classification process, an Athlete must provide World Boccia with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable World Boccia to assess the existence of an Underlying Health condition.

10.2 The Athlete's National Federation is responsible for providing the Diagnostic information to World Boccia, and for ensuring that all Diagnostic information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that WorldBoccia is informed of any changes to that information.

10.3 All Athletes must supply World Boccia with Diagnostic Information that must be provided as follows:

10.3.1 The relevant National Body and/or National Paralympic Committee must submit a Medical Diagnostics Form (MDF) Appendix 12, to World Boccia upon completing the registration of an Athlete onto the World Boccia database or in advance of competing in a World Boccia event.

10.3.2 The Medical Diagnosis Form must be uploaded to the World Boccia data

platform at least 4 weeks prior to the World Boccia event. The UHC Assessor will carry out the UHC Assessment to determine if the athlete has an underlying Health Condition before an Evaluation Session for Classification can be allocated to an athlete.

10.3.3 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be completed in English, dated and signed by the Athlete and a Certified Healthcare Professional. The Athlete's National federation must upload the completed form to the World Boccia Platform.

10.3.4 The Medical Diagnostic Form must be submitted and must include supportive Diagnostic Information that enables the UHC assessor to make an appropriate decision.

10.3.5 World Boccia (including the UHC Assessor) may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to carry out the Classification process, including Diagnostic information.

10.3.6 Diagnostic Information must be provided in its original format (i.e., a scan of the original document or a copy thereof) along with an English translation (if the original format is in another language)

## **11. Conducting the UHC Assessment**

11.1 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment (Appendix 2), for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to verify that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment.

11.2 The UHC Assessor will conduct the UHC Assessment based only on the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation.

11.3 At any stage the UHC Assessor may, with the agreement of World Boccia, seek the assistance of such medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to conduct the UHC Assessment.

11.4 If the UHC Assessor consists of more than one member:

11.4.1 the individual members of the UHC Assessor must initially review the Athlete's Diagnostic Information independently of each other; and

11.4.2 if the members are unable to reach a unanimous decision, the UHC

Assessor must make its decision by majority.

11.5 If the UHC Assessors are satisfied that the Athlete has at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Eligible Underlying Health Condition:

11.5.1 The UHC Assessor must notify World Boccia of the outcome of its assessment through the World Boccia Platform by accepting the documents.

11.5.2 World Boccia will provide Diagnostic Information and the UHC Assessor's outcome through the platform to the Classification Panel and will then proceed with scheduling and Evaluation Session.

11.5.3 Unless the athlete already has a relevant Sport Class and Sport Class Status, the Athlete will automatically be allocated the designation 'New (N)'; and

11.5.4 An Athlete with a designation 'New (N)' must attend an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any World Boccia Covered Competition where Classification is available.

11.6 If the UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition:

11.6.1 The UHC Assessor must notify the World Boccia of the outcome of its assessment and provide a written explanation for the decision.

11.6.2 World Boccia will:

11.6.2.1 provide the decision and copy of the written explanation to the Athlete's National Federation

11.6.2.2 designate the Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-Evaluation)' with resulting consequences specified in Article 12; and

11.6.2.3 Arrange for a second UHC Assessor to repeat the UHC Assessment as soon as reasonably practicable in accordance with Article 11.7.

11.7 If a second UHC Assessor is required pursuant to Article 11.6:

11.7.1 The second UHC Assessor may comprise one or more members. Any member of the first UHC Assessor cannot serve as a member of the

second UHC Assessor.

11.7.2 The second UHC Assessor must review all of the Diagnostic Information provided by the Athlete's National Federation. Before reaching a final decision, the second UHC Assessor must also review the written explanation of the first UHC Assessor.

11.7.3 If the second UHC Assessor is satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Eligible Underlying Health Condition, Article 11.5 applies.

11.7.4 If the second UHC Assessor is not satisfied that the Athlete has (or has had) at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health condition:

11.7.4.1 The second UHC Assessor must notify World Boccia of the outcome and provide a written explanation for the decision.

11.7.4.2 World Boccia must provide a copy of the second UHC Assessor's written explanation or Notes on the World Boccia Platform to the Athlete's National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable.

11.7.4.3 The Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition' and the consequences in Article 12 will continue to apply.

## **12. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition'**

12.1 Subject to Medical Review (Article 36) and Changes to Classification System (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible - Underlying Health Condition':

12.1.1 is not eligible to compete in Covered Competitions in Boccia

12.1.2 must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether Boccia or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognized by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

*[Comment to Article 12.1: If and Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible*

*– Underlying Health Condition (RE-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition’ subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in World Boccia Covered Competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Boccia.]*

12.2 Subject to Article 11.7, the designation of an Athlete as “Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible - Underlying Health Condition’ is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Chapter 3 Part II: Appeals.

12.3 World Boccia must include all Athletes designated as ‘Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (Re-evaluation)’ or ‘Not Eligible - Underlying Health Condition’ on its Master List.

*[Comment to Article 12.3: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by World Boccia.]*

## **B. Evaluation Session**

### **B.1 Stage 2: Eligible Impairment Assessment**

### **13. Conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment**

Any Athlete wishing to compete in Boccia as governed by World Boccia must have an Eligible Impairment that is permanent.

Appendix 1 of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) that an Athlete must have, to compete in Boccia events governed by World Boccia. Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix 1, is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment listed in Article 9.3

- World Boccia 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/Spasticity, Ataxia and Dyskinesia including Athetosis and Dystonia.

- World Boccia 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, resulting in Impaired Muscle Power.

13.1 The Eligible Impairment Assessment is conducted to verify that

13.1.1 The athlete has an Eligible Impairment recognised by WorldBoccia, that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Conditions reported in the UHC Assessment; and

13.1.2 There are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s)

13.2 As a preliminary step, the Classification Panel reviews the documentation relating to the UHC Assessment, namely the Athlete's Diagnostic Information and the written outcome of the UHC Assessor.

13.3 Appendix 3,4,7,8, and 9 set out how a Classification Panel will evaluate whether and Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, including the criteria to be assessed for each Eligible Impairment and the full details of any impairment-based testing and/or other clinically recognized testing that will be used as part of the Eligible Impairment Assessment, and how the results of such testing will be evaluated.

13.4 The Eligible Impairment Assessment must take place in person.

13.5 When conducting the Eligible Impairment Assessment, if the Classification Panel considers that there are any inconsistencies with the Underlying Health Condition(s) reported in the UHC Assessment, the Classification Panel will:

13.5.1 designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Complete' (CNC)

13.5.2 prepare a written explanation identifying the inconsistencies and noting any additional information that is required. A copy of which must be provided to the World Boccia and the Athlete's National Federation

13.5.3 If the Classification panel considers it appropriate, specify a deadline by which such additional information must be provided by the Athlete's National Federation; such information must be provided in its original format (i.e. the original document or a copy thereof) along with an

English translation (if the original format is in another language), unless World Boccia specifies otherwise: and

- 13.5.4 if the additional information is not provided by the specified deadline or does not otherwise satisfy the Classification Panel, or if the Classification Panel does not require additional information, refer the matter back to the UHC Assessor (which, if possible, should be the same UHC Assessor as before) for reconsideration in accordance with Article 11, along with a written explanation and any additional information provided.
- 13.6 The Eligible Impairment Assessment will continue (either by the same or a new Classification Panel) only once that Classification Panel is satisfied by the additional information provided and/or the UHC Assessor completes the re-assessment.
- 13.7 Upon completion of the Eligible Impairment Assessment:
- 13.7.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Boccia that is consistent with one or more Underlying Health Condition(s) reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underling Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
- 13.7.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.7.1, the Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)', with the resulting consequences specified in Article 14.
- [Comment to Article 13.7.2: When designating an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' the Classification Panel must record the Eligible Impairment(s) for which the Athlete was assessed, for example, 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' for Impaired Muscle Power]*
- 13.8 The Classification Panel must notify the World Boccia of the outcome of the Eligible Impairment Assessment if Not Eligible and provide an explanation for the decision when entering the data on the platform. World Boccia will make a copy of the Classification Panel's decision available to the Athlete's National Federation through the platform, which must be accessible to the Athlete's National Federation.

- 13.9 If the Athlete is designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second Eligible Impairment Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:
- 13.9.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel.
- 13.9.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the written explanation of the first Classification Panel.
- 13.9.3 If the Second Classification Panel is satisfied that (i) the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Boccia consistent with one or more Underlying Health Condition reported in the UHC Assessment, and (ii) there are no inconsistencies with such reported Underlying Health Condition(s), it will proceed to the MIC Assessment.
- 13.9.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied as in Article 13.9.3, the Athlete must be designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' and the consequences in Article 14 will continue to apply
- 13.9.5 The Athlete's right to a second Eligible Impairment Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which case Article 13.9.4 will be deemed to apply with reason 'Athlete waive second Eligible Impairment Assessment').

## **14. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment'**

- 14.1 Subject to Medical Review (Article 36) and Changes to Classification system (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-Evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment':
- 14.1.1 The Athlete is not eligible to compete in World Boccia Competitions based on such Eligible Impairment(s) in Boccia; and
- 14.1.2 the Athlete must disclose such designation if undergoing further Classification (whether in Boccia or in another sport). Such designation may be automatically recognized by other International Federations in their respective sports, in their absolute discretion.

*[Comment to Article 14.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in any World Boccia Covered competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation.*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability, but is ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in Boccia.]*

14.2 Subject to Article 13.9, the designation of an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.

14.3 World Boccia must include all Athletes designated as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' on its Classification Mater List.

*[Comment on Article 14.3: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by World Boccia]*

## **B.2 Stage 3: MIC Assessment**

### **15. Conducting the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) Assessment**

15.1 The MIC Assessment will be conducted for the purposes set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess whether the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment.

15.2 The MIC Assessment will be determined based solely on an Impairment assessment (i.e. impairment-based testing and/or clinically recognized testing) outlined in Chapter 11: Classification Assessments of these rules and not based on an assessment of tasks or activities performed in the sport, nor any other aspect of the Athlete's sport performance.

15.3 Appendices 5 and 6 set out how a Classification Panel will assess whether and

Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria.

- 15.4 The MIC Assessment must take place in person.
- 15.5 Upon completion of the MIC Assessment:
  - 15.5.1 If the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the Applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria to be able to participate in Boccia, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment
  - 15.5.2 If the Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' with resulting consequences specified in Article 16
- 15.6 The Classification Panel must notify World Boccia of the outcome of the MIC Assessment when Not Eligible and provide an explanation for the decision when entering the data on the platform. World Boccia will provide a copy of the Classification Panel's explanation to the Athlete's National Federation through access on the platform.
- 15.7 If an athlete is designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)', the Athlete is entitled to undergo a second MIC Assessment by a second Classification Panel as soon as reasonably practicable:
  - 15.7.1 Any member of the first Classification Panel cannot serve as a member of the second Classification Panel
  - 15.7.2 Before reaching a final decision, the second Classification Panel must also review the written explanation of the first Classification Panel.
  - 15.7.3 If the second Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, it will proceed to the Sport Class Assessment.
  - 15.7.4 If the second Classification Panel is not satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment meets the applicable Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete will be designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', and the consequences in Article 16 will continue to apply.
  - 15.7.5 The Athlete's right to a second MIC Assessment may be waived by the Athlete if they do not wish to undergo a second assessment (in which

case Article 15.7.4 will be deemed to apply with reason 'Athlete waive second Eligible Impairment Assessment').

## **16. Designation of 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria'**

16.1 Subject to Article Medical Reviews (Article 36) and Changes to Classification system (Article 59.3), an Athlete designated as 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-Evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria':

16.1.1 is not eligible to compete in any World Boccia Covered Competitions based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) in Boccia; and

16.1.2 must disclose such designation in undergoing further Classification (whether in Boccia or in another sport)

*[Comment to Article 16.1: If an Athlete who has been designated 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' subsequently (i) competes or attempts to compete in any World Boccia Covered competitions, or (ii) undergoes or attempts to undergo further Classification (including in respect of another sport), in each case without disclosing such designation, they may be investigated in respect of potential Intentional Misrepresentation (Chapter 4).*

*If an Athlete is found not eligible, this does not question or determine the presence of a disability, but is a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the sport of Boccia]*

16.2 However, the Athlete may be eligible to compete in Covered Competitions:

16.2.1 in Boccia based on a different Eligible Impairment if they meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for that Eligible Impairment; and/or

16.2.2 in a different sport, based on the same Eligible Impairment(s) if: (i) the other sport caters for the Eligible Impairment(s); and (ii) the Athlete meets the other sport's Minimum Impairment Criteria for the Eligible Impairment(s) of the other sport.

16.3 Subject to Article 15.7, the designation of an Athlete as Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation) or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' is not subject to review or Protest but may be Appealed

in accordance with Part II of Chapter 3.

- 16.4 World Boccia will include all Athletes designated to 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (Re-evaluation)' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' on its Classification Master List.

*[Comment on Article 16.4: This requirement applies regardless of whether the Athlete is currently licensed by World Boccia]*

### **B.3 Stage 4: Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocation**

#### **B.3.1 Sport Class**

#### **17. Conducting the Sport Class Assessment**

- 17.1 Subject to suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session (Article 29) and the failure to attend an Evaluation Session (Article 30), if an Athlete has been assessed to have an Eligible Impairment that meets Boccia's Minimum Impairment Criteria, the Athlete must be allocated a Sport Class.
- 17.2 The Sport Class Assessment will be conducted, in a non-competitive environment of the Classification room, for the purpose set out at Article 6.1, i.e., to assess the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport of Boccia.
- 17.3 Appendix 10 sets out the assessment methodology and assessment criteria that the Classification Panel will use in evaluating which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete. The Sport Classes are set out in these rules in Chapter 12: Boccia Physical Profiles and the Sport Class assessment must be carried out by putting the athlete through a battery of tasks and activities in such a way that clear evidence is gathered to be able to explain why an athlete with an Eligible Impairment that meets the MIC, fits and meets the criteria set out in a certain Boccia Sport Class.
- 17.4 When assessing which Sport Class to allocate to an Athlete, the Classification Panel must:
- 17.4.1 base its assessment solely on the extent to which the Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport of Boccia; and

*[Comment to Article 17.4.1: The Classification Panel must therefore*

*distinguish factors such as fitness level and/or technical proficiency in order to ensure that these factors do not affect the Sport Class allocated. For this purpose, it may be helpful for the Classification Panel to consider an Athlete's training history and age.]*

17.4.2 with the exception of the Observation Assessment, conduct all parts of the Sport Class Assessment in a controlled non-competitive environment, meaning an environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.

17.5 The Sport Class Assessment must take place in person

17.6 Use of Adaptive Equipment:

17.6.1 When Conducting the Sport Class Assessment, the Classification Panel must evaluate the Athlete when they are using the Adaptive Equipment that they will use in competition (if any). The use of Adaptive Equipment permitted by the rules (Appendix 21) is an integral component of the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities required to play Boccia. Therefore, the Sport Class Assessment must consider the optimal use of such equipment during competition, whether an Athlete chooses to it or not.

*[Comment on Article 17.6.1: For example, if the rules permit an Athlete to use abdominal strapping, and an Athlete opts not to use such strapping which leads to poor sitting balance, the Athlete should not be allocated a different Class (reserved for Athletes with impairments that have a different impact on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport) on the basis of their decision not to use an optional piece of Adaptive equipment.]*

17.6.2 World Boccia, whether through the Classification Panel or otherwise, may assess whether any Adaptive Equipment proposed to be used by the Athlete in competition complies with these Classification Rules and/or other World Boccia rules on the use of Adaptive Equipment. To determine beforehand if any Adaptive Equipment proposed to be used by an Athlete in competition complies with World Boccia's Classification and/or other rules on the use of Adaptive Equipment, the Athlete's National Federation must submit a completed Adaptive Equipment Application form (Appendix 22) with photos of the equipment as it will be used by the athlete.

- (i) If the athlete's equipment is found not to comply with such rules outlined in Appendix 21, the Athlete will not be permitted to use that equipment as part of the Sport Class Assessment or competition, and the Classification Panel will not take use of that equipment into consideration when making its determination as to the Athlete's Sport Class.
- (ii) If the Athlete's equipment is found to be according to the rules (Appendix 21), the athlete will be permitted to use the equipment and it must be part of the Sport Class Assessment,
- (iii) The Athlete's must bring any adaptive equipment to the classification session in order for the Classification Panel to assess whether the equipment will be permitted or not, and to assess the impact of the equipment on the sport ability whether it give the Athlete an unfair advantage (in which case it will not be permitted) or does not affect the activity levels in a Sport Class.

17.6.3 If an Athlete chooses to use (or not use) Adaptive Equipment that could affect their allocated Sport Class, the Chief Classifier and Classification Panel must make sure that:

- (i) The Athlete uses the same Adaptive equipment (if they were allocated a Sport Class on the basis that they would use such Adaptive Equipment); or
- (ii) The Athlete does not use Adaptive Equipment (if they were allocated a Sport Class on the basis that they would not use any Adaptive Equipment)

17.6.4 Any adaptive equipment approved and used by an athlete during competition should not give the athlete any advantage compared to the abilities of athletes in the same Sport class.

17.6.5 The use of a glove on the Throwing hand of an Athlete meeting the MIC for Muscle Power in the BC4 Sport class should only be approved if it is the only way the Athlete can hold and throw the ball.

17.6.5.1 Athletes must complete the Application Form for BC4 Gloves (Appendix 23)

17.6.5.2 The Classification Panel should assess the Athlete with and without the glove to determine whether it is the only way the athlete is able to hold and release a Boccia ball.

17.6.5.3 The glove is not allowed to give any stability around the wrist of the Athlete

17.6.5.4 The use of a hard/rigid splint on the throwing hand will only be permitted where it is essential for the athlete to be able to hold and throw the ball and where the absence of such hard support would otherwise qualify the athlete as a BC3 player because they cannot throw the ball without rigid splint. This is applicable only for BC1 and/or BC4 athletes. BC2 athletes are not allowed to use splints on the throwing hand.

17.7 Following completion of the initial stages of the Sport Class Assessment set out above, the Classification panel will either:

17.7.1 allocate the Athlete a provisional Sport Class that is always subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment in accordance with Article 17.8, using the tracking code 'OA' for 'Observation Assessment'; or

17.7.2 if the Classification panel finds inconsistencies during the Sport Class Assessment, repeat previous stages.

17.8 Observation Assessment

17.8.1 The purpose of an Observation Assessment is to observe and evaluate the Athlete in a competitive environment to ensure that what is observed in competition is consistent with what was observed in the previous stages of Classification.

17.8.2 Except in exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel that conducted the preceding face to face stages of the Athlete's Evaluation Session must also conduct the Observation Assessment (for procedure see Appendix 11).

17.8.3 The Observation Assessment must be conducted in person at the Covered Competition where the Athlete competes in their provisional Sport Class for the First time (First Appearance).

17.8.4 The Classification Panel has until the end of Pools to complete the Observation assessment to get a clear understanding of the Athlete's performance during the Pool stages of the Individual competition.

- 17.8.5 If the Athlete does not compete in the Individual event, the Observation Assessment must be completed during the Pool stages of the Teams and Pairs event at the same Covered competition where the Athlete's Evaluation Session was conducted.
- 17.8.6 Following the Observation Assessment, the Classification Panel may:
- 17.8.6.1 allocate the Athlete a final Sport Class and Sport Class Status
  - 17.8.6.2 require from the Athlete to redo prior stages of the Evaluation Session and/or undergo further Observation Assessment.
- 17.8.7 The Classification Panel cannot, based on the results of the Observation Assessment alone, allocate the Athlete a Sport Class that is different from the Sport Class provisionally allocated in accordance with Article 17.7.1.
- 17.9 If an Athlete with a provisional Sport Class is ultimately allocated a different Sport Class:
- 17.9.1 for Individual events, such changes will be effective after the end of pools, and the athlete will not progress into the elimination rounds. If there are no elimination rounds (only 1 pool) the class change will only happen after the medal ceremony (before the next competition e.g. Teams and Pairs).
  - 17.9.2 for the Teams and Pairs event the changes will be effective immediately, and the Athlete may not participate further in the competition, or any other World Boccia Covered Competition until the change has been implemented.
  - 17.9.3 The results of an Athlete whose Sport Class changed during a competition will not count towards the end results for that specific Sport class or any ranking points.
- 17.10 Athletes may only compete in the Sport Class allocated to them.

## **18. Eligibility for multiple Sport Classes**

- 18.1 In the sport of Boccia it is not possible to be allocated multiple Sport Classes. The athletes must compete in the Sport Class they have been allocated in all World Boccia Covered events and the sport class allocated will be published on the Master List.

## **B.3.2 Sport Class Status**

### **19. Sport Class Statuses**

19.1 The Sport Class Status is designated to an Athlete by a Classification Panel at the end of an Evaluation and Observation Assessment. A Sport Class Status indicates whether and when an Athlete will be required to undergo Classification in the future.

19.2 The available Sport Class Statuses are as follows:

19.2.1 Confirmed (C)

19.2.2 Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)

19.2.3 Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD); or

19.2.4 Expired (E)

### **20. Allocation of Sport Class Statuses**

Sport Class Statuses must be allocated in accordance with the below:

#### **20.1 Sport Class Status Confirmed (C)**

20.1.1 **'Confirmed (C)'**: A Classification Panel may allocate the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed (C)' if the World Boccia Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Sport Class is unlikely to change after the second classification at a separate event.

20.1.2 Due to the variable nature of recovery after Acquired/Traumatic Brain or Spinal Injury or after a Medical Review Request Classification, such an Athlete will not be given Confirmed Status (C) till at least 4 years post-injury.

20.1.3 The Sport Class Status 'Confirmed (C)' may be allocated after the first Classification of a BC3 athlete as it is unlikely that a BC3 athlete's inability to grasp or propel the ball into the field of play up to the Penalty box, will change.

## **20.2 Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)'**

20.2.1 An Athlete will automatically be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' where:

- (a) The Classification Panel consisted of (i) a sole Classifier; and/or (ii) Classifiers who were each of the same nationality as the Athlete (Article 8.3)
- (b) World Boccia has accepted a Medical Review request (Article 36); and/or
- (c) A National Federation Protest (Article 41) has been accepted, or a World Boccia Protest has been made (Article 42)

20.2.2 A Classification Panel may also decide to allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' if:

- (a) the Athlete is 'borderline' (i.e. they narrowly meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or they are on the boundary of two Sport Classes); and/or
- (b) the Classification Panel believes that a further Evaluation Session will be required at the Next Available Opportunity within the current calendar year and/or season.

*[Comment to Article 20.3.2: A further Evaluation Session might be required for a number of reasons, including where the Athlete has only recently started competing in World Boccia Covered Competition, has one or more fluctuating and/or progressive or regressive impairment(s), and/or has not reached full muscular skeletal or sport maturity.]*

20.2.3 World Boccia may also change an Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' where it has identified that changes to its Classification rules (Article 59) may affect the Athlete's eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status.

20.2.4 The Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' will not be able to enter or participate in any World Boccia Covered Competitions where there is no Classification. The Next

Available Opportunity must be a World Boccia Covered Competition where there is a Classification opportunity.

### **20.3 Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)'**

20.3.1 A Classification Panel will allocate an Athlete the Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' where a Sport Class has been allocated after the completion of the First Evaluation Session except for BC3 athletes (Article 20.2.3). The Classification Panel must set a date (in the format day/month/year) (no earlier than 12 months after the first assessment) after which the Athlete must attend a new Evaluation Session at the Next Available Opportunity (after the Fixed Review Date).

20.3.2 World Boccia may also change an Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' where it has been identified that changes to its Classification rules may affect the Athlete's eligibility, Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status (Article 59). In such circumstances, World Boccia must set an appropriate Fixed Review Date.

20.3.3 A Fixed Review Date will typically be no more than four years after the Athlete's previous Evaluation Session took place.

20.3.4 The Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' will be able to enter and participate in any World Boccia Covered Competitions up to 6 months after the Fixed Review Date lapses, after which the Athlete will not be able to enter or participate in any World Boccia Covered Competitions where there are no Classification. The status will remain 'R-FRD' until the athlete is classified at the next World Boccia Competition where Classification is available.

### **20.4 'Expired (E)'**

20.4.1 An Athlete will be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' where they retire, in accordance with World Boccia rules.

20.4.2 World Boccia may also decide to use the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' where the Athlete does not complete an Evaluation Session within the specified time period:

(i) An Athlete with Sport Class Status 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' will be allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' if they have not completed a further Evaluation Session within two

(2) years; and

(ii) An Athlete with a Sport Class Status 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)' will be allocated Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)' if they have not completed a further Evaluation Session within two (2) years after the Fixed Review date has passed. If the athlete competes in any World Boccia Covered Competition where Classification is not available, Article 20.4.4 will apply.

## **21. Impact of Sport Class Status on participation in World Boccia Covered Competitions**

21.1 An Athlete allocated the Sport Class Status 'Confirmed' is not required to undergo any further Classification, except if their Sport Class Status is subsequently changed as a result of:

- (i) a World Boccia Protest,
- (ii) an Accepted National Federation Protest, or successful Appeal
- (ii) an accepted Medical Review Request; and/or
- (iii) changes to World Boccia's Classification system under Article 59

21.2 Unless World Boccia specifies otherwise, if an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status:

21.2.1 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', the athlete must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any World Boccia Covered Competition and therefore can only enter a World Boccia Competition where classification is available.

21.2.2 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)'. The athlete may compete in World Boccia Covered Competitions where classification is not available such as World Cups and World Champs, up until the Fixed Review Date and 6 months after the date has lapsed but thereafter must complete an Evaluation Session prior to competing at any further World Boccia Covered Competitions (See Article 20.3.4).

21.3 If an Athlete has been allocated the Sport Class Status 'Expired (E)', the Athlete cannot compete at any World Boccia Covered Competition unless completing a new Evaluation Session and being allocated a Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Athlete can therefore only enter World Boccia Competitions where Classification is available and will enter as a 'New (N)' athlete.

## **B4. General provisions applicable to Evaluation Sessions**

### **22. General requirements for World Boccia**

- 22.1 World Boccia will ensure that all people participating in Evaluation Sessions (whether in person or virtually) are bound by their Classification rules and applicable code of conduct.
- 22.2 World Boccia will provide National Federations with reasonable notice of Classification opportunities, including the competition, location and dates.
- 22.3 World Boccia will provide the Classification Panel with any information that becomes available to them that might be relevant to the Classification Panel conducting an Evaluation Session.
- 22.4 World Boccia will retain copies of any forms, reports, or other written records from the UHC Assessors and Classification Panels on the World Boccia Platform, which may be provided by World Boccia to future UHC Assessors and Classification Panels that evaluate the Athlete, the retention of such documentation is subject to the World Boccia Classification Data retention Policy (Appendix 28)

### **23. Attendance at Evaluation Sessions**

- 23.1 In addition to the Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel, the following individuals may attend Evaluation Sessions:
  - 23.1.1 The Athlete's accompanying National Representative and (if required) interpreter, subject to Article 24.2
  - 23.1.2 Trainee Classifiers and any other authorised persons involved in the training of such Trainee Classifiers, as determined by World Boccia (or the Chief Classifier, acting on behalf of World Boccia)  
*[Comment to Article 23.1.2: World Boccia will be respectful of Athletes when determining the number of Trainee Classifiers/trainers participating in an Evaluation Session.]*
  - 23.1.3 Observers appointed by the IPC as part of the IPC's monitoring of Compliance with the Classification Code and the International Standards; and
  - 23.1.4 any person from whom the Classification Panel seeks medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific advice in accordance with Article 27

- 23.2 The Athlete and the members of the Classification Panel must attend the Evaluation Session in person
- 23.3 Any other person entitled to attend, and Evaluation Session pursuant Article 23.1 may attend the Evaluation Session in person. Alternatively, they may attend the Evaluation Session virtually, whether by telephone or video (or other virtual technology), if they can do so without adverse impact, and provided that they comply with all the requirements as those attending in person (Article 24 and 25).

*[Comment on Article 23.3: An Evaluation Session would be adversely impacted if, for example, the internet connection of the person attending the Evaluation Session virtually was so weak or intermittent that the Evaluation Session was continually interrupted and taking much longer than the scheduled time.]*

#### **24. Responsibilities of the National Federation and Athletes in relation to Evaluation Sessions**

- 24.1 An Athlete's National Federation is responsible for ensuring that the Athlete complies with the responsibilities applicable to them in relation to the Evaluation Session.
- 24.2 Athletes may be accompanied during the Evaluation Session by a maximum of:
- 24.2.1 One National Representative whose role is to support the Athlete and facilitate their Classification process (Athletes who are Minors or lack legal capacity in accordance with the laws applicable in their country of residence must be accompanied by such a National Representative); and
  - 24.2.2 if required, one interpreter (to be arranged and paid for by the Athlete's National Federation, and who will be deemed a National Representative)
- 24.3 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must verify his or her identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a passport, ID card or event accreditation.
- 24.4 The Athlete and any accompanying National Representative(s) (including any interpreter) must sign the World Boccia evaluation agreement form (Appendices 13 and 14).

- 24.5 The Athlete must give their best efforts during the Evaluation Session and must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel.
- 24.6 The Athlete must attend the Evaluation Session:
- (i) with any sport attire and Adaptive Equipment permitted under the World Boccia and Classification Rules that they intend to use in any World Boccia Covered Competition; and
  - (ii) disclose their intended use of such attire and Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel
- 24.7 Medication, medical devices/implants, and procedures:
- 24.7.1 an Athlete must disclose to the Classification Panel the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including any audio aids and/or refractive or optical corrections, and baclofen pumps) and any medical procedure that may affect the Classification Panel's ability to conduct and Evaluation Session;
- [Comment on Article 24.7.1: For the avoidance of doubt, the Athlete's obligation to disclose their use of any medication, medical device/implant, and medical procedure under this Article is entirely separate to their obligations under any applicable anti-doping rules, including but not limited to in respect of Therapeutic use exemptions and disclosures on a doping control form. Any such disclosure by an Athlete to the Classification Panel in no way equates to a disclosure or application for the purposes of such separate anti-doping rules, and vice versa.]*
- 24.7.2 an Athlete must attend the Evaluation session (i) with all disclosed medical devices/implants; and (ii) with any or all disclosed medication(s) and/or medical prescription(s)

## **25. Responsibilities of the Classification Panel in relation to Evaluation Sessions**

- 25.1 Classification Panels are responsible for conducting Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel must:
- 25.2 Except as provided in Article 13.6, or in other exceptional circumstances, the same Classification Panel must conduct all of the stages of an Evaluation Session in relation to an Athlete.

*[Comment to Article 25.2: For example, 'exceptional circumstances' may arise if there are genuine and unavoidable operational difficulties (such as Classifier illness) that mean the same Classification Panel is not available to conduct all aspects of the Evaluation Session.]*

- 25.3 The Classification Panel must conduct Evaluation Sessions in English.
- 25.4 The Classification Panel must inform the Athlete of the names and roles of all persons attending the Evaluation Session on behalf of World Boccia (whether they are attending in person or virtually).
- 25.6 When conducting an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel may only consider the information provided to it by the relevant Athlete, National Federation or World Boccia, and any additional information obtained under Article 27.
- 25.7 The Classification panel must record their assessment at each stage of the Classification in writing, by completing the Classification form and Observation Assessment form in detail and providing a copy of such records to World Boccia through entering or all the written data onto the World Boccia database on the World Boccia Platform.

## **26. Consideration of prior Evaluation Sessions**

- 26.1 If the Classification Panel is evaluating an athlete who has previously undergone one or more Evaluation Sessions:
  - 26.1.1 before reaching a final decision, the Classification Panel must review the applicable forms, reports, or other records from previous Classification Panel(s); and
  - 26.1.2 in relation to the Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel must not consult with any of the members of previous Classification Panels regarding their prior evaluation of the Athlete. For the avoidance of doubt, the Classification Panel may seek expert assistance in accordance with Article 27, including any persons who provided equivalent assistance to previous Classification Panels.

*[Comment to Article 26.1.2: For the avoidance of doubt, subject to Article 43.2 regarding the composition of a Protest Panel, a Classification Panel may consist of Classifiers who conducted previous Evaluation Sessions of the Athlete. In those circumstances, such Classifiers should not discuss their previous evaluation of the Athlete with the new Classification Panel (beyond reviewing the documentation referred to in Article 26.1.1)]*

## **27. Classification Panel requests for additional information or expertise**

- 27.1 At any stage the Classification Panel may request that an Athlete's National Federation provide any additional information (including Diagnostic Information) that the Classification Panel believes is necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session. If the Athlete's National Federation provides such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session may continue. If the Athlete's National Federation is unable or fails to provide such information within the timeframe specified by the Classification Panel, the Classification panel may suspend the Evaluation Session in accordance with Article 29.
- 27.2 At any stage the Classification Panel may, with the agreement of World Boccia, seek the assistance of such other medical, clinical, technical, and/or scientific experts as it considers necessary for it to complete the Evaluation Session.

## **28. Requirement to redo prior stages of the Evaluation Session**

- 28.1 The Classification Panel may at any time require the Athlete to redo any prior stages of the Evaluation Session if it considers it necessary to do so.

## **29. Suspension or termination of an Evaluation Session**

- 29.1 A Classification Panel, in consultation with World Boccia (or the Chief Classifier acting on behalf of World Boccia), may suspend an Evaluation Session if it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session for any reason, including in one or more of the following circumstances:
- 29.1.1 failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the applicable Classification rules;
  - 29.1.2 failure on the part of the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation to provide any information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
  - 29.1.3 the Classification Panel believes that any use (or non-use) of any medication or medical device/implant or any medical procedure disclosed by the Athlete may interfere with the Classification of the Athlete;
  - 29.1.4 the Athlete has a Health Condition or impairment that limits or prevents them from complying with the requests of the Classification Panel during the Evaluation Session, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct and Evaluation Session in accordance with the applicable Classification rules;

- 29.1.5 the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel, even in the presence of an interpreter;
  - 29.1.6 in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
  - 29.1.7 the Classification Panel believes that the Athlete is not giving their best efforts, or the Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by the Classification Panel;
  - 29.1.8 the Athlete or their accompanying National Representative or interpreter (or any other person associated with the Athlete or the Athlete's National Federation) is found to be photographing or recording the Evaluation Session;
  - 29.1.9 there are more people attending the Evaluation Session than permitted under the applicable Classification rules, or the identity of someone attending is not clear;
  - 29.1.10 the Classification Panel believes that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is inconsistent (i.e., is subject to significant fluctuation) such that it is unable to complete the Evaluation Session and allocate the Athlete with an appropriate Sport Class; and/or
  - 29.1.11 the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with other information available to the Classification Panel.
- 29.2 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel must designate the Athlete as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' Subject to Article 13.5, the following steps must be taken:
- 29.2.1 The Classification Panel must prepare a written explanation
    - (i) explaining why the 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' designation has been applied (including where applicable, identifying any observed inconsistencies in the Athlete's representation of their abilities), and
    - (ii) if applicable, specify the details of any remedial action that is required for the Evaluation Session to be resumed, a copy of which must be provided to the World Boccia and the Athlete's National Federation;
  - 29.2.2 The Classification Panel must separately record (on video and in writing

on the World Boccia Platform) any concerns regarding potential Intentional Misrepresentation, if applicable; and

- 29.2.3 if an Athlete completes any specified remedial action to the satisfaction of World Boccia (or Chief Classifier acting on behalf of World Boccia), and Evaluation Session will be rescheduled as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 29.3 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel and cannot (for any reason) be resumed and completed at the same Classification opportunity by the same Classification Panel, the Evaluation Session must be terminated, and the Athlete will remain designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' and will not be able to participate in the entered event.
- 29.4 If any Athlete, National Federation representative, interpreter or any other person involved with the Athlete engage with the Classifiers in a disrespected way during an Evaluation Session, the Session will be stopped and 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' will be allocated to the Athlete without any remedial action and the athlete will not be allowed to take part in that competition.

### **30. Failure to attend an Evaluation Session**

- 30.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending all stages of their Evaluation Session(s). Without limiting the Athlete's personal responsibility, and Athlete's National Federation must take reasonable steps to ensure that the Athlete attends their Evaluation Session(s).
- 30.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session as required, the Classification Panel will report the failure to World Boccia as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 30.2.1 If the Athlete can provide World Boccia with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, World Boccia may reschedule the Evaluation Session to a revised date and time at the same Classification opportunity.
- 30.2.2 If the Athlete is unable to provide World Boccia with a reasonable explanation for their failure to attend the Evaluation Session, the Athlete will be designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' and the athlete will not be able to participate at that entered event.

