

Boccia Ireland

Athlete Selection Criteria

International BISFed Sanctioned Competitions

2019-2021

Introduction

Boccia Ireland (BI), being a sub-committee of Paralympics Ireland (PI) and the national governing body for the sport in Ireland, is mandated to develop the sport in its entirety, from participation to high performance, in line with the strategic plan 2017-2021.

Focusing on athlete development and the high-performance aspects of the sport, Boccia Ireland have published this Policy document to clearly outline the requirements necessary for athlete eligibility and selection, for international competition events.

Objective

This Policy describes the process and criteria set by Boccia Ireland and Paralympics Ireland to select athletes for the representation of Ireland at Boccia International Sport Federation (BISFED) sanctioned International Competitions from 2019-2021.

This Policy is guided by the principle that only those who have the highest medal/ podium potential or have been flagged to have a high development potential would be nominated, while final selection of athletes remains at the discretion of BI and PI.

Communication

This Policy will be published on BI's website and communicated to all current BI members via email.

Any amendments to this Policy will be posted on the Boccia Ireland website and communicated to all current members via email.

Authority for Selection

The Selection Panel will make recommendations to the Paralympics Ireland Board of Directors, regarding this Policy and the selection of athletes. Boccia Ireland will be answerable to the Paralympics Ireland Board of Directors, who have ultimate authority for all decision-making under this Policy.

Selection Panel

The selection committee will be made up of the following:

(if any current athlete/s hold any of the following positions they will be removed from the Selection Panel)

- BI Chairperson
- BI Development Manager
- BI Head of Competition
- BI Head of Coaching & Technical Officials

Other PI staff who may be asked to form part of the selection committee

- PI President
- PI CEO
- PI Performance Director

Selection Criteria

The athlete selection criteria for international competitions is broken down into three parts; A, B & C. All parts must be fulfilled in order to be eligible.

Criteria A

- Be part of the National Training Squad
- Must be a Grade A player in National Squad (Squad will consist of three Grades A, B & C)
 - The grading will be determined by scores on the 9-point test, the National Championship results (of the previous year) and the Challenge League results, starting from 2019.

Criteria B

The following competition events will be used as part of the selection process

(Must have achieved the stated status, in two of the following competition events*)

- Boccia Ireland National Championships 2018 (Semi-Finals)
- Ulster League 2018 (Semi-Finals)
- Scottish Open International Event 2018 (Semi-Finals) (Individual only)
- Any international event (Non-BISFed), where BISFed ranked players are competing (Semi-Finals)

Performances must have been achieved within 18 months of selection date.

*Assuming the above events are held as planned.

Criteria C

- Be a current member of Boccia Ireland
- Be in “good standing” with both Boccia Ireland and Paralympics Ireland
- Accept and sign the Paralympics Ireland Participant Rules
- Be classifiable in accordance with the BISFed International Classification System
- Have a National Classification
- Hold an Irish Passport
- Be 15 years of age, before the first date of travel.
- Must show consistent high scores in the standardised testing drill (9 point test)

BI holds the right to withdraw an athlete from any competition should the athlete fail to follow an agreed programme, compete at agreed events, achieve targets or fail to comply with BI requirements etc. or anything stated within this Policy.

**Athletes who fulfil Criteria A, B & C will be considered for selection for the following events:
(these events are subject to change)**

Regional Events 2019 / 2020

Considered Events at International Competitions

Individual

- Individual BC 1
- Individual BC 2
- Individual BC 3
- Individual BC 4

Pairs

- Pair BC3 - for athletes classified as BC 3 (*may include one substitute)
- Pair BC4 - for athletes classified as BC 4 (*may include one substitute)

Team

- BC1 & BC2 Team – Three athletes per team must include at least one BC1 on court at all times. (*may include up to two substitutes) (Where there are two substitutes, the Team must include at least two BC1 athletes) *the inclusion of substitutes is a decision made by the Selection Panel in line with this Policy.

* Pairs and Teams will also be selected on their ability to perform together.

Requirements of Selection

Upon selection and in order to remain on the squad and/or team an athlete must:

- a) Sign & uphold the Team Member Agreement
- b) Provide to BI all required documentation
- c) Participate in all squad/team events, activities and meetings
- d) Ensure proper equipment, clothing and funds
- e) Agree and obey all rules established by BI and the Local Organising Committee
- f) Assist BI in public relation and fundraising projects, where required
- g) Comply with all deadlines set out by BI regarding payments, submission of documentation etc.

Anti-Doping Requirements

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA and Paralympics Ireland anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, WADA, and Paralympics Ireland Rules, as applicable.

