



2023 European Championships Selection Policy

1. Aim

The stated aim of this document is to provide a framework and process, which is clear and transparent for determining entries Boccia UK make to BISFed for the 2023 European Championships in Rotterdam 6-13th August. Boccia UK is limited in how many entries can be made into a European Championships and therefore a process to enable nomination of individuals is required. An athlete can only be considered for selection by the WCP if their specific team/pair has been nominated a slot from BISFED and/or has been selected for a Bipartite Invitation slot from BISFed. The Aim of the European Championships for Boccia UK is to win between 2-4 medals, and therefore will be selecting athletes who are demonstrating the performance potential to achieve medal success at the European Championships and/or demonstrating a performance trajectory to medal in either the Paris 2024 or Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.

2. Nomination Panel

The Performance Director will nominate a Panel from the professional staff. This Panel will act as experts and will exercise their judgment as to which eligible athletes, performance assistants and care staff can most contribute, in each discipline, to the stated aims of the Boccia UK team for the specific competition. Independent experts may also be consulted if deemed necessary. Each European Championships and classifications within a European Championships may have different aims and these will be determined at the start of the meeting. An independent observer will be asked to join the panel, although they will not be able to vote for an athlete to be selected. The WCP's Performance Analyst will attend the selection meetings to add critical performance data that will help inform the selections panel's decision making, although the analyst themselves will not be able to vote for an athlete to be selected.

The Nomination Panel will comprise of:

- Performance Director – Greg Baker
- Head of Performance Support – Oliver Freeman
- Performance Coach – Glynn Tromans
- Performance Coach – Claire Morrison
- Independent observer – TBC (Non vote)
- Performance Analyst – Anna Knowles (Non Vote)

In the event that any of the above is unable to participate in the Nomination Panel, the Performance Director (or any person appointed as their deputy) may nominate an alternative.

March 2023

All members of the Nomination Panel must declare any conflicts of interest and notify the Panel of this prior to the start of the meeting.

* Please note that for the purpose of the task of the nomination panel a Coaching relationship with an athlete is not deemed a conflict of interest.

3. Nomination Meeting – normally by conference call.

- The meeting will be facilitated by the UKBF Operations Manager (non participant)
- The minutes of the meeting will be documented.
- The Nomination Panel may consult specialists for expert input including the squad physiotherapist, psychologist and other consultants and coaches as appropriate.
- Where such specialist input is obtained, the advice and/or recommendations will be minuted.
- Where there is an even number of people on the panel and a resulting split decision, the Performance Director will have the casting vote.

4. Nomination Decisions

Boccia UK Performance Director, or delegate, shall inform athletes of their nomination outcome via personal contact. Communication of selection will be, depending on the circumstances and availability, either face to face, via a phone call, via video conferencing, or via email, within 14 days of the decision.

The nomination rationale for an athlete or assistant's selection, non-selection or de-selection, if requested by either, will be made available in writing.

5. Athlete Eligibility for Nomination by Boccia UK to BISFed European Championships

To be eligible for nomination athletes must:

- Hold a British Passport.
- Be on a recognised level of the UKBF/ Home Country Performance Player Pathway.
- Be internationally classified with a Confirmed Sport Class status or Review Sport Class status or be on a pathway to International Classification.
- Be of a level of fitness and health to be able to compete competitively as determined by UKBF Sports Science and Medicine practitioners' (including ability to travel and compete overseas and manage long haul flights).
- Have no outstanding or existing doping offences.
- Comply with the UKBF code of conduct
- Be able to compete internationally with a single assistance in accordance with requirements of both BISFed and the IPC.

- Be a positive, engaged and constructive member of the Boccia UK team.