*[Comment on Article 30.2: World Boccia are under no obligation to provide unlimited opportunities for an Athlete to attend an Evaluation Session.]*

### **31. Designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'**

- 31.1 An Athlete designated 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' may not compete in any World Boccia Covered Competition until they complete an Evaluation Session.
- 31.2 A designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.
- 31.3 If an Athlete has been designated as 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' on three or more consecutive occasions, the Athlete is not entitled to undergo any further Evaluation Session and therefore is not able to compete in any World Boccia Covered Competitions for a period of 2 years.

### **32. Location of Evaluation Sessions**

- 32.1 Evaluation Sessions may take place at any time or place specified by World Boccia before or during a World Boccia Covered Competition and the Observation Assessments must take place at the same Covered Competition. Requirement of the Classification room/facilities is set out in Appendix 23.
- 32.2 All Evaluation Sessions must be conducted in a manner that complies with these Classification Rules. In particular, the venue which the Evaluation Session takes place must be properly equipped to conduct all necessary aspects of the Evaluation Session. World Boccia will notify potential organisers of the requirements for hosting Evaluation Sessions and the approval procedure for Classification venues.
- 32.3 The Evaluation Session must take place in a controlled non-competitive environment that allows for the repeated observation of key tasks and activities.
- 32.4 In World Boccia the allocation of a Sport Class requires an Observation Assessment during the competition. If a Classification Panel conclude that it is unable to allocate a final Sport Class without an Observation Assessment, the Athlete must be designated 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)' and be required to undergo a further Evaluation Session at a later date.

### **33. Photographs and audio-visual technology**

- 33.1 The Classification Panel may make, create, and/or use photographs and/or audio-visual technology, including but not limited to the Evaluation session and during any Observation Assessment. Copies of any such materials must be provided to the Athlete or their National Federation on request. Such materials

must be dealt with in accordance with the World Boccia Classification Data Retention Policy (Appendix 28) and no classifier is allowed to post any such material on social media.

- 33.2 Subject to Article 33.1, NO photography or audio or video recording of the Evaluation Session is permitted. For the avoidance of doubt, this prohibition applies to all persons, regardless of whether they attend the Evaluation Session in person or virtually.

## **Part V: NOTIFICATION AND PUBLICATION**

### **34. Notification of Classification outcome**

- 34.1 World Boccia will notify the outcome of Classification to the Athlete concerned and/or their National Federation as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of Classification.
- 34.2 In the context of a Competition, a Chief Classifier must notify all relevant World Boccia technical delegates and event organising committee representatives of the Sport Class (including any provisional Sport Class) and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete. If an Observation Assessment takes place, further notification must be provided as soon as reasonably practicable following the completion of the Observation Assessment.
- 34.3 World Boccia must make available the following information to participants at the venue of a Covered Competition:
- 34.3.1 any provisional Sport Class (that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment) allocated to an Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after it is allocated; and
  - 34.3.2 the final Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to each Athlete entered in the Covered Competition, as soon as reasonably practicable after the completion of their Classification
  - 34.3.3 the Chief Classifier must upload all classification data of all the Athletes Classified at a Covered Competition onto the World Boccia data platform as soon as reasonably practicable after the completion of the Classifications.

### **35. Classification Master List**

- 35.1 World Boccia will maintain, publish, and keep up-to-date a `Classification Master

List' which must include (at a minimum) the following information regarding: (i) each Athlete; and (ii) any Participant currently suspended by World Boccia for Intentional Misrepresentation:

35.1.1 Name

35.1.2 gender

35.1.3 date of birth

35.1.4 nationality

35.1.5 Sport Class and Sport Class Status

35.1.6 Date of Classification and Review date

35.1.7 any designation (including 'New (N)', 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition (NE-UHC)', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (NE-EI)', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria (NE-MIC)', and 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)'), any 'Re-evaluation' stats attached to a designation, and tracking codes (such as 'OA' for Observation Assessment); and

35.1.8 any current designation for Intentional Misrepresentation (IM'), together with the duration and commencement date of the period of ineligibility.

35.2 Publication will be accomplished at a minimum by placing the required information on a publicly available website.

35.3 World Boccia will update their Classification Master Lists as soon as reasonably practicable following any change to the information.

35.4 Classification Master Lists will be dealt with in accordance with the World Boccia Classification Data Retention Policy (Appendix 28).

## **PART VI: CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES**

### **36. Medical Review**

36.1 A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment may mean that a reassessment is required to ensure that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification remains correct (for example, to ensure that an Athlete remains eligible or that the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete remains correct, or to reassess and Athlete previously found to be not eligible). This is known as a '**Medical Review**'.

*[Comment to Article 36.1: For example, a Medical Review request would be appropriate where the effect of surgery, a new medication or device, or some other medical procedure has resulted in changes to an Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities relevant to Boccia. A request may also be appropriate where an Athlete has a New Underlying Health Condition.]*

36.2 A Medical Review Request must be made by the National Federation on behalf of an Athlete by submitting a Medical Review Request Form (Appendix 20).

36.3 A Medical Review **must** be requested by the National Federation if there is a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

36.4 A Medical Review Request must:

36.4.1 explain in detail why the request is being made (including how and to what extent the Athlete's Eligible Impairment has changed, and whether and why it is believed that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification is no longer correct); and

36.4.2 be accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation, including updated Diagnostic Information in accordance with Article 10.

*[Comment on Article 36.4: Ordinarily, any Medical Review request will need to be accompanied by detailed medical records.]*

36.5 As set out in Article 10, World Boccia may request from the Athlete's National Federation any additional information that it deems necessary to assess the Medical Review request, including Diagnostic Information.

36.6 A Medical Review request will be accepted where the World Boccia determines that the National Federation has complied with Article 36.4 to 36.6, and World Boccia is satisfied that there is a change in the nature or degree of and Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) that may impact the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to age, levels of training, fitness and technical proficiency. If this test is not met, the Medical Review request will be dismissed.

36.7 The World Boccia will decide whether to accept a Medical Review request as soon as reasonably practicable following the receipt of a complete request.

36.8 If a Medical Review Request is accepted by World Boccia, where applicable, the

Athlete's Sport Class Status must be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' with immediate effect.

- 36.9 If the Medical Review request is dismissed by World Boccia, World Boccia will notify the Athlete's National Federation of the decision and provide a written explanation setting out the basis upon which the Medical Review request is dismissed. World Boccia's decision is not subject to review or Protest or Appeal.
- 36.10 If an Athlete or other Participant becomes aware of changes in their/the Athlete's circumstances that would require a Medical Review but fails to draw those changes to the attention of World Boccia, the Athlete and/or other Participant may be investigated in respect for potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **PART VII: COMPETITION FORMATS**

### **37. Classification at Certain Events**

- 37.1 World Boccia has determined that there will be NO Classification available at the following World Boccia Covered Competition unless otherwise communicated:
- (i) World Championships
  - (ii) World Cups
  - (iii) Paralympics (According to IPC)
  - (iv) Selected Regional Championships
- 37.2 World Boccia may provide Classification at any other event if deemed appropriate and necessary.
- 37.3 These Classification Rules will apply to all World Boccia Covered events whether classification is provided or not.

### **38. Combined Class Events**

- 38.1 World Boccia will not allow Athletes with different Sport Classes to compete against each other (Combined Class Events) in any individual Event at a World Boccia Covered Competition.
- 38.2 The Team event in World Boccia Covered Competitions includes BC1 and BC2 athletes, in a team, as per World Boccia Competition Rules.

## CHAPTER 3: Protests and Appeals

### PART I: PROTEST

#### 39. Scope of Protests

- 39.1 A '**Protest**' is a challenge filed against the Sport Class allocated to an Athlete.
- 39.2 For the avoidance of doubt, a Protest cannot be made in respect of
- (i) an Athlete's Sport Class Status,
  - (ii) any designation of 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' (as in these cases an athlete is afforded a review by a second UHC Assessor or Classification panel),
  - (iii) any designation of 'Classification Not Completed (CNC)', or
  - (iv) any other matter where Protests are expressly excluded under the IPC Classification Code
- 39.3 World Boccia is the responsible body to resolve any Protest made in respect to an Athlete's Sport Class in Boccia.

#### 40. Parties Permitted to make a Protest

- 40.1 A Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- 40.1.1 a National Federation
  - 40.1.2 World Boccia
- 40.2 For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot make a Protest themselves. A Protest may only be made on behalf of the Athlete by one of the bodies listed under Article 40.1.

#### 41. National Federation Protest

- 41.1 A National Federation may only make a Protest in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. A National Federation cannot make a Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated to an Athlete from another National Federation. However, it can raise any such concerns about the Sport Class allocated to such Athletes with World Boccia, so that World Boccia can consider if it wishes to make a World Boccia Protest.

*[Comment on Article 41.1: This approach is intended to strike a balance between the rights of the various stakeholders (World Boccia, National Federations, Athletes, and others), and forms part of a number of carefully balanced mechanisms in these Classification Rules that provide appropriate tools aimed at ensuring that Athletes are allocated the correct Sport Class.]*

- 41.2 A National Federation Protest may be made where there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class.
- 41.3 National Federation Protests will be upheld where World Boccia representative in the person of the Chief Classifier and/or Head of Classification and/or the Classification Committee determines that the National Federation has complied with all the requirements of Article 41.7 and World Boccia is satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to believe that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class. If this test is not met, the National Federation Protest will be dismissed
- 41.4 A National Federation Protest must be submitted in connection with an Evaluation session within the time specified in Article 41.5.
- 41.5 If an Athlete is allocated an interim Sport Class that is subject to confirmation at an Observation Assessment, the National Federation may:
- 41.5.1 Make a protest both prior to and following the Observation Assessment, in which case the Protest made following the Observation assessment cannot relate to any aspect of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment; or
  - 41.5.2 Make a Protest only prior to the Observation Assessment, or only following the Observation Assessment (in which case the Protest may relate to both the aspects of the Evaluation Session that preceded the Observation Assessment and the Observation Assessment itself).
- 41.6 If a Protest is made before First Appearance (Observation Assessment) takes place, the Athlete will not be permitted to compete until the Protest has been resolved.
- 41.7 To submit a Protest, a National Federation must:
- 41.7.1 Complete a Protest form in the format prescribed by World Boccia, including the following information:

41.7.1.1 The name and country of the protested Athlete

41.7.1.2 the details of and/or copy of the protested decision;

41.7.1.3 a detailed explanation of the basis for the National Federation's belief that the Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Sport Class, including (where applicable) (i) reference to any specific rule(s) alleged to have been breached or misapplied, and (ii) any supporting evidence for that belief.

41.7.2 Submit the completed Protest form within 1 (one) hour following the Evaluation session and/or 1 (one) hour following the Observation assessment.

41.7.3 Pay the applicable non-refundable Protest fee of €150 in cash to the Chief Classifier/ Assistant TD or Competition Manager.

41.7.3.1 The Chief Classifier may not leave the Competition venue within 1 hour of the publication of classes after the Evaluation Assessment and Observation Assessment and be available to accept protests

41.7.3.2 The Chief Classifier must give the cash protest fee to the Assistant TD/Competition Manager, who will issue a receipt to both the Chief Classifier and the National Federation.

41.8 Upon receipt of the Protest form, World Boccia in the person of the Chief Classifier must conduct a review of the Protest in accordance with Article 41.3. If the Chief Classifier was a member of the Classification Panel whose decision is being protested, that Chief Classifier cannot have any involvement in World Boccia's review of the Protest and the Protest must be reviewed by the Head of Classification of World Boccia.

41.9 World Boccia must through the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification notify the National Federation of the outcome of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable, and whether the Protest is dismissed or upheld, a written explanation is to be provided to the National Federation.

## **42. International Federation Protest**

42.1 International Federation Protests may be made where World Boccia considers that the Athlete may have been allocated and incorrect Sport Class.

*[Comment to Article 42.1: As indicate in Article 41.1 above, if a National Federation (or any other third party) has concerns that an Athlete from another National Federation has been allocated to incorrect Sport Class, it can raise such concerns with World Boccia so that World Boccia can consider if it wishes to make World Boccia Protest.]*

42.2 World Boccia may make a Protest at any time.

42.3 If World Boccia submits a Protest, it will:

42.3.1 Notify the relevant National Federation and the TD/Assistant TD at a competition of the Protest as soon as reasonably practicable; and

42.3.2 Provide a written explanation as to why the Protest has been made.

### **43. Protest Panel procedures**

43.1 If a National Federation Protest is accepted or if a World Boccia Protest is made:

43.1.1 The protested Athlete's Sport Class must remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, and their Sport Class Status must immediately be changed to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)', unless that is already their Sport Class Status

43.1.2 if an Athlete is required to undergo Observation Assessment and a National Federation Protest is accepted before the Athlete's First Appearance, the Athlete cannot compete at that Competition until the National Federation Protest has been resolved;

43.1.3 World Boccia will appoint a Protest Panel in accordance with Article 43.2 to conduct a new Evaluation Session as soon as reasonably practicable, and notify the relevant parties of the time, date and place that the new Evaluation Session will be conducted;

43.1.4 If the Protest was made In-Competition, the new Evaluation Session should be conducted at that Competition if reasonably practicable.

43.2 World Boccia will appoint a Protest Panel in a manner consistent with the Provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in Article 8. A Protest Panel must not include any Classifier who:

- 43.2.1 was a member of the Classification Panel that made the protested decision
  - 43.2.2 in case of a National Federation Protest, was involved in the review by World Boccia of that Protest
  - 43.2.3 in the case of a World Boccia Protest, was involved in World Boccia's decision to make such a Protest; or
  - 43.2.4 was involved in any assessment of evaluation of the protested Athlete for Classification purposes (whether at the national or international level) within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the protested decision, except where both the National Federation and World Boccia agree to this in writing.
- 43.3 The Protest Panel must conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with Chapter 2 Part IV B. For these purposes, any reference to the Classification Panel in Chapter 2 Part IV B will be deemed to include the Protest Panel. Before reaching a final decision, the Protest Panel must review the protested decision, and any document submitted as part of the Protest.
- 43.4 All relevant parties must be notified of the Protest Panel's final decision as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 43.5 Subject to Article 43.6 and 43.7, the decision of a Protest Panel is final, and not subject to further protest by the National Federation or World Boccia. However, the decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 45 are satisfied.
- 43.6 If World Boccia makes a Protest after the expiry of the deadline for National Federation Protests to be made (as per article 41.5) under World Boccia Classification rules, the decision of the Protest Panel in relation to the Protest is not final and may be subject to further Protest by the National Federation or World Boccia. In these circumstances, the decision of the Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first-instance Classification Panel. The decision of a Protest Panel may also be Appealed by the National Federation if the requirements in Article 45 are satisfied.
- 43.7 If a Protest Panel designates an Athlete as 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment' or 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' the Athlete will be entitled to undergo further Eligible Impairment Assessment in accordance with Article 13.9 or further MIC Assessment in accordance with Article 15.7 (as applicable) by a

new Classification Panel. In such circumstances the decision of the initial Protest Panel will be treated as if it were a decision of a first-instance Classification Panel and '(Re-evaluation)' will be added to the Athlete's designation.

- 43.8 Where a Protest Panel's decision is final the athlete will enter the Competition in the Sport Class given by the Protest panel. No matter the outcome of the Protest Panel decision, the Protest fee will not be paid back to the National Federation (Article 41.7.3).

#### **44 Circumstance where a Protest Panel is not available**

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

44.1.1 the protested Athlete must be permitted to compete in that Competition maintaining their current Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest (subject to any other eligibility criteria for that Competition), pending resolution of the Protest; and

44.1.2 all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved as soon as reasonably practicable after that Competition.

*[Comment to Article 44.1: This Article reflects the reality that it might not be possible to resolve a Protest made In-Competition at that same Competition. For example, this might happen where there are a limited number of Classifiers or Evaluation Session slots available, or the Classifiers who are available are precluded from participating in a Protest panel due to a conflict of interest.]*

## **PART II: APPEALS**

### **45 Scope of Appeals**

45.1 An '**Appeal**' is a challenge to any aspect of a Classification process on the grounds that:

45.1.1 there was a breach of the World Boccia Classification Rules during the Classification process; and

45.1.2 that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria' or allocated and incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status

45.2 An Appeal will be upheld if a National Federation establishes that the grounds in Article 45.1 are met:

*[Comment to Article 45.2: The limited scope of review available to the Appeal Body is a fundamental aspect of an Appeal. The allocation of a Sport Class and Sport Class Status or designation as Not Eligible is a specialist sport decision and must be made by people who are authorised and certified by World Boccia to do so. Those decisions must not be changed except by other people who are similarly authorised and certified. In particular, the right to submit an Appeal must not be seen as an opportunity to simply dispute the opinion of the relevant experts. The Appeal Body (Article 47) will only review the process by which the decisions have arrived to ensure that such process has been conducted in accordance with the World Boccia Classification rules.]*

### **46 Making an Appeal**

46.1 An Appeal cannot be submitted whilst a Protest is ongoing. However, for the avoidance of doubt, to submit an Appeal it is not necessary for the National Federation to have first made a Protest

*[Comment to Article 46.1: As stated, it is not necessary for a National Federation to have first made a Protest to submit an Appeal. This reflects the fact that Protests and Appeals are distinct concepts, with different tests.]*

46.2 An Appeal may only be submitted by a National Federation in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction. For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete cannot submit an Appeal themselves; rather, an Appeal may only be submitted on

behalf of the Athlete by their National Federation.

46.3 A Notice of Appeal must:

46.3.1 Be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being appealed

46.3.2 Identify the process of Classification being appealed; by attaching a copy of the procedure being breached during the Classification process and summary of the context of the appeal.

46.3.3 Specify the grounds of the Appeal

46.3.4 Identify all documents evidence and witnesses to be put forward in support of the Appeal

46.3.5 Be submitted with a fee that reflects/equal to the charges of the Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC)

46.4 Upon receipt of a Notice of Appeal, if the party bringing the Appeal has complied with all relevant Appeal procedures and exhausted all other available remedies, World Boccia must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.

## **47 Appeal Body**

47.1 World Boccia has designated the Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC), established by the IPC and who is Operationally Independent from World Boccia, to act as the Appeal Body for World Boccia. (The detailed rules of procedure in respect of appeals to the BAC are provided by the IPC. The IPC will be responsible for establishing the BAC in accordance with the IPC BAC Bylaws.)

47.2 The parties to an Appeal must be provided with, at a minimum, a fair hearing (whether conducted orally or in writing) within a reasonable time by the Appeal Body.

47.3 An Appeal will be heard by a panel of either one or three members of the Appeal Body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the Appeal Body may not sit on a particular hearing if: (i) they are currently a Classifier for World Boccia; and/or (ii) they have had an prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.

- 47.4 National Federations are required to pay an Appeal fee of €300. The Appeal fee will be refunded on the conclusion of the Appeal if it was decided in favor of the National Federation.

## **48 Appeal Decision**

- 48.1 The Appeal Body must either affirm or set aside the decision under Appeal. The Appeal Body does not have the power to modify, alter, or otherwise change any Athlete Classification, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status decision (for example by allocating an Athlete a new Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status)
- 48.2 The Appeal Body must issue a written reasoned decision after the hearing, within the timeframe already set out in the BAC rules. The written decision must set out the reasons for the Appeal Body's decision and the actions that are required as a result. If the decision appealed against is set aside, the written decision must also specify the breach committed and how that breach could reasonably have caused the Athlete to be incorrectly designated as 'Not Eligible – Underlying Health Condition', 'Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment', 'Not Eligible – Minimum Impairment Criteria', or allocated an incorrect Sport Class and/or Sport Class Status.
- 48.3 The decision of the Appeal Body must be provided to the appellant and the respondent.
- 48.4 The decision of the Appeal Body is final and is not subject to any further appeal or challenge.

## **CHAPTER 4: Intentional Misrepresentation**

### **49 General Provisions**

- 49.1 Intentional Misrepresentation presents a major threat to the integrity of Classification and Para sport. It is a very serious offence because it constitutes an attempt to: (i) mislead World Boccia (and/or its representatives) in relation to any aspect of Classification; and/or (ii) achieve an unfair advantage that undermines fair and meaningful competition. Consequently, potential incidents of Intentional Misrepresentation will be properly investigated, and if evidence indicates that Intentional Misrepresentation has occurred, disciplinary action must be taken.
- 49.2 The processes set out in this Chapter are, and must remain, distinct from the process of Classification. In other words, the rules and procedures set out in this Chapter are not concerned with verifying (and if necessary, correcting) the Sport Class or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete, but with preventing (and, if necessary, sanctioning) instances of the specific disciplinary offence of Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **50. Intentional Misrepresentation**

- 50.1 The following constitutes Intentional Misrepresentation:
- 50.1.1 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, intentionally misleads or attempts to mislead World Boccia or any of its representatives (such as Classification Personnel) in relation to any aspect of Classification; or
- 50.1.2 a Participant, at any time, whether by act or omission, engages in any type of intentional complicity in respect of any violation or attempted violation of: (i) Article 50.1.1 above; or (ii) a period of ineligibility imposed on another Participant pursuant to Article 55.3.4.
- 50.2 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 50.1.1 include (without limitation) a Participant:
- 50.2.1 submitting forged medical documentation attesting the existence, nature and/or degree of Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment that the Athlete does not have;

- 50.2.2 deliberately underperforming during an Evaluation Session;
- 50.2.3 deliberately tiring themselves out (in the case of Athletes) or deliberately tiring the Athlete out (in case of Other Participants) prior to an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel
- 50.2.4 intentionally undergoing an Evaluation Session without the sports attire or Adaptive Equipment that the Athlete intends to use in competition and/or intentionally failing to disclose the intended use of such sports attire and Adaptive Equipment to the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.5 intentionally failing to disclose the Athlete's use of any medication and/or medical device/implant (including audio aids and/or implants such as medication administered pumps) and/or medical procedure to the Classification Panel
- 50.2.6 otherwise misrepresenting the Athlete's skills, abilities, and/or the existence, nature, and/or degree of the Athlete's impairment before, during, or after an Evaluation Session;
- 50.2.7 disrupting an Evaluation Session, or refusing to cooperate with a Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, with the intention of misleading the Classification Panel;
- 50.2.8 not providing accurate information as to the Athlete's identity or having another person attend an Evaluation Session in the Athlete's place; and/or
- 50.2.9 deliberately failing to notify World Boccia of any relevant Classification-related information, including that the Athlete has previously undergone Classification (for example, on an earlier occasion, or in the context of another Para Sport) and/or that there has been a change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment that may necessitate a Medical Review.

50.3 Examples of Intentional Misrepresentation falling under Article 50.1.2 include (without limitation):

- 50.3.1 where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assist, encourages,

aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant to commit, or attempt to commit, Intentional Misrepresentation;

50.3.2 where, having discovered that a Participant has committed or intends to commit Intentional Misrepresentation, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist World Boccia in the investigation or prosecution of that offence;

50.3.3 where a Participant induces, instructs, facilitates, assists, encourages, aids, abets, or conspires with another Participant for that other Participant to violate, or attempts to violate, any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Article 55.3.3; and/or

50.3.4 where, having discovered that another Participant has violated or intends to violate any period of ineligibility imposed on them pursuant to Article 55.3.3, they conceal or cover up the offence, or any information that would assist World Boccia in the investigation or prosecution of that offence.

50.4 For the avoidance of doubt:

50.4.1 A Participant does not need to know that their conduct will constitute a violation of Article 50.1 for their conduct to be intentional.

50.4.2 A Participant can commit Intentional Misrepresentation irrespective of any designation, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status allocated to an Athlete.

## **51. Obligations to report and cooperate**

51.1 Each Participant, and each National Federation who is a member of World Boccia, must:

51.1.1 report to the World Boccia Head of Classification promptly, truthfully, completely and in good faith any information they possess that a reasonable person would consider might evidence or otherwise reflect:

51.1.1.1 any approach or invitation by any Participant (including themselves) to engage in conduct that might constitute

## Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or

- 51.1.1.2 any incident, fact or matter that might indicate the planning or commission of Intentional Misrepresentation by any Participant (including themselves);
- 51.1.2 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with all investigations carried out by World Boccia and/or the IPC, including answering any questions and providing access to any information, data, and/or documentation requested as part of that investigation;
- 51.1.3 cooperate promptly, truthfully, completely, and in good faith with any proceedings brought by World Boccia against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation; and
- 51.1.4 not do anything (by act or omission) that has the object or effect of obstructing, preventing delaying, or otherwise interfering with or frustrating any such investigation or proceeding.
- 51.2 Sanctions according to Article 55 will apply to Participants and National Federations who fail to comply with Article 51.1.
- 51.3 On request, World Boccia will provide the IPC with information on the following, in the form requested by the IPC: (i) all credible reports or other intelligence World Boccia has received which indicate potential Intentional Misrepresentation; (ii) the actions taken in relation to such reports; and (iii) updates in relation to all of its ongoing and completed investigations and proceedings relating to Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **52. Investigations**

- 52.1 Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a Participant might have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, World Boccia will initiate an investigation in a timely manner. Grounds do not need to be given to a Participant for the initiation of an investigation, and the decision to initiate an investigation cannot be contested.
- 52.2 Where a Participant is affiliated with World Boccia and one or more other International Federations, World Boccia may also assist those other International Federations in relation to any investigation(s) they initiate into

suspected Intentional Misrepresentation by the Participant (including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations conducted by those other International Federations).

52.3 World Boccia will appoint an Investigation Panel consisting of Classifiers that have not been involved with the Athlete being suspected of potential Intentional Misrepresentation at the next competition where classification is available and where the Athlete will participate.

52.4 The objective for each investigation will be to gather information necessary to determine: (i) whether a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation; and, if so (ii) whether any other Participant has a case to answer for intentional complicity in that Intentional Misrepresentation. This will include gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that might lead to the discovery of such evidence.

Investigation of potential Intentional Misrepresentation can include, but is not limited to:

52.4.1 interviews with the Athletes and the Athlete Support personnel involved.

52.4.2 re-assessment of Boccia skills or test used during all the Stages in the Evaluation Session of the Classification Process

52.4.3 video-analysis of recordings done of Assessments during all the Stages in the Evaluation Session of the Classification Process and/or matches (in this or other competitions).

52.5 The IPC may, in its absolute discretion:

52.5.1 offer assistance to World Boccia in conducting investigations into suspected Intentional Misrepresentation, including, but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations;

52.5.2 direct World Boccia to conduct an investigation in relation to suspected Intentional Misrepresentation that has come to the attention of the IPC (including, but not limited to in circumstances where a Participant is affiliated to World Boccia and one or more other International Federations, and a dispute has arisen as to which International Federation has the responsibility to investigate the suspected Intentional Misrepresentation); and/or

52.5.3 conduct its own investigations into suspected Intentional

Misrepresentation, whether on its own initiative and/or as requested by World Boccia or another International Federation or otherwise. In such circumstances, references to World Boccia in the remainder of this Article 52 will, where the context requires, be interpreted as a reference to the IPC.

- 52.6 The objective for each investigation will be to gather information necessary to determine: (i) whether a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation; and, if so (ii) whether any other Participant has a case to answer for intentional complicity in that Intentional Misrepresentation. This will include gathering and recording all relevant information, developing that information into evidence, and identifying and pursuing further lines of enquiry that might lead to the discovery of such evidence.
- 52.7 World Boccia will conduct each investigation fairly, objectively and impartially. World Boccia will be open to and consider all possible outcomes at each key stage of the investigation and must seek to gather not only any available evidence of Intentional Misrepresentation but also any available evidence indicating that there is no case to answer.
- 52.8 Except in exceptional circumstances, World Boccia will notify the Participant of the investigation and give the Participant an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation. World Boccia will decide when this notification should be made.

*[Comment to Article 52.8: Exceptional circumstances may arise if (for example) World Boccia is concerned about the risk of information relating to the investigation leaking, or if the investigation is subject to any time pressure. Irrespective of whether the Participant is given an opportunity to make a written submission as part of the investigation, they will be able to do so following any Notice of Charge, as per Article 53.8.3]*

- 52.9 World Boccia may make requests from any Participant, and of any National Federation, to assist an investigation by producing documents, information, and/or other material, including by answering questions.
- 52.10 Where, during the course of any investigation, World Boccia identifies any additional Participants who might also have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the investigation may be expanded to cover such additional Participants or (alternatively) a separate investigation may be commenced.

*[Comment to Article 52.10: For example, in the context of Team and Pair*

*events, where one of the members of the Team/Pair has committed Intentional Misrepresentation, it may expand its investigation to cover: (i) any or all other members of the same Team/Pair; and/or (ii) any additional Participants connected to that Team/Pair; or (alternatively) separate investigations may be commenced into each team member/other Participant connected to the Team/Pair.]*

### **53. Proceedings**

53.1 Subject to Article 53.7, if World Boccia determines that a Participant has a case to answer for Intentional Misrepresentation, World Boccia must bring disciplinary proceedings against the Participant unless there are specific and extenuating circumstances that are notified to and accepted by the IPC.

53.2 If World Boccia commences an investigation or disciplinary proceedings against an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel in respect to Intentional Misrepresentation (and/or complicity involving Intentional Misrepresentation), World Boccia will impose a provisional suspension from all future Competitions until an investigation is conducted and resolved. In consequence:

53.2.1 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who is subject to a provisional suspension may not, during the period of provisional suspension, participate in any capacity in any Competition, event or other activity organised, convened, authorised or recognised by World Boccia.

53.2.2 An Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who receive notice of a provisional suspension may apply to World Boccia for any provisional suspension to be lifted on the basis that facts exist that make it unfair, in all circumstances, for a provisional suspension to be imposed. This application must be sent to the World Boccia Head of Classification and the World Boccia CEO.

53.2.3 If World Boccia imposes a provisional suspension, it should ensure there can be an expedited hearing no later than 30 days or as soon as reasonably practicable after the date of imposition of the provisional suspension if the Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel requests such a hearing.

53.3 If the IPC, in its absolute discretion, directs World Boccia to bring disciplinary proceedings against a participant that the IPC considers: (i) has a case to answer

for Intentional Misrepresentation; and/or (ii) has failed to cooperate with an IPC investigation. If World Boccia refuses to bring such disciplinary proceedings within a reasonable deadline set by the IPC, such refusal will be considered a serious act of Non-compliance.

53.3 Investigation results and/or Disciplinary proceedings brought by World Boccia for alleged Intentional Misrepresentation must be heard before the designated first instance body.

53.4 World Boccia's first instance body must be:

53.4.1 Operationally Independent from World Boccia; and

53.4.2 Comprised of a pool of at least three members, each of whom must have appropriate skills and experience to hear Intentional Misrepresentation matters.

53.5 Where disciplinary proceedings are brought, the hearing panel must be comprised of one or three members of the first instance body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the first instance body may not sit on a particular hearing panel if: (i) they are currently a World Boccia Classifier; and/or (ii) they have had any prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonable questioned.

53.6 Procedure of World Boccia's first instance body to follow include (but is not limited to) the following:

53.6.1 Receiving and Reviewing all reports, documentation and evidence compiled by the Investigation Panel,

53.6.2 Lead the Hearing, interviewing all witnesses presented by World boccia and the Participant in question. The hearing will be held on a de novo basis (i.e., the first instance body will hear the matter afresh and is not bound by any legal conclusions or assumptions made by the Investigation panel); and

53.6.3 Gathering any additional information they deem necessary, to be able to make a final decision.

53.6.4 Compiling their findings and final decision in written document.

53.6.5 Submitting their findings and final decision to World Boccia, the Participant and the IPC

53.7 Disciplinary proceedings may not commence against any Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation unless such disciplinary proceedings commenced within either: (i) ten years from the date that the Intentional Misrepresentation allegedly occurred; or (ii) two years after the discovery of such alleged Intentional Misrepresentation by World Boccia, whichever is later.

### **Notice of Charge**

53.8 Where World Boccia brings disciplinary proceedings against a Participant for Intentional Misrepresentation, World Boccia must prepare and send a Notice of Charge to the participant, copying: (i) the Participant's National Federation; and (ii) the IPC, which must contain (at a minimum) the following information:

53.8.1 the facts alleged in support of the charge and any other relevant information;

53.8.2 the sanction(s) that World Boccia says should be imposed if the charge is upheld;

53.8.3 the Participant's right:

53.8.3.1 to admit the charge and to accept the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge;

53.8.3.2 to admit the charge but dispute (or seek to mitigate) the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, and to have the matter of sanctions determined by World Boccia's first instance body if not agreed between the parties; or

53.8.3.3 to dispute the charge and to have the charge determined (along with any sanctions, if a charge is upheld) by World Boccia's first instance body; and

53.8.4 the deadline for the Participant to provide a response to the charge will be 14 days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Charge by the Participant).

53.9 Subsequent to sending a Notice of Charge to the Participant, World Boccia may present further facts and/or other relevant information in support of the charge,

provided that the Participant is given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new facts/information.

- 53.10 Once the Notice of Charge has been sent to a Participant, World Boccia may publicly disclose the identity of the Participant and the nature of the alleged Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **Resolution of charges without a hearing**

- 53.11 Where the Participant:

53.11.1 admits the charge and accepts the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge (or accepts other sanctions proposed by World Boccia); or

53.11.2 fails to respond by the deadline specified in the Notice of Charge (which failure will be deemed to amount to: (i) a waiver of the Participant's right to have the charge and/or sanctions determined by World Boccia's first instance body, and (ii) admission of the charge, and (iii) acceptance of the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge,

A hearing before World Boccia's first instance body will not be required and the World Boccia will proceed to issue a decision in the case in accordance with Article 56.4.

- 53.12 At any time prior to a final decision by the first instance body, World Boccia may decide to withdraw a Notice of Charge for good cause. World Boccia must inform the Participant, the National Federation to which the Participant is affiliated, and the IPC of the withdrawal of the charge and the reasons for that withdrawal. World Boccia will not publish the decision.

- 53.13 The IPC may:

53.13.1 within 15 days of receipt of the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge, request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English Language); and

53.13.2 within 21 days of receipt of the full case (and all the necessary translations), appeal the decision to withdraw a Notice of Charge. Any such appeal must be made to World Boccia's designated appeal body (see Article 57 below)

## Hearing

- 53.14 If the Participant disputes the charge and/or the sanctions specified in the Notice of Charge, they must set out (in summary form) the basis for their position within their response to the Notice of Charge.
- 53.15 If the Participant wishes to have a hearing to resolve the dispute, they must provide a written request for a hearing to World Boccia that is received within 14 days of the Participant's receipt of the Notice of Charge (or such longer period as may be specified in the Notice of Charge or agreed by World Boccia)
- 53.16 World Boccia may also refer any disputed matter to the first instance body at any time, and at their sole discretion.
- 53.17 World Boccia's first instance body will hear and determine Intentional Misrepresentation cases involving any Participant under its jurisdiction in accordance with the procedural rules (Article 53.18) of World Boccia's first instance body.
- 53.18 In the context of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation, the procedural rules of World Boccia's first instance body provide that:
- 53.18.1 where a party (or any of its witnesses) refuses or fails to appear at hearing to answer questions (or otherwise appears but refuses or fails to answer questions), the first instance body may infer that the answer(s) would be adverse to that party;
  - 53.18.2 the first instance body will have the power to decide on the admissibility and relevance of and the weight to be given to any evidence (including the testimony of any fact or expert witness) and will not be bound by any judicial or evidential rules in relation to such matters;
  - 53.18.3 facts may be established by any reliable means; and
  - 53.18.4 the burden of proof will be on the party asserting the claim or fact in issue, and the standard of proof to be met will be the balance of probabilities.

## 54. Confidentiality

- 54.1 Subject to Article 54.2, 56 and 58, all proceedings brought by World Boccia against a Participant in respect of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation will be

confidential, including all documents, evidence, submissions, and other information relating to the proceedings. Except as provided for in this rules, neither the parties to the proceedings, nor any third party witnesses, expert, observer, or other participant in the proceedings or recipient of the first instance body's decision or appeal body's decision will publicly comment on the specific facts of any case (as opposed to general description of the process), except that World Boccia may make or issue such comments as it considers necessary in response to any public comments attributed to, or based on information provided by, the Participant who is the subject of the proceedings (or their entourage representatives).

- 54.2 At any stage World Boccia may in its discretion (exercised subject to all relevant data protection requirements, including those set out in the IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection, and other applicable laws), decide that information should be shared with any Person or Persons on a confidential and need-to-know basis in order to assist in the discharge of World Boccia's functions (including in the investigation and prosecution of any offences under the IPC International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation) and/or to protect its integrity and reputation, or that of the Paralympic Movement. Such Persons would include appropriate personnel within World Boccia, other International Federations, and the IPC, as well as other bodies with investigatory or regulatory function.

