

Classification Information Sheet – Boccia

This information is intended to be a generic guide to classification for Boccia. The classification of athletes in this sport is performed by authorised classifiers according to the [Boccia International Sports Federation \(BISFed\)](#) classification rules.

What is the classification process?

Trained classifiers assess an athlete using the BISFed classification rules to determine the following:

1. Does the athlete have an eligible impairment type?

An athlete must have a permanent eligible impairment type and provide medical documentation detailing their diagnosis and health condition.

2. Does the athlete meet the minimum impairment criteria for the sport?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimum impairment criteria.

3. What is the appropriate class to allocate the athlete for competition?

Classes are detailed in the classification rules for the sport and a classifier determines the class an athlete will compete in.

Which Paralympic impairment groups compete in Boccia?

Athletes are required to have a permanent, eligible impairment and will be required to provide medical diagnostic information about their diagnosis and impairment.

Eligible Impairment Type		Examples of health conditions
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Amputation from trauma, illness; or Limb deficiency from birth
	Impaired Muscle Power	Spinal cord injury, Spina Bifida, Post-Polio Syndrome, Transverse Myelitis, Sacral Agenesis, Spinal Tumours, Muscular dystrophy
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, brain tumor, Multiple sclerosis, cerebellar ataxia, Hereditary Spastic Paraparesis or other conditions where hypertonia (spasticity, rigidity or dystonia), ataxia or athetosis are present
	Impaired passive range of movement	Arthrogryposis, joint fusions or contractures from chronic immobilisation or trauma.

What is the Minimum Impairment Criteria?

Specific criteria applied to each sport to determine if a person's impairment results in sufficient limitation in their sport. This is called the minimum impairment criteria.

Impairment	Minimum Impairment (Guide Only)	
Physical Impairment	Limb deficiency	Significant limb loss in all four limbs
	Impaired Muscle Power	Weakness in all four limbs, where athlete is unable to lift elbow above shoulder height (flexion / abduction)
	Hypertonia Ataxia Athetosis	Hypertonia (Spasticity, Rigidity or Dystonia), ataxia or athetosis in all four limbs, that affects throwing when elbow is above shoulder height.
	Impaired passive range of movement	Joint movement restrictions in all four limbs, where athlete is unable to lift elbow above shoulder height (flexion / abduction)

Minimum impairment criteria is further detailed in the [BISFed Classification rules](#)

What are the Paralympic classes for this sport?

The list below is intended as a guide only. Only authorised classifiers are able to provide a formal classification in a particular sport.

Athletes who are diagnosed with a neurological impairment affecting the central nervous system (CNS); Spastic Hypertonic Quadriplegia or Athetosis or who may have a mixed picture including those with severe ataxia.

Class	Examples (Guide Only)
BC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Players with cerebral palsy, brain injury or similar who have some difficulties with trunk and hand control.– Players in this class throw the ball with the hand or foot.– They may compete with an assistant who stays outside of the competitor's playing box, to stabilise or adjust their playing chair and give the ball to the player when requested.
BC2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Players with cerebral palsy, brain injury or similar who demonstrate significant impact of their impairment on their throw, however are able to pick up, throw the ball and manoeuvre their chairs independently during play.– Players in this class throw the ball with the hand.– Players are not eligible for assistance.
BC3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Players in this class have very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities. Players have no sustained grasp or release action; although they may have arm movement, they have insufficient range of movement to propel a Boccia ball onto the court.– Player may use an assistive device such as a ramp to deliver the ball.– Player may compete with an assistant; assistants must keep their back to the court and their eyes averted from play. Assistant positions the ramp and balls according to the players' instructions.
BC4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Athletes who are diagnosed with an impairment of non-neurological origin NOT affecting the CNS and who do present with tonal change or spasticity as their primary impairment.– Players in this class have severe locomotor dysfunction of all four extremities as well as poor trunk control.– Players can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw the ball onto the court.– Players are not eligible for assistance.

What are the Non-Paralympic classes for this sport?

BC5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Players with weakness in their arms and legs; and are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Impacted by a neurological impairment, showing hypertonia, ataxia or athetosis; or o Impacted by a non-neurological that impacts muscle strength, range of movement and limb length - Players demonstrate
Not Eligible (NE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Players who do not meet minimal eligibility requirements for a BISFed class (BC 1-5). - In Australian Competition, player enter the EMU group

How do I get classified?

Classification in Australia is organised through [Badminton Australia](#).

Where do I find out further Information?

National	<p>Boccia Australia E: info@boccia.com.au P: +61 417 277 354</p> 
	<p>Paralympics Australia E: classification@paralympic.org.au P: +61 2 9704 0500</p> 
International	<p>Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)</p> 