Exceptions

Athletes may be added to the delegation by the Selection Committee, upon their sole discretion, if the originally appointed athlete/s are unable to participate for whatever reason; including, but not limited to, non-compliance with this Policy, non-attendance of mandatory events, competitions or evaluations due to illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal, educational or competitive commitments.

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned, BI reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

Funding

Athletes who fulfil Criteria A, B & C will be considered for international events, however, athletes must fund all costs associated with attendance at international events, unless otherwise stated. BI will supply the necessary competition kit.

Any money required to be contributed by the athlete must be paid in full to BI within the stated time frame, prior to the event. Details regarding payment will be stated in the team acceptance letter. Failure to pay such monies, on the specified deadline, may result in athlete removal from the squad/team.

Athletes selected to compete in either Pair or Team events must assist in combined fundraising efforts.

Athlete competing as Individuals are responsible for their own funding.

Individual, Pair or Team players must contribute towards Boccia Irelands' fundraising efforts, as required.

(*Club players – a club may decide to contribute financially towards a club players' expenses however all money must come from the player to Boccia Ireland.)

Appeals

Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Panel can be made in accordance with Paralympics Ireland/ BISFED appeals policy.

Appendix 1: BISFED Classifications

BC1

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

Players in this class throw the ball with the hand. They are not eligible for assistance.

BC3

Players in this class have very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities. Players in this class have no sustained grasp or release action and although they may have arm movement, they have insufficient range of movement to propel a Boccia ball onto the court. They may use an assistive device such as a ramp to deliver the ball. They may compete with an assistant; assistants must keep their back to the court and their eyes averted from play.

BC4

Players in this class have severe locomotor dysfunction of all four extremities as well as poor trunk control. They can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw the ball onto the court. Players are not eligible for assistance.

BISFED Classification - contact information

Contact name: Elsa Matthee

Email: elsam@netactive.co.za

Tel: +27 82 7813709

Paralympics Ireland Classification - contact information

Contact name: Ana Maia

Email: classification@paralympics.ie

Tel: 01 625 1175

Appendix 2: BISFED Divisions of Play

General

There are seven divisions of play. Each division is played by classified competitors of all genders. The divisions are:

3.1 Individual division

- Individual BC1
- Individual BC2
- Individual BC3
- Individual BC4

In individual division, a match consists of four (4) Ends. Each athlete initiates two Ends with control of the Jack alternating between athletes. Each athlete has six (6) coloured balls. The Side throwing red balls will occupy throwing box 3, and the Side throwing blue balls will occupy throwing box 4. When entering the Call Room each athlete may bring into the Call Room 6 red balls, 6 blue balls and 1 Jack.

3.2 Pair Division

- Pair BC3 - for athletes classified as BC3
- Pair BC4 - for athletes classified as BC4

Pair BC 3

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC3 division. A Pair BC3 may include one substitute. Exceptions to will be at discretion of BISFed whose decision will be final. Each athlete is assisted by a Sport Assistant who must abide by the Sport Assistant rules. (ref 3.6)

Pair BC 4

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC4 division. A Pair BC4 may include one substitute. Exceptions will be at discretion of BISFed whose decision will be final. Foot players may be assisted by a Sport Assistant who must abide by the Sport Assistant rules. (ref 3.6)

BISFed International Boccia Rules – 2017 (v.2)

In the BC3 and BC4 Pair division a match consists of four (4) ends. Each athlete initiates one end with the control of the Jack passing in numerical order from throwing box 2 to 5. Athletes have three coloured balls each. The Side throwing red balls will occupy throwing boxes 2 and 4, and the Side throwing blue balls will occupy throwing boxes 3 and 5.

3.2.1 When entering the Call Room each member of the Pair (including substitutes) may bring into the Call Room 3 red balls and 3 blue balls together with 1 Jack per Pair.

3.2.2 Balls used by substitutes, will be put in a designated area near the scorekeeper.

3.3 Team Division

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC1 or BC2 division. A Team must play the match with three athletes and include at least one BC1 athlete on court at all times. Each Team is allowed one Sport Assistant who must abide by the Sport Assistant rules. (ref. 3.6). A Team may include up to two substitutes. Where there are two substitutes, the Team must include at least two BC1 athletes. In the Team division a match consists of six (6) ends. Each athlete initiates one end with the control of the Jack passing in numerical order from throwing box 1 to 6. Athletes have two coloured balls each. The Side throwing red balls will occupy throwing boxes 1, 3 and 5 and the Side throwing blue balls will occupy throwing boxes 2, 4 and 6.

3.3.1 When entering the Call Room each member of the Team (including substitutes) may bring into the Call Room 2 red balls, 2 blue balls together with 1 Jack per Team.

3.3.2 Balls used by substitutes, will be put in a designated area near the scorekeeper.