## **55. Sanctions**

- 55.1 A Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation will be subject to the sanctions set out in this Article 55.
- 55.2 If another International Federation brings disciplinary proceedings against a Participant in respect of Intentional Misrepresentation that results in consequences being imposed on that Participant, those consequences will be recognised, respected and enforced by World Boccia.
- 55.3 Sanctions for individual Participants

### **Disqualification of results**

- 55.3.1 If a Participant is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, that automatically leads to disqualification of the individual results obtained by the Participant in that Competition with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes.

- 55.3.2 Any other competitive individual results of the Participant obtained from the date the Intentional Misrepresentation occurred may be disqualified (in whole or part) with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes. Factors that might be relevant in deciding whether to disqualify any such results include, for example, whether the results were likely to have been affected by the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 55.3.3 Where an Athlete who has committed Intentional Misrepresentation has earned a qualification slot (whether for themselves or for their National Federation or National Paralympic Committee) through results that have now been disqualified, World Boccia may recall such a qualification slot depending on the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.

### **Period of ineligibility**

- 55.3.4 A default period of ineligibility of four years, which may be:
- 55.3.4.1 increased depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any aggravating circumstances up to a period of ineligibility of a lifetime; and/or
  - 55.3.4.2 reduced depending on the seriousness of the violation and the nature of any mitigating circumstances, except that the resulting period of ineligibility imposed must not be less than 12 months (subject to any further reduction or suspension under Article 55.5.1, 55.5.2, and/or 55.5.3).
- 55.3.5 Aggravating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:
- 55.3.5.1 the age and experience of the Participant, and in particular their experience in relation to the Classification Process;
  - 55.3.5.2 a lack of remorse on the part of the Participant;
  - 55.3.5.3 a finding that the Participant received or expected to receive significant benefit as a result of their Intentional Misrepresentation;
  - 55.3.5.4 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation affected or had

the potential to affect the outcome of a Covered Competition;

55.3.5.5 a finding that the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation on multiple occasions and/or over an extended period of time;

55.3.5.6 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was part of a wider scheme involving other Participants; and/or

55.3.5.7 a finding that the Participant engaged in deceptive or obstructive conduct to avoid the detection or adjudication of Intentional Misrepresentation.

*[Comment to Article 55.3.5: The examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of longer period of ineligibility.]*

55.3.6 Mitigating circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

55.3.6.1 the youth or inexperience of the Participant, especially in relation to the Classification process;

55.3.6.2 the Participant's good disciplinary record;

55.3.6.3 genuine remorse on the part of the Participant; and/or

55.3.6.4 a finding that the Intentional Misrepresentation was not committed with an intent to influence the outcome of a Covered Competition.

For the avoidance of doubt, mitigating circumstances do not include voluntary admissions made or the provision of any Substantial Assistance, which are dealt with separately in Article 55.5

*[Comment to Article 55.3.6: The examples of circumstances and conduct described herein are not exclusive and other similar circumstances or conduct may also justify the imposition of a reduced period of ineligibility.]*

55.3.7 The period of ineligibility will start on the date of the relevant decision, or such other date as specified by World Boccia (in an agreed case) or first instance body (in a contested case), and must be recognised, respected, and enforced by all IPC Members and Recognised International Federations (RIFs).

## **Financial consequences**

55.3.8 World Boccia may recover a proportion of costs incurred from the Participant if the Participant is found guilty of Intentional Misrepresentation. No recovery of costs or financial sanctions may be considered a basis for reducing the inability to compete or other sanctions which would otherwise be applicable under the IPC international Standard.

## **Other sanctions**

55.3.9 Such other sanctions as World Boccia (in an agreed case) or first instance body (in a contested case) considers appropriate and proportionate in all the circumstances of the case.

## **55.4 Multiple violations**

55.4.1 The period of ineligibility that will be imposed on a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation:

55.4.1.1 for the second time, will be twice the period of ineligibility that would otherwise be applicable to the second violation; and

55.4.1.2 for a third or subsequent time, will be a lifetime period of ineligibility.

55.4.2 An Intentional Misrepresentation violation will only be considered a second Intentional Misrepresentation violation if World Boccia can establish that the Participant committed the additional Intentional Misrepresentation violation after receiving the Notice of Charge pursuant to Article 53.8 or after World Boccia made reasonable efforts to draw the Notice of Charge to the Participant's attention. If World Boccia cannot establish this, the violation will be considered together as one single violation, and the sanction imposed will be based on the violation that carries the more severe sanction, including the application of aggravating circumstances. Results in all Competitions dating back to the earlier Intentional Misrepresentation violation will be disqualified as provided in Articles 55.3.1 and 55.3.2.

*[Comment to Article 55.4.2: The same rule applies where, after the imposition of a sanction, World Boccia discovers facts involving and Intentional Misrepresentation violation that occurred prior to notification for a first Intentional Misrepresentation violation – e.g., World Boccia will*

*impose a sanction based on the sanction that could have been imposed if the two violations had been adjudicated at the same time, including the application of aggravating circumstances.]*

55.4.3 If World Boccia establishes that a Participant has committed a second of third Intentional Misrepresentation violation during a period of ineligibility imposed for a previous Intentional Misrepresentation violation, the periods of ineligibility for the multiple violations will run consecutively rather than concurrently.

55.5 Possible reductions or suspensions to the period of ineligibility

### **Voluntary admission**

55.5.1 If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation before being notified by World Boccia of its investigation into that Participant, and that admission is the only reliable evidence of the Intentional Misrepresentation at the time of admission, the period of ineligibility may be reduced, by a maximum of one half of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravation or mitigating factors).

55.5.2 If a Participant voluntarily admits the commission of Intentional Misrepresentation within a reasonable period of time after being notified by World Boccia of its investigation into that Participant, the period of ineligibility may be reduced by a maximum of a quarter of the period of ineligibility otherwise applicable (i.e., after any adjustment based on aggravating or mitigating factors).

### **Substantial Assistance**

55.5.3 A part of the period of ineligibility imposed on a Participant, who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation, may be suspended, at the discretion of World Boccia, where the Participant has provided Substantial Assistance which results in World Boccia bringing forward a case of alleged Intentional Misrepresentation against another Participant. World Boccia must promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation and IPC of any decision made under this Article 55.5.3, and that decision may be appealed by the Participant and/or by the IPC to the World Boccia's designated appeal body (see Article 56) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file

pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of that case file (including any translations). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations) to file an appeal.

55.5.3.1 For purposes of Article 55.5.3, a Participant providing 'Substantial Assistance' must: (i) fully disclose in a signed written statement or recorded interview all information they possess in relation to Intentional Misrepresentation by another Participant; and (ii) fully cooperate with the investigation and adjudication of any case or matter related to that information, including, for example, providing testimony at a hearing if requested to do so by World Boccia or hearing panel. Further, the information provided must be credible and must comprise an important part of any case or proceeding that is initiated.

*[Comment to Article 55.5.3.1: The Substantial Assistance provided may relate to Intentional Misrepresentation alleged to have been committed by a Participant in another Para sport.]*

55.5.3.2 The extent to which the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility may be suspended will be based on the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation committed by the Participant and the significance of the Substantial Assistance provided by the Participant to the effort to combat Intentional Misrepresentation. No more than three-quarters of the otherwise applicable period of in-eligibility (i.e., after any adjustment based on: (i) aggravating or mitigating factors; and (ii) any voluntary admission) may be suspended. If the otherwise applicable period of ineligibility is a lifetime, the non-suspended period of ineligibility under this Article must be no less than eight years.

55.5.3.3 If so, requested by a Participant who seeks to provide Substantial Assistance, World Boccia must allow the Participant to provide the information to it, subject to a 'Without Prejudice Agreement'.

55.5.3.4 If the Participant fails to continue to cooperate and to provide the complete and credible Substantial Assistance upon which a

suspension of a period of ineligibility was based, World Boccia will reinstate the original period of ineligibility. If World Boccia decides to reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility or decides not to reinstate a suspended period of ineligibility, that decision must be promptly notified to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC and may be appealed by the Participant and/or the IPC to the International Federation's designated appeal body (see Article 56) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of that case file (including any translations). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.

## 55.6 Status during ineligibility

55.6.1 During a period of ineligibility a Participant is prohibited from participating in any capacity in:

55.6.1.1 Classification;

55.6.1.2 any Competition, event, program, or other activity (other than authorised education programs) organised, authorised, or recognised by: (a) World Boccia; (b) the IPC; (c) any other International Federation or RIF, or any of their respective members; (d) any club or other member of a member of an International Federation or RIF; and/or (e) any professional Para sport league or international or national level Para sport Competition organisation; and

55.6.1.3 any elite or national-level Para sporting activity funded by a governmental agency

*[Comment to Article 55.6.1: For example, in addition to the prohibition on participating in Classification and all Competitions covered by this Article, subject to Article 55.6.3, ineligible Participants are permitted to participate in a training camp, exhibition, or practice organised by their National Federation. The term "activity" also includes, for example,*

*administrative activities, such as serving as an official, director, officer, employee, or volunteer of their National Federation. Ineligibility imposed by one International Federation or RIF will also be recognised by all other International Federations and RIFs (see Article 55.3.7). A Participant serving a period of ineligibility is prohibited from coaching or serving as an Athlete Support Person in any other capacity at any time during the period of ineligibility. Any performance standard accomplished during a period of in-eligibility will not be recognised for any purpose.]*

55.6.2 A Participant will remain subject to all relevant anti-doping requirements throughout any period of ineligibility.

55.6.3 As an exception to Article 55.6.1.2, an Athlete may return to training with a team or to use the facilities of a National Federation or any organisation listed in Article 55.6.1.2(d) during the shorter of: (i) the last two months of their period of ineligibility; or (ii) the last one-quarter of the period of ineligibility imposed.

55.6.4 Subject to Article 55.6.3, where a Participant violates any period of ineligibility imposed upon them, any results achieved during that period will be disqualified, and a new period of ineligibility equal in length to the original period of ineligibility (subject to adjustment at the discretion of World Boccia based on the Participant's degree of fault and other circumstances of the case) will be added to the end of the original period of ineligibility. In such circumstances, World Boccia will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of its decision. The Participant and/or the IPC will have the right to appeal such decision to the World Boccia's designated appeal body (see Article 56 below) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC was not a party to the proceedings before the first instance body, it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.

## 55.7 Consequences for teams and National Federations

55.7.1 Any consequences to be applied to Teams or Pairs of which a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is a

member will be at the discretion of World Boccia.

55.7.1.1 If any Participant who is a member of a team in a Team or Pair is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, World Boccia may impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the team (e.g., loss of points, disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participant committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.

55.7.1.2 If two or more Participants who are members of a team in a Team or Pair are found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation during or in connection with a Competition, World Boccia will impose an appropriate sanction(s) on the team (e.g., loss of points, disqualification from Competition(s), or other sanction(s)) in addition to any consequences imposed on the individual Participants committing the Intentional Misrepresentation.

55.7.1.3 Factors that might be relevant in deciding what sanction(s) (if any) are appropriate in such cases include, for example, whether the results of any Competition(s) were likely to have been affected by the Intentional Misrepresentation, the nature and extent of the role played by the Participant(s) in the team within the context of the Intentional Misrepresentation, and the seriousness of the Intentional Misrepresentation.

55.7.2 Any consequences to be applied to a National Federation to which a Participant who is found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is affiliated will be at the discretion of World Boccia.

## **56. Decisions**

56.1 The first instance body must notify its decision to the parties in a written reasoned decision, in accordance with its procedural rules. The decision of the first instance body must address and determine, at a minimum, the following issues:

56.1.1 whether the Participant committed Intentional Misrepresentation, the factual basis for such determination, and the specific provisions of the World Boccia and World Boccia Classification rules found to have been

violated; and

56.1.2 the applicable sanctions imposed by the first instance body.

56.2 World Boccia will disclose the decision of the first instance body to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC.

56.3 Where World Boccia is aware that the Participant who is the subject of the decision is a Participant in any other Para sport, World Boccia will also send the decision to the relevant International Federation or RIF (including where that decision is appealed pursuant to Article 57).

56.4 In a case where Article 53.8 applies, World Boccia will produce a written reasoned decision covering the issues referred to in Article 56.1, which it will provide as a minimum to the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, the IPC, and any organisation referred to in Article 56.3, which will take effect as if it were a final decision of World Boccia's first instance body. Alternatively, where it sees fit, World Boccia may refer the matter to World Boccia's first instance body to determine the sanction(s) to be imposed.

## **57. Appeals**

57.1 The IPC, World Boccia, and the Participant each have the right to appeal decisions of the first instance body to World Boccia's designated appeal body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the first instance body's decision by the appealing party, except that if the IPC was not a party to the proceedings before the first instance body, it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to request a copy of the full case file pertaining to the decision (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language). In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all relevant translations) to file an appeal.

57.2 The parties to an appeal must be provided with, at a minimum, a fair hearing (whether conducted orally or in writing), within a reasonable time by an appeal body that meets the criteria in Article 57.3

57.3 The appeal body to which decisions of the first instance body are appealed must be:

57.3.1 Operationally Independent from World Boccia and the IPC; and

- 57.3.2 comprised of a pool of at least three members, each of whom: (i) must have appropriate skills and experience to hear such appeals; and (ii) must not be a member of World Boccia's first instance body.
- 57.4 The appeal will be heard by a panel of either one or three members of the appeal body (where three members are appointed, one member will act as chair of the hearing panel). Members of the appeal body may not sit on a particular hearing panel if: (i) they are currently a Classifier for that International Federation; and/or (ii) they have had any prior involvement with the matter or any facts arising in the proceedings; and/or (iii) their impartiality or independence could otherwise be reasonably questioned.
- 57.5 Subject to Article 57.6, the appeal body will hear and determine any appeal in accordance with the procedural rules of the appeal body in question.
- 57.6 The procedural rules of the appeal body must:
- 57.6.1 require the hearing to be held on a de novo basis (i.e., the appeal body will hear the matter afresh and is not bound by any legal conclusions or assumptions made by the first instance body); and
- 57.6.2 contain provisions equivalent to those set out in Article 57.1

## **58. Public Disclosure**

- 58.1 No later than 21 days after it has been determined in an appellate decision under Article 57.1, or such appeal has been waived, or a hearing in accordance with Article 53.14 has been waived, or the assertion of Intentional Misrepresentation has not otherwise been timely challenged, or the matter has been resolved under Article 53.11, or a new period of ineligibility, or reprimand, has been imposed under Article 55.6.4, World Boccia must:
- 58.1.1 Publicly Disclose the disposition of the matter, including the identity of the Participant, the nature of the Intentional Misrepresentation involved, and the consequences imposed; and
- 58.1.2 publish an updated version of its Classification Master List to include the Participant's Intentional Misrepresentation designation, together with the duration and date of commencement of their period of ineligibility.

*[Comment to Article 58.1: Where Public Disclosure as required by this Article*

*would result in a proven breach of other applicable laws, World Boccia's failure to make the Public Disclosure will not result in a determination of non-compliance with the IPC Classification Code or the International Standard for Intentional Misrepresentation.]*

- 58.2 Where World Boccia is subject to disclosure obligations under Article 58.1 above, it may also decide to make public the written reasons for the determination or decision (subject to any redactions World Boccia deems necessary and appropriate) and may comment publicly on the matter.
- 58.3 In any case where it is determined, after a hearing or appeal, that the Participant did not commit Intentional Misrepresentation, the fact that the decision has been appealed may be Publicly Disclosed. However, the decision itself and the underlying facts may not be Publicly Disclosed except with the consent of the Participant who is the subject of the decision. World Boccia will use reasonable efforts to obtain such consent, and if consent is obtained, will Publicly Disclose the decision in its entirety or in such redacted form as the Participant may approve.
- 58.4 The mandatory Public Disclosure required in Article 57.1 will not be required where the Participant who has been found to have committed Intentional Misrepresentation is a Minor at the time the decision is issued. Any optional Public Disclosure in a case involving a Minor will be proportionate to the facts and circumstances of the case.

## CHAPTER 5: Changes to the Classification System

### 59. Changes to the Classification System

59.1 Before making any substantive changes to their Classification systems and/or Classification processes, World Boccia must:

59.1.1 carry out an appropriate assessment of what impact any changes will have on Athletes, National Federations, and NPCs, including consideration of the Paralympic Games cycle, their sports' competition cycle, and the qualification periods for the Paralympic Games;

*[Comment to Article 59.1.1: In particular, World Boccia should as part of their impact assessment carefully consider the appropriate timing for any changes that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to the assessment methodology). Ordinarily, such changes should not be made during the relevant International Federation's qualification period for the Paralympic Games.]*

59.1.2 provide National Federations (with a copy to the IPC) with:

59.1.2.1 appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, an explanation of which Athletes or groups of Athletes (if any) may need to be reassessed, the proposed timelines for implementation, and (if applicable) any proposed transition rules; and

59.1.2.2 an opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted; and

59.1.3 provide the IPC with:

59.1.3.1 appropriate notice of the anticipated changes, along with a rationale for the changes, the proposed timelines for implementation, any proposed transition rules (if applicable), a copy of World Boccia's impact assessment, and an overview of the consultation undertaken as part of the review process; and

59.1.3.2 an opportunity to submit feedback before such changes are adopted.

59.2 If a National Federation is notified by World Boccia of anticipated changes pursuant to Article 59.1.2, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are (i) notified about such changes, and (ii) invited to

provide feedback. If a National Federation is then notified by World Boccia that changes will be implemented, the National Federation must ensure that Athletes under its jurisdiction are notified about such changes.

59.3 If World Boccia makes changes to its Classification rules that may affect the (in)eligibility, Sport Class, and/or Sport Class Status of Athletes (for example, changes to the Minimum Impairment Criteria, or to its assessment methodology), World Boccia must:

59.3.1 take reasonable steps to identify such Athletes and notify them (through their National Federation) that they are entitled to be reassessed; and

59.3.2 where applicable, change each such Athlete's Sport Class Status to 'Review at the Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)' or 'Review with a Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)', as deemed appropriate by World Boccia Classification committee.

59.4 If a National Federation considers that changes to World Boccia's Classification rules may affect the Classification of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who was previously found to be not eligible, it must notify World Boccia accordingly.

59.5 For the avoidance of doubt, if: (i) World Boccia makes substantive changes to its Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or these Classification Rules, without first following the processes set out in this Chapter; and/or (ii) a National Federation fails to meet its obligations under this Chapter, that fact alone will not render the amended Classification systems, Classification processes, and/or Classification Rules (or any Classification decision made in accordance with those amended systems, processes, and/or rules) invalid, and the amended systems, processes, and rules (and any Classification decision made under them) will continue to bind all those persons listed in Article 3.2 above.

## CHAPTER 6: Classification Personnel and Training

### PART I: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL ROLES AND COMPETENCIES

#### 60. Classification Personnel

60.1 World Boccia will appoint the Classification Personnel specified below.

60.2 All Classification Personnel must sign confidentiality undertakings (Code of Ethics & Declaration of Conflict of Interest see Appendix 16 and 17).

#### 60.3 Head of Classification

The Head of Classification is a Classifier appointed by World Boccia following an interview process of all the applicants.

60.3.1 The Head of Classification is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for World Boccia.

*[Comment to Article 60.3.1: If World Boccia is unable to appoint a Head of Classification for a period of time, World Boccia may temporarily appoint a person or persons to perform the role of Head of Classification on an interim basis.]*

60.3.2 World Boccia may appoint more than one person to share the role and duties of the Head of Classification. If this occurs, World Boccia will communicate this information to its membership and the IPC.

60.3.3 The Head of Classification will, as a minimum, be responsible for performing and/or overseeing the following activities:

60.3.3.1 recruiting and appointing Classifiers;

60.3.3.2 organising and conducting Classifier education, training, Certification, Re-Certification, and development according to World Boccia's Classifier pathway (Appendix 25);

60.3.3.3 managing, maintaining, and updating the platform to track Classifier activity, Certification, and Re-Certification;

60.3.3.4 identifying Classification Research needs and being aware of, supporting and, where appropriate, providing input in relation to the Classification Research on which World Boccia's

Classification systems are based;

60.3.3.5 ensuring that World Boccia's Classification Rules and implementation comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, for example, by planning, designing, executing, and reviewing programs and policies;

60.3.3.6 collecting feedback and inputting on Classification-related issues that affect World Boccia's rules, for example, the Classification Rules and sport technical rules;

60.3.3.7 monitoring and evaluating the status of Classification within Boccia on a regular basis;

*[Comment to Article 60.3.3.7: This may include, for example, the Head of Classification attending (or instructing other Classification Personnel to attend) Covered Competitions where no Classification is due to take place, in order to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of World Boccia's Classification systems.]*

60.3.3.8 informing Classifiers of any changes to these Classification Rules;

60.3.3.9 managing, maintaining, and updating the Classification Master List to ensure that World Boccia's Classification records are accurate;

60.3.3.10 engaging with World Boccia's relevant bodies and committees on Classification matters; and

60.3.3.11 communicating with all relevant external parties (including the IPC) in relation to Classification matters.

60.3.4 The Head of Classification may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within World Boccia, and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.

60.3.5 The Head of Classification may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier. For the avoidance of doubt, in this situation Article 41.8 of these Classification Rules will apply with equal effect to the Head of Classification.

## 60.4 **Chief Classifier(s)**

60.4.1 The Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by the Head of Classification to direct, administer, coordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules. A World Boccia Chief Classifier is an International Classifier who has attended training and/or has been mentored by another Chief Classifier in the position and has completed the re-certification process for Chief Classifiers.

60.4.2 In that context, a Chief Classifier may be required by World Boccia to do the following, among other things:

60.4.2.1 Identify Athletes who require Classification at a specific World Boccia Classification opportunity during a competition.

60.4.2.2 Supervise Classifiers and Trainee Classifiers to ensure that the Classification Rules are properly applied and to monitor their level of competencies and proficiency;

60.4.2.3 To accept and manage Protests in consultation with World Boccia;

60.4.2.4 Liaise with the relevant Competition organiser to ensure that all travel, accommodation, and other logistics are arranged so that Classifiers may carry out their duties at the Classification opportunity;

60.4.2.5 Communicate with and educate Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel regarding the Classification process;

60.4.2.6 Provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, including the following matters: (i) any findings made by a UHC Assessor, Classification Panel, Protest Panel, or Appeal Body; (ii) the procedures of the Evaluation Session (including eligibility requirements and Minimum Impairment Criteria), Protest procedures, and the procedure following any designation of a Sport Class or Sport Class Status to an Athlete; and (iii) matters concerning Intentional Misrepresentation, including the behaviors that may constitute that offence, and how potential violations will be investigated and prosecuted;

60.4.2.7 The Chief Classifier will update the World Boccia platform after classifications have been completed and submit a report with all relevant issues within twenty (20) days of the competition to World Boccia Head of Classification;

60.4.2.8 Analyses and reviews the Classification processes during a Classification opportunity and recommends improvements to the Head of Classification; and

60.4.2.9 Reports all relevant issues at a particular Classification opportunity to the Head of Classification.

60.4.3 The Chief Classifier may delegate specific responsibilities to other Classification Personnel within World Boccia, and/or to appointed persons in the organising committee of a competition or Classification opportunity.

60.4.4 A Chief Classifier is normally not appointed to act as a Classifier at that same Classification opportunity, unless appointed by World Boccia in certain unforeseeable circumstances. To ensure that the Chief Classifier is able to carry out their responsibilities, it is recommended that a Chief Classifier be appointed in addition to the Classification Panel(s). This is particularly the case where there are two or more Classification Panels at a Classification opportunity. A Chief Classifier might, however, be appointed to act as a Classifier at the same Classification opportunity in the event of operational difficulties (for example, Classifier illness, cancellations or travel delays) or as part of an automatic second classification/protest panel.

60.4.5 World Boccia may appoint one or more co-Chief Classifiers for a specific Classification opportunity as they see fit

## 60.5 **Classifiers**

60.5.1 A Classifier is a person authorised as an official and Certified by World Boccia to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

60.5.2 In order to be Certified by World Boccia, Classifiers must demonstrate the minimum Classifier competencies set out in Article 61.2.

60.5.3 World Boccia differentiates in their training and Certification processes between Classifiers with specialist medical expertise (Medical Classifiers) and Classifiers with technical/sport experience (Technical Classifiers).

Medical Classifiers have primary responsibility among the Classification Panel members for conducting Stages 2 and 3 of the Evaluation Session (respectively, Eligible Impairment Assessment and Minimum Impairment Criteria Assessment), with assistance provided by any Technical Classifier(s) in Stage 4 and at the request of such Medical Classifier(s).

#### 60.5.3.1 **Medical Classifier**

A Medical Classifier is a Certified Medical Doctor, Physiotherapist, or related disciplines with the necessary training to perform all the classification assessments testing muscle power, spasticity, ataxia and dyskinesia, who has experience with Neurological conditions and non-neurological conditions which exhibit impairment types related to the sport of Boccia (i.e. Spasticity, Athetosis, Ataxia, Muscle weakness with or without reduced joint range).

A Medical classifier must be registered with the Health Professional Council of their country or the Licensing body for their respective Health Professions.

Should a Medical classifier retire and decide to deregister with their Health Professional council, they must send in a request to the Classification committee if they wish to continue as a Medical Classifier for World Boccia. The classification committee will assess each request and determine whether the person can continue as a Medical Classifier.

#### 60.5.3.2 **Technical Classifier**

A Technical classifier is a person who has a degree in physical education, biomechanics, or kinesiology, a Physiotherapist with biomechanical training and technical expertise in Boccia, or a technical expert who has an extensive coaching background in Boccia. A Technical classifier must have a working knowledge of Boccia and of individuals presenting with Neurological or non-neurological Impairments

60.5.4 All Classifiers must apply the assessment methods established by the Classification Rules properly and consistently.

60.5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the rules of each National Federation, there is nothing to prevent Classifiers from also becoming National Classifiers and conducting classification at the national level.

## 60.6 **Trainee International Classifiers**

60.6.1 A Trainee Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal training to become a Classifier. World Boccia may also use the designation Trainee Classifier to identify a Classifier who is participating in a component of Classification that is currently the subject of a limitation on the Classifier's Certification and in respect of which the Classifier is undertaking additional training with a view to removing that limitation.

60.6.2 A Trainee Classifier must have completed the World Boccia Accredited National Classifier's Course; Classify Boccia athletes in their country on a Regional and National level and attend National Boccia Competitions as a Classifier.

60.6.3 The National Federation must send in a written request for a National Classifier to become a Trainee International Classifier with a CV and log sheet, stamped by the NPC, of classifications done on a national level for 2 years prior, to the request.

60.6.4 World Boccia may appoint an educator/mentor for Trainee Classifiers.

60.6.5 World Boccia may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Classification provided that such participation is under the supervision of a Classification Panel.

60.6.6 A Trainee Classifier cannot be appointed as a member of a Classification Panel.

60.6.7 Following the completion of two (2) practicums and fulfilling all the requirements as a Trainee Classifier (as per Trainee assessment form see Appendix 26), the Trainee will be certified by World Boccia as a Level 1 International Classifier. They will be required to perform any such other duties as World Boccia requires.

## 60.7 **Underlying Health Condition (UHC) Assessors**

60.7.1 As set out in the Classification Rules (Article 7), World Boccia is responsible for conducting UHC Assessments, to be carried out by UHC Assessors.

## 60.8 **Other Classification Personnel**

World Boccia may appoint other Classification Personnel not listed above, for

specific roles to manage Classification activities or development (including but not limited to Classification Research, education, or administration).

## 60.9 **National Classifiers**

60.9.1 A National Classifier is a person authorised by a National Federation to conduct some or all aspects of classification at a national level. Unless also Certified as an International Classifier by World Boccia, a National Classifier cannot under any circumstances conduct international level Classification.

60.9.2 World Boccia will be presenting National Classification Courses and will certify participants as National Classifiers on completion of the course and a pass rate of 75%.

60.9.3 World Boccia Certified National Classifiers will be included in online training seminars/workshops and kept up to date on any changes on the rules.

## 60.10 **World Boccia Classification Committee**

60.10.1 The World Boccia Classification Committee is a group responsible for the administrative and development duties related to International Classification in Boccia

60.10.2 The Duties of the Classification Committee include, but are not limited to: Assisting the Head of Classification in the evaluation and revision of classification rules, policies and procedures related to Athlete Evaluation and Protests, Classifier Certification and Training and other related administration of Classification

60.10.3 The World Boccia Classification Committee is chaired by the World Boccia Head of Classification (HOC). This person is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administration of Classification and reports to the World Boccia Governing Board on behalf of the Classification Committee.

60.10.4 The rest of the Classification Committee is composed of the Education Coordinator, Research Coordinator and 'ad hoc' Classifiers at the discretion of the HOC for their skills and background as well as the importance for regional development.

60.10.5 All Classification Committee members are ratified by the World Boccia

Governing Board. It is the aim of the Committee to have representatives from each region and a combination of all types of Classifiers on the Committee.

60.10.6 The role of the Committee is to assist in the development of Classification within the regions and to act as a resource for other Classifiers within their region as well as for the individual sports. The Classification Committee members also act as a resource to the HOC and Research and Education Coordinators.

60.10.7 In addition to the above, members of the World Boccia Classification Committee may select a former Athlete to serve as an Athlete Classification representative in an advisory capacity. This individual may be utilised for his/her perspective as an Athlete or former Athlete in the sport, with experience in situations such as Athlete Evaluation, Protests, evaluation of Classification Rules and development of new Classification Rules and/or Policies and Procedures related to Classification.

## **61. Classification Personnel competencies**

61.1 **UHC Assessor** competencies include, as a minimum, that a UHC Assessor has:

61.1.1 a thorough understanding of:

61.1.1.1 Boccia and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;

61.1.1.2 the IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and

61.1.1.3 the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct, and particularly the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;

61.1.2 relevant qualifications to conduct the assessment of the Diagnostic Information (including the review of the medical documents and interpreting diagnostic tests);

61.1.3 expertise in the relevant Health Conditions applicable to World Boccia and their impact on physical abilities;

61.1.4 ability to evaluate complex medical information;

61.1.5 ability to identify the medical documentation required to verify the

Underlying Health Condition(s) that may lead to an Eligible Impairment, and other information relevant for conducting the Classification process;

61.1.6 ability to assess and communicate the need to seek the opinion of another UHC Assessor, for example, when additional expertise is required; and

61.1.7 the relevant skillset to provide written reports about the outcomes of the UHC Assessment.

61.2 **Classifier** competencies include, as a minimum, that a Classifier has:

61.2.1 a thorough understanding of:

61.2.1.1 Boccia and its applicable rules, including the Classification Rules;

61.2.1.2 the IPC Classification Code and International Standards; and

61.2.1.3 the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and, in particular, the management of potential, perceived and/or actual conflicts of interest;

61.2.2 the professional qualifications, level of experience and any other skills, competencies, and/or abilities (for example, physical and/or cognitive abilities) World Boccia determines the Classifier must have to conduct Classification in accordance with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards;

61.2.3 an appropriate level of English to conduct the Classification process;

61.2.4 effective interpersonal and teamwork skills; and

61.2.5 effective decision-making skills.

61.3 The Classifier competencies to be a **Medical Classifier** also include that the Classifier has:

61.3.1 a medical qualification as a doctor, with experience of Underlying Health Conditions that may lead to Eligible Impairments catered for by the sport of Boccia; or

61.3.2 a physiotherapy qualification or other related disciplines with experience of individuals with the clinical manifestations of the Eligible Impairments

catered for by the sport.

61.4 The Classifier competencies to be a **Technical Classifier** also include that the Classifier has:

61.4.1 at least a basic knowledge of the ways in which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) can affect their ability to execute specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport;

61.4.2 an extensive Para sport background (as determined by World Boccia); and

61.4.3 a minimum number of 4 years' coaching experience or other relevant qualification in Para sport training, physical education, sport sciences, biomechanics, kinesiology, or other reputable academic qualification with a working knowledge of the sport.

61.5 In addition to the Classifier competencies, a Chief Classifier must have the following additional minimum competencies:

61.5.1 At least 6 years' experience as an International World Boccia Classifier;

61.5.2 knowledge and experience of each stage of the Classification process;

61.5.3 effective communication skills in English, including the ability to provide a clear explanation of all stages of the Classification process to Classifiers, Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel;

61.5.4 the mentorship skills to provide training or mentoring to Classifiers;

61.5.5 effective management skills; and

61.5.6 effective organisation skills.

61.6 In addition to the Classifier competencies, the **Head of Classification** must have the following additional minimum competencies:

61.6.1 A minimum number of 4 years' experience as a Chief Classifier for World Boccia. More than one person may be appointed as Head of Classification.

61.6.2 the competencies described in Articles 61.5.2 to 61.5.6 above;

61.6.3 demonstrable leadership skills in matters related to Classification, for example: administration and management of Classification; rules, policy,

and procedure development or revision; Classification Research; Classification education and training; and Classifier mentorship; and

61.6.4 experience and continuing participation in training and Certification of Classifiers, for example, teaching and supervising/mentoring instructors at workshops and other similar activities.

## **PART II: CLASSIFICATION PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION**

### **62. Recruitment and retention of Classification Personnel**

62.1 World Boccia must ensure the quality and quantity of International World Boccia classifiers remain on a high level through continues training, workshops, accreditation sessions and Classifiers taking responsibility to maintain their competencies and ability to classify (refer to Appendix 27): World Boccia through the Head of Classification and Classification committee will:

62.1.1 identify prospective Trainee Classifiers;

62.1.2 appoints its Classification Personnel (including how Classifiers will be appointed to individual Classification Panels, and how the Head of Classification and Chief Classifiers will be appointed to their respective roles);

62.1.3 retain existing Classification Personnel and encourage them to remain active;

62.1.4 manage Classifier wellbeing, including protecting Classifiers from abuse, harassment, and bullying; and

62.1.5 re-engage non-active Classification Personnel.

### **63. Classification Personnel training and development**

63.1 World Boccia has a commitment to the ongoing professional development of Classification Personnel, including by providing appropriate training and education to ensure that they can (i) obtain and/or maintain the competencies required of them by World Boccia; (ii) achieve and/or maintain Certification; and (iii) otherwise develop and enhance their skills and experience in Classification so that any limitations placed on their Certification can be removed and/or they may progress to more senior Classification Personnel roles.

63.2 Where reasonably practicable, World Boccia will look to support National

Federations and National Paralympic Committees by present training and developing National Classifiers. In particular:

- 63.2.1 where appropriate, World Boccia will present World Boccia National Classification courses throughout the Calendar year, for the purpose of training National Classifiers;
- 63.2.2 World Boccia will engage with National Federations and National Paralympic Committees to cooperate and support a pathway to enable National Classifiers to become international Classifiers; and
- 63.2.3 World Boccia will make available to National Federations a schedule of Classifier and Trainee Classifier education sessions with sufficient notice and frequency to enable National Federations to identify and apply for Trainee Classifiers to attend such education sessions.
- 63.2.4 World Boccia will include National Classifiers, on their database, in online Classifier Classification Training Sessions and discussions.

#### **64. Classifier Certification**

- 64.1 Classifier Certification is the process by which World Boccia assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies.
- 64.2 Accreditation is subject to review bi-annually and all World Boccia International Classifiers must maintain their Classifier Competencies as detailed in these rules, including but not limited to:
  - 64.2.1 Must respond to communications on a regular basis including responding to calls for Classifiers for Competitions indicating availability or not.
  - 64.2.2 Must be active within their Nation or Region, annually Classifying at least one National competition (e.g. 10 athletes per year)
  - 64.2.3 Submit an annual classification log sheet to indicate activity each year certified by the National Federation.
  - 64.2.4 Attend Classification seminars or meetings (sometimes held prior to the competition or online) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current World Boccia Classification Rules.
  - 64.2.5 Attend and Classify at a minimum of one World Boccia Sanctioned Competition annually or bi-annually. If competitions are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances the time period may be longer.

- 64.2.6 Actively participates in Classifier discussions and tasks keeping abreast of Classification Committee communications and directions.
- 64.2.7 a Classifier's Certification may be reviewed within a 2-year timeframe to ensure that the Classifier has retained the relevant competencies by being assessed/observed by an appointed Classifier Observer (educator) at a competition during a Classification Evaluation Session and Observation sessions.
- 64.2.8 Declare any Conflict of interest, by submitting the relevant documentation (Appendix 17) and adhere to the rules set out below in Article 65.
- 64.2.9 Sign the Classifier Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 16) annually
- 64.2.10. Answering questionnaires and completing activities linked to recertification.
- 64.2.11 Athletes are encouraged to give feedback on evaluation sessions at a competition via the QR code link (see Appendix 29). This is published in the competition manual and displayed outside the classification room. This information may be used by the Head of Classification to mentor the Classifiers in a panel accordingly.
- 64.3 A Classifier may have their Certification removed through the Head of Classification together with the Classification Committee if, without limitation, (i) World Boccia is no longer satisfied that the Classifier possesses the required Classifier competencies; and/or (ii) the Classifier breaches the Classification Ethical Code of Conduct; and/or (iii) does not adhere to the rules in Article 64.2 and/or (iv) failure to disclose conflict of interest or found to have a conflict of interest by the classification committee.
- 64.4 A Classifier may regain accreditation by: (i) doing a World Boccia Refresher course and practicum; and (ii) Participating in Workshops and seminars, (iii) submitting log sheets and evidence of classifications done on a national level.
- 64.4.1 a Classifier whose Certification was removed pursuant to Article 64.3 (i) may regain their Certification if they subsequently satisfy the International Federation that they have re-attained the required Classifier competencies.