6. Considerations for Nomination

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the following will be variably weighted determinants for the consideration of all athletes and assistants (sport assistants and personal assistants) for the 2023 European Championships in question:

- Performance Potential for medal success in Paris 2024 and/or Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games (Individuals and/or Team/Pairs)
- Progression in training for existing pathway players as measured through Programme reviews and IAP'S (Individual athlete plans)
 - Coach reports
 - Training diaries
 - Consistency of verified training scores in skills tests
 - Performance progression
- Attitude and commitment
- Exhibited positive performance mind set and behaviours
- Demonstrated ability to perform well under competition pressure
- Relevant competition results and levels of consistency in major competitions at World and European level
- Team/Pairs combination factors to enable qualification for Paris 2024.
- The ability of the nominated Sport Assistants and Personal Assistants to contribute to the performance goals of the team

Other consideration factors:

- An athlete may be selected for nomination over a higher performing athlete in order to give international experience to newer athletes.
- An athlete may be selected for nomination to an event to ensure qualification points and ranking are managed correctly with a view to Paris 2024.
- An athlete may be selected for nomination to an event to test a performance or training matter.
- An athlete may be nominated for any other reason not detailed above, but this must be communicated and minuted at the Nomination panel meeting.

The Nomination Panel reserves the right not to select as many athletes as there may be places available and change assistants if it is felt it is in the best interests of the team and the long term aim of Paris are being compromised.

7. De-selection

March 2023

Any decision on whether an athlete or assistant should be de-selected, after being selected under the above processes, will be taken by a Nomination Panel. The composition of the Panel may be the same as the composition of the original Panel.

The Panel will consider de-selection of an athlete or assistant in the following circumstances:

- Failure to meet any of the eligibility requirements, whether such failure occurs before or after selection
- Illness or injury of seriousness or duration that will impact negatively on the stated aims
- Loss of form to a degree and/or duration that will impact negatively on the stated aims
- Contravention of any existing sport specific team agreements or codes of conduct
- Material non-adherence to agreed training programs and/or the World Class Programme
- Proven disciplinary infringement whether occurring before or after the selection decision was made
- Doping irregularity incompatible with membership of the UKBF World Class Programme
- Failure between the athlete and the UKBF to agree on an assistant appointment that is compatible with meeting the stated aims
- Social media infringements such as (but not limited to) leaking of confidential information, criticism of team members and unacceptable public comments or images that are likely to bring the UKBF into disrepute with the sport, its sponsors or the public

Reasonable steps will be taken by the Panel to inform any de-selected athlete or assistant verbally within 24 hours of the decision. Whether or not verbal communication is achieved, written notification (Email), where possible, will be sent within 7 days of the Panel decision.

8. Replacements/Reserves

Should a selected athlete be unable to compete, the Panel reserves the right to nominate a replacement. A replacement athlete must meet all the published eligibility criteria at the date of the meeting.

9. Force Majeure

The UKBF reserve the right to withdraw the team or change the selection policy in response to abnormal situations beyond the control of the sport including but not limited to terrorist threat or environmental disaster.

10. Doping

The UKBF is committed to Ethical and Drug Free sport. All athletes must conform to the Anti-Doping regulations and requirements of both the UKBF and BISFed. All selected athletes and sport assistants must consent to random, out of competition drugs testing if required.

11. World Class Programme Athlete Agreement/Code of Conduct

March 2023

All selected athletes will be bound by the requirements of the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement and the UKBF Code of Conduct, contravention of which may result in de-selection in accordance with the procedures set out above.

12. Ultimate Authority

The Selection Panel has ultimate authority in final nomination decisions relating to the selection of athletes, sport assistants and personal assistants for the BlsFed 2023 European Championships

13. Communication

The Performance Director or delegate will inform WCP athletes selection via personal contact.

Communication of selection will be, depending on the circumstances and availability, either face to face, via a phone call, via video conferencing, or via email, within 14 days of the selection decision. Those WCP athletes who are not selected will be informed via phone call from either their Coach or the Performance Director (a voicemail may be left if the athlete has been unavailable for more than 24 hours). Once all athletes have been individually informed, the Team for the event will be announced to all WCP athletes and staff via email.

If a non-WCP athlete is chosen to attend a European Championships, the appropriate Home Country will be informed prior to the athlete to ensure that any direct diary conflicts can be managed.

14. Appeals

Athletes may appeal their non-selection or de-selection through the application of this selection policy. To make an appeal an athlete should:

- Write to the Chair of Boccia UK (via viv.nanopoulou@boccia.uk.com) clearly describing the grounds of appeal. This should be received within 48 hours of non-selection or de-selection being received.
- Only the process of the selection policy can be appealed, not the decision.
- A full appeals procedure/process will be given to the athlete once an appeal has been submitted