## 64.5 **World Boccia National Classification Course**

The World Boccia National Classification Course is an introduction to Classification according to the World Boccia Classification Rules. Any World Boccia member can request a World Boccia Accredited National Classification Course presented by accredited World Boccia National Classification Course Educators for specific learning outcomes, for example to improve knowledge and practical skills of National classifiers.

### 64.5.1 **Participant Requirements:**

- A Certified Medical Doctor, Physiotherapist, or related disciplines with the necessary training to perform all the classification assessments (testing muscle power, spasticity, ataxia and dyskinesia) and who has experience with neurological conditions and non-neurological conditions which exhibit impairment types related to the sport of Boccia
- or a Technical Expert who has a degree in physical education, biomechanics, or kinesiology and extensive coaching background or other relevant experience and knowledge in Boccia or
- Applicants must possess some English communication and writing abilities, as proficiency in these skills are considered necessary for successful participation in the course.

Tips:

- It would be beneficial if applicants could do the free IPC Fundamentals Classification course prior to the Boccia course for some background on classification in general. <https://www.paralympic.org/classification-education>

### 64.5.2 **Course**

- The World Boccia National Classification Course presented by World Boccia Accredited Classification Educators appointed by the Head of Classification and World Boccia Classification committee. The National course consists of a theory and practical component. The practical component of the Classification is performed on Athletes during the course.
- The completion of the National Classifiers course and Certification is a prerequisite for applying for World Boccia International Classifier training along with the other requirements such as logbook and a minimum of 2 years Classifying on a National level.

### 64.5.3 **Certification**

- The participants who successfully complete the course and pass the written examination with 75% or higher will receive a certificate of completion from the World Boccia Head of Classification.
- A person who has successfully completed the World Boccia Accredited Basic Classifier's Course Classification course can classify at local and National levels unless the Nation has extra guidelines.
- The participants that Classify at the National level are to be nominated by their National Federation and application must be submitted to the Head of Classification to start World Boccia International Classifier Training.

## 64.6 **World Boccia Accredited Refresher Course**

### 64.6.1 **Participants**

- (i) Classifiers who have completed the World Boccia National Classifier's Course (as detailed in Article 64.5) and gained experience by classifying on a national level for at least 2 years, who want to apply to become a Trainee International Classifier. The application must include a Curriculum Vitae, a log sheet, stamped by the NPC, of classifications done by the Classifier and a covering letter must come through the National Body apply to start training as a World Boccia International Classifier.
- (ii) International Classifiers whose certification as World Boccia International Classifier has been removed as per Article 64.3

### 64.6.2 **Course**

- (i) The course consists of a theory component highlighting the processes and procedures followed to complete a classification and is complemented by a hands-on practical session followed by the final written examination during a World Boccia accredited competition.
- (ii) The Practical Component is completed with the Trainee Classifier attending 1 to 2 International Competitions to Classify under the supervision and as part of the Classification Panel. This will be followed by one - two days of observation Assessment during the World Boccia Competition.

### **Please take note of the following:**

The following candidates cannot commence practical training to become an

International Classifier:

- An International athlete who is currently competing in ANY Para Sport, or who has retired from the same Para Sport less than 4 years ago;
- A National Team coach or assistant coach involved in ANY Para Sport, or who has retired from the same sport less than 4 years ago;
- Athlete Support Personnel (other than coaches) with direct involvement with the National Team or Athletes, or who have had such involvement in the last two years.
- For avoidance of doubt, a person who has a close association or role with a National Team may become a National Classifier but not an International Classifier
- The final exam (pass mark of 75%) is written after the Practical Classification Evaluation session is complete. This is followed by a Review/Evaluation of Practical components with the Trainee.

#### 64.6.3 Certification

Upon completion of the practical component at 2 competitions and successfully attaining 75% or higher in the written exam, a Certificate will be issued, and the Individual Trainee Classifier will qualify as a World Boccia International Classifier. The National Federation that paid for the training of the new International Classifier will receive a copy of the certification.

64.7 The Classifier Development Pathway is set out in Appendix 25

### **PART III: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **65. Identifying and managing conflicts of interest**

65.1 World Boccia, consistent with the IPC Integrity Code and, where applicable, will identify and manage conflicts of interest of Classifiers as part of their policies and procedures by requiring the completion of a Conflict-of-Interest form (Appendix 17) by every International Classifier and Potential Trainee Classifier. World Boccia recognises as a minimum, any direct or indirect interest(s) and/or any relationship(s) with any Person(s) that might affect, or be reasonably understood by others as affecting, the Classification Personnel's objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out their Classification responsibilities, a

## Conflict of Interest

- 65.2 World Boccia through the Classification Committee will identify, actively manage, record, and keep updated a register of actual, perceived and potential Classification Personnel conflicts of interest. In this context, all Classification Personnel must promptly, accurately, and fully disclose to World Boccia all past and current personal and professional role(s), office(s) and relationship(s) that may affect their ability to make an objective decision or assessment when fulfilling their Classification Personnel role or may create the perception of such. This duty of disclosure on Classification Personnel will be required to be done on an annual basis, to allow World Boccia to keep its register updated.
- 65.3 World Boccia Classification Committee will consider whether any disclosures by Classification Personnel represent an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest that requires active management. Examples of where an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest may arise (and will need to be actively managed) include where Classification Personnel are also acting as an officeholder, member of staff of, or otherwise representing and/or working on behalf of a National Federation. Other roles, whether paid or voluntary, with National Federations or National Paralympic Committees may also lead to actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest.
- 65.4 World Boccia, through the Classification Committee, retains the sole authority to determine, at its discretion, whether a Classification Personnel member has an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest. This determination is final and binding and may be made regardless of whether the Classification Personnel agree with the assessment.
- 65.5 World Boccia has the right not to appoint Classification Personnel (or to withdraw appointments of Classification Personnel) who, in the view of the World Boccia Classification Committee, have an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest.
- 65.6 In order to manage actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest, it is not permitted for the following persons to (i) commence practical training to become a Classifier (i.e., they cannot participate in any Evaluation Sessions e.g., as a Trainee Classifier); (ii) receive or keep their Certification as a Classifier; or (iii) act as a Head of Classification:
- 65.6.1 an international athlete who is currently competing in any Para sport, or who retired from Boccia less than four years ago;

65.6.2 a national team coach or national team assistant coach involved in Boccia, or who retired from Boccia less than four years ago; or

65.6.3 other Athlete Support Personnel in Boccia with direct involvement with the national team or international athletes, or who have retired from such involvement in Boccia less than two years ago (including but not limited to a team physiotherapist, medical doctor, psychologist, massage therapist, coach).

*[Comment to Article 65.6: There is a high risk of an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest arising in circumstances where Classification Personnel have (or have recently had) a close association or role with a national sport team. The above restrictions are intended to help manage such risks. For example:*

*An international athlete in Boccia cannot become a Classifier in any Para sport while they hold such role. However, once they have retired from such role they can immediately train and become a Classifier in other Para sports (but not Boccia), and can train and become a Classifier in Boccia once they have retired for four years.*

*A national team coach or national team physiotherapist in Boccia may become a Classifier in any Para sport except Boccia. Once they have retired from such role, they can also become a Classifier in Boccia after two years.]*

65.7 For the avoidance of doubt, Article 65.6 does not prevent persons covered by that provision from training or acting as National Classifiers.

65.8 Classifiers must also not take on any other roles and responsibilities at Covered Competitions and Classification opportunities where they are acting as Classifiers that would impact their ability to carry out the Classification process/their responsibilities. World Boccia may assign other roles and responsibilities to Classifiers provided that they can be managed without interfering with the Classifier roles and responsibilities.

## **66. Classification Personnel Code of Conduct**

66.1 The professional conduct of Classification Personnel is fundamental to ensuring the integrity of Classification in Boccia. World Boccia International Classifiers must complete the Classifiers Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Form (Appendix 17) and comply with the IPC Integrity Code and IPC Classification Code and International Standards. These standards are referred to as a Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.

66.2 All Classification Personnel must comply with the Classification Personnel Code

of Conduct.

66.3 World Boccia's Classification Personnel Code of Conduct requires Classification Personnel to:

66.3.1 comply with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards, and the International Federation's Classification rules;

66.3.2 comply with the world Boccia's integrity code (or similar), if available;

66.3.3 act as neutral evaluators throughout all stages of the Classification process;

66.3.4 have high regard and respect for the dignity of all Athletes, officials, staff and volunteers;

66.3.5 have high regard for the physical and mental welfare of all Athletes;

66.3.6 perform their duties courteously, respectfully, competently, consistently, and objectively for all Athletes;

66.3.7 respect all Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel and strive to uphold a courteous environment during the Classification process;

66.3.8 ensure that they are fit to perform the role and physical duties reasonably expected of Classification Personnel, and notify World Boccia if this ceases to be the case;

66.3.9 maintain excellent hygiene and sanitation during the Classification process;

66.3.10 not abuse their position to obtain advantage or benefit for themselves or third parties;

66.3.11 maintain confidentiality of Athlete information in accordance with the International Federation's Classification rules; and

66.3.12 comply with World Boccia's safeguarding rules.

66.4 World Boccia take compliance to the Classification Code and International Standards very seriously and any complaint of non-compliance with the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct and procedures will be investigated and appropriate action against Classification Personnel in respect of any violation of the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct will be taken.

## **CHAPTER 7: Roles and Responsibilities**

### **67. World Boccia**

67.1 The roles and responsibilities of World Boccia under these Classification Rules include to:

67.1.1 increase awareness of the purpose, principles, and scientific rationale behind Classification amongst relevant stakeholders in Boccia;

67.1.2 develop, implement, and regularly review and publish Classification rules in Compliance with the IPC Classification Code and International Standards;

67.1.3 require, as a condition of membership, that its National Federations and other members comply with these Classification Rules, and to take appropriate action to ensure such compliance

67.1.4 develop and deliver (where appropriate with the involvement of Athletes) Classification education and awareness programs for National Federations, Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classifiers which must, at a minimum, explain these Classification Rules and that the rules must comply with the IPC Classification Code and the International Standards;

67.1.5 promote, initiate, and/or review Classification Research;

67.1.6 develop, implement, and maintain a clear Classifier recruitment, training, and development pathway; and

67.1.7 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with the IPC in connection with any investigations conducted by the IPC in relation to potential Intentional Misrepresentation or Compliance matters.

### **67.2 Classification Personnel Responsibilities**

The Roles and Responsibilities of Classification Personnel include:

67.2.1 To have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by the Classification Rules

67.2.2 To use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative attitude towards classification

67.2.3 To assist in the development, management, and implementation of Classification Systems, including participation in education and research; and

67.2.4 To cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation, and with any investigations concerning violations of the Classification Rules.

67.2.5 Always comply and conduct themselves according to the 'Classification Personnel Code of Conduct' (Article 66).

## **68. Participants**

68.1 It is the personal responsibility of all Participants to:

68.1.1 be knowledgeable of and comply with these Classification Rules, and all applicable regulations, policies, rules, and processes adopted pursuant to these Classification Rules;

68.1.2 participate in, and cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any Classification process and/or related procedure; and

68.1.3 cooperate fully, honestly, and in good faith with any investigations concerning potential Intentional Misrepresentation.

## **69. Athletes**

69.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 68.1, all Athletes must:

69.1.1 ensure that World Boccia is provided (through their National Federation) with all relevant Diagnostic Information required to enable World Boccia to assess the existence of an Underlying Health Condition and Eligible Impairment, and ensure that all such information is complete, accurate, authentic, and relevant, and that World Boccia is informed of any changes to that information;

69.1.2 as set out in Article 24.5, give their best efforts during an Evaluation Session and comply with all reasonable instructions given to them by a Classification Panel; and

69.1.3 support and facilitate Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of Classification systems.

## **70. Athlete Support Personnel**

70.1 In addition to the general responsibilities listed in Article 68, all Athlete Support Personnel must:

70.1.1 use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative attitude regarding the Classification process and those involved in the Classification of Athletes (e.g. Classifiers); and

70.1.2 facilitate and encourage Athletes to participate in Classification education and research, and the development and implementation of World Boccia's Classification systems.

## CHAPTER 8: Best Practice Classification, and Research

### 71. Best Practice Classification

71.1 World Boccia will ensure that it has a sport-specific Classification system that reflects Best Practice Classification. Best Practice Classification means that the Classification system:

71.1.1 adopts the four stages of Classification set out in Article 6.1, and describes the methods used in each of the four stages.

71.1.2 uses the best available evidence at each stage of Classification, by:

71.1.2.1 focusing on the relationship between the impairment and key performance determinants, where the impairment is the unit of classification and impairments are classified based on the extent to which they impact the Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to their specific sport;

71.1.2.2 drawing on reliable assessment results from a range of domains (for example, Athlete training history, impairment(s), performance of novel and practised motor tasks, and sport-specific/sports technical performance);

71.1.2.3 using assessments that are, as a minimum, evidence-informed (i.e., scientific evidence indicates that the individual assessments that make up the Classification system will provide information that is accurate and reliable); and

71.1.2.4 relying on as few assumptions as possible (and, where assumptions are relied on, ensuring that those assumptions are defensible);

71.1.3 applies principles of clinical reasoning and critical thinking to enable balanced consideration of the assessments conducted at each stage of Classification.

71.1.4 is consistent with established principles of human movement science, and sports performance; and

71.1.5 is consistent with current knowledge of (i) each Eligible Impairment, and (ii) the Underlying Health Conditions that are consistent with those Eligible Impairments.

*[Comment to Article 71.1: Best Practice Classification represents the full utilisation of the scientific evidence available today, where evidence-informed assessments are used along with clinical reasoning to draw conclusions from assessment results from a range of domains. Best Practice Classification will evolve over time, with the goal for it to reach the standard of evidence-based Classification, as referred to in Article 72.2.]*

## **72. Classification Research**

- 72.1 World Boccia will conduct multidisciplinary Classification Research to:
  - 72.1.1 ensure that its Classification system meets (and continues to meet) the requirements for Best Practice Classification; and
  - 72.1.2 monitor the quality of its assessment systems and improve its evidence base.
- 72.2 World Boccia will invest/co-operate with researchers in Classification Research that is designed to assist in developing evidence-based Classification systems (i.e., systems that are supported by scientific evidence that indicates that the methods used for assigning Athletes a Sport Class will result in Sport Classes that each comprise Athletes who have Eligible Impairments causing approximately the same degree of activity limitation in that sport). Evidence-based Classification is the gold standard, to which all Classification systems should aspire.
- 72.3 World Boccia will ensure that, where appropriate, stakeholders (including Athletes and Classifiers) have an opportunity to provide input as part of World Boccia's plans to conduct Classification Research.
- 72.4 All Classification Research will comply with internationally recognised ethical standards and research practices.

## CHAPTER 9: Data

### 73 General Provisions

- 73.1 The Classification Rules require World Boccia to Process Classification Data relating to Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Classification Personnel, and other individuals involved in World Boccia.
- 73.2 All Classification Data Processed by World Boccia must be accurate, complete, and kept up to date on the World Boccia Platform.
- 73.3 World Boccia has to comply with all aspects of the IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection and applicable Data Protection Laws.
- 73.4 This Chapter sets out the data protection and privacy standards that World Boccia will require and apply when Processing Data.

### 74 Principles for Processing Classification Data

- 74.1 Subject to Article 73.3, World Boccia and appointed Classifiers will only Process Classification Data in connection with Classification, or other purposes relating to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code, and/or International Standards, including (without limitation) UHC Assessments, Eligible Impairment Assessments, MIC Assessments, Sport Class Assessments, Evaluation Sessions, conducting disciplinary procedures, resolving Protests and Appeals, using or sharing Classification-related intelligence, and for education and awareness.
- 74.2 World Boccia and appointed Classifiers will only collect Classification Data that it reasonably requires to achieve the above purposes, and will take steps to delete, destroy, or anonymise Classification Data once it is no longer required for such purposes.
- 74.3 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.
- 74.4 World Boccia may only process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with National Laws.
- 74.5 The World Boccia Classification Committee must make reasonable efforts to ensure that Classification Data is:

- 74.5.1 accurate, complete and up to date;
- 74.5.2 Processed fairly and lawfully, and in a manner that is clear to the relevant individual, such as through the use of written or oral notices;
- 74.5.3 Processed for specified and legitimate purposes related to Classification, and not further Processed for unrelated or incompatible purposes unless those purposes are expressly permitted by law; and
- 74.5.4 adequate, relevant, and limited to what the World Boccia Classification committee reasonably requires meeting obligations under the Classification Code and to conduct Classification.

*[Comment to Article 74.5: World Boccia Classification Committee and Classifiers need to ensure that they abide by certain common principles of data protection when Processing Classification Data. This includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that Classification Data remains correct and accurate, is not Processed for additional, unrelated purposes except where applicable laws expressly permit, and is promptly deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised as soon as possible. It also includes taking reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that relevant individuals are informed, for instance through the use of specific or general informational notices, regarding the Processing of their Classification Data.]*

## **75. Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data**

- 75.1 World Boccia will ensure that each Processing operation required from Classifiers to perform upon Classification Data, has a valid legal basis to support it, and that the Processing is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.
- 75.2 Lawful grounds for Processing Classification Data include where the relevant Processing (i) furthers the legitimate interests of the World Boccia, and those interests outweigh the interests of the relevant individual; (ii) takes place with the individual's informed and voluntary consent; (iii) is required or necessary under applicable law to fulfil contractual obligations owed to the individual or to perform tasks carried out in the public interest; or (iv) complies with other legal grounds available to World Boccia under Data Protection Laws.

*[Comment to Article 75.2: World Boccia are likely to rely on more than one legal basis to perform the various Processing operations required under the IPC Classification Code and relating to Classification. The appropriate ground*

*may depend on a range of factors, such as whether the Classification Data includes Sensitive Personal Information; whether data protection, sport, or other local laws expressly set forth such grounds (in which case, the data may be considered necessary to comply with such laws or necessary to fulfil legitimate interests related to sport); and other circumstances relating to the Processing.]*

- 75.3 World Boccia relies upon consent to justify its Processing of certain Classification Data, and if the relevant individual is not competent by virtue of their age or other factors to provide informed and voluntary consent, a duly authorised representative may provide consent on the individual's behalf.

*[Comment to Article 75.3: In situations where an Athlete is a minor, as determined under applicable law, and so incapable of furnishing consent, their authorised representative, which may include a parent, guardian, or other representative, such as a member of the Athlete's delegation where the Athlete's parent or guardian has expressly agreed to this, may provide consent on the Athlete's behalf.]*

## **76 Processing for Classification Research**

- 76.1 World Boccia may Process Classification Data to engage in Classification Research, and in these circumstances World Boccia must ensure that a valid legal basis exists to permit such Processing, which may be the Athlete's informed and voluntary consent or other legal grounds available to the Classification Organisation under Data Protection Laws.

*[Comment to Article 76.1: Classification Research is vital for the development of Classification in sport and Athletes are often asked to provide Classification Data to World Boccia for this purpose. If World Boccia engages in Classification Research, they will need to consider the appropriate legal basis for conducting such research. In addition to reliance upon consent, Data Protection Laws applicable to the Classification Organisation may permit the Processing of Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, on grounds other than consent, provided certain conditions related to the Classification Research are satisfied. In all these circumstances, World Boccia needs to ensure that their Classification Research is transparent to the relevant Athletes.]*

- 76.2 When World Boccia Process Classification Data for Research Purposes additionally, it will comply with all applicable ethical use and research requirements. Whenever possible, World Boccia or organisations appointed by

World Boccia must conduct Classification Research using Anonymised Data in lieu of Personal Information, in order to best protect the privacy of the relevant Athlete(s).

- 76.3 Consistent with the definition of Research Purposes, any Personal Information (including Sensitive Personal Information) provided for Research Purposes will not be used to engage in individual Classification and the allocation of a Sport Class to that individual.
- 76.4 World Boccia may only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. In the event World Boccia seeks to publish any Classification Data Processed for Research Purposes, it should seek to ensure that the publication contains only Anonymised Data and does not identify Athletes. If the publication contains any Personal Information, World Boccia will obtain the informed and voluntary written consent of the relevant Athlete(s) prior to such publication.

## **77 Notification to Athletes and others**

- 77.1 World Boccia will notify Athletes and others through the NPC's whose Classification Data they Process about the following, along with any other disclosures required by applicable Data Protection Laws:
- 77.1.1 Classification Panels appointed at competitions by World Boccia will be collecting the Classification Data, and an appropriate contact point within World Boccia for handling any enquiries is the Head of Classification together with the Classification Committee;
  - 77.1.2 the types of Classification Data collected and Processed by the Classifiers will be all relevant information needed to complete the Classification Process to determine a Sport Class and Sport class status, which must be sufficiently comprehensive in scope to cover all purposes relating to these Classification rules and the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards;
  - 77.1.3 the types of third parties, such as other Organisations, and national or international sports federations, to whom Classification Data may be disclosed;
  - 77.1.4 the individual's rights with respect to the Classification Data under Article 76;

77.1.5 the platform on which such Classification Data will be retained;  
and

77.1.5 the expected period of time that the Classification data will be retained by World Boccia, as documented in accordance with Article 81.

*[Comment to Article 77.1: World Boccia and the Classification Committee should ensure that Athletes and other individuals whose Classification Data they Process are adequately informed regarding the Processing of their Personal Information. The above disclosures represent a minimum standard, and World Boccia may be required to furnish information going beyond the categories listed above under applicable Data Protection Laws.]*

77.2 World Boccia through the appointed Chief Classifier and Classification Panel must furnish the information listed in Article 77.1 at the time that they collect Classification Data from an individual or at an otherwise appropriate time in accordance with Data Protection Laws, in a format and manner that the individual can reasonably comprehend, using clear and plain language that can be readily understood.

*[Comment to Article 77.2: World Boccia and the Classification Committee can decide the most effective way of notifying Athletes and others, either individually or as part of a larger group. This may take the form of notices communicated via websites or social media or language contained in forms and templates commonly used in Classification. World Boccia and the Classification committee should provide notice in writing, unless circumstances do not permit it to do so. World Boccia should take into account, where possible, the relevant age and mental capacity of the individuals receiving such notice.]*

77.3 If World Boccia receives Classification Data from third parties, it must communicate the information in Article 63.1 as soon as reasonably practicable, unless the Athlete or other individual is already in possession of it, such as where it has been furnished by another Classification Organisation.

## **78 Classification Data Security**

78.1 World Boccia will 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

*[Comment to Article 78.1: World Boccia must take reasonable steps to protect the Classification Data they Process to keep the Classification Data secure at all times from external or internal privacy and security threats. When deciding what safeguards to apply, it should take account of the context in which they Process the Classification Data, as well as the damage that a security breach could cause to the relevant individuals. World Boccia should implement, among other things, access and authentication controls (e.g., complex passwords; password managers; role-based access); network firewalls; security software (e.g., anti-malware/anti-spyware); systems monitoring; and encryption techniques, for data residing on internal systems and portable devices as appropriate. Policies and procedures should also exist to safeguard data held in hard-copy format, and to report security vulnerabilities and breaches promptly within the organisation.]*

- 78.2 World Boccia must 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. If World Boccia engages third parties to Process Classification Data on behalf or under the instructions of World Boccia, it must subject such third parties to appropriate contractual controls.

*[Comment to Article 78.2: World Boccia bears ultimate responsibility when outsourcing any Processing to third parties such as Platform developers and should only rely upon reputable parties to Process their Classification Data. It is important to ensure that these parties only Process on the World Boccia's instructions, apply appropriate security measures to the Classification Data, promptly provide notice of any security compromise impacting the Classification Data, and apply other suitable safeguards.]*

## **79 Disclosures of Classification Data**

- 79.1 World Boccia may disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations (including the IPC), provided that such disclosure reasonably relates to Processing activities contemplated under the Classification Code and/or International Standards and/or the disclosure is in accordance with Data Protection Laws.

*[Comment to Article 79.1: World Boccia may wish to disclose Classification Data to another Classification Organisation (including the IPC), such as in connection with Competitions, to ensure the integrity of the Classification process (including in respect of instances or suspected instances of Intentional Misrepresentation), and to otherwise assist in the process of Classification.]*

- 79.2 World Boccia may disclose Classification Data to other parties only if such disclosure is in accordance with these Classification Rules, is permitted by applicable Data Protection Laws and fulfils purposes relating the IPC Classification Code and /or International Standards
- 79.3 Notwithstanding the foregoing, World Boccia may share Classification Data with law enforcement or other government authorities if required to do so under applicable law.

*[Comment to Article 79.3: In cases where World Boccia is compelled by law to disclose Classification Data, they may do so consistent with this Rules and the IPC International Standard for Classification Data Protection.]*

## **80 Retaining Classification Data**

- 80.1 World Boccia must ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as it is reasonably required for Classification purposes it was collected for or the retention of the Classification Data is otherwise required by applicable law. Where the above conditions are not met, and Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, Classification Data must be deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymized see Appendix 28.

*[Comment to Article 80.1: World Boccia may retain Classification Data as long as it is still useful or necessary to fulfil a Classification Rule and Code-related purpose.]*

- 80.2 World Boccia must implement policies and procedures that ensure that Classifiers and Classification Personnel retain Classification Data only for the purpose of carrying out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete and establish reasonable and appropriate retention times.

*[Comment to Article 80.2: World Boccia must have guidelines, which could be reflected in internal policies or procedures, in place to enable them to allocate suitable retention times for the various types of Classification Data that they Process. In relation to retired or former Athletes, the continued retention of certain categories of Classification Data following an Athlete's retirement may be justified for a certain period of time (for example, where World Boccia reasonably believes that the Athlete may return to active competition, or if the Classification Data may reasonably be needed for investigatory or disciplinary*

*purposes). In relation to individual Classifiers, World Boccia must make sure that Classifiers do not retain any of the Classification Data that Classifiers Process in that capacity once the Classification Data is no longer necessary to Classification of the relevant Athlete. This includes any notes, comments, video recordings, or records written or captured electronically (e.g., on personal laptops or other storage devices), generated, or compiled by Classifiers during Classification.]*

- 80.3 World Boccia Classifiers and Classification Personnel can only retain Classification Data on personal devices, notes or records written or captured electronically for as long as it is necessary for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.
- 80.4 The data processed will be accurate, complete, and kept up to date in a secured World Boccia database.
- 80.5 World Boccia 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 its purpose or intention.

## **81 Rights relating to Classification Data**

81.1 Athletes/individuals may request from World Boccia:

81.1.1 Confirmation of whether or not World Boccia Processes Classification Data relating to them and the informational disclosures set forth in Article 80.1.

81.1.2 A copy of the Classification Data held by World Boccia relating to them in an accessible format; and/or

81.1.3 Correction or deletion of the Classification Data relating to them held by World Boccia.

*[Comment to Article 81.1: World Boccia must be able to provide Athletes with information about the Classification Data they Process, as well as respond to requests seeking access to correction or deletion of such Classification Data.]*

81.2 World Boccia must respond to such requests made by an Athlete or a National Body or a National Paralympic Committee on an Athlete's behalf within a reasonable period of time, taking into account the effort required to comply with the request, and in accordance with applicable Data Protection Laws, which may set forth specific timeframes for responding.

81.3 Notwithstanding the above, World Boccia may refuse to grant such requests where it would interfere with efforts to maintain the integrity of the Classification process, prevent a World Boccia from complying with the Classification Code, or refusing the request is otherwise permitted under applicable Data Protection Laws.

*[Comment to Article 81.3: In certain contexts, World Boccia may refuse a request seeking access to, or correction or deletion of, Classification Data, such as where the request would undermine efforts to ensure the integrity of Para sport, such as investigations and intelligence gathering relating to Intentional Misrepresentation by an Athlete or conducting disciplinary proceedings. Under certain data protection laws, it may be possible to refuse a request, such as where the request is manifestly unfounded, repetitive, or abusive in nature.]*

81.4 Data Protection Laws may provide for additional individual rights, besides those arising under Article 81.1, and World Boccia will need to honor such rights where they exist in law.

## CHAPTER 10: Transitional Provisions

### 82. Transitional Provision:

- 82.1 Any period prior to the Effective Date of the New edition of the Classification Rules will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time. However, procedural rules will apply retroactively unless specified otherwise.
- 82.2 Any charge for breach of World Boccia's previous classification rules that: (i) was pending as of the Effective Date; or (ii) is brought after the Effective Date, will be governed by the substantive rules in effect at the time the alleged breach occurred, and not by the substantive rules set out in these Classification Rules, unless World Boccia or the body hearing the case determines that the principle of "lex mitior" appropriately applies under the circumstances of the case (i.e., World Boccia or the hearing body determines that: (i) the new substantive rules in these Classification Rules are more lenient than those in force at the time of the breach; and (ii) it would be reasonable and proportionate in all the circumstances to apply the new substantive rules).
- 82.3 World Boccia will promptly notify the Participant, the Participant's National Federation, and the IPC of any decision made to apply the principle of "lex mitior" under Article 82.2
- 82.3.1 That decision may be appealed by the IPC to World Boccia's designated appeal body (see Article 57) within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision, except that if the IPC has not previously received a copy of the full case file pertaining to the alleged breach of World Boccia's previous classification rules (together with English translations of all documents within the case file, where not originally in the English language), it will have 15 days from its receipt of the notice of the decision to apply the principle of "lex mitior" to request a copy of that case file (including any translations).
- 82.3.2 In such case, the IPC will have 21 days from its receipt of the full case file (and all necessary translations) to file an appeal.
- 82.4 The limitation period set out in Article 53.4 is a procedural rule not a substantive rule, and should be applied retroactively along with all of the other procedural rules in these Classification Rules (provided, however, that Article 53.4 will only be applied retroactively if the limitation period has not already expired as at the Effective Date).

## CHAPTER 11: Classification Assessments

### 83 Classification Assessments

This Article refers to the methods used during the Eligible Impairment and MIC Assessment component of Athlete Evaluation. The following tests will be completed by the Medical Classifiers (Article 60.5.3.1) within the Classification Panel (e.g. a Medical Doctor or Physiotherapist).

#### 83.1 Assessment of Spasticity

83.1.1 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 Hypertonia (refer to **Appendix 6**)

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

##### ASAS vs MAS (spasticity assessment reliability & objectivity)

1. Boyd RN, Graham HK. *Objective measurement of spasticity: reliability of the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale*. Dev Med Child Neurol. 2010;52(3):e55–e61.
2. Bayram KB, Şengül İ, Aşkin A, Tosun A. *Inter-rater reliability of the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale in post-stroke spasticity*. Int J Rehabil Res. 2022;45(1):86–92.
3. Love S, et al. *Interobserver reliability of the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS)*. Dev Med Child Neurol. 2016;58(Suppl 2):18–24.

#### 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.

## 83.2 Assessment of Dyskinesia: Athetosis/Dystonia

83.2.1 Component elements of the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (DIS) form 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.

83.2.2 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 do (refer to **Appendix 7**).

### DIS (Dyskinesia Impairment Scale) reliability & validity

1. Vanmechelen E, Feys H, Monbaliu E, et al. *The Dyskinesia Impairment Scale: a new instrument to measure dystonia and choreoathetosis in dyskinetic cerebral palsy*. Dev Med Child Neurol. 2012;54(3):249–255.
2. Danielsson A, Monbaliu E, et al. *Reliability and validity of the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale in children and young adults with inherited or idiopathic dystonia*. Dev Med Child Neurol. 2020.

### Assess the Amplitude of movements during the specific test:

- 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

When scoring the Amplitude, you look at the range of involuntary movement in one repetition of the action asked and look specifically at the limb or trunk or head doing the movement.

### **Assess the Duration of movements during the specific test:**

- 0** Athetosis/Dystonia is absent
- 1** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in small amount of time to complete the task < 10%
- 2** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in moderate amount of time to complete the task  $\geq 10\% < 50\%$
- 3** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in submaximal amount of time to complete the task  $\geq 50\% < 90\%$
- 4** Athetosis/Dystonia is present in maximal amount of time to complete the task  $> 90\%$

When scoring Duration you consider the full time doing all the repetitions asked.

### **83.3 Assessment of Ataxia**

83.3.1 World Boccia has adopted the SARA (Scale for the Assessment and rating of Ataxia) to determine the severity of Ataxia in Athletes who present with Neurological Impairments affecting the CNS.

83.3.2 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)

83.3.3 For the assessment and scoring of Ataxia testing refer to Appendix 9

#### **SARA (Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia) reliability & validity**

Weyer A, Abele M, Schmitz-Hübsch T, et al. *Reliability and validity of the Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA): a study in 64 ataxia patients.* Mov Disord. 2007;22(11):1633–1637.

## **83.4 Assessment of Muscle Strength**

83.4.1 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. For a more detailed version refer to Appendix 10. Any muscle strength above a Grade 3 will be deemed Not Eligible for BC4

83.4.2 Athletes are to be assessed seated in their sport-specific wheelchair and if required athletes will need to transfer onto a plinth for assessment e.g., for Lower Limb testing.

83.4.3 All relevant muscle groups are to be assessed against manual resistance in the available range.

### **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 available range of motion when gravity is eliminated
- 3** Contraction with movement through the complete available joint range against gravity without resistance
- 4** Contraction with a full available range of movement against gravity and some resistance
- 5** Contraction of normal strength through full available range of movement againstfull resistance

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

## CHAPTER 12: Boccia Physical Profiles

This Article details the characteristics of the different Sport Classes within Boccia (BC1 to BC4); the Physical Profiles and the Criteria for each Sport Class linking it with the results of the Impairment Assessment(s) / Sport Class Assessment Components (Please refer to Appendices 6-11 for details on how to score the Impairments and execute the Sport Class Assessment)

### 84 BC 1 Sport Class

Athletes who are diagnosed with a Neurological Impairment affecting the CNS; Spastic Hypertonic Quadriplegia or Athetosis or who may have a mixed picture including those with severe Ataxia.

#### 84.1 BC1 Profile

##### 84.1.1 Topography:

Neurological Impairment(s) affecting all four limbs and trunk (Quadriplegia)

##### 84.1.2 Impairment: Spasticity/Hypertonia

The Athlete has at least Grade 3 spasticity (ASAS Scale) in muscle group (s) that affects the propulsion of the ball into the field of play

##### 84.1.3 Impairment: Athetosis/Dystonia

Athetosis/Dystonia is mostly present throughout range greater than 50% and less than 90% duration and throughout submaximal range of motion greater than 50% and less than 90% amplitude in the limb propelling the ball into the field of play (Adapted from Dyskinesia Impairment Scale) scoring 3-4 and mostly 4's on the DIS on functional tests.

##### 84.1.4 Impairment: Ataxia

The Athlete is involved in proximal and distal joints, as observed in SARA assessments, which create incoordination that affects all aspects of the throw (Ataxia impacts on the preparation, during and follow through) scoring 3-4 on the SARA scale in functional tests.

## 84.2 **BC1 in summary:**

- 84.2.1 Severe Neurological Impairment affecting all four limbs.
- 84.2.2 Spasticity ASAS Grade 3-4 with or without Athetosis.
- 84.2.3 An athlete with severe Athetosis or Dystonia with limited functional strength and control (scores 3-4)
- 84.2.4 Severe Ataxia limiting coordination, grasp and release (score 3-4)
- 84.2.5 Limited functional range of movement and/or limited functional strength in all extremities and trunk.
- 84.2.6 Dependent on a powered wheelchair or assistance for everyday mobility and is unlikely to use a manual wheelchair for any length of time unless pushed by someone.
- 84.2.7 Athletes with severe Athetosis may play from a manual wheelchair; often propelled using their lower limbs.
- 84.2.8 Athletes with a primary impairment of Athetosis/Dystonia may have the ability to walk, unlike those with spasticity.

## 84.3 **BC 1 Thrower (Spastic Quadruplegia) Upper Extremities**

- 84.3.1 The shoulder flexors, extensors and adductors, elbow flexor and extensor, wrist and hand, athletes will demonstrate spasticity ASAS Grade 3 or above in the relevant muscle groups that impact the throw.
- 84.3.2 On the Sport Class Assessment, this level of spasticity will have a direct activity limitation on the throw and will severely limit the follow through with a catch in the inner range, which results in the lack of directional follow through.
- 84.3.3 Spasticity in biceps/triceps specifically limits follow through in the over arm/chest throw.
- 84.3.4 Spasticity in the shoulder flexors and extensors will directly impact follow through for the pendulum or underarm throw (refer to definitions describing the throwing actions in the glossary).
- 84.3.5 Athletes will demonstrate a lack of functional, active range of movement in the upper limb, in particular, the shoulder (flexion) and in the elbow (usually extension) which may be as a result of

spasticity, high tone and/or joint deformity.

84.3.6 Dissociation between the upper limb and the trunk is minimal, preventing coordination between the limb segments in the various aspects of the throw: preparation, propulsion and/or follow through.

84.3.7 Reflex patterns are commonly observed such as Asymmetric Tonic Neck Reflex (ATNR)/Symmetric Tonic Neck Reflex(STNR)/Flexor pattern but not always present and occur on the throwing side; opposite side; bilaterally or in the lower limbs. Clonus or spasm may also be observed.

#### 84.4 **BC1 Hand function and grip (Spastic hypertonia)**

84.4.1 Physically there will be a weakness of the hand and fingers, which may be due to tone, spasticity and deformities at the wrist and fingers and therefore, athletes will grasp the ball in a variety of ways.

84.4.2 There will be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand. Athletes may demonstrate delayed release of the ball because of flexor tone/spasticity or weakness in the extensors.

#### 84.5 **BC1 Trunk/Postural Control and Balance (Spastic Hypertonia)**

84.5.1 Athletes will demonstrate spasticity and weakness within the trunk.

84.5.2 Functionally this will affect their ability to maintain sitting balance and to control movement without the use of some compensatory strategies (see definitions of compensatory movement and strategies in the glossary).

84.5.3 On the Sport Class Assessment, Spasticity and/or weakness in the trunk will result in a loss of postural control when throwing; for example, on the release of the ball athletes may lose their position, lean more or be pulled to one side or use more compensatory activity to maintain their posture. This will also be evident as the athlete returns to midline and to an upright position after throwing.

84.5.4 Due to the spasticity and/or lack of movement in the trunk, athletes will have limited dissociation of pelvis/trunk/upper limb movements.

84.5.5 Athletes may have lateral supports fitted in the wheelchair seating or may need to use chest/pelvic or foot straps. These may be used in combination to improve the athletes' posture and stability when throwing and to compensate for the inactivity / tonal issues.

84.5.6 Athletes may present with trunk asymmetry due to weakness/tonal change and may have a deformity of the spine resulting in scoliosis/kyphoscoliosis and may present wearing a spinal brace/orthotic.

84.6 **BC1 Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and Ankle (Spastic hypertonia)**

84.6.1 On MIC Assessment of the hip/knee and ankle, Athletes will demonstrate ASAS spasticity Grade 3 or above in the muscle groups of the lower limbs.

84.6.2 Athletes will demonstrate a significant lack of functional active range of movement in the lower limbs as a result of spasticity, weakness and lack of selective control or may have joint deformity limiting range of motion.

84.6.3 During the Sport Class Assessment the Athlete will demonstrate a poor dissociation of the lower limbs from the pelvis & trunk during active and functional range of motion.

84.6.4 Deformities may be present in the lower limbs, around the hip & knee, more commonly into fixed flexion.

84.6.5 Athletes will demonstrate an inability to bear weight effectively through the lower limbs when transferring and will not be able to walk.

84.6.6 Athletes will have a very limited pelvic range of movement and control on which the trunk can be moved and will demonstrate a poor dissociation of the pelvis from the lumbar spine actively (reduced dynamic postural control).

84.7 **BC 1 Thrower: Dyskinesia- Athetosis/Ataxia/Mixed picture.**

**Upper Extremities: Shoulder, Elbow and Hand (Dyskinesia: Athetosis/Dystonia)**

84.7.1 Athletes will demonstrate a combination of involuntary movement and/or fluctuating spasticity in the upper limb, which results in significantly reduced coordination and control of movement. They may have a full range of active movement with less control and incoordination.

84.7.2 On the DIS for Athetosis and SARA scale for Ataxia the BC1 Thrower will be on the severe end of the scale scoring 3-4 with mostly 4's.

- 84.7.3 On the Sport Class Assessment, this uncoordinated and involuntary movement will result in a significant limitation to an athlete's follow through after release. They will have poor directional follow-through and poor timing of the throw that may result in multiple attempts before releasing the ball.
- 84.7.4 Athletes may demonstrate the use of compensatory strategies, for example, positioning of the head/shoulder girdle and opposite arm to improve their postural stability in the preparation and during the throw.
- 84.7.5 Athletes will have poor dissociation of the upper limb from the trunk, which is demonstrated functionally by a loss of postural control and stability on the release of the ball. Involuntary movements are likely to increase in the throwing arm/body following the throw.
- 84.7.6 Reflex reactions/patterns are common in these athletes. On release of the ball, these may become more evident further affecting the postural control & stability of the athlete.
- 84.8 **BC1 Hand function and grip (Dyskinesia: Athetosis/Dystonia)**
- 84.8.1 Physically there will be an active weakness or reduced control of the hand and fingers, which may be due to dystonia/athetosis and/or spasticity; and therefore, athletes will grasp the ball in a variety of ways.
- 84.8.2 There will be a loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand and manual dexterity will be affected as a result.
- 84.8.3 On the Sport Class Assessment Athletes may demonstrate delayed release or difficulties releasing the ball because of dystonia/athetosis in the muscles controlling grasp and release.
- 84.9 **BC1 Trunk/Postural Control and Balance (Dyskinesia; Athetosis/Dystonia)**
- 84.9.1 Athletes will demonstrate involuntary movements within the trunk which will affect their postural control in sitting and result in a loss of postural control and coordination during the throw.
- 84.9.2 The involuntary movement of the trunk will be more evident during Sport Class assessment of the throw and will commonly be seen in conjunction with lower limb involuntary movement and increased reflex reactions.

84.9.3 The head will commonly be affected by involuntary movement and used as a compensatory strategy to fix and stabilise the trunk in preparation to throw. In addition, commonly the non-throwing arm will be used to stabilise in preparation for and during throwing.

84.9.4 Technically Athletes will demonstrate a greater loss of postural control and stability on the release of the ball.

84.10 **BC1 Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle (Dyskinesia; Athetosis/Dystonia)**

84.10.1 Athletes will demonstrate involuntary movement in the muscles of the lower limb, which results in significantly reduced coordination and control of active movement.

84.10.2 Technically this uncoordinated and involuntary movement coupled with the reflex patterns commonly seen will affect the ability of the athlete to stabilise through the trunk and pelvis when throwing and a loss of postural control will be seen, particularly following the release of the ball.

84.10.3 As these athletes have some active control, the range of movement is not usually affected. These athletes may be able to walk. Commonly they will fix the trunk to create rigidity to allow them to walk and use the shoulder girdle and arm to improve their stability.

84.11 **BC 1 Foot player**

84.11.1 Athletes, who fit the above physical profile but demonstrate that they are unable to consistently throw the ball into the field of play using their hands and have no sustained grasp and/or functional release, can be considered as a BC1 foot player.

84.11.2 Athletes will demonstrate trunk and pelvic involvement along with some involvement of their lower limbs.

84.11.3 As this is most likely to be an Athlete with Dyskinesia (Athetosis/Dystonia/Ataxia) rather than Spasticity, Athletes will have a degree of involuntary movement in the lower limbs.

84.11.4 Athletes with Ataxia will score 3-4 on the SARA scale on specific Lower limb tests (Appendix 9).

84.11.5 Athletes with Dyskinesia will score 3-4 on the DIS on specific Lower

limb tests (Appendix 8).

84.11.6 The Athlete will have sufficient active control and ROM within their lower limbs to propel the ball with their foot into the field of play with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity to be eligible to play Boccia as a BC1 foot player.

## **85 BC 2 Sport Class**

Athletes who are diagnosed with a Neurological Impairment affecting the CNS and present with Coordination Impairments including: Spastic Hypertonic Quadriplegia or Dyskinesia (Athetosis/Dystonia) or who may have a mixed picture including those with Ataxia.

### **85.1 BC2 Profile**

#### **85.1.1 Topography:**

Neurological Impairment(s) that affects all four limbs and trunk (Quadriplegia)

#### **85.1.2 Impairment: Spasticity/Hypertonia**

The Athlete has at least Grade 2 spasticity (ASAS Scale) in muscle group(s) that affect the propulsion of the ball into the field of play (thrower).

#### **85.1.3 Impairment: Athetosis/Dystonia**

Athetosis/Dystonia is frequently present throughout range greater than 10% and less than 50% duration and throughout moderate range of motion greater than 10% and less than 50% amplitude in the limb propelling the ball into the field of play (Adapted from Dyskinesia Impairment Scale) scoring 2-3 on the DIS.

#### **85.1.4 Impairment: Ataxia**

The Athlete has involvement in proximal and distal joints, as observed in finger nose and finger chase assessments, which create incoordination that affects all aspects of throw (Ataxia impacts on the preparation, during and follow through) scoring 2-3 on the SARA scale in functional tests.

## 85.2 **BC2 In summary:**

85.2.1 Neurological Impairment affecting all four limbs (Cerebral Palsy/Stroke/Acquired Brain Injury)

85.2.2 Spasticity ASAS Grade 2-3 with or without Dyskinesia (Athetosis/Dystonia)

85.2.3 OR an athlete with Dyskinesia (Athetosis) DIS score 2-3 or Ataxia SARA scores 2-3 mostly 3's.

85.2.4 Moderate impairment of function and may have some limitation in active functional range of movement due to weakness or spasticity or lack of control affecting the upper limbs/trunk.

85.2.5 Athletes may use a manual or powered chair for everyday mobility.

85.2.6 Athletes may walk short to moderate distances with/without a walking aid.

## 85.3 **BC 2 Thrower: Spastic Hypertonic Quadriplegia Upper**

### **Extremities: Shoulder, Elbow and Hand**

85.3.1 The Shoulder flexors/extensors; Elbow flexor/extensor; wrist and finger flexors/extensors, will demonstrate spasticity ASAS Grade 2 or above) in the muscle groups impacting on the throw.

85.3.2 An Athlete presents with ASAS Grade 2 in the biceps/triceps the catch occurs in the second half of the available range. The impact of this level of spasticity must be evident on the over arm throw during the release and impact on the follow through.

85.3.3 During the Sport Class Assessment when assessing the underarm or pendulum throw, there must be a minimum of ASAS Grade 2 spasticity observed in the shoulder extensors with a functional impact. For example, a catch limiting the functional range or which may result in retraction of the shoulder or loss of directional follow through.

85.3.4 Athletes will demonstrate some limitations in functional active range of movement of the upper limb during the throw.

85.3.5 This level of spasticity (Grade 2 ASAS) will be velocity- dependent and so greater reactions and limitation will be seen with greater speed of the throw, during power shots or during longer throws.

85.3.6 On the Sport Class Assessment, Athletes will demonstrate a degree of directional follow through and dissociation of the upper limb from the trunk when throwing.

85.4 **BC2 Hand function and grip (Spastic hypertonia)**

85.4.1 There will be some involvement of the hand and fingers, which may be due to tone, spasticity and occasionally deformities of the wrist and fingers but they may be able to use all of the hand to have a more controlled grasp of the ball.

85.4.2 There will be some impact on fine motor control and coordination within the hand and fingers, but manual dexterity will be better than in the BC1 Sport Class.

85.4.3 Athletes will have sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate the ball in their hand and to actively release during the throw.

85.5 **BC2 Trunk/Postural Control and Balance (Spastic hypertonia)**

85.5.1 Athletes will demonstrate some spasticity and/or weakness within the trunk. They may have one side affected more than the other within the trunk or trunk asymmetry.

85.5.2 Athletes will demonstrate some degree of dissociation of the pelvis/trunk and upper limb movement. Athletes are able to activate the postural trunk muscles and to elongate the trunk on reaching/functional activities (i.e. demonstrate some dynamic postural control).

85.5.3 On the Sport Class Assessment, Athletes will demonstrate postural control and sitting balance in preparation to throw and their ability to maintain some degree of postural control and balance on the release of the ball and after follow through.

85.5.4 Athletes will demonstrate the use of some compensatory movements or strategies to improve their postural control and stability but to a lesser degree than the BC1 Athlete (see definitions of compensatory movement & strategies in the Glossary).

85.5.5 Athletes able to use their trunk muscles to actively rotate the trunk or to assist in the throwing action without using any compensatory movements or strategies and without some degree of loss of control of their trunk/postural control after release of ball on follow through, will not be Eligible as a BC2 athlete.

85.6 **BC2 Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee, and ankle (Spastic hypertonia)**

85.6.1 The hip/knee and ankle, Athletes will demonstrate ASAS spasticity grade 2 or above in the muscle group(s) of the lower limbs.

85.6.2 Athletes will demonstrate some loss of functional, active range of movement in the lower limbs as a result of spasticity, weakness or deformity and reduced selective control. They will demonstrate some dissociation of the lower limbs from the pelvis and trunk.

85.6.3 Deformities may be but are not always present in the lower limbs and are most common in the hip and knee resulting in fixed flexion.

85.6.4 Athletes may demonstrate the ability to bear weight effectively through the lower limbs when transferring and may be able to walk, usually with assistance or a walking aid.

85.6.5 Athletes will have limited pelvic range of movement and control on which the trunk can be moved but they will demonstrate a reduced active dissociation of the pelvis from the lumbar spine.

85.7 **BC2 Thrower: Dyskinesia-Athetosis/Dystonia/Ataxia/Mixed picture.**

**Upper Extremities: Shoulder, Elbow and Hand**

85.7.1 Athletes will demonstrate a combination of involuntary movement and fluctuating tone in the upper limb. This is less severe than within the BC1 classification but results in reduced coordination and control of movement due to incoordination (SARA scores 2-3/DIS scores 2-3).

85.7.2 They may have a full range of active movement but will have less selective control with incoordination.

85.7.3 On the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale for Athetosis/Dystonia the BC2 Thrower will score 2-3 with mostly 3's.

85.7.4 On the SARA scale for Ataxia the BC2 Thrower will score 2-3 with mostly 3's.

85.7.5 The involuntary movement and incoordination will result in some

limitation of the follow through when throwing.

85.7.6 Athletes may demonstrate some directional follow-through but the clear impact of the Athetosis and incoordination must be evident during the throw and on release of the ball.

85.7.7 Athletes might be able to dissociate the upper limb from the trunk and maintain some postural control and stability on the release of the ball; they may demonstrate an increase of involuntary movements after they release the ball and at the end of the follow through.

85.7.8 Athletes will demonstrate the use of compensatory strategies to increase postural control and stability when preparing and throughout the throwing action (see definitions of compensatory strategies in the glossary).

#### 85.8 **BC2 Hand function and grip (Dyskinesia/Ataxia)**

85.8.1 There will be some involvement of the hand and fingers, which may be due to dystonia and mixed tone, and therefore athletes will grasp the ball in a variety of ways.

85.8.2 Athletes may use a cylindrical or spherical grasp and may be able to use the whole hand to maintain a grasp of the ball.

85.8.3 There will be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand, therefore, affecting manual dexterity, can make an attempt with in-hand manipulation of the ball but unable to complete the movement successfully.

85.8.4 Athletes may demonstrate delayed release of the ball as a result of fluctuating tone or weakness in the wrist and finger extensors.

#### 85.9 **BC2 Trunk/Postural Control and Balance(Dyskinesia/Ataxia)**

85.9.1 Athletes will demonstrate some involvement of the trunk with involuntary movement, which will mildly displace their center of gravity and result in a loss of postural control and coordination during functional tasks/throwing.

85.9.2 The involuntary movement of the trunk will be more evident during the Sport Class Assessment when throwing and commonly seen in conjunction with lower limb involuntary movement and increased reflex

reactions as detailed below.

85.9.3 Athletes will demonstrate some loss of postural control after the follow-through but can maintain some degree of postural control.

85.9.4 Athletes will demonstrate the use of some compensatory movements or strategies such as fixation with the head/shoulder girdle or non-throwing arm to improve their postural control and stability but to a lesser degree than the BC1 athlete as they have greater trunk function (see definitions of compensatory movement and strategies in the glossary).

85.9.5 Athletes able to use their trunk muscles to actively rotate the trunk or assist in the throwing action without using any compensatory movements or strategies and without some degree of loss of control of their trunk/postural control after follow-through, will not be Eligible as a BC2 athlete.

85.10 **BC2 Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee, and ankle  
(Dyskinesia/Ataxia)**

85.10.1 Athletes will demonstrate involuntary movement and incoordination in the lower limb, which results in reduced coordination and control of active movement. They may have a full range of active movement with less control.

85.10.2 This may also be associated with increased reflex activity in the lower limbs.

85.10.3 On the Sport Class Assessment, this reduced coordination, and involuntary movement may affect the ability of the Athlete to stabilise through their trunk and pelvis when throwing and a small loss of postural control is likely to be seen after the follow through.

85.10.4 As these athletes have some active control, and range of movement is not usually affected, these athletes may be able to walk with or without a walking aid.

85.10.5 Commonly the athlete will fix the trunk to create rigidity to allow them to walk and use the shoulder girdle and arm to improve their stability. They may also have scissor gaits.

85.10.6 Athletes will normally not be able to run.

## **86 BC 3 Sport Class**

Athletes who are diagnosed with a Neurological Impairment affecting the CNS and present with Coordination Impairments including: Spastic Hypertonic Quadriplegia or Dyskinesia (Athetosis/Dystonia) or who may have a mixed picture including those with Ataxia.

OR Athletes who are diagnosed with an Impairment of neuromusculoskeletal origin (NOT affecting the CNS) where the primary impairment is impaired muscle power.

### **86.1 BC3 Profile**

#### **86.1.1 Topography:**

Impairment(s) affecting all four limbs and trunk (Quadriplegia)

#### **86.1.2 Eligible Impairments:**

Neurological impairment resulting in Spastic Hypertonia, Dyskinesia: Athetosis/Dystonia and Ataxia.

#### **86.1.3 Eligible Impairments:**

Impaired muscle power, (Health Conditions which lead to impaired ROM and Limb deficiency, which also lead to Impaired Muscle Power, can be included).

86.1.4 Athletes are unable to consistently grasp or release the ball and are unable to propel the ball consistently into the field of play (up to or beyond the cross +) with purposeful direction.

### **86.2 BC3 In Summary**

86.2.1 Athletes who fit the physical profile of a BC1 or BC4 athlete (as detailed in each Sport Class profile) but who are unable to hold/throw the ball may be eligible as a BC3 Athlete provided they fulfil the Minimum impairment criteria below.

86.2.2 Athletes must demonstrate that they are unable to hold the ball and have no sustained grasp and/or functional release to throw the ball or are unable to propel the ball consistently with purposeful direction with their feet into the field play (up to the cross +, with a ball of medium firmness).

86.2.3 On the Sport Class Assessment, the Athletes are unable to consistently propel a boccia ball with purposeful direction into the field of play (up to the cross +).

86.2.4 BC 3 athletes will use an assistive device (ramp) to propel the ball into the field of play with the help of a Sports Assistant.

86.2.5 Athletes may use a variety of methods to release the ball on the ramp, which may include but is not limited to a head pointer, mouth device or their hand/finger to hold the ball in position on the ramp and release the ball without any other external assistance.

## **87 BC 4 Sport Class**

Athletes who are diagnosed with an Impairment of neuromusculoskeletal origin and do not present with hypertonia/spasticity/dyskinesia/ataxia as their primary impairment.

World Boccia acknowledges that Athletes with Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) may have Spinal Spasticity as part of their physical presentation, but this must not be the primary impairment, and Athletes must meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria as detailed below.

### **87.1 BC4 Profile**

The Athlete has muscle strength of Grade 3/5 or less in Shoulder Muscles and in Elbow Flexors/Extensors. Muscle strength as assessed in the sitting position (Adapted from Daniels and Worthingham muscle testing scale - See Article 83.4 for further details).

Any Muscle strength above a Grade 3 in any muscle mentioned above will be Not Eligible for BC4

#### **87.1.1 Topography:**

Impairment(s) affects all four limbs and trunk

#### **87.1.2 Eligible Impairments:**

Primarily Impaired Muscle Power.

87.1.3 The following medical diagnoses included but not limited to, resulting in functional limitations as per the IPC Eligible impairments detailed above and meet the criteria for the Sport Class profile will be eligible to play Boccia:

87.1.3.1 Myopathies with the overall strength of 3/5 or less in the shoulders and the upper limb muscle groups. This includes conditions such as Muscular Dystrophy.

87.1.3.2 Spinal cord lesion of upper cervical spine (C4-5), complete or incomplete tetraplegic, with the overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb muscle groups.

87.1.3.3 Motor neuron disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Spinal cord disease such as Transverse myelitis with the overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb muscle groups.

87.1.3.4 Spina bifida combined with upper extremity involvement with the overall strength of grade 3/5 or less in the upper limb muscle groups and trunk.

87.1.3.5 Peripheral Neuropathies such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease with the overall strength of grade 3/5 or less in the upper limb muscle groups and trunk.

87.1.3.6 Limb Deficiency of all 4 limbs with overall strength of Grade 3/5 or less in the Upper limb muscle groups and trunk.

87.1.3.7 Impaired Range of movement - Arthrogryposis with muscle strength of grade 3/5 or less in the upper limbs and lower limbs muscle groups throughout the available active range of limbs as well as weakness of the upper and lower trunk flexors/extensor/rotators and core muscles of 3/5 and less.

87.1.3.8 Other conditions and syndromes such as Multiple Sclerosis, TARS Syndrome (Thrombocytopenia with Absent Radius), Juvenile Arthritis, and Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which results in overall poor muscle strength of grade 3/5 and less in the Upper limb and trunk muscles.

## 87.2 **BC4 in summary**

87.2.1 Athletes will have severe locomotor dysfunction affecting all four

limbs and the trunk.

87.2.2 Athletes must have a lack of active trunk control, regaining midline position independently with difficulty when fully flexed and side flexed due to weakness in the trunk muscles which impacts on their dynamic postural control, and sitting balance will be affected.

87.2.3 Moderate impairment of function and may have some limitation in active functional range of movement due to impaired muscle power and lack of control affecting the upper limbs/trunk/lower limbs.

87.2.4 Impaired muscle power in the Upper Limb, Lower Limb and trunk. For the throwing athlete, overall muscle strength of grade 3/5 or less in the Upper limbs, Lower limbs, and trunk muscle groups. For the footplayer, overall muscle strength of grade 3/5 or less in the Lower limb especially in knee extensor and knee flexor muscles.

87.2.5 Athletes may use a manual or power wheelchair for everyday mobility and/or sport specific performance on court using the upper limbs or lower limbs to propel the wheelchair.

87.2.6 Athletes may walk with assistance or use a walking aid for short distances.

87.2.7 Athletes may be able to transfer independently using a variety of different methods and transfer aids.

### 87.3 **BC 4 Thrower: Upper Extremities**

87.3.1 Active range of movement in the Upper limb may be limited due to impaired muscle power and/or impaired range of movement/flexibility.

87.3.2 Athletes may be able to move the shoulder through a full range of motion against gravity however they are unable to do this against moderate manual resistance or with a boccia ball holding it at 90° for more than 3 sec. They have Grade 3 muscle strength or less according to Daniels and Worthingham Scale.

87.3.3 Athletes may be able to move the elbow through a full range of motion

against gravity, however, they are unable to do this against moderate manual resistance. They have Grade 3 muscle strength or less according to Daniels and Worthingham Scale.

87.3.4 Combined Shoulder and Elbow – Athletes are unable to independently maintain 90° to full shoulder range of flexion/elevation/abduction and actively extend the elbow against moderate manual resistance maintaining the Shoulder range of motion. They have Grade 3 muscle strength or less on Physical Assessment of combined movement at the shoulder & elbow according to Daniels and Worthingham Scale.

87.3.5 On the Sport Class Assessment when throwing using the over arm/dart throw, the elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) on the active extension of the elbow, when releasing the ball. It is, therefore, a gravity assisted release of the ball (this will fit with Grade 3 or less in the muscle groups impacting on the throw).

#### 87.4 **BC4 Wrist, Hand function and grip.**

87.4.1 Athletes may be able to demonstrate full ROM of the wrist, thumb, and fingers. However, there will be weakness of the grip. If the strength in the wrist and hand is greater than 3, other muscle groups that are more proximal need to be Grade 3 or less and have visible impact on the propulsion of the ball into the field of play.

87.4.2 Intrinsic hand and grip strength weakness will be evident on power grip and pinch grip testing. This will be demonstrated functionally by the weakness of functional grasp (flexors) and on the release (extensors).

87.4.3 There may be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand because of muscle weakness and so manual dexterity will be affected in some way. Athletes may have finger flexion deformities due to extensor weakness.

#### 87.5 **BC4 Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

87.5.1 Athletes will demonstrate trunk muscle weakness with overall trunk muscle strength of grade 3 or less into side flexion/rotation/flexion and extension. Athletes will have some limitations of their active trunk mobility because of this postural muscle weakness (abdominals and back extensors such as erector spinae) which affects dynamic postural control.

- 87.5.2 Athletes can demonstrate some degree of dissociation of the pelvis/lumbar spine/trunk and upper limb movement through co-activation of the postural muscles and some core stability.
- 87.5.3 Trunk muscle weakness will affect the Athlete's ability to maintain good sitting balance/posture and to control movement or regain midline position without the use of some compensatory strategies (see definition of compensatory movement and strategies in the glossary).
- 87.5.4 Athletes will demonstrate the use of some compensatory movements or strategies to improve their postural control and stability when preparing to throw, throughout the throwing action and when returning to an upright sitting position after a balance disturbance. This may include, for example, stabilising with the non-throwing arm, head or shoulder girdle fixation or use of straps and other aids.
- 87.5.5 Trunk muscle fatigue is often evident after prolonged functional activity and will result in the use of greater compensatory strategies to maintain posture, balance and throwing position.
- 87.5.6 Athletes may need to use pelvic, waist or other straps in combination to improve their posture and stability when throwing and to compensate for the active muscle weakness.
- 87.5.7 Athletes with SCI specifically Cervical spinal lesions will have no activation of their trunk muscles and therefore very limited postural control and balance. As a result, the use of compensation strategies will be more evident, and Athletes may use a corset/waist strap and/or belt to improve their stability.
- 87.5.8 It is common for Athletes to present with spinal deformities such as Kyphosis or Scoliosis resulting in trunk asymmetry and reduced control.

**\*\*NB With regards to the above criteria it is very important to consider the whole picture:**

- 87.5.9 The whole upper limb and its relationship with the trunk and lower limbs need to be looked at when assessing individual Athletes.
- 87.5.10 The overall muscle strength of the upper limb should be considered and if muscle strength testing reveals isolated muscle(s) that have

muscle strength of Grade 4/5; the impact of this increased strength on the functional throw must be considered, assessed, and explained.

87.5.11 If this additional muscle strength in the upper limb or strength in the trunk and Lower Limb is found to assist the throwing technique, then the Athlete will not be eligible as a BC4 Athlete.

## 87.6 **Technical Analysis of the BC4 throwing actions**

87.6.1 Gravity assisted throwing actions are commonly seen in BC4 Athletes such as the pendulum throw, chest or dart throw.

87.6.2 This is as a result of muscular weakness in the whole upper limb (Grade 3/5 or less) or as a result of limited distal activity of the upper limb (below the elbow) resulting in minimal hand function and poor grip where Athletes have reduced control of grasp and release of the ball when throwing (e.g.in Charcot-Marie Tooth (CMT) or Peripheral Nerve injury).

87.6.3 The Chest or dart throw the Athlete's elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) when actively extending the elbow to release the ball.

87.6.4 The ball is often propelled:

- a) From a bilateral grasp and push action from the chest
- b) By use of pendulum swing action or
- c) Another gravity assisted release action such as a dart/over arm or chest throw.

## 87.7 **BC4 - Use of an approved glove, Splint, and strapping**

87.7.1 Athletes with the above physical profile and overall upper limb muscle strength of Grade 3/5 or less but who are unable to hold the boccia ball in their hands with a sustained grasp due to significant distal muscle weakness, minimal or no hand activity, will be allowed to use a glove, splint, strapping or any other device that is approved by the Classifiers to play Boccia (e.g SCI tenodesis or CMT)

87.7.2 No device or strapping is permitted that assists the propulsion of the

ball. Any glove, strapping or device will be to aid the grasp of the ball which otherwise would be significantly affected by weakness or loss of grasp only.

87.7.3 The gloves, splints, strapping or any other device must be assessed and approved by the World Boccia Classification Panel to check its suitability and necessity at each competition (during equipment check or during Athlete Evaluation). This will be recorded on the World Boccia database.

87.7.4 Athletes who need a glove must Complete the Application form – BC4 Glove (Appendix 24) that must be approved and signed by an International classifier, assessing the athlete and glove at a competition. The athlete will keep a copy of the signed form for future reference and equipment checks. A list of Athletes allowed and approved by the Classifiers to use a glove, splint, strapping or another device will be published on the World Boccia website.

#### 87.8 **BC 4 Foot Player**

87.8.1 Athletes who fit the physical profile of a BC4 athlete as detailed above, however, they are unable to hold the ball and have no sustained grasp and/or functional release and are unable to consistently throw a boccia ball but have enough lower limb function to consistently propel the ball with their foot into the field of play with purposeful direction will be able to play as a BC 4 Foot player.

#### 87.9 **BC4 Lower limbs: Hip, Knee and Ankle**

87.9.1 The hip/knee and ankle, Athletes will demonstrate overall muscle strength of Grade 3/5 or less in all the main muscle groups of the lower limb (gluteal, hip flexors, quads, hamstrings, calf) combined with a deformity that results in Impaired Range of Movement (ROM) actively and passively of the knee joint.

87.9.2 Athletes may demonstrate some loss of functional active range of movement in all joints of the lower limb because of muscle weakness and/or deformity.

87.9.3 Athletes must have a maximal functional active and passiveROM of less than 50% of full ROM in the Knee Joint on their kicking leg and ROM must be accurately measured.

## Glossary of Terms

Terms used in the Classification Rules that begin with capital letters have the meanings set out below. Defined terms from the IPC Constitution are shown in underline. In the event of any inconsistency between a definition in underline below and a definition in the IPC Constitution, the version in the IPC Constitution will prevail.

**Accuracy** refers to how close a ball (result or action) is to the intended target.

**Adaptive Equipment** means any implement, apparatus, and/or technical aid adapted to the special needs of an Athlete to reduce the impact of their impairment(s) and, that is permitted by World Boccia's rules, except that refractive or optical correction (such as eyeglasses or corrective lenses) are not considered to be Adaptive Equipment. In Boccia this means Any Equipment, Assistive device, and/or adaptations used by the Athlete to stabilise the wheelchair, support or assist with posture, balance or positioning in the wheelchair or assisting grasp.

**Anonymised Data** means data rendered in such a way that makes it impossible to identify the individual to whom the data relates, whether by the Classification Organisation Processing the data or by any other party.

**Appeal** has the meaning given to that term in Article 45

**Appeal Body** means the body mediating appeals. The International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) as used by World Boccia in Appeal cases.

**Asymmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex (ATNR)** is a primitive reflex in which rotation of the head to one side, results in extension of the arm and leg on the face side and flexion of the limbs on the opposite side. In Boccia ATNR may interfere with midline control, coordination and result in inconsistent throwing mechanics when head movement triggers involuntary limb responses.

**Athlete** means any athlete who has participated in any way in the Classification process, who has taken any step to engage in that process (for example by providing Diagnostic Information to their National Federation for the purposes of undergoing Classification), and/or who has entered or participated in any Covered Competition.

**Athlete Support Person** means any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, and/or assisting an Athlete.

**BAC** means the Board of Appeal of Classification, defined below.

### 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 - 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.

**Best Practice Classification** has the meaning given to that term in Article 71

**Board of Appeal of Classification** means the body established by the IPC to hear and determine classification appeals.

**Certification** has the meaning given to it in Article 64.1, i.e., the process by which World Boccia assesses and confirms that a Classifier has met the Classifier competencies. The words 'Certify' and 'Certified' will be interpreted accordingly.

**Chief Classifier** means a Classifier appointed by World Boccia to direct, administer, co-ordinate, and implement Classification matters for a specific Classification opportunity according to the Classification Rules.

**Classification** means (i) the determination of which athletes are eligible to compete in Boccia; and (ii) the grouping of eligible athletes into Sport Classes based on the extent to which their impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the relevant sport, further to the process set out in Part IV of Chapter 2.

**Classification Data** means Personal Information, including Sensitive Personal Information, relating to an Athlete, Athlete Support Person, other Participant, Classification Personnel, and others involved in Boccia or Classification Processed in connection with Classification, or other purposes related to the Classification Rules, and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

**Classification Master List** has the meaning given to that term in Article 35.1

**Classification Organisation** means any organisation (including, for the avoidance of doubt, World Boccia and the IPC) that is responsible for any aspect of Classification and/or holds Classification Data pursuant to the Classification Rules and/or the IPC Classification Code and/or International Standards.

**Classification Panel** means a specified number of Classifiers, appointed by World Boccia to conduct Evaluation Sessions and determine an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status in accordance with the Classification Rules.

**Classification Personnel** means Persons acting with the authority of World Boccia in

relation to Classification, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

**Classification Personnel Code of Conduct** means the behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by World Boccia, as further detailed in Article 66

**Classification Research** means any systematic scientific evaluation, analysis, or investigation, which aims to enhance or understand a Para sport classification system or systems.

**Classification Rules** means these Classification rules, as may be amended from time to time.

**Classifier** means a person authorised as an official and certified by World Boccia to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel.

**Competition** means a series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body.

**Compliance** means the implementation of rules, regulations, policies, and processes that adhere to the text, spirit, and intent of the IPC Classification Code and International Standards.

### **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.

**Conflict of Interest** means a pre-existing personal or professional relationship that gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment. (See Rule 65)

**Coordination Impairment** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Covered Competition** has the meaning given to that term in Article 3.1

**Cross** means the central court marking 5 meters from the throwing line where the jack is placed for replacement or penalties.

**Data Protection Laws** means all data protection and privacy laws and regulations applicable to World Boccia.

**Diagnostic Information** means medical records and/or any other documentation that enables World Boccia to assess the existence or otherwise of an Underlying Health Condition or Eligible Impairment.

**Directional follow-through** means after the release of the ball, the throwing/kicking limb continues to move along the same path and in the same direction as the ball's intended trajectory

**Dissociation (of movement)** means 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.

**Dyskinesia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Effective Date** has the meaning given to that term in Article 1.2

**Eligible Impairment** means an impairment that is Permanent and that falls within one of the categories catered for by World Boccia, as set out in Appendix 1.

**Eligible Impairment Assessment** means stage 2 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1

**Evaluation Session** means stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Classification process, i.e., the

Eligible Impairment Assessment, MIC Assessment, and allocation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status, as further defined in Article 6.1

**First Appearance** has the meaning given to that term in Article 17.8.3.2

**Fixed Review Date** has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1.3

**Follow Through** means the movement of the limb after the release of the ball.

**Grading of Movement (Force modulation)** means the ability to appropriately scale and control the amount of force, speed and range of movement required to achieve a desired outcome. (In athletes with impairments such as dyskinesia or motor ataxia, athletes may demonstrate impaired grading of movement, resulting in inconsistent force production where some throws overshoot the target and others undershoot it, despite similar intent.

**Head of Classification** has the meaning given to it in Article 60.3.1 **Error! Reference source not found.**, i.e., a person appointed by World Boccia who is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination, and implementation of Classification matters for World Boccia.

**Health Condition** means a disease (acute or chronic), disorder, injury, or trauma.

**Hypertonia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Impaired Muscle Power** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Impairment** means a deficiency in or loss of body function or structure.

**In-Competition** means the period commencing from the day on which World Boccia offers Classification opportunities in relation to a Competition in which the Athlete is scheduled to compete through to the day such Competition ends.

**Intentional Misrepresentation** has the meaning given to that term in Article 50.1

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

**International Federation** means an international sport federation recognised by the IPC as the sole worldwide representative of a specific Para sport that is on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

**International Federation Protest** means a Protest made by World Boccia pursuant to Article 42

**International Standard** means a document adopted by the IPC to supplement the IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

**IPC** means the International Paralympic Committee \_

**IPC Classification Code** means the 2025 IPC Classification Code, as amended from time to time.

**IPC Constitution** means the Constitution of the IPC, as amended from time to time.

**IPC Member** means the members of the IPC pursuant to Part II of the Constitution.

**Medical Classifier** means a Classifier with specialist medical expertise and qualification.

**Medical Intervention** means any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other treatment, which affects the Athlete's performance.

**Medical Review** has the meaning given to that term in Article 36

**MIC Assessment** means stage 3 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1

**Minimum Impairment Criteria** means the minimum level of impairment resulting from an Eligible Impairment that is required in order for an Athlete to be eligible to participate in Boccia, as set out in the Classification Rules.

**Minor** means a natural Person who has not reached the age of eighteen years.

**Motor Ataxia** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**National Classifier** means a person authorised by a National Federation to carry out some or all aspects of national level classification. (This person has completed the World Boccia National Classification Course successfully)

**National Competition** means 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** means a national member of World Boccia.

**National Federation Protest** means a Protest made by a National Federation pursuant to Article 41

**National Representative** means any person who is an office-holder or member of staff of, or who otherwise represents and/or works on behalf of a National Federation.

**National Paralympic Committee (NPC)** means 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 sports for which the IPC is the IF.

**Next Available Opportunity** means the next available opportunity at which the Athlete can attend a new Evaluation Session, as determined by World Boccia.

**Non-directional follow-through** means after release of the ball, the throwing limb does not continue along the same path or in the same direction as the ball's trajectory.

**Non-Eligible Impairment** has the meaning given to that term in Article 9.3

**Observation Assessment** means the observation of an Athlete in Competition by a Classification Panel as part of the Sport Class Assessment so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination regarding the extent to which an Athlete's Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia.

**Operational Independence** (or **Operationally Independent**) means that (a) board members, staff members, commission members, consultants, and officials of World Boccia, as well as any Person involved in the investigation and pre-adjudication of the matter, cannot be appointed as members and/or clerks (to the extent that such clerk is involved in the deliberation process and/or drafting of any decision) of the relevant body, and (b) the relevant body must be in a position to conduct the hearing and decision-making process without interference from World Boccia or any third party. The objective is to ensure that members of the relevant body, or individuals otherwise involved in the decision of the relevant body, are not involved in the investigation of, or decisions to proceed with, the case.

**Out-of-Competition** means any period that is not In-Competition.

**Para athlete** means any athlete competing in a Para sport.

**Para sport** means any sport in which persons with a disability participate in accordance with classification rules that are compliant with the IPC Classification Code and the related International Standards.

**Paralympic Games** means the major international event owned and sanctioned by the IPC comprising summer and winter editions usually held in alternating biennial cycles where Para athletes compete in Para sports that are on the Paralympic Games Sport Programme.

**Paralympic Games Sport Programme** means the Para sports on the programme for the Paralympic Games.

**Paralympic Movement** has the meaning given to that term in Article 2.1 of the IPC Constitution: 'The Paralympic Movement comprises the IPC, the IPC Members, the Recognised International Federations, and any other Persons that participate in Para

sport or are involved in the promotion, organisation, and/or delivery of Para sport’.

**Participant** means:

- (i) Athletes;
- (ii) Athlete Support Personnel;
- (iii) National Representatives; and
- (iv) any other persons under the jurisdiction of World Boccia who participate in any aspect of Classification.

**Permanent** means an impairment that is unlikely to be resolved, meaning that the principal effects are lifelong.

**Person** means natural persons, corporate bodies, and unincorporated bodies (whether or not having separate legal personality), and also includes the legal personal representatives, successors, and permitted assigns of such person, as the context so requires. For the avoidance of doubt, the term Person does not include the IPC.

**Personal Information** means any information that relates to an identified or identifiable Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel, other Participant, Classification Personnel, or other individual involved in Boccia.

**Physical Impairment** means the Eligible Impairments listed in Appendix 1.

#### **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.

**Process(ing)** means the collection, recording, storage, use, or disclosure of Personal Information.

**Protest** has the meaning given to that term in Article 39.1

**Protest Panel** means a Classification Panel appointed by World Boccia to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest.

**Public Disclosure** means the dissemination or distribution of information to the general public at a minimum by placing the information on World Boccia’s website and leaving the information up for the longer of one month or the duration of any period of ineligibility.

**Purposeful Direction** means 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.

**Re-Certification** means the process by which World Boccia will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier competencies.

**Recognised International Federation (RIF)** has the meaning given to that term in Article 20.1 of the Constitution: 'The IPC recognises the importance of creating a Paralympic family network of recognised international federations that are not eligible to become IPC Members but contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement. Accordingly, the Governing Board may, in its absolute discretion, grant the status of 'Recognised International Federation' (RIF) to an international federation that is not part of the Paralympic Games Sport Programme and so is not eligible to become an IPC Member as an International Federation, but still contributes to the development of the Paralympic Movement. For the avoidance of doubt, RIFs are not IPC Members'.

**Research Purposes** means the general development and integrity of sports within the Paralympic Movement, including but not limited to Classification Research.

**Selective movement** means the ability to voluntarily activate a specific muscle or joint movement, independently of other body parts, allowing controlled, isolated movement, rather than movement in mass patterns. In athletes with impairments such as spasticity, or certain forms of dyskinesia, selective movement may be limited or absent, resulting in movements occurring in mass patterns with reduced dissociation between joints or muscle groups. This can influence directional follow-through, timing of release, consistency of throwing or kicking mechanics.

**Sensitive Personal Information** means Personal Information that relates to health or is otherwise deemed to be a sensitive or special category of Personal Information under applicable Data Protection Laws.

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

**Spasticity** has the meaning given to that term in Appendix 1.

**Sport Class** means a category for competition in which Athletes are categorised by reference to the extent to which their Eligible Impairment(s) impact(s) their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia, as set out in the Classification Rules.

**Sport Class Assessment** has the meaning given to that term in Article 6.1

**Sport Class Status** means a status applied to a Sport Class to indicate whether and when an Athlete may be required to undergo Classification in the future.

**Substantial Assistance** has the meaning given to it in Article 55.5.3.1

**Symmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex (STNR)** is a primitive reflex in which neck flexion facilitates upper-limb flexion and lower-limb extension, and neck extension facilitates upper-limb extension and lower limb flexion. In Boccia STNR may disrupt sitting balance, trunk stability and coordinated upper-limb movement, particularly during preparation and execution of the throw or kick.

**Team Event** means three (3) athletes from the BC1 & BC2 classes, competing together as a side.

**Technical Classifier** means a Classifier with technical/sport experience.

### **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.

#### **Under-arm Throw**

- A throwing technique in which the ball is released from below shoulder level, with the arm moving forward and upward in a pendular motion.

#### **Overhand throw**

- A throwing technique in which the ball is released from above the shoulder level, with the arm moving forward and downward.

**Timing of Release** refers to the moment at which the ball is released in relation to the overall throwing action.

(In athletes with impairments such as dyskinesia, motor ataxia or spasticity, timing of release may be inconsistent, resulting in the ball being released too early or too late relative to the intended phase of the throwing movement. The inconsistency is a direct consequence of impaired motor control rather than tactical or technical choice.)

**Trainee Classifier** means a person who is in the process of formal training to become an International Classifier.

**Trunk** is the anatomical term for the central part of the body including the thorax and abdomen.

**UHC Assessment** means stage 1 of the Classification process, i.e., the assessment described in Article 6.1

**UHC Assessor** means any person or body responsible for conducting UHC Assessments in accordance with Article 7.1

**Underlying Health Condition** means a verifiable Health Condition that may lead to an Eligible Impairment catered for by World Boccia.

**V-Line** means the V-shaped line across the court, which the jack must cross for a valid throw. The distance from the back of the throwing line to the front vertex(point) of the V-line is 1.5 meters

**Without Prejudice Agreement** means a written agreement between World Boccia and a Participant that allows the Participant to provide information to World Boccia in a defined time-limited setting with the understanding that, if an agreement for Substantial Assistance is not finalised, the information provided by the Participant in this particular setting may not be used by World Boccia against the Participant (or any other Participant) in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings, and the information provided by World Boccia in this particular setting may not be used by the Participant against World Boccia in any Intentional Misrepresentation proceedings. However, and for the avoidance of doubt, such an agreement will not preclude World Boccia or the Participant from using any information or evidence gathered from any source other than during the specific time-limited setting described in the agreement.

**World Championships** means the highest-level international Competition(s) or event(s) owned or sanctioned by World Boccia.

## Appendix 1 IPC and Boccia Eligible Impairments

### Athletes with Physical Impairment Eligible Impairment Types

#### **ELIGIBLE IMPAIRMENTS FOR BOCCIA**

##### **Physical Impairments**

All Physical Impairments must be consistent with an Underlying Health Condition that:

- (iii) originates from the central or peripheral nervous system; or
- (iv) is musculoskeletal.

The four Physical Impairments are:

#### **1. Impaired Muscle Power**

Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a reduced (or no) ability to contract their muscles to generate force that is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central or peripheral nervous system or the muscles (including the muscle origin and muscle insertion).

#### **2. Coordination Impairments**

Athletes with Coordination Impairment have one or more of the following three movement disorders that:

- (iii) Adversely affects the ability to voluntarily produce a full range of skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately; and
- (iv) is consistent with an Underlying Health Condition affecting the structure and function of the central nervous system:

##### **2.1 Hypertonia/Spasticity:**

An increase in muscle tension that may be velocity-dependent and/or a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch.

##### **2.2 Motor Ataxia:**

Limited precision in direction and velocity of voluntary movement.

##### **2.3 Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea):**

Involuntary movements that interfere with voluntary movements.

(Coordination is the ability to voluntarily produce skilled movement fluidly, rapidly, and accurately (Connick et al., 2015; Runciman & Derman, 2018) )

## Appendix 2: Underlying Health Condition Assessment

### Procedure Summary Stage 1 — Underlying Health Condition (UHC) Assessment

This procedure outlines the steps a medical doctor (UHC Assessor) should follow when reviewing an athlete's documentation to determine whether their Health Condition may lead to an **Eligible Impairment** for the sport of Boccia, in accordance with the **2025 IPC Classification Code and International Standards for Eligible Impairments**.

#### Confirm Submission and Documentation Requirements

- Ensure the athlete has submitted a **Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF)** through the required online platform.
- Confirm the MDF is **completed, signed by the athlete and a licensed physician**, and includes:
  - Clear diagnosis
  - Date of onset
  - Results of relevant investigations (e.g., imaging, lab results)
  - Relevant clinical notes or medical reports

● **Reject** the MDF if:

- It is not signed by a licensed medical doctor.
- Information is missing, unclear, or not legible.
- Athlete details do not match (e.g., wrong name or date of birth).

#### Confirm That the Diagnosis Is Recognised

- Check whether the stated health condition is a **recognized diagnosis** by international standards (e.g., WHO's ICD-11).
- If the diagnosis is vague, use clinical judgment and medical resources to clarify or **request additional documentation** from the athlete.

#### Determine Potential Impairments Caused by the Health Condition

- Consider the **typical impairments** that the stated Health Condition leads to.
- For Boccia, only the following **Eligible Impairments** apply:
  - **Coordination Impairments:** Including **Hypertonia, Ataxia, and Athetosis/Dyskinesia**

- **Impaired Muscle Power**

**Decide Whether the Health Condition Is Clearly Associated with an Eligible Impairment catered for in Boccia**

- **If YES:** Confirm that the health condition **leads to or is likely to lead to** one of the two eligible impairments in Boccia. Mark the athlete as **Eligible – Athlete will Proceed to Evaluation of Impairment (EI) (in-person)**.
- **If MAYBE/UNCLEAR:** Request **additional supporting information** to clarify the medical picture.
- **If NO:**
  - Provide a **clear explanation** why the health condition does not lead to an eligible impairment.
  - Mark as **Underlying Health Condition-Not Eligible (UHC-NE)**.
  - Inform the **Head of Classification**, who will refer the case to a **\*\*second UHC**

**Note to the UHC Assessor:**

- The UHC Assessor with the agreement of World Boccia, may seek the assistance of medical or clinical experts as it considers necessary for it to conduct the UHC Assessment.
- Anonymize the medical information before sharing/ discussing with and external expert.

## Appendix 3: Eligible Impairment Assessment

### Procedure Summary Stage 2 — Eligible Impairment Assessment

#### Purpose.

The purpose of Stage 2 is to determine whether the Athlete demonstrates one of the **Eligible Impairments recognised in World Boccia**, namely:

- **Coordination impairments** (hypertonia/spasticity, ataxia, dyskinesia), or
- **Impaired muscle power.**

No other impairments, including intellectual impairment, are catered for in World Boccia.

#### Format.

- Stage 2 is conducted **in person, at a competition**, and only if the Athlete has not received a designation of **UHC–Not Eligible** at Stage 1.
- Stage 2 is carried out **solely by a Medical Classifier** who is a member of the Classification Panel.
- The Classifier has access to the Athlete’s **Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF)** and all other relevant medical information uploaded in advance to the Athlete’s profile on the World Boccia platform.

#### Methods.

The Medical Classifier will:

1. **Verify neurological signs** using **deep tendon reflex testing**.
2. **Apply impairment-specific, validated tests** to confirm that an Eligible Impairment is present:
  - **Hypertonia / Spasticity:** Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS).
  - **Ataxia:** Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA).
  - **Dyskinesia / Athetosis:** Structured clinical observation and Athetosis testing during functional tasks (DIS).
  - **Impaired Muscle Power:** Manual muscle testing using the Daniels and Worthingham scale.

The Medical Classifier will record both the **raw scores** and the **interpretation** for each test used.

#### Decision rules.

- If the Athlete **demonstrates one of the two Eligible Impairments**, and findings are **consistent with the Stage-1 UHC**, the Athlete proceeds to **Stage 3 (Minimum Impairment Criteria assessment)**.

- If the findings are **not consistent** with the reported UHC, the evaluation is paused and designated **Classification Not Completed (CNC)** until clarification is provided.
- If no Eligible Impairment is identified, the Athlete is designated **Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment (Re-evaluation)** and must be assessed again by a different Medical Classifier as soon as possible.
- If a second independent Stage 2 assessment also does not confirm an Eligible Impairment, the Athlete receives the final designation **Not Eligible – Eligible Impairment**.

## Appendix 4: Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) Assessment

### Procedure Summary Stage 3: Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) Assessment

#### Purpose

Stage 3 confirms whether the athlete who has a **Recognised Eligible Impairment**, meets the **MIC** for Boccia. Conducted **in person** by a **Medical Classifier** using standardised tools.

- **Meets MIC** → proceed to **Stage 4: Sport Class Assessment**.
- **Does not meet MIC** → **Not Eligible (NE)** -Review

Guiding Principles (IPC 2025)

- Objective, evidence-based, reliable, reproducible testing.
- Use standardised clinical tools/scales; apply professional clinical judgement.
- Athlete safety, dignity, minimal burden.

Eligible Impairments Assessed in Boccia

- **Hypertonia (spasticity)**
- **Ataxia**
- **Athetosis (dyskinesia)**
- **Impaired Muscle Power**

Positioning & Safety

- Wheelchair athletes: remain **seated in wheelchair** unless specified.
- Foot players: use **plinth** where safe/appropriate.
- Transfers only if safe; provide support/straps/stabilisation as needed.

Assessment Procedures

#### 1. Hypertonia (Spasticity)

- **Tool:** Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS)
- **Position:** Seated in wheelchair, facing forward.
- **Muscle groups:**
  - Shoulder flexion/extension/adduction/abduction/internal rotation
  - Elbow flexion/extension
  - Forearm pronation/supination
  - Wrist flexion/extension
  - Finger flexion/extension
  - **Foot players (on plinth):** hip flexion /extension /adduction; knee flexion/extension; ankle plantar-/dorsiflexion
- **Record** per ASAS and compare to MIC thresholds.

- **Record any fluctuating tone. If present also perform the Athetosis Dyskinesia test battery**

## 2. Ataxia

- **Tool:** SARA (Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia)
- **Position:** Seated (wheelchair) or plinth for heel–shin as appropriate.
- **Items:** finger chase; finger-to-nose; fast alternating movements (10 cycles timed); Foot player: heel–shin slide (or seated adaptation).
- **Record** SARA scores and compare to MIC thresholds.

## 3. Athetosis (Dyskinesia)

- **Tool:** Structured clinical observation (DIS).
- **Observation sequence:**
  1. Observe as athlete **walks or wheels in**.
  2. **At rest** in supported sitting.
  3. **Unsupported sitting** (on plinth if safe).
  4. **Head:** turn side-to-side ×3.
  5. **Trunk:** flexion ×6.
  6. **Shoulder abduction** ×6.
  7. **Upper limb side-to-side:** move a ball side-to-side.
- **Scoring dimensions:**
  - **Amplitude:** deviation of abnormal movement from normal pattern.
  - **Duration:** proportion of time abnormal fluctuating/writhing movements are present.
- **Compare** findings to Boccia MIC criteria.

## 4. Impaired Muscle Power

- **Tool: Daniels & Worthingham Manual Muscle Testing (MMT 0–5)**
- **Principle:** Test **in the available range**, with appropriate stabilisation. Document any pain or limited Range of Movement.

### ***(A) Wheelchair athletes – Upper limb (seated in wheelchair)***

- **Shoulder:** flexion, extension, abduction, internal rotation, external rotation
- **Elbow:** flexion, extension
- **Forearm:** pronation, supination
- **Wrist:** flexion, extension
- **Fingers:** flexion, extension
- **Thumb:** opposition

### ***(B) Trunk strength (Impaired Muscle Power)***

- **General:** Test in **chair** where possible; stabilise pelvis; feet supported; straps as required.

- **Movements:**
  - **Trunk flexion** (sitting): observe/control against graded resistance. *Note:* trunk flexion in sitting is influenced by **hip flexors** → **also test hip flexors in sitting** to interpret results correctly.
  - **Trunk extension** (sitting): resist posterior-to-anterior; assess endurance/hold. *Note:* trunk extension influenced by **hip extensors** → if more specificity is needed, **test hip extensors on plinth (prone)**; if prone is not safe, test **over edge of plinth** with pelvis stabilised.
  - **Trunk rotation:** to **left** and **right** in sitting; apply graded resistance at shoulders/thorax.
  - **Side flexion (lateral flexion):** to **left** and **right** in sitting; resist at shoulder girdle.
- **Recording:** Use MMT descriptors (0–5) or adapted gravity-eliminated grades with notes on substitutions/assistive stabilisation. Document influence of hips where observed.

*(C) Lower limb for foot players tested in wheelchair (if safe)*

- **Hip flexion**
- **Knee extension**
- **Ankle dorsiflexion**

*(D) Foot players – on plinth (with safety support)*

- **Hip:** extension, abduction, adduction, internal rotation, external rotation
- **Knee:** flexion
- **Ankle:** plantarflexion
- **Decision point for Muscle Power:** Compare MMT grades against **World Boccia MIC thresholds** for impaired muscle power.

### **Decision-Making**

1. Score each impairment with its validated tool.
2. Record on **World Boccia Classification Form**.
3. Compare scores to **MIC criteria** in the World Boccia Classification Manual.
4. **Meets MIC in ≥1 eligible impairment** → **Stage 4**.
5. **Does not meet MIC beyond reasonable doubt** → **Not Eligible (NE)**.

### **Documentation & Confidentiality**

- Clear, complete records; rationale for decisions.
- Communicate outcomes respectfully and confidentially.
- Treat medical data as **sensitive personal data**; comply with applicable data protection rules.

## Appendix 5: Minimum Impairment Criteria

### Minimal Impairment Criteria for Spasticity / Hypertonia

#### Spasticity (Hypertonia):

1. Athletes have **neurological impairments affecting all four limbs and trunk** (upper motor neuron pattern).
2. Spasticity present as **Grade 2** on the Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) in at least 2 of the following joints of the throwing arm:
  - Shoulder
  - Elbow & Forearm (pronation/supination)
  - Wrist
3. **Involvement of the hand** must also be present.

Minimal impairment cannot be based on hand involvement alone.

#### Tests:

- Shoulder: flexion / extension/ adduction/ abduction
- Elbow: flexion / extension
- Forearm: pronation / supination
- Wrist: flexion / extension
- Hand: finger flexion/ extension

#### 4. For BC1 Footplayers:

Spasticity **Grade 2** on the ASAS in at least 2 of the 3 following joints:

- Hip
- Knee
- Ankle

#### Tests for BC1 Footplayer:

- Hip: flexion / extension
- Knee: flexion / extension
- Ankle: Plantarflexion / dorsiflexion

Special note:

5. If an athlete meets the spasticity criteria in only one of the above joints in the upper of lower limbs, there must be another coordination impairment present (e.g., dyskinesia) which meets the MIC for that impairment

## Minimal Impairment Criteria for Dyskinesia

### Athetosis / Dystonia (Dyskinesia):

1. Athletes have **neurological impairments affecting all four limbs and trunk** (upper motor neuron pattern).
2. Dyskinesia is present in **>10% but <50% of the duration of movement** (DIS score **2**) and the **amplitude** of involuntary movement/deviation scores **2–3** on the **Dyskinesia Impairment Scale (DIS)**.

#### Tests:

- Wheeling and walking in
- Sitting supported
- Sitting unsupported
- Neck rotation
- Trunk flexion & extension
- Shoulder abduction
- Upper limb side-to-side movement

## Minimal Impairment Criteria for Ataxia

### Ataxia:

1. Athletes have **neurological impairments affecting all four limbs and trunk** (upper motor neuron pattern).
2. Ataxia is present with scores of **2–3** on the **Scale for the Assessment and Rating of Ataxia (SARA)** in the following tests:

#### Tests:

- Finger chase
- Nose–finger test
- Alternating hand movements
  
- Footplayer: heel-shin slide

## Minimal Impairment Criteria (MIC) – Impaired Muscle Power

### 1. Definition

Athletes who are diagnosed with a neuro-muscular skeletal impairment where the primary impairment is **impaired muscle power affecting all four limbs and trunk** that results in a **permanent reduction of function**.

## 2. Trunk

Manual Muscle Test (**MMT**) score of **Grade 3 or less** in each of the following:

- Trunk flexors
- Trunk extensors
- Trunk lateral flexors
- Trunk rotators

## 3. Upper Limbs (Throwing & Non-Throwing Arms)

Athletes must demonstrate **MMT Grade 3 or less** in the muscle groups producing movement around all four joints:

- **Shoulder:** flexors, extensors, abductors, internal rotators, external rotators
- **Elbow:** flexors, extensors
- **Forearm:** pronators, supinators (documented for overall strength)
- **Wrist:** flexors, extensors

## 4. Hand

Finger flexors, finger extensors, and thumb opposition are **tested and documented** to describe the overall strength pattern.

Hand strength is **not required** to meet MIC, as some health conditions lead to **proximal weakness first**, with hand strength relatively preserved despite shoulder/elbow weakness.

**Examples of such conditions include:**

- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)
- Becker Muscular Dystrophy
- Congenital Myopathies
- Spinal Muscular Atrophy (proximal forms)

## 5. Tests

- **Trunk:** MMT of flexors, extensors, lateral flexors, rotators
- **Shoulder:** MMT of flexors, extensors, abductors, internal/external rotators
- **Elbow:** MMT of flexors, extensors
- **Forearm:** MMT of pronators, supinators
- **Wrist:** MMT of flexors, extensors
- **Hand (documentation only):** finger flexors/extensors, thumb opposition

## **Appendix 6: Assessment of Spasticity**

### **Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS)**

ASAS is a method developed to assess muscle spasticity. The ASAS determines the presence of spasticity by identifying a velocity-dependent increased response to rapid passive movement. An ordinal scale is used to quantify this method.

#### **How the ASAS is Used:**

1. The Athlete stays in the wheelchair that they use for competition
2. The Classifier passively moves the athlete's limb to determine the full range of movement.
3. The Classifier then passively moves the limb at a rapid speed to assess for a "catch", which is a sudden increase in resistance (to determine if a velocity dependent catch is present). This rapid movement to the catch is done 3 times.
4. The Classifier then determine if there is resistance after the catch by moving pass the catch in the fourth rapid movement to the end of range.
5. Determine which part of the range the catch is present.
6. The ASAS uses a scoring system (0-4) to quantify the severity of the catch and any subsequent resistance

#### **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.

## **Appendix 7: Assessment of Dyskinesia (Athetosis/Dystonia)**

### **Assessment of Dyskinesia in Boccia**

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

- a) Walking/Wheeling into the room
  - a. Observe the athlete walking/wheeling into the room
- b) Sitting at rest in a supported position
  - a. Observe the athlete in their wheelchair:
- c) 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)
- d) Turning head to left and to right (x5)
  - a. Ask the athlete to turn their head all the way to the left and then to the right
- e) 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)
- f) Bilateral Shoulder abduction focusing on the throwing arm (in a sitting position)
  - a. Ask the athlete to lift their arms up from their side and raise it above their head (x6)
- g) Reaching and moving the ball with the throwing arm 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, put the ball down and take their hand down to their lap before reaching to take the ball again and then move it back to the original position, taking their hand down to their lap again (x4)
- h) 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 on the other side of the chair)
  - c. If the athlete moves slow, ask them to do it faster and repeat the test.
- i) 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)

## **Amplitude Definition (DIS)**

**Amplitude:** The magnitude of involuntary deviation from the intended or typical movement path of a joint or limb. This should be assessed independently from how long the movement occurs.

### **Assessment Steps:**

1. Select the joint or limb to observe.
2. Observe the movement during the full task (rest or active movement).
3. Compare the movement to the normal movement /ideal joint range of motion (ROM):

Example: shoulder abduction 0°–180°

4. Note the largest deviation from the intended path during the observation period.

### **Quantitative Anchors for Scoring:**

#### **Score    Amplitude (Percentage of Joint ROM where Deviation is noticed)**

Notes for Raters

0	0%	No abnormal movement (No Athetosis / Dystonia present)
1	<10%	Minimal deviation due to Athetosis, occasional or barely noticeable
2	10–50%	Clear deviation, may affect part of movement
3	50–90%	Large deviation, interferes with most of movement
4	≥90%	Maximal deviation, almost entire ROM affected

#### Tips for Raters:

Focus on peak deviation, not single twitches.

Use a visual reference of the joint ROM if possible.

Video review can help ensure consistency.

## **Duration Definition (DIS)**

**Duration:** The proportion of the task or test period during which involuntary movements are observed, regardless of amplitude.

### **Assessment Steps:**

1. Observe the limb/joint during the entire task (e.g., 10-second reach or rest).

2. Estimate the percentage of total time the movement is visible.
3. Ignore amplitude for this scoring—only consider presence vs. absence.

### **Quantitative Anchors for Scoring:**

Score	Duration (% of Task Time Movement is Present)	Notes for Raters
0	0%	No Athetosis movements or Dystonia observed
1	1–10%	Movement seen briefly, occasional
2	10–50%	Movement present for part of the task
3	51–90%	Movement present most of the time
4	90–100%	Continuous or nearly continuous movement

### Tips for Raters:

Consider long pauses between movements as non-movement.

Focus on observable involuntary movement, not voluntary adjustments.

Time can be roughly estimated in seconds or by counting frames in video for consistency.

### **Clarifying Amplitude in Scoring Athetosis and Dystonia (DIS)**

Amplitude refers to the degree of deviation from the intended or typical movement path due to involuntary movements. In the context of scoring dystonia or athetosis, it is important to observe both how often this deviation occurs and how large the deviation is compared to a normal movement pattern.

### **To assess amplitude:**

- 1. Focus on the limb or joint being tested.**
- 2. Observe the smoothness and direction of the movement.**
- 3. Compare the actual movement to the typical/ideal movement path (e.g. shoulder abduction from 0° to 180°).**

### **Ask :**

1. Does the movement stay close to the intended path or does it sway, twist, or fluctuate away from it?
2. How large is that deviation in relation to the full range the joint is capable of?

3. How consistently does this deviation occur throughout the test?

**Score:**

0 – absent

1 – occasionally, <10% of available joint ROM

2 – frequently, 10–50% ROM

3 – mostly, 50–90% ROM

4 – always, ≥90% ROM

**Clarifying Duration in Scoring Athetosis and Dystonia (DIS)**

Duration refers to how long involuntary movements are present during a specific test or activity. It is scored based on the percentage of the total test time that the movement is observed, regardless of how large the movement is (which is assessed separately under amplitude).

**To assess duration:**

**1. Observe the limb or joint being assessed.**

**2. Focus on the total duration of the test (e.g., a 10-second task).**

**3. Estimate what percentage of that time the involuntary movement is visibly present (whether small or large).**

**Ask :**

1. Are the involuntary movements constant or do they come and go?

2. Are there long pauses between movements or are they sustained throughout?

3. Would I say the movement is present occasionally, frequently, mostly, or all the time?

## Appendix 8: Assessment of Ataxia

### Assessment of Ataxia in Boccia:

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

#### A) Finger chase / Toe chase (Footplayers)

Athletes sit 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 and touch the examiner's fingertip with his index finger in each position where the examiner stops, 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

#### B) 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

### **C) Fast alternating hand movements**

The 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

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

The 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

## References:

1. Schmitz-Hübsch T, Tezenas du Montcel S, Baliko L, Berciano J, Boesch Set al. Scale for the assessment and rating of ataxia: development of a new clinical scale. *Neurology* 2006;66:1717-1720.
2. Schmitz-Hübsch T, Fimmers R, Rakowicz M, Rola R, Zdzienicka E, 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.

## Appendix 9: Muscle Power Assessment

### Daniels and Worthingham's Muscle Grading Scale

A more Complete version of the Scale used to test Muscle Power in Boccia to help guide the thought process but not recording + or -.

Grade	Description
0	Complete lack of voluntary muscle contraction. <i>The examiner is unable to feel or see any muscle contraction</i>
1	Faint or "flicker" muscle contraction without any movement of the limb. <i>The examiner can see or palpate some contractile activity of the muscle/s or may be able to see or feel the tendon "pop up" or tense as the person tries to perform the contraction.</i>
2-	Gravity eliminated movement that is less than full range of motion.
2	Very weak muscle contraction with movement through complete range of motion in a position that eliminates or minimizes the force of gravity.
2+	In gravity minimized position, completes full available range and holds end position against mild resistance; or against gravity, completes up to half of the full range of motion.
3-	Against gravity, more than half but less than full range of motion.
<b>3</b>	Muscle can complete a full range of motion against only the resistance of gravity.
3+	Completes full range of motion against gravity without resistance. Able to hold end position against mild resistance.
<hr/>	
4	Able to complete the full range of motion against gravity and can tolerate strong resistance without breaking the test position. The Grade 4 muscle clearly breaks with maximal resistance.
5	Able to complete full range of motion and maintain end point range position against maximal resistance. The examiner cannot break the Athlete's hold position.

#### References

Brown M, Hislop H, Avers D. Daniels and Worthingham's muscle Testing-E-Book: Techniques of manual examination and performance testing. Elsevier Health Sciences; 2013 Jan 25.

## Appendix 10: Guidelines for Sport Class Assessment

### Guidelines to the Sport Class Assessment (Technical Classifier):

#### **What to observe and recognise during the Sport Class Assessment?**

- Muscle tone and abnormal movements: Hypertonia (Spasticity) / Dyskinesia / Motor Ataxia (BC1, BC2 & BC3)
- Strength (Upper limb & Trunk) (BC4 & BC3)
- Range of motion amplitude (During preparation & Follow-through after release of the ball)
- Speed: speed to contract / relax the muscles
- Balance: (Static- and Dynamic sitting balance during the preparation, the release of the throw and after release) Recovery to the centre of gravity after the throw / quick adjustments: agonists-antagonists
- Postural Control: Patterns of movements and overflow of spasticity / contractions (symmetrical – asymmetrical), bone and muscle deformities. (Note the use of abnormal reflexes to initiate movements or to fixate)
- Execution of the action (compare to normal biomechanics)
- Motor Control: Dissociation between the trunk and limb and the ability to perform selective movement.
- Coordination: movement sequencing (motor control and postural control) and the ability to produce skilled movement rapidly and accurately.
- Grasp: (Pincer, Palmar, Tripod, cylindrical, spherical) & the ability to maneuver the ball in the hand (in-hand manipulation)

#### **Sport Class Assessment Tests**

The following tests are designed to evaluate different aspects of the athlete's abilities:

##### **Test 1: In-Hand Manipulation**

- **Test:** Athlete manipulates a Boccia ball using only finger movements.
- **Assessment Focus:** Ability to control and dissociate the fingers from the throwing hand, which directly correlates with the ability to release the ball during throws and the ability to adjust the ball in the hand and to allow the fingers to influence the direction of the ball.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

##### **Test 2: Grasping / reaching for a Boccia ball in Various Positions**

- **Test:** Athlete picks up or grasp a Boccia ball placed in various positions (floor, behind head, back).

- **Assessment Focus:** Joint mobility, particularly in the trunk, shoulder, elbow, wrist, and fingers. Special focus on shoulder rotation and flexion; dissociation between the arm movements and trunk; trunk rotation & postural control. Note the use of abnormal reflexes (STNR /ATNR) and other compensatory strategies.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

### **Test 3: Ball Tossing and Catching**

- **Test:** Athlete holds the ball in palm of hand with forearm in supination, throws a ball 10 -15cm into the air and catches it again or transfers it from one hand to the other.
- **Assessment Focus:** Eye-hand coordination and the athlete's ability to organize, adjust and structure their movement. (grasp & release patterns and the influence of impairments on the fluency and speed of the activity)
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

### **Test 4: Ball Catching from Various Angles**

- **Test:** Athlete catches a ball thrown from different angles/positions (starting with both hands, progressively one hand).
- **Assessment Focus:** Coordination, muscular action organization, and reaction speed. Ability to grasp. Influence of the athlete's impairment.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

### **Test 5: Functional Grasp Strength Assessment / Ability to grasp**

- **Test:** Athlete holds a ball tightly while the classifier attempts to take it from their hand.
- **Assessment Focus:** Finger and hand strength for functional grasp.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4 (especially for functional grasp strength in throwing).

### **Test 6: Reaction Speed to Ball (Grasp)**

- **Test:** Athlete catches a ball while their forearm is on the armrest of their chair, palm facing down.
- **Assessment Focus:** Speed of reaction and hand coordination.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

### **Test 7: Release of the ball on instruction (clap)**

- **Test:** Athlete extends the arm in shoulder abduction, forearm pronation, holding the boccia ball. Classifier claps behind the athlete and the athlete releases the ball.
- **Assessment Focus:** Presence of Startle Reflex and the influence on the athlete. Speed of release reaction and hand coordination.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, BC3

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**Pre-Throw Warm-up Activity:** The athlete performs few throws at shorter distance, using the arm(s) they typically use and their usual throwing technique.

**Observational Data Collection:** The classifiers observe the athlete's posture, movement coordination, use of arm(s), and any potential difficulties they may face (e.g., spasticity, coordination issues). This helps guide the technical tests and identify areas requiring more specific focus.

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*Design a training field marked with different elements that determine the task / exercise that they have to perform based on what we need to observe*

### **Test 8: Distance & Grading - Throwing Power, Accuracy and Coordination**

- **Test:** Athlete throws balls at various distances to a target, progressively increasing the challenge.
- **Assessment Focus:** Ability to coordinate the throwing action, manage force regulation (grading), and accuracy. Align distances with court markings – v-line, cross, back of the court (3m, 5m, 7m etc.)
- **Relevant Categories:** All categories, with special emphasis on BC4 for functional strength.

### **Test 9: Power Smash - Maximum Strength and Throw Control**

- **Test:** Athlete throws a ball as hard as possible to try to knock other balls off the court.
- **Assessment Focus:** Functional strength, control over the throw, joint mobility, and possible spasticity impacts. Align distances with court markings – v-line, cross, back of the court (3m, 5m, 7m etc.)
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2 (for full assessment), BC3, BC4 (primarily for functional strength)

### **Test 10: Lobbing - Over-the-Barrier Throw**

- **Test:** Athlete throws a ball over a barrier placed at different distances.
- **Assessment Focus:** Strength, throw coordination, and release control. Align distances with court markings – v-line, cross, back of the court (3m, 5m, 7m etc.). Notice dissociation and trunk control.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1, BC2, (for coordination and postural control), BC4 (for strength assessment) & BC3.

### **Test 11: Directional Throwing**

- **Test:** Athlete throws balls at various target points arranged across the court.
- **Assessment Focus:** Regulation of throwing strength and direction control.
- **Relevant Categories:** All categories, with specific focus on BC4 for strength.

### **Test 12: Pendulum Throw Test for BC4 Athletes**

- **Test:** Blocking the pendulum movement (backwards swing) of the athlete's throwing arm to assess the functional strength of the shoulder flexors.
- **Assessment Focus:** Functional strength in the shoulder flexors, which are involved in the pendulum throw.
- **Relevant Categories:** BC4

### **Test 13: (Foot players Only) Ball Quadrant Toe Placement**

- **Test:** Use the penalty box (square 35cm x 35 cm) and place a Boccia Ball in each quadrant. The Athlete is asked to touch the ball, in each quadrant with their toes in a sequential manner in either direction (clockwise then anti-clockwise) as fast as they can for 10 seconds
- **Observations / Assessment Focus:** Accuracy of placement (correct quadrant vs errors). Speed and rhythm of movement; Hip and Knee Control; Ability to isolate ankle/foot movement; Presence of: Dysmetria, Tremor, Synergistic or mass patterns

### **Test 14: (Foot players Only ) Sustained Toe Control**

- **Test Instructions:** "Place your toe on the ball and hold it steady."
- Hold for **3–5 seconds**
- **Observations / Assessment Focus:** Ability to maintain contact; Stability of the foot on the ball. Presence of: Involuntary movement; Loss of contact with the ball; Overflow from proximal muscles (**This reflects actual ball control during play**)
- **Relevant Categories:** BC1 Foot players

### **Record the following on the form:**

- **Distance:** ability to reach v-line (3m), Cross (5m), Back of the court (7m-10m)
- Ability to control the force behind the ball (**Grading**)
- Ability to throw in different directions (Does the athlete turn the wheelchair, turn his trunk)
- **Follow-through:** Does the arm follow the direction of the ball or a different path? Is there a catch/ block which prevent the limb to follow the ball?
- **Lobbing:** Can the athlete throw the ball over an obstacle placed at the v-line (3m), cross (5m) & back of the court (7m)?

- **Power Smash:** Can the athlete generate a forceful release of the ball to move obstructions out of the way (v-line, cross, back of the court)?
- Do you observe the athletes **impairment** during the preparation, throw and after release?
- **Precision/Accuracy:** Ability to get close to a target at 3m, 5m, 7m
- What hand does the athlete use for play?
- What type of grasp does the athlete use?
- Does the athlete use an underhand- overhand or bilateral support/chest throw?
- Any other relevant observations

### Special Notes – BC4 Athletes

Please refer to the table below indicating the muscle groups contributing to the throwing action. These findings must be correlated with the MIC, ensuring that the muscle groups responsible for generating force for the throw do not exceed 3/5 muscle strength.

### Classifier Guide: Throw Types & Key Muscles

Throw Type	Typical Action	Key Muscles	Classifier Notes	References
<b>Pendulum Underarm</b>	Arm swings forward/backward from shoulder; release up to 90° shoulder flexion	Shoulder flexors/extensors, internal/external rotators, elbow extensors, wrist flexors/extensors	Power mainly from shoulder; weak shoulder → trunk may supplement	Reina et al., 2018; Lima et al., 2019
<b>Dart (Single-Arm)</b>	Elbow bent; quick elbow extension; shoulder stabilises	Elbow extensors/flexors, wrist flexors/extensors, forearm pronators/supinators	Chosen if shoulder is weak; triceps power critical	Gouveia et al., 2021
<b>Chest / Double-Hand Push</b>	Ball held at chest; arms extend together	Elbow extensors (triceps), shoulder horizontal flexors (pectoralis major, anterior deltoid), trunk flexors	Both shoulders weak; power primarily from triceps and trunk	Martins et al., 2022
<b>One-Handed Lap Push</b>	Similar to chest throw but single arm	Elbow extensors, wrist extensors, trunk flexors, shoulder protractors	Greater reliance on trunk if one arm stronger	Reina et al., 2018
<b>Side-Arm / Scoop Throw</b>	Arm abducted; ball released from side	Shoulder abductors, external rotators, elbow extensors, wrist ulnar deviators	Moderate shoulder control required; weak trunk → more shoulder abduction	Lima et al., 2019

## Notes:

- Actual recruitment varies; athletes use available strength.
- Stronger trunk → more trunk contribution in arm-based throws.
- Weak trunk → shoulder/elbow dominate; minimal trunk movement.

## Classifier Application

1. **Observe** athlete's chosen throwing technique.
  2. **Identify** prime muscle groups driving the throw (refer to table).
  3. Confirm each relevant muscle group demonstrates **MMT Grade 3 or less** to meet MIC.
  4. Document compensatory strategies and hand strength.
- 

## 5. Equipment Considerations

To ensure fairness and accuracy, the classification tests use **medium-firmness** Boccia balls that are neither too hard nor too soft. This standardization helps avoid variations in test results that might occur from using different ball types. The balls are selected from the competition's official set, ensuring consistency across classifications. Compare the results with the athlete's own preferred equipment (preferred firmness of boccia balls)

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## 6. Final Assessment

Once the athlete has completed all the tests, classifiers analyse the results based on the observations and the specific category (BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4). The final classification decision takes into account the athlete's functional capabilities and the classification guidelines, ensuring a standardized and accurate representation of the athlete's abilities.

Special note BC3: If an athlete cannot throw or kick a ball into the Field of play (up to the penalty box at 5m') independently, they will be considered as BC3 players making use of a ramp and ramp operator.

## Class Profile Summary and Sport Class Assessment Interpretation

Category	BC1	BC2	BC3	BC4	NE-MIC
<b>MIC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 limbs</li> <li>Spasticity Gr3-4 (ASAS)</li> <li>Athetosis Gr4 (DIS)</li> <li>Ataxia Gr3-4 (SARA)</li> <li>Severely limited follow through –(spasticity catch / block in inner range)</li> <li>↓ Functional ROM</li> <li>↓ Reaching &amp; dissociation of movement</li> <li>Reflex patterns: ATNR, STNR (used to move)</li> <li>Poor timing of release</li> <li>Poor trunk dissociation</li> <li>Involuntary movements &amp; loss of postural control</li> <li>No directional follow-through</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 limbs</li> <li>Spasticity Gr2-3</li> <li>Athetosis Gr2-3</li> <li>Ataxia Gr2-3</li> <li>Moderately limited follow through (spasticity catch / block in outer range)</li> <li>↓ Functional ROM</li> <li>Some U/L trunk dissociation</li> <li>May use reflex patterns: ATNR, STNR to fixate / stabilize</li> <li>Improved timing of release</li> <li>Reduced trunk dissociation</li> <li>Some directional Follow-through; Deviation only after release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 limbs</li> <li>Unable to propel ball into FOP (5m's)</li> <li>Unable to grasp</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 limbs</li> <li>Muscle strength 3/5 in trunk &amp; limb</li> <li>↓ Functional ROM</li> <li>Strength 3/5 or gravity assist release</li> <li>If shoulder strength are less than 3/5, athlete might use trunk to initiate the movement until momentum takes over.</li> <li>Unable to lift the boccia ball with a straight arm up to 90° Sh.. Flexion and keep it longer than 3 seconds.</li> <li>Struggles / Unable to throw the Boccia ball if Shoulder extension is blocked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All 4 limbs</li> <li>Muscle strength 4/5 trunk and limb</li> <li>ASAS Gr1</li> <li>Athetosis / Ataxia Gr1-2</li> <li>↓ Functional ROM</li> <li>↓ Limited active range</li> <li>Able to throw the Boccia ball if Shoulder extension is blocked</li> </ul>
<b>Upper limb</b>					
<b>Hand Function &amp; Grasp Pattern</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor grasp &amp; wrist position</li> <li>Palmar / Pincer</li> <li>No in-hand manipulation possible</li> <li>May Struggle to release (get the ball out of the hand)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor grasp</li> <li>Developing wrist position</li> <li>Tripod / spherical</li> <li>Attempts in-hand manipulation, unable to complete</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ Functional ROM</li> <li>Might need a glove to keep the ball in the hand</li> <li>Gravity assist release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to do in-hand manipulation</li> </ul>
<b>Trunk / Postural Control / Balance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor static control</li> <li>Loss of control on throwing</li> <li>↓ Dissociation pelvis &amp; trunk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair static control (loss of control after release of the ball – trunk collapse)</li> <li>Poor dynamic control</li> <li>Early compensatory strategies</li> <li>Some pelvis &amp; trunk dissociation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ trunk control</li> <li>Some pelvis &amp; trunk dissociation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer independently</li> <li>Good Static control</li> <li>Fair Dynamic control</li> <li>Less use of compensatory strategies</li> </ul>
<b>Lower Limbs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unable to throw to FOP with U/L</li> <li>No grasp / release</li> <li>Meet MIC in Lower Limbs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be able to walk</li> <li>↓ pelvis trunk dissociation</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May walk with aid</li> <li>Muscle strength Gr3/5</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May walk with aid</li> </ul>

## Appendix 11: Procedure to conduct the Observation Assessment

Observation Assessment in World Boccia

### 1. When Observation Assessment is Conducted

Observation Assessment (OA) is part of the **Sport Class Assessment** process under the IPC Classification Code 2025. It is conducted to verify how an athlete's impairment impacts performance of boccia-specific skills under competition conditions.

OA is conducted in the following situations:

1. **New Athletes (N Status):**
  - At the first competition where the athlete appears following initial Sport Class Assessment.
2. **Medical Review (R-MR):**
  - When a Medical Review has been requested due to changes in the athlete's health condition or impairment.
3. **Review – Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO):**
  - At the next competition in which the athlete competes.
4. **Review – Fixed Review Date (R-FRD):**
  - At the competition where the athlete's Review classification is scheduled.

#### Important:

- OA is **not conducted during finals or medal matches**, in order to protect the integrity of competition.
- OA may not be required for athletes whose functional profile is clearly established without observation.

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### 2. What Classifiers Observe

During OA, classifiers focus on the impact of impairment on **key boccia tasks**, not sport performance outcomes such as tactics or match success.

Observation must cover:

- **Ball Handling & Release:** Ability to grasp, hold, and release the ball (or alternative method, e.g. foot or pointer).
- **Delivery Mechanics:** Throwing or propelling technique, including range of motion, accuracy, and consistency.
- **Postural Control:** Trunk stability, balance in wheelchair, and compensatory strategies.
- **Assistive Devices:** Independence and precision in the use of ramps, pointers, or strapping, gloves and special adaptations (does this correspond with what was recorded during the Sport class Assessment?)

- **Endurance & Fatigue:** Ability to maintain functional skills across multiple ends of play.
  - **Impairments of the athlete:** Visibility/presence of impaired muscle power, spasticity, ataxia, dystonia, or athetosis affecting execution of boccia skills.
- 

### **3. Re-assessment of Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)**

If during Observation Assessment the Classification Panel determines that an athlete appears to demonstrate greater functional ability than was evident in their Sport Class Assessment, the athlete may be **required to return for further testing against Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC)**.

This ensures that the athlete continues to meet the eligibility requirements for Boccia as defined by the IPC Classification Code (2025). No Sport Class or Sport Class Status will be confirmed until the Panel is satisfied that MIC has been met.

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## Appendix 12: Medical Diagnosis Form

### Medical Diagnostic Form for Boccia Athletes

*To be eligible for Boccia, an athlete must have at least one medically and/or clinically diagnosed Underlying Health Condition, based on a review of the Diagnostic Information provided, that may result in a permanent Eligible Impairment, catered for in Boccia. The verification and measurement of the Eligible Impairment, conducted during the classification process, must correspond to the athlete's Underlying Health Condition.*

The athlete named below, is required to undergo Boccia Classification to be able to compete at International level. During the classification process, the Underlying Health Condition Assessor will examine this Form and the Classification Panel, will assess their (physical) Eligible Impairment and how it impacts their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia. To assist the classification assessment process, a confirmation of their medical diagnosis (Underlying Health Condition) is required.

**Athlete Information:** (to be completed by the athlete & NPC)

<b>Family Name:</b>			
<b>Given Name:</b>			
<b>Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		<b>Date of Birth:</b> (dd/mm/yyyy)	
<b>NPC:</b>			
I hereby consent to the information being released to World Boccia, for the purpose of classification.			
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
<b>Signature:</b>			
<b>Date:</b> (dd/mm/yyyy)			
<b>Medical Information:</b> - This section needs to be completed by a <b>Medical Doctor ONLY</b> , in <b>ENGLISH</b> .			
<b>Athlete's Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition):</b>			
<b>Which body part(s) are affected or have limitations?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Limb Right	<input type="checkbox"/> Upper Limb Left	<input type="checkbox"/> Trunk
	<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Limb Right	<input type="checkbox"/> Lower Limb Left	<input type="checkbox"/> Neck
	<input type="checkbox"/> Right hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Left hand	

<b>Does any of the following impairments, arise from the athlete's Health Condition?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Muscle Power	<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Ataxia		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyskinesia (athetosis, dystonia, chorea)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertonia / Spasticity		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Passive Range of Movement	<input type="checkbox"/> Limb Deficiency		
<b>Medical Condition is:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquired	Date of onset: (yyyy)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Stable	<input type="checkbox"/> Fluctuating	<input type="checkbox"/> Progressive

<b>Test results to support the above mentioned Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition), after examination: (e.g. ASAS, SARA, Daniels &amp; Worthingham etc.)</b>
<b>Additional Test results to support the Medical Diagnosis (Health Condition) e.g. MRI, CT scan, Muscle Biopsy, nerve conduction etc.</b>
<b>Regular Prescribed Medication List, taken by the athlete: (List dosage and reason for taking):</b>
<b>Presense of any additional medical conditions:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Impaired Respiratory
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment <input type="checkbox"/> Pain
<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Describe:

<b>I confirm that the above information is accurate and correct</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Medical Doctor's Name &amp; Family Name:</b>

<b>Medical Speciality:</b>	
<b>Registration Number:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

## Appendix 13: Athlete Classification Consent form

### CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

1. I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process detailed in the World Boccia Classification Rules and administered by the designated World Boccia Classification Panel. I understand that this process may require me to participate in sport-like exercises and activities which include me being observed in competition. I understand that there is a risk of injury in participating in exercises, activities and tests and I agree that the Classifiers cannot be held liable for any pain, injury or suffering I may experience in the course of the test. I confirm that I am healthy enough to participate in Athlete Evaluation, I understand I may be required to undergo Athlete Evaluation on more than one occasion.

2. I understand that I have to comply with the requests made by the Classification Panel. This includes providing sufficient documentation so as to allow a Classification Panel to determine whether I comply with the eligibility requirements for World Boccia. I understand that if I fail to comply, the Athlete Evaluation may be suspended without a Sport Class being allocated to me and therefore I will not be allowed to compete at World Boccia Competitions until a Sport Class is allocated to me.

3. I also understand that Athlete Evaluation requires me to give my best effort and cooperate with the classification panel. Failure to do so, any misrepresentation of my skills, abilities and/ or the degree of my Impairment during Athlete Evaluation may result in me facing disciplinary action by World Boccia and could also lead to my disqualification from World Boccia competitions. (refer to World Boccia Classification Rules 2.1 and 2.2)

4. If cooperation with the classification is impaired by pain, the classification will be discontinued and therefore I will be ineligible to compete at the competition.

5. I understand that Athlete Evaluation is a judgment process and will agree to abide by the judgment of the classification panel. If I do not agree with the results of the classification panel I agree to abide by the protest and appeals process as defined in the World Boccia Classification Rules.

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

7. I agree and consent to World Boccia collating and processing my personal data in whatever format it may choose, including my full name, country, Date of Birth, Sport Class and Sport Class Status and relevant medical information. I agree and consent to my Name, date of birth, Country, Sport Class and Sport Class Status being published on the World Boccia website.

Please tick as appropriate:

- I wish to assist World Boccia in developing the Classification system and therefore allow my data collected during Athlete Evaluation and video material recorded to be used for research and educational purposes by World Boccia. I understand that I may withdraw this consent in writing at any time.
- I agree to World Boccia providing details of my Athlete Evaluation to my National Federation if requested.

Name:		D.O.B:	
Have you ever applied for Classification Previously?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
If Yes, where?		Date:	Class:
Signature Athlete/Guardian/ responsible person:	of other		
Print Name :		Date:	

**The allocation of a Boccia Sport Class and Classification under World Boccia rules does not mean that the athlete's health is considered good enough to take part in sport. The athlete's own medical officer should be consulted if the health and condition are in doubt.**

## Appendix 14: National Representative Consent form

### **CONFIDENTIALITY AND ETHICAL COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING INTERPRETORS) ATTENDING AN EVALUATION SESSION**

**Competition / Event:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Athlete Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Representative Name:**

**Role of Representative:**  Team Manager  Coach  Interpreter   
 Medical  National Classifier

**National Federation:**

\_\_\_\_\_

---

#### **1. Purpose of this Agreement**

This agreement outlines the responsibilities and ethical obligations of athlete representatives (team manager, coach, or interpreter) accompanying an athlete during the classification process at a World Boccia Covered Event. The agreement ensures confidentiality, integrity, and adherence to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Code.

#### **2. Confidentiality**

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that the classification process is confidential and that:

- I will not record, photograph, or transmit any part of the classification assessment by any means, including audio, video, or written notes.
- I will not disclose any details regarding the classification process, discussions, or outcomes to unauthorized persons.

#### **3. Ethical Compliance**

I confirm that:

- I will provide truthful and accurate information during the classification process.
- I will not encourage, assist, or participate in any form of deception or misconduct that may lead to an inaccurate classification of the athlete.
- I will not interfere with the classification process or attempt to influence the classifiers' decisions in any way.
- I will uphold the principles of fair play and integrity in line with the IPC Code and World Boccia regulations.

#### **4. Identification and Authorization**

I acknowledge that:

- I must present a valid passport or official accreditation card to verify my identity.
- I have been appointed by the National Federation to act as the athlete's representative.
- My role as a representative does not grant me authority to dispute or alter classification decisions outside the designated protest or appeal processes.

#### **5. Agreement and Signature**

***By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the terms outlined in this agreement.***

**Representative Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Classifier Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*This agreement is to be submitted before the classification process begins. Failure to comply with these terms may result in the representative being removed from the classification session.*

## Appendix 15: UHC Assessor Confidentiality Agreement

# CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

### Underlying Health Condition Assessors World Boccia Classification Committee

This Confidentiality Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into on this 1 January 2025, by and between:

1. **World Boccia Classification Committee** ("WBCC"), the governing body overseeing the classification process in Boccia, and
2. **[Assessor's Full Name]** ("Assessor"), a trained medical doctor appointed to assess Underlying Health Conditions (UHC) during Stage 1 of the Classification Process.

### 1. Purpose

The Assessor has been appointed to review and evaluate medical documentation related to Underlying Health Conditions to determine if an athlete has an eligible impairment for Boccia. In performing this role, the Assessor will have access to sensitive medical and personal information that must be handled with strict confidentiality.

### 2. Confidential Information

For the purpose of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" includes, but is not limited to:

- Medical records, diagnostic reports, and any supporting medical evidence submitted by athletes.
- Details regarding an athlete's Underlying Health Condition and eligibility status.
- Personal information related to an athlete's health, functional abilities, and classification outcomes.
- Any discussions, reports, or findings related to an athlete's UHC assessment.

### 3. Obligations of the Assessor

The Assessor agrees to:

- a) Maintain strict confidentiality and not disclose any Confidential Information to unauthorized individuals, including athletes, coaches, national federations, or third parties.
- b) Use Confidential Information solely for the purpose of assessing Underlying Health Conditions within the World Boccia Classification process.
- c) Store and handle all documentation securely, ensuring that unauthorized persons cannot access it.

- d) Return, delete, or securely dispose of any confidential records in accordance with World Boccia’s data protection policies once the assessment process is completed.
- e) Refrain from discussing any specific cases outside of official WBCC communications and processes.
- f) Report any suspected breaches of confidentiality immediately to the Chair of the WBCC.

#### **4. Exceptions**

Confidential Information may only be disclosed if required by law, with prior written consent from the World Boccia Classification Committee, or as part of an official World Boccia appeals or review process where disclosure is strictly necessary.

#### **5. Term**

This Agreement remains in effect for the duration of the Assessor’s appointment and continues beyond termination of their role regarding any Confidential Information received during their appointment.

#### **6. Consequences of Breach**

Any unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information may result in:

- Immediate termination of the Assessor’s role within WBCC.
- Legal action in accordance with World Boccia’s disciplinary policies and applicable privacy laws.
- Professional reporting to the Assessor’s relevant medical licensing authority.

#### **7. Acknowledgment and Signature**

By signing below, the Assessor acknowledges that they have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the terms of this Confidentiality Agreement.

**Assessor’s Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**World Boccia Representative Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 16: Classifier Code of Ethics Acknowledgment form

### Code of Ethics Acknowledgment Form for Classifiers

#### **Purpose:**

This document serves as an acknowledgment and commitment by the undersigned classifier to adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards, in alignment with the principles of the IPC Code of Ethics, the World Boccia Code of Ethics, and any specific ethical requirements for classifiers in para sport.

#### **Instructions:**

Please read each section carefully, then sign and date at the bottom to confirm your commitment to these standards.

---

### **1. Commitment to Integrity and Neutrality**

I commit to:

- Acting as a neutral, objective evaluator throughout all stages of the classification process.
- Avoiding conflicts of interest, and disclosing any potential conflicts promptly.
- Not accepting or offering any form of remuneration or gifts that could influence my professional judgment.

### **2. Respect and Fair Play**

I agree to:

- Treat all athletes, colleagues, and athlete support personnel with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Promote a safe, inclusive environment that rejects any form of discrimination or harassment, whether physical, emotional, or verbal.
- Conduct myself with professionalism, avoiding any aggressive behaviour or language.

### **3. Safeguarding and Athlete Welfare**

I pledge to:

- Act in the best interest of all athletes, particularly young people and vulnerable adults, ensuring their health, well-being, and protection from harm.
- Report any safeguarding concerns or suspicions to the appropriate authority.
- Uphold the highest standards of hygiene and safety during the classification process.

### **4. Confidentiality and Data Protection**

I understand and commit to:

- Maintaining confidentiality of all athlete information and complying with all applicable data protection standards, including the IPC's and World Boccia's data protection policies.
- Handling all classification data with discretion, ensuring it is used solely for its intended purpose.

### **5. Compliance with Ethical Codes and Regulations**

I will:

- Abide by the IPC Integrity Code, the World Code of Ethics, and any additional ethical or integrity codes specific to my role as a classifier.
- Refrain from any behaviour that could bring the classification process, IPC, World, or the sport into disrepute.
- Commit to ongoing learning and compliance with updates to ethical codes or classification standards as they arise.

### **Acknowledgment**

*I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I have read and understood the above ethical commitments. I agree to uphold these principles to the best of my ability in my role as a classifier and understand that failure to comply with these standards may result in disciplinary action.*

**Classifier's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 17: Classifier Conflict of Interest Declaration Form

### Conflict of Interest Declaration Form for Classification Personnel

**Purpose:** *This form complies with the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training and IPC guidelines on conflicts of interest. Classification Personnel must declare any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest to ensure objectivity and integrity within the classification process.*

---

#### **1. Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Declaration: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **2. Conflict of Interest Declaration**

*Please review the list below for common examples of conflicts. Then, select the appropriate declaration for your situation.*

##### Examples of Conflicts of Interest:

**Classification Personnel are considered to have a conflict of interest if they have (or have recently had) any of the following relationships or roles:**

##### **a. National Team Involvement**

Currently serve as a national team manager, coach, assistant coach, or Athlete Support Personnel for any Para sport.

Recently (within the last four years) retired from a role as a national team athlete, coach, or assistant coach in any Para sport.

##### **b. Personal or Professional Relationships**

Have a close personal or professional relationship with a national team athlete or team.

Hold any roles within a National Federation or NPC (National Paralympic Committee) that could influence classification decisions.

### c. Recent Involvement as an Athlete

Competed as an international Para athlete within the last four years in any Para sport.

### d. Athlete Support Personnel Roles

Currently or recently (within the last two years) involved in Athlete Support Personnel roles (excluding coaching) that directly impact national team athletes.

### Declaration Options

*Please check one of the following options and provide details if applicable:*

#### 1. No Conflict of Interest

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I have no actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest in fulfilling my duties as Classification Personnel.

I declare no conflict of interest.

#### 2. Actual or Perceived Conflict of Interest

I have a potential or actual conflict of interest that may impact my role. Details are provided below.

I declare a conflict of interest.

#### 3. Potential Conflict of Interest

I have a relationship or role that could create a perception of conflict. Details are provided below.

I declare a perceived conflict of interest.

**3. Conflict Details (If Applicable)**

If you declared an actual or perceived conflict of interest, please provide details below:

Type of Conflict (e.g., National Team Role, Athlete Support, Personal/Professional Relationship):

\_\_\_\_\_

Details (e.g., nature of role, relationship, specific involvement with national team):

\_\_\_\_\_

Timeline (e.g., active dates, date retired from role):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Acknowledgment of Responsibilities:**

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- *I understand and agree to the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training and the associated conflict of interest guidelines.*
- *I agree to immediately disclose any future conflicts of interest that may arise.*
- *I understand that my role as Classification Personnel may be adjusted, limited, or revoked should a conflict of interest be deemed to impact the integrity of my responsibilities.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions for Submission:**

Please submit this form or send questions about any of the items to the Classification Committee ([classification@worldboccia.com](mailto:classification@worldboccia.com)).

## Appendix 18: Progressive Discipline and Mentorship Policy

### Progressive Discipline and Mentorship Policy for World Boccia Classifiers

#### 1. Purpose

This appendix establishes a clear, fair, and consistent system of progressive discipline combined with proactive mentorship to support classifier development, ensure adherence to the World Boccia Code of Ethics, and uphold the integrity of the classification process.

It aligns with the values of respect, professionalism, accountability, and athlete-centred decision-making.

---

#### 2. Principles

- The aim is **correction and growth**, not punishment.
- Issues should be addressed **as early as possible** through supported learning.
- Classifiers must understand expectations through **transparent communication**, including being shown this document during pre-competition meetings.
- Progressive discipline is applied **only when needed**, and in **proportion to the behaviour**.
- The system distinguishes between **peer mentoring, performance discussions**, and **formal disciplinary steps**.

---

#### 3. Use of the Mentorship & Performance Development Form

The Mentorship & Performance Development Form is the **central record** for all mentoring and disciplinary interactions. **All stages are recorded on the form** and submitted to the Classification Committee after discussion with the classifier.

##### 3.1 Mandatory Discussion Before Completion

The form must **never be completed or handed over without a discussion**. The Chief Classifier (or delegated mentor) must:

- engage in a direct, respectful discussion with the classifier;
- explain observations and concerns;
- allow the classifier to respond and reflect;
- agree on expectations and next steps.

The form documents this interaction.

### 3.2 Stage Identification on the Form

The form must include a clear section to indicate the purpose of the interaction:

- Stage 0 – Mentorship / Development (Non-disciplinary)
- Stage 1 – Verbal Warning (Documented)
- Stage 2 – Written Warning (Committee-led)
- Stage 3 – Suspension / Final Warning
- Stage 4 – Removal / Deregistration

This ensures transparency, consistency, and clarity for both the classifier and the Committee.

### 3.3 Recording of Stage 0

Stage 0 **is recorded on the form**. Recording Stage 0:

- supports skill development;
- creates a learning history;
- ensures early issues are addressed;
- protects both the classifier and World Boccia.

---

## **4. Overview of Progressive Discipline Stages**

### **Stage 0 – Peer Mentorship (Non-Disciplinary)**

- Used when no code of ethics breach has occurred.
- Classifier is new or still learning, or minor performance concerns arise.
- Mentoring discussion occurs, and the form may be used for guidance.
- Not considered disciplinary.

---

### **Stage 1 – Verbal Warning (Documented on Form)**

- Minor breaches or repeated minor issues (unprofessional behaviour, inattentiveness, minor communication issues).
- Discussion conducted using the form as the basis for feedback.
- Expectations and improvement timeline clearly communicated.
- Chief Classifier monitors performance at future events.

---

### **Stage 2 – Written Warning (Classification Committee Review)**

- Triggered if behaviour continues after Stage 1 or a more serious breach occurs.
- Classification Committee issues a formal written warning.
- Probation may be applied.
- Mentorship form completed at next event.

---

### Stage 3 – Final Warning / Suspension

- Triggered by continued breaches, serious ethical issues, or non-compliance.
- Temporary suspension from classification duties.
- Mandatory retraining or reassessment required.
- Classifier monitored closely upon return.

---

### Stage 4 – Removal from Classification Panel

- Triggered by repeated violations or serious misconduct.
- Classifier removed from the International Classifier Panel.
- IPC/World Boccia notified as appropriate.

---

## 5. Flowchart: Progressive Discipline & Mentorship System

1. **Observation or Concern Identified**
  - Chief Classifier observes skills, behaviour, or conduct.
2. **Is this a skill-based or learning issue?**
  - **Yes** → Stage 0 Mentorship → Discussion held → Form completed → Submitted → Monitor at next event.
  - **No / Ethical or behavioural concern** → Proceed to Stage 1 or higher.
3. **Stage 1 – Verbal Warning**
  - Discussion held.
  - Form completed indicating Stage 1.
  - Improvement required.
  - Submitted to Committee.
4. **If behaviour improves** → Return to normal duties.
5. **If behaviour does not improve or issue repeats** → Stage 2.
6. **Stage 2 – Written Warning / Probation**
  - Committee-led process.
  - Formal letter issued.
  - Possible role restrictions.
7. **If no improvement or serious breach** → Stage 3 Suspension.
8. **Extreme or safeguarding breach** → Stage 4 Immediate Removal.

---

## 6. Pre-Competition Briefings

- Chief Classifier introduces this appendix and Mentorship Form.
- Explains expectations and standards.
- Clarifies that mentorship is supportive, with formal disciplinary steps only if necessary.
- Notes any classifier under monitoring due to previous concerns.

## 7. Record Keeping

- Stage 1–4 documents are confidential and stored by World Boccia.
- Classifiers may request access to their records.
- Positive performance records may also be maintained for recognition.

---

## 8. Responsibilities of the Chief Classifier

- Actively mentor and guide classifiers using the form.
- Document all concerns, discussions, and agreed-upon improvement plans.
- Communicate clearly, professionally, and respectfully.
- Escalate issues according to the progressive discipline framework.
- Ensure the integrity and consistency of the classification process.

---

## 9. When Mentorship Is Required for Newly Qualified Classifiers

Mentorship is a mandatory support mechanism for newly qualified classifiers to ensure consistency, professionalism, and confidence in applying classification standards.

Mentorship **will be required** for:

- **Newly Qualified International Level 1 Classifiers during their first two (2) international competitions.**

Mentorship at this stage is **developmental and supportive**, not disciplinary, unless a concern is documented.

---

## 10. Distinction Between Mentorship and Progressive Discipline

It is essential to clearly distinguish between **mentorship** and **progressive discipline**:

Mentorship is used when:

- The classifier is learning or gaining experience.
- Minor errors occur without ethical intent.
- Guidance, clarification, or confidence-building is required.
- No breach of the Code of Ethics has occurred.

Progressive Discipline is used when:

- There is a breach of the Code of Ethics.
- Behaviour is unprofessional, repeated, or deliberate.
- Previous mentorship has not resulted in improvement.
- Athlete welfare, integrity, or confidentiality is compromised.

The same Mentorship Form may be used in both contexts; however, it becomes **Stage 1 of Progressive Discipline only when a concern or warning is clearly documented.**

---

### **11. Examples of Issues Managed Through Mentorship**

The following are typically addressed through **mentorship and guidance**, particularly for newly qualified classifiers:

- Minor time management difficulties.
- Minor testing difficulties or uncertainty in applying testing protocols.
- Inaccurate testing methods or interpretation thereof, or inability to perform parts of the classification assessment.
- Inexperience with documentation requirements.
- Nervous communication or lack of confidence.

These issues are corrected through discussion, observation, supervision, and support.

---

### **12. Examples of Issues That May Trigger Progressive Discipline**

Depending on severity, intent, and repetition, the following may trigger Stage 1 or higher:

- Breach of any part of the Code of Ethics.
- Repeated lateness or failure to attend duties.
- Over-familiarity with National Federations, athletes, or support staff.
- **Accepting gifts, benefits, or favours** during the classification process.
- Offering information or engaging in discussions with team managers or athletes **outside the classification evaluation process.**
- Inaccurate or unsafe testing.
- Failure to follow classification rules or procedures.
- Incomplete or inaccurate documentation.
- Conducting personal work during competition hours.
- Leaving the venue without authorisation.
- Alcohol or substance use while on duty.
- Making or receiving private calls during classification sessions.
- Disrespectful behaviour toward colleagues.
- Failure to fulfil assigned duties.
- Breach of confidentiality or leaking information.

---

### **13. Code of Ethics Acknowledgment Requirement**

All classifiers must **annually complete and sign** a Code of Ethics Acknowledgment Form confirming their commitment to:

- Integrity, neutrality, and impartiality.

- Respect, fairness, and professional conduct.
- Safeguarding and athlete welfare.
- Confidentiality and data protection.
- Compliance with IPC and World Boccia ethical codes.

Failure to adhere to this commitment may result in progressive disciplinary action as outlined in this appendix.

Failure to adhere to this commitment may result in progressive disciplinary action as outlined in this appendix.

---

#### **14. Serious Misconduct and Immediate Removal (Stage 4)**

Certain behaviours constitute **gross misconduct** and result in **immediate removal** from the World Boccia International Classifier List, without progression through earlier stages:

These include, but are not limited to:

- Any form of **sexual relationship, sexual contact, or sexualised behaviour** with an athlete or vulnerable person.
- Sexual harassment, assault, or exploitation.
- Physical, emotional, or verbal abuse.
- Serious safeguarding breaches.
- Theft, fraud, or dishonesty.
- Attending duties while intoxicated.
- Deliberate falsification of classification outcomes.
- Repeated failure to attend assigned duties.

All safeguarding concerns are referred immediately to the Head of Classification and relevant authorities.

---

#### **15. Role-Related Consequences**

- A **Chief Classifier** receiving a Stage 2 Written Warning is **removed from the Chief Classifier list**.
- A **Level 2 Classifier** receiving a Stage 2 Written Warning is **demoted to Level 1**.
- Failure to improve classification skills may require the classifier to **repeat the International Classifier qualification process**, including:
  - participation as a trainee at **two international competitions under the supervision of a classification panel**, at the classifier's **own cost**;
  - reassessment of competencies.

---

#### **16. Complaints and Investigations**

- Reports or complaints of misconduct may be submitted by **peers, Chief Classifiers, or the Classification Committee.**
- Classifiers may also raise concerns with the Chief Classifier at competition, as the Chief Classifier is not always part of the panel.
- The **Head of Classification**, together with the Classification Committee, leads all investigations and determines the appropriate mentorship or disciplinary stage.
- Fair process, confidentiality, and clear documentation are mandatory.

---

## 17. Conclusion

This appendix establishes a comprehensive, mentorship-first but accountability-driven system that:

- supports learning;
- protects athletes;
- ensures ethical conduct; and safeguards the integrity of World Boccia classification.

## Appendix 19: Mentorship and Performance Review Form

*This form must be completed following a discussion and submitted in accordance with Appendix 19: Progressive Discipline and Mentorship Policy.*

### World Boccia – Classifier Mentorship & Performance Review Form

---

#### Classifier Details

**Classifier Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classifier Level:**  Level 1  Level 2  Chief Classifier

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Competition:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Classifier / Mentor:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

#### SECTION A: STAGE OF REVIEW (Mandatory)

- Stage 0 – Mentorship / Development (Non-disciplinary)
- Stage 1 – Verbal Warning (Documented)
- Stage 2 – Written Warning
- Stage 3 – Suspension / Final Warning
- Stage 4 – Removal / Deregistration

---

#### SECTION B: NATURE OF REVIEW

- Performance / Classification Skills
- Conduct / Professional Behaviour
- Code of Ethics
- Safeguarding

---

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE – SERIOUS MISCONDUCT OVERRIDE

*Certain behaviours constitute serious misconduct under Appendix XX: Progressive Discipline and Mentorship Policy and must not be managed through scoring alone.*

**If any serious misconduct is observed or alleged, the Chief Classifier / Mentor must:**

- 1. Select the appropriate Stage in Section A (Stage 3 or Stage 4);**
- 2. Complete Section B (Nature of Review);**
- 3. Bypass numerical scoring where appropriate; and**
- 4. Immediately notify the Head of Classification in accordance with Appendix 19.**

**Serious misconduct identified – immediate escalation required**

**(If ticked, complete Section D and escalate. Rubric scores are optional and do not limit disciplinary action.)**

## SECTION C: PERFORMANCE & CONDUCT RUBRIC

### Rating Scale

1 = Needs Significant Improvement | 2 = Needs Improvement | 3 = Meets Standard | 4 = Above Standard | 5 = Excellent

#### 1. Code of Conduct

**Criteria:** Professional behaviour, impartiality, ethical conduct, adherence to the World Boccia Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics.

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Maintains professional boundaries with athletes, staff, and teams		
Acts impartially without favouritism		
Demonstrates integrity and confidentiality		
Represents World Boccia appropriately at all times		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

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#### 2. Time Management

**Criteria:** Punctuality, preparedness, ability to work within classification schedules.

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Arrives on time for all sessions		
Prepared with documentation and equipment		
Keeps assessment within allocated time		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

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#### 3. Clinical Skills (Testing)

**Criteria:** Understanding of testing protocols, ability to perform accurate and objective assessments, biomechanical reasoning.

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments

Follows testing protocols correctly		
Demonstrates accurate measurement techniques		
Shows good clinical reasoning and classification rationale		
Identifies abnormal movement patterns appropriately		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

---



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4. Communication

**A. Communication with Athletes**

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Communicates clearly and respectfully		
Explains procedures appropriately		
Maintains a calm, professional approach		

**B. Communication with Chief Classifier**

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Reports findings clearly and accurately		
Seeks guidance when needed		
Responds positively to feedback		

**C. Communication with Panel Members**

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Works collaboratively with panel		
Shares observations clearly		
Respects differing viewpoints		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

---



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5. Completion of Forms

**Criteria:** Accuracy, thoroughness, correctness, and quality of documentation.

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Forms completed fully and accurately		
Information recorded clearly and legibly		
Correct sport class and status recommendations documented		
Supporting evidence included appropriately		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

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6. Teamwork

**Criteria:** Working effectively with classification panels, assisting where needed, supporting World Boccia processes.

Indicator	Score (1–5)	Comments
Demonstrates respect for team members		
Contributes fairly to panel responsibilities		
Shows flexibility and willingness to learn		

**General Comments / Recommendations:**

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Overall Feedback

**Strengths:**

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**Areas for Improvement:**

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**Recommended Actions for Development:**

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**SECTION D: MENTORSHIP / DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

*(Mandatory for Stage 0 and Stage 1)*

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**SECTION E: AGREED ACTION PLAN**

**Actions Required:**

---

**Support / Mentorship to be Provided:**

---

**Review Point / Next Competition:**

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**SECTION F: OUTCOME**

- Improvement noted
  - Further mentorship required
  - Escalation to next stage recommended
- 

**Classifier Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Classifier / Mentor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

The completed form will be given to the Level 1 Classifier and a copy will be shared with the Classification Committee / Head of Classification by email at [classification@worldboccia.com](mailto:classification@worldboccia.com)

# World Boccia Medical Review Request Form

## 1. Purpose of a Medical Review Request

A **Medical Review** is a request for reassessment of an Athlete's Classification due to a **change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment**, such that the outcome of the Athlete's previous Classification may no longer be accurate. This could affect an Athlete's eligibility or Sport Class allocation, or may require reassessment of an Athlete previously determined to be **not eligible**.

For example, a Medical Review request may be appropriate where the athlete has a progressive Health Condition, medical intervention (e.g. surgery, medication, new device), a **new Underlying Health Condition**, or other medical procedures have significantly altered the Athlete's ability to perform sport-specific activities relevant to Boccia.

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## 2. Who Must Make a Medical Review Request

A Medical Review request **must** be submitted on behalf of the Athlete by the Athlete's **National Federation (NF)**. Medical Review requests cannot be submitted directly by the Athlete or other parties.

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## 3. When a Medical Review Must Be Requested

A Medical Review must be requested by the NF if there has been a change in the nature or degree of the Athlete's Eligible Impairment that may affect the validity of the Athlete's current Classification.

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## 4. Requirements for a Medical Review Request

A complete Medical Review request **must include**:

1. **Medical Review Request Form**, fully completed and submitted in English.
2. A **detailed explanation** of why the request is being made, including:
  - a. Description of how and to what extent the Athlete's Eligible Impairment has changed since the last Athlete Evaluation/Classification.
  - b. Explanation of **why** the change is believed to affect the accuracy of the Athlete's current Classification outcome.
3. **Medical documentation** signed by an appropriate medical practitioner demonstrating the medical change.

4. Any relevant supporting evidence demonstrating the impact of the change on the Athlete's sport-specific activity limitations.

*Note:* The Medical Review request will **not be processed** until all required documentation are received.

---

## 5. Submission Deadline

Medical Review requests must be received by World Boccia **at least three (3) months prior to the next international competition** where the Athlete intends to compete.

Submission must be sent to:

**1. World Boccia Head of Classification / Classification Committee**

E-mail: [classification@worldboccia.com](mailto:classification@worldboccia.com)

**And**

**2. Uploaded to the World Boccia data-platform**, under the athlete's profile

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## 6. Consequences of a Medical Review Request

If, after review of the submitted documentation, World Boccia is satisfied that there is a significant change in the Athlete's Eligible Impairment or activity limitations, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be updated to **"Review"**. The Athlete will be required to undergo full **re-evaluation** at the next available Classification opportunity. Submission of a request does **not guarantee** that the Athlete's Sport Class or status will change.

---

## 7. Failure to Submit a Required Medical Review Request

If an Athlete or NF fails to submit a Medical Review request in circumstances where one should have been submitted, and World Boccia determines that the Athlete (or NF) knew or should have known a Medical Review request was required, this may be treated as **Intentional Misrepresentation** under World Boccia Classification Rules.

### World Boccia Medical Review Request Form (to be completed in English)

NPC/NF:	
NPC/NF Contact person:	

#### Athlete details

Last name:			
First names:			
Date of Birth:		Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Sport Class:		Sport Class Status:	

#### Next scheduled World Boccia sanctioned competition

Competition Name:	
Date (dd/mm/yyyy):	
Location (City and Country):	

**Details on the change in impairment** (To be completed by a health professional with relevant expertise)

#### Intervention details (if applicable eg. Surgical, pharmacological, medical interventions)

Date of intervention:	
Location where intervention was carried out:	
Description of intervention:	
Reason for intervention and expected outcomes:	

**Description of the change of impairment** (in case of progressive or fluctuating impairments, injuries etc.)

Date of onset:	
Brief description of change of impairment:	

#### Supporting documentation attached:

--

**Health professional:**

**I confirm that the above information is accurate**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Speciality: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**NPC/NF Verification**

NPC/NF contact person submitting the medical review request:

NPC/NF: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ NPC Stamp: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 21: Adaptive Equipment

**All gloves, splints & weighted cuffs or shoes MUST be reviewed by the Classification panel and the athlete must present the approved and signed form at equipment check.**

Special notes on Foot players:

- No equipment will be allowed which takes away the effect of the impairment such as weights attached to the leg or shoe

**List of Allowed Equipment and Devices that does not need written approval to present at equipment check:**

Attached to the Athlete:

- Plaster strapping for a sports injury
- Tennis Elbow Cuff

Attached to the wheelchair:

1. To Support Balance or posture

- Side support for the trunk attached to the wheelchair or insert in wheelchair
- Chest Strap
- Head block or strap
- Block or strap in front of the lower legs / feet to keep the knees bent
- Grab bar, Pole or Strap, where the athlete can hold on with the non-throwing hand, during propulsion of the ball

2. To prevent the athlete from falling out of the chair

- Chest strap
- Lap strap
- Leg Strap
- Foot strap

3. To make the wheelchair more stable

- Weights added to the chair (metal weight or water container)
- Wedges behind the wheels
- Elongated Break levers

***Please refer to the library of allowed devices on the World Boccia website***

**Prohibited / NOT Allowed**

- Any equipment that eliminates the effect of the impairment during play
- Equipment that guides the direction of the ball (with the exception of BC3 ramps)
- Equipment that propel the ball (with the exception of BC3 ramps)

## Appendix 22: Adaptive Equipment Request Form

### Application Form: Assistive Devices and Adaptations

To be completed by the NPC

Athlete Name & Family Name:	<input type="text"/>	
NPC:	<input type="text"/>	
Sport Class:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of Application:	<input type="text"/>	

[\(Click here to add a photo of the device\) / Add a photo of device jpg/PDF format](#)

**Give a short description of the device:**

**What is the purpose of the device?:**

Device is added to the standard wheelchair of the athlete  YES  NO

Device is added to the limb or body of the athlete  YES  NO

**To be completed by Classification Committee Member / Chief Classifier**

**If the answer is YES to ANY of the questions 1 - 4, the device is NOT allowed:**

- 1. Does this device assist in the acceleration of the ball?  YES  NO
- 2. Does this device help to guide the direction of the ball?  YES  NO
- 3. Does this device have any mechanics to assist in the release of the ball?  YES  NO
- 4. Does the use of this device take away the effect of the impairment on the athlete's game  YES  NO

**If All the answers to Question 1 - 4 is NO, but you can answer YES to question 5 - 7, the device is allowed**

- 5. Does the device assist with the static trunk control of the athlete?  YES  NO
- 6. Does this device assist with the stability of the wheelchair?  YES  NO
- 7. Does this device stabilize the other limbs not used to propell the ball?  YES  NO

**Device Approved?:**  YES  NO  INCONCLUSIVE

Reasoning why it is approved or not approved:

Athlete needs to be seen prior to competition / Further investigation is necessary  YES  NO

**Classifier reviewing the Application:**

**Name & Family Name:**

**Role:**

Medical  Technical

**Date:**

**Signature:**

**Appendix 23: Application Form - BC4 Gloves**

**Application Form: BC4 Gloves**

**To be completed by the NPC**

Athlete Name & Family Name:	
NPC:	
Sport Class:	
Date of Application:	

[\(Click here to add a photo of the glove\) / Add a photo of device jpg/PDF format](#)

**Give a short description of the glove:**

**What is the purpose of the glove?:**

Which upper limb does the athlete use for throwing?       LEFT       RIGHT       BOTH

Is the glove / splinth on the throwing arm of the athlete?       YES       NO

**To be completed by Classification Committee Member / Chief Classifier**

**If the answer is YES to ANY of the questions 1 - 4 , the device is NOT allowed;**

- 1. Does the glove or splinth restricts movement at the wrist?  YES  NO
- 2. Does the glove or splinth support the wrist in extension?  YES  NO
- 3. Can the athlete keep the ball in his hand, without the glove/splinth?  YES  NO
- 4. Can the ball be grasped with the tenodesis effect, without the glove / splint, and thrown into the FOP?  YES  NO

**If ALL the answers to Question 1 - 4 is NO , the glove/splinth is allowed**

**Glove/Splinth Approved?:**  YES  NO  INCONCLUSIVE

Reasoning why it is approved or not approved;

YES  NO

A Technical assessment was done with and without the glove?

**Classifier reviewing the Application:**

**Name & Family Name:**

**Role:**

Medical  Technical

**Date:**

**Signature:**

## Appendix 24: Requirements for Classification at Competitions

### **Requirements for Classification at World Boccia Covered Competitions**

1. **Waiting and administration area** (This area is placed at the entrance or close to the classification rooms)
  - 10 x Chairs
  - Table
  - One Volunteer to organise athletes and check their passports and accreditation
  - 2 x Clip boards
  - Pen
  - Hand sanitizer
2. **Classification Room(s)** (This area should be **private** with a door that can be closed)

**Each panel** will need a **separate area** where Stage 2, 3 (&4) of the classification process can be performed.

**Size:** Ideally, a room with dimensions of at least 6m x 10-12m, for each classification panel. In the case where there is only smaller rooms available, there needs to be access to a private area with the dimensions of at least 6m x 10-12m to complete Stage 4 – Sport Class assessment.

#### **Furniture for each room:**

- 4 Chairs
- Table
- Plinth / Examination bed
- Rubbish bin / wastepaper bin

#### **Equipment for each room:**

- Set of medium Competition Balls
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- 1 reflex hammer, 1 goniometer, 1 soft measure tape (Classifiers usually bring their own)
- Tape measure (15m) – to mark court markings
- Duct tape to make some markings on the floor

#### **Stationery & other Requirements:**

- Clip Board
- Stapler and Paper Punch
- White paper for printing
- 2 x black pens

**Classifier Meeting Room: (Private with a door that can be locked)**

This will be used to discuss athletes during Observation Assessment and to lock valuables of classifiers like laptops, purses etc.

This can be the same room where Stage 2,3 & 4 happened (if available) or a different room overlooking the venue.

**Furniture for each room:**

- Chair for each classifier
- Table(s)
- Rubbish bin / wastepaper bin

**Other Requirements:**

- **Access to Wi-Fi**
- **Access to a printer**
- **Access to a photocopier**

**3. Observation in Competition**

- Depending on the venue, Classifiers might need court access to be able to observe athletes.
- The Chief classifier will communicate with the Technical Delegate and Head Referee on where classifiers will be positioned, without disturbing matches and the athletes

**4. Other**

- Hosting Organizing Committee will be asked by the Chief Classifier to photocopy / print all classification forms, prior to the start of the competition.
- It would be of great value if Classifiers have access to water & coffee during the day to keep them alert and focused.

**APPENDIX FOR TEAMS**

1. All Athletes should upload their Medical Diagnostic Forms, Consent Forms and Equipment Forms at least 4 weeks prior to a competition, onto the World Boccia Platform.
  - All Medical Documentation should be in English
  - Failure to upload Medical documentation will result in a designation of CNC and athletes will NOT be permitted to be classified or compete
2. Athletes should bring the following to classification:
  - Passports,
  - ALL Sport equipment including strapping, splints, gloves, ramp and chair, used in competition.
  - List of medication used at the time of the Classification.
3. Athletes should be dressed in official Sports attire

## Appendix 25: World Boccia Classifier Pathway

### 1. Candidate

- **Eligibility:**
  - Certified Medical Doctor, Physiotherapist, or related discipline with experience in neurological or non-neurological conditions relevant to Boccia.
  - Technical Expert with extensive coaching background or other relevant experience in Boccia.
  - University degree in Physical Education, Biomechanics, or Kinesiology.
  - English proficiency (oral and written).
  - Recommended: IPC Fundamentals Classification online course.
- **Application:** Submit Appendix A – Application Form in compliance with International Standard for Classifier Personnel and Training.

**Goal:** Qualify to attend the National Classifier Course.

---

### 2. National Classifier

- Successfully completes National Classifier course.
- Passes written test with a minimum **75%**.
- Certified as a **National Classifier**.

**Next Step:** Gain in-country practical experience before first international practicum.

---

### 3. In-Country Practice

- Gain experience performing classifications at national competitions under supervision (where possible).
- Develop practical skills: manual muscle testing, observation, and clinical reasoning.
- Recommended to participate in a **buddy/mentorship system** with experienced classifiers.

---

### 4. First Practicum

- **Eligibility: Two years of National Classification Experience**
- **Application:** Submit CV and application to BISFed or relevant governing body for approval.
- **Participation at Competition:**
  - Attend as part of an **international classification panel**.
  - Complete a **refresher course** and written exam.
  - Write a test. 75% pass rate.
  - Perform **specific parts of the classification assessment** under supervision.

- Receive structured **feedback** from senior classifiers.
- Chief Classifier share results with Classification Committee.
- **Goal:** Prepare for second practicum; continue skill development.

---

## 5. Second Practicum

- **Application:** Apply formally for second practicum.
- **Participation at Competition:**
  - Participate as part of the classification panel, including relevant assessments (depending if a Medical- or Technical Classifier), clinical reasoning and panel discussions.
  - Continue supervised assessment tasks.
  - Receive feedback on performance.
  - Chief Classifier shares results with the Classification Committee.
  - Classification Committee endorses the Classification to Level 1 International Classifier if all criteria is met.
- **Qualification:** Upon successful completion, certified as **Level 1 International Classifier**.

---

## 6. Level 1 International Classifier

- **Definition:** International classifier qualified to classify at international events under supervision.
- **Requirements:**
  - Completion of first and second practicums.
  - Fully qualified classifier.
  - Annual submission of **conflict-of-interest, code of conduct and confidentiality declaration**
- **Development:**
  - Participate in **mentorship and peer observation** programs.
  - Online training modules and refresher courses to maintain knowledge.

---

## 7. Level 2 International Classifier

- **Definition:** International classifier qualified to classify without supervision at international competitions.
- **Prerequisites:** Level 1 International Classifier.
- **Training:** Attend International Classifier course (practical + theoretical).
- **Experience:** Gain experience at international events under supervision of Chief Classifier.
- **Roles:**
  - Classify athletes at international competitions.
  - Participate in peer review, mentorship programs, and ongoing development.
- **Ongoing Requirements:**

- Annual online training, refresher courses, and conflict-of-interest, code of conduct and confidentiality declarations.

---

## 8. Chief Classifier

- **Definition:** Senior classifier responsible for leading panels, mentoring classifiers, and ensuring quality and integrity.
- **Prerequisites:** Certified Level 2 International Classifier with at least 6 years as an International World Boccia Classifier.
- **Training:** Chief Classifier course and Chief Classifier recertification.
- **Requirements:**
  - Demonstrated leadership, responsibility, and communication/language skills.
  - Excellent knowledge and understanding of classification rules and implementation.
  - Annual conflict-of-interest and confidentiality declarations.
- **Roles & Responsibilities:**
  - Lead classification panels at international competitions.
  - Mentor and supervise Level 1 and 2 Classifiers.
  - Ensure correct application and interpretation of classification rules.
  - Oversee documentation and compliance with ethical standards.
  - Provide guidance and feedback to develop practical skills of other classifiers.

---

## 9. Development & Quality Assurance

- Buddy/mentorship system for skill development across all levels.
- Peer observation and feedback during national and international competitions.
- Online training modules, refresher courses, and annual conflict-of-interest/confidentiality declarations required at all levels.

---

### Summary Pathway Flow

Candidate → National Classifier → In-Country Practice → First Practicum → Second Practicum → Level 1 International Classifier → Level 2 International Classifier → Chief Classifier

- **Key Points:**
  - Progression requires **training, practical experience, supervised practicums, assessment performance, mentorship, and continuing education.**
  - All fully qualified classifiers (Level 1, Level 2, Chief) must submit **annual conflict-of-interest and confidentiality declarations.**
  - Chief Classifiers are responsible for mentoring and overseeing classifiers at all levels to ensure integrity, quality, and consistency in classification.

<b>Level / Stage</b>	<b>Eligibility / Prerequisites</b>	<b>Training &amp; Assessment</b>	<b>Experience / Practical Requirements</b>	<b>Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b>	<b>Ongoing Requirements / Development</b>
<b>Candidate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medical Doctor, Physiotherapist, or related discipline with relevant experience</li> <li>- Technical Expert in Boccia</li> <li>- University degree in PE, Biomechanics, or Kinesiology</li> <li>- English proficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submit Appendix A – Application Form</li> <li>- Recommended: IPC Fundamentals online course</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>National Classifier</b>	Candidate who meets requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend National Classifier course</li> <li>- Pass written test <math>\geq 75\%</math></li> </ul>	N/A	N/A	- Refresher courses prior to first practicum
<b>In-Country Practice</b>	National Classifier	N/A	- Gain experience at national competitions under supervision	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buddy/mentorship system for skill development</li> <li>- Prepare for first practicum</li> </ul>
<b>First Practicum</b>	National Classifier with two years of in-country practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refresher course</li> <li>- Written exam</li> <li>- Perform selected classification tasks</li> </ul>	- Part of international classification panel under supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receive structured feedback from Chief/Classifiers</li> <li>- Develop practical assessment skills</li> </ul>	- Prepare for second practicum
<b>Second Practicum</b>	Completed first practicum	- Participate in panel discussions and clinical reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part of classification panel</li> <li>- Engage in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Receive structured feedback</li> <li>- Contribute to</li> </ul>	- Qualification as <b>Level 1 International Classifier</b>

			full panel deliberations	clinical reasoning	
<b>Level 1 International Classifier</b>	Completed second practicum	N/A	- Supervised classification at international events	- Classify athletes under supervision	- Online modules, peer observation, refresher courses - Annual conflict-of-interest & confidentiality declaration
<b>Level 2 International Classifier</b>	Level 1 International Classifier	- International Classifier course (practical + theoretical)	- Experience at international events under Chief Classifier supervision - Fully qualified classifier	- Classify independently at international competitions	- Peer review / mentorship programs - Online training modules - Annual conflict-of-interest & confidentiality declaration
<b>Chief Classifier</b>	Level 2 International Classifier	- Chief Classifier training - Chief Classifier recertification	- Minimum 4–6 years international classification experience	- Lead classification panels - Mentor Level 1 & 2 Classifiers - Ensure correct application of rules - Oversee documentation & compliance	- Leadership, responsibility, language skills - Online modules & refresher courses - Annual conflict-of-interest & confidentiality declaration

---

### Classification Committee Membership

Members of the Classification Committee will be selected by the Classification Committee from:

- **Level 2 International Classifiers** who:
  - Demonstrate strong **leadership in teaching** and mentoring.
  - Show advanced **skills in clinical testing**, reasoning and classification practice.
  - Have a deep **understanding of the Classification Code and Rules**.
  - Possess good **administration and organizational skills**.
  - Exhibit a clear **vision for research and development** in Boccia classification.
  - Have a genuine **passion for improving Boccia classification systems**.
  - Hold **more than five (5) years of experience** in Boccia classification.

## Head of Classification – World Boccia Appointment

**Head of Classification** is a nominated position within World Boccia. Candidates are **nominated** and subsequently **interviewed by the CEO, Head of Classification Committee (HOC), and Administrator**, before being **appointed**.

### Appointment Criteria:

- Must meet the **competencies required of the Head of Classification**, including demonstrable leadership in classification administration, policy development, classifier mentorship and a minimum of 4 years' experience as a Chief Classifier.
  - Should have extensive **experience as a classifier (Level 2 with 5 years minimum experience)** in boccia.
  - Must have served on the Classification Committee for at least 1 year.
- 

### *Responsibilities (in line with IPC 2025 International Standard):*

The Head of Classification is responsible for the overall **direction, administration, coordination, and implementation** of all Classification matters for World Boccia . This includes, but is not limited to:

- Recruiting and appointing Classifiers under World Boccia .
- Organizing and overseeing Classifier **education, training, certification, re-certification**, and ongoing **development**, in alignment with World Boccia's published classifier pathway .
- Maintaining and updating a **database** to track Classifier activity, certification status, and re-certification .
- Identifying **classification research needs** and engaging with classification-related research initiatives where appropriate .
- Ensuring World Boccia's classification rules and processes comply with the **Classification Code and International Standards**, by planning, executing, and reviewing relevant programs and policies .
- Gathering feedback and contributing to updates or amendments in classification rules or technical regulations .
- Monitoring classification status and practices, for example by attending competitions to evaluate classification delivery .
- Informing Classifiers promptly of any changes to classification rules .
- Managing and updating the Classification Master List to ensure accurate athlete classification records .
- Engaging with relevant internal bodies and committees on classification matters .
- Communicating with external stakeholders, including the IPC, on classification issues .

## Key Requirements / Competencies for a World Boccia Classification Course Presenter

1. **Level 2 International Classifier**
2. **Good English proficiency**
3. **Ability to communicate content clearly** so participants can easily follow and understand
4. **Medical classifier with strong biomechanical knowledge and sport class assessment experience.**
  - If a Technical Classifier presents, a Medical Classifier must teach the impairment testing component.
5. **Ability to explain difficult concepts** in a simple and accessible way
6. **Strong knowledge of the World Boccia Rules**
7. **Experience delivering training or education** (in-person or online)
8. **Strong understanding of the World Boccia classification philosophy and ethical principles**
9. **Ability to use case-based examples** to explain complex decisions
10. **Professionalism, neutrality, and strong teamwork skills**
11. **Up-to-date knowledge of research and international classification developments**
12. **Strong organisational and time-management skills**
13. **Ability to give constructive feedback** to trainees
14. **Confidence in answering questions and facilitating discussion**

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### Note on Course Consistency

The course programme should remain standardised worldwide. This includes:

- The **same lectures**
- The **same duration** for video analysis practice
- The **same amount of practical time** with athletes, specifying the required number per class
- The **same final examination** for all participants

This ensures consistency, fairness, and high-quality delivery across all World Boccia classification courses.

**Appendix 26: World Boccia Trainee Classifier Evaluation Form**

**World Boccia Trainee Evaluation - Practicum 1  2**

<b>Demographics</b>				
<b>Name</b>				
<b>Designation</b>	Doctor <input type="checkbox"/>	Physio <input type="checkbox"/>	Technical <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Region</b>				
<b>Competition</b>				
<b>Date</b>				
<b>Number of Athletes Classified</b>	BC1	BC2	BC3	BC4
<b>Level of English Proficiency</b>	Unable to communicate clearly <input type="checkbox"/>	Can communicate to a basic level but requires improvement <input type="checkbox"/>	Can communicate effectively with panel, athlete, team and officials <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Professionalism</b>	Needs Attention	Appropriate to commence International Classification	Above Expectation	Comments / Recommendations
Ability to work within a team				
Communication skills with the classification panel				
Communication with the athlete and team				
Communication with Officials				
Engagement in learning and sharing				
Time management				
Demonstrates appropriate level of confidentiality				

Demonstrates appropriate level of impartiality				
Demonstrates behaviour that reflects appropriate code of conduct				
Demonstrates desire to seek support				
<b>Technical Skills</b>	Needs Attention	Appropriate to commence International Classification	Above Expectation	Comments / Recommendations
Awareness of safety and hygiene for self and others				
Ability to perform all relevant and required assessments accurately				
<b>Subjective Assessment</b>				
Upper Limb, Lower Limb and Trunk Strength Testing				
Range of Motion Testing				
Spasticity Testing				
Athetosis/Dystonia Testing				
Ataxia Testing				
<b>Technical Assessment</b>				
Ability to record and interpret observations in competition				
<b>Decision Making</b>	Needs Attention	Appropriate to commence International Classification	Above Expectation	Comments / Recommendations

Ability to interpret assessment findings with regard to eligibility, sports class and sports class status				
Ability to justify decision by referencing the Classification Rules				
Ability to convey decision to the athlete and team				
Ability to differentiate between all Boccia Sports Classes				
Ability to determine allocation of Boccia Sports Class Status				
Level of accuracy with decision making				
<b>Classification Procedures</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Appropriate to commence International Classification</b>	<b>Above Expectation</b>	<b>Comments / Recommendations</b>
Awareness of where to find information in the Classification Rules				
Demonstrates understanding of procedure for conducting classification assessment				
Demonstrates awareness of procedure for informing athletes, teams and Technical Delegate				

Demonstrates awareness of how to manage assistive devices on wheelchair or gloves				
Demonstrates awareness of process for athlete that is found to be not eligible				
Demonstrates awareness of process for addressing intentional misrepresentation				
Demonstrates awareness of process for discontinuing a classification assessment and allocating 'Classification Not Complete'				
Demonstrates awareness of process for reviewing protest requests				
Demonstrates awareness of process for reviewing appeal requests				
<b>Administrative Skills</b>	<b>Needs Attention</b>	<b>Appropriate to commence International Classification</b>	<b>Above Expectation</b>	<b>Comments / Recommendations</b>
Ability to gather, store and dispose of confidential information				
Ability to enter data onto classification forms				

<b>Ability to enter data onto classification database</b>				
<b>Classification Panel</b>	<b>Doctor</b>	<b>Physio</b>	<b>Technical</b>	
<b>Chief Classifier</b>				
<b>Summary of Recommendations by Panel on Activities to do before commencing next practicum</b>				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
<b>Recommended time before participating in first International Competition</b>	<b>Immediate</b>	<b>At least 1 year</b>	<b>Other</b>	
<b>Signatures</b>	<b>Doctor</b>	<b>Physio</b>	<b>Technical</b>	<b>Trainee</b>

## Appendix 27: Classification Workforce Development Strategy

### World Boccia

## Classification Workforce Development, Engagement and Retention Strategy

*(In support of Article 62.1)*

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### 1. Purpose

In accordance with **Article 62.1**, World Boccia is committed to ensuring that the **quality, consistency, wellbeing, and sustainability** of International World Boccia Classifiers remain at the highest possible standard.

This strategy outlines the mechanisms through which World Boccia, through the **Head of Classification** and the **Classification Committee**, will ensure ongoing development, support, retention, and re-engagement of Classification Personnel.

---

### 2. Continuous Education, Training and Competency Maintenance

To maintain a high level of classification quality and consistency, World Boccia will implement a structured and continuous education framework, including:

- **Monthly Moodle-based learning activities**, such as:
  - Case-based reflections
  - Rule and MIC focus topics
  - Scenario-based discussions
  - Short polls or guided questions
- **Semester-based classifier information meetings**, delivered online, focusing on:
  - Rule, MIC, and procedural updates
  - Applied learning through anonymised case discussions
  - Open discussion and questions
- **Accreditation sessions and refresher activities**, aligned with World Boccia rules and classification standards.

Classifiers are expected to take **shared responsibility** for maintaining their competencies and ability to classify, supported by these structured learning opportunities.

### 3. Appointment of Classification Personnel (62.1.2)

World Boccia will ensure that the appointment of Classification Personnel is **transparent, fair, competency-based, and aligned with best practice**, while promoting learning, consistency, and international collaboration.

#### 3.1 Expression of Interest and Availability

- World Boccia will utilise a **SurveyMonkey expression-of-interest and availability form** to collect information from Classifiers, including:
  - Availability for events
  - Classification level
  - Recent experience
  - Regional and National representation
- This process supports transparent decision-making and ensures appointments are based on **availability, suitability, and operational needs**.

#### 3.2 Appointment of Chief Classifiers

- Chief Classifiers will be allocated by World Boccia based on:
  - Experience and demonstrated competency
  - Leadership skills and professional conduct
  - Ability to support consistency, learning, and mentorship within panels
- Chief Classifiers are responsible for:
  - Supporting less experienced Classifiers
  - Promoting consistency and quality of classification decisions
  - Facilitating discussion and shared learning within panels

#### 3.3 Allocation of Classification Panels

When appointing Classifiers to individual Classification Panels, World Boccia will consider the following principles:

- **Regional balance**
  - Where possible, Classifiers will be appointed from the **region of the competition**, while also including Classifiers from **other regions** to:
    - Encourage cross-regional learning
    - Support harmonisation of classification practice
    - Reduce regional bias
- **Level matching and mentorship**
  - Panels will include a mix of **Level 1 and Level 2 Classifiers**, supporting mentorship, knowledge transfer, and professional development.
- **Nationality diversity**
  - Each panel will, where possible, include Classifiers from **different nationalities** to promote neutrality, fairness, and international consistency.
- **Event-specific considerations**
  - Appointments will also consider the size, complexity, and specific needs of each event.

### 3.4 Principles Underpinning Appointments

All appointments will be guided by the principles of:

- Athlete-centred and evidence-based classification
- Fairness, neutrality, and integrity
- Learning, mentorship, and collaboration
- Respect for diversity and international representation

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#### 4. Identification of Prospective Trainee Classifiers (62.1.1)

World Boccia will identify and support prospective Trainee Classifiers through:

- Monitoring engagement, professionalism, and learning contributions within Moodle activities and discussions
- Recommendations from Chief Classifiers and senior Classification Personnel
- Clear communication of expectations, competencies, and progression pathways
- Targeted invitations to education, mentorship, and development opportunities

This approach supports the long-term sustainability of the international classification workforce.

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#### 5. Retention and Active Engagement of Classification Personnel (62.1.3)

World Boccia recognises the importance of retaining experienced Classification Personnel and encouraging continued engagement. Strategies include:

- Maintaining **open and accessible communication platforms**, including:
  - WhatsApp for immediate communication, questions, and community connection
  - Moodle for structured learning, reflection, and documentation
- Actively inviting Classifiers to contribute opinions, experiences, and feedback
- Implementing **peer recognition initiatives**, including:
  - Annual peer-voted recognition awards (e.g. Chief Classifier Peer Award, Outstanding Contribution Award)
  - Informal acknowledgement of achievements and service
- Encouraging participation without creating unnecessary administrative or workload burden

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#### 6. Classifier Wellbeing and Safe Working Environment (62.1.4)

World Boccia is committed to protecting the wellbeing of all Classification Personnel by:

- Promoting respectful professional conduct and collaboration
- Maintaining zero tolerance for abuse, harassment, or bullying
- Providing clear and confidential communication pathways for concerns or support

- Supporting psychological safety, where Classifiers feel comfortable asking questions, expressing uncertainty, and seeking guidance
- Acknowledging the physical, emotional, and logistical demands associated with classification roles

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## 7. Re-engagement of Non-Active Classification Personnel (62.1.5)

World Boccia will seek to re-engage non-active Classification Personnel by:

- Maintaining ongoing communication and updates through Moodle and information meetings
- Providing accessible refresher education and re-accreditation opportunities
- Personally inviting non-active Classifiers to re-engage through:
  - Education activities
  - Mentorship or advisory roles
  - Event appointments where appropriate
- Supporting flexible re-entry pathways that recognise personal and professional circumstances

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## 8. Oversight and Responsibility

The **Head of Classification**, supported by the **Classification Committee**, is responsible for:

- Implementing and monitoring this strategy
- Reviewing participation, engagement, and feedback
- Ensuring alignment with World Boccia rules, regulations, and values
- Continuously improving classifier education, support, and retention mechanisms

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### Summary

Through structured education, transparent appointment processes, open communication, recognition, and a strong focus on wellbeing, World Boccia aims to maintain a **high-quality, engaged, and sustainable international classification workforce**, fully aligned with the intent and requirements of **Article 62.1**.

## Appendix 28: World Boccia Classification Data Retention Policy

# World Boccia Classification Data Retention Policy

### Purpose

World Boccia is committed to protecting the personal and health data of athletes while complying with IPC Classification Code and GDPR principles. This policy explains how data is collected, used, retained, and protected, and how athletes provide consent.

## 1. Why We Collect Athlete Data

World Boccia collects information about the athlete’s health condition (disability), medical- & training history, impairment and sport class assessment to:

- Decide the correct classification to enable the athlete to compete in Boccia.
- Ensure competitions are fair and consistent.
- Deal with any appeals, reviews, or protests of classification decisions.

## 2. What Athlete Data Do We Collect

We collect only the information needed for fair classification, which may include:

- Medical information relevant to classification.
- Records of your classification status and history.
- Observational and video data used as evidence in classification.

## 3. How Long We Keep Data

Data Type	Retention Period	Notes
<b>Core Classification Records</b>	Athlete career + 8 years	Covers several competition cycles, including Paralympics. After retirement, data is <b>deleted or anonymised</b> .
<b>Appeals / Protests</b>	4 years after case closure	Allows for retrospective review and legal/compliance needs.
<b>Video / Observational Data</b>	2–4 years after classification	Uploaded directly from the platform to a <b>secure channel accessible only to classifiers</b> . Used as classification evidence.
<b>Research / Statistical Data (Anonymised)</b>	Indefinite	Once anonymised, data is no longer personal and can be used for research and sport development.

## 4. Who Can Access Athlete Data

- Only trained and authorised personnel (Head of Classification, chief classifiers, the World Boccia member representing the athlete and the athlete) can access classification data.
- Data is **never shared for marketing purposes**.

### Sharing with Parents, Guardians, or Support Persons:

- If an athlete is under 18, or requires assistance with classification, relevant information may be shared **only as necessary** for classification or competition purposes.

## 5. How We Protect Your Data

- Stored securely on the World Boccia Platform with encryption and strict access controls.
- Platform permissions limit access to authorised users.
- Observation videos uploaded for classification are stored on **a secure channel accessible only to classifiers**. (planned for future – not yet operational)

*\*All data is stored in Microsoft Azure SQL Database and protected by encryption at rest (Transparent Data Encryption) and in transit (TLS). Access is limited to authorised services via secure password-based connections, strict role-based permissions, and network controls (firewall rules/private endpoints), with automated patching, backups, and continuous security monitoring.*

## 6. Your Rights

You have rights over your data, including:

- To see what data we hold about you.
- To correct any inaccuracies.
- To request deletion, where possible.
- To know who we share your data with.

### How to exercise your rights:

- Through the **Athlete Consent Form**.
- By agreeing to the **platform pop-up** when your profile is created.

## 7. Consent

Athletes consent to this policy through:

1. The **Athlete Consent Form**.

2. The **World Boccia Platform pop-up** when a profile is created by an NPC member.

Consent covers collection, use, retention, and secure handling of personal, health, and classification data, including video and observational records.

## 8. Why and What Data Do We Collect for Classifiers

World Boccia also collects and stores limited information about classifiers to ensure the integrity and proper operation of classification activities. This includes:

- **Email addresses and cell phone numbers**
- **Conflict of Interest declarations** (signed by classifiers to ensure impartiality)
- **Signed Code of Conduct**
- **Logbooks** documenting classification activities
- **Trainee classifiers' practicum records**

## 9. How Long We Keep Data

<b>Data Type</b>	<b>Retention Period</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Personal information</b>	Career + 4years	
<b>Conflict of Interest declarations, Code of Conduct, and logbooks</b>	as needed for operational and auditing purposes	With access restricted to authorised personnel only.
<b>Classifier Training Records</b>	2–4 years after training completion	

## 10. Access and Privacy

- Classifier data is **stored securely on the platform or in official records**.
- Only authorised personnel, such as the Head of Classification, have access.
- This data is **kept separate from athlete data** and is never shared publicly.
- Data is never shared for marketing purposes.

## 11. Retention Review

World Boccia regularly reviews retention periods to ensure data is kept only as long as necessary.

## 12. Questions or Concerns

For any questions about your data or to exercise your rights, contact: **operations@worldboccia.com**

# Rate your Classification Experience

