



Boccia UK WCP Selection Policy

Paris Cycle 2021 - 2025

1. Aims

The stated aims of the sport for the 2024 Games are:

- To win between 2 - 4 medals at Paris 2024
- To win one gold medal at Paris 2024
- To select Athletes onto the WCP who wish to compete internationally in Boccia and have the Performance Potential for medal success in Paris 2024 and/or Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games (Individuals and/or Team/Pairs)
- To select Athletes who will add positively to the collective aims of the WCP

2. Selection Panel

The Performance Director will nominate a Selection Panel. This Selection Panel will act as experts and will exercise their judgment as to which eligible athletes can most contribute, in each discipline, to the stated aims of the Boccia WCP. 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 may 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 onto the WCP.

The Selection Panel will comprise of:

- Performance Director – Greg Baker
- Head of Performance Solutions – Oliver Freeman
- Performance Coach – Glynn Tromans
- Independent Observer (TBC for each meeting) (No Vote)
- Performance Coach – Claire Morrison
- Performance Analyst - Anna Knolwes (No vote)

If any of the above are unable to participate in the Selection Panel, the Performance Director (or any person appointed as their deputy) may nominate an alternative.

Where relevant, an independent legal representative may be invited to add further advice and input to the selection process. Should this happen, the independent legal representative will not have voting rights.



All members of the Selection Panel must declare any conflicts of interest and notify the Panel of this prior to the start of the Selection Meeting. If an interest is declared, they should then exclude themselves from the decision-making where necessary. A coaching relationship with an athlete is not deemed a conflict of interest for the purpose of this selection process.

The Selection panel will convene continuously throughout a calendar year to select and/or deselect WCP athletes from the WCP. However, a full review of WCP athlete selections will take x1 per calendar year (post the year's Major Championship). This review will identify any new athletes to be selected onto the WCP, continuation of current athletes on the WCP, and/or any athletes that may need to be deselected from the WCP.

3. Selection Meeting.

The purpose of the selection meeting is to select the athletes for membership to the Boccia WCP. The meeting will be facilitated by the Performance Director of Boccia UK, with official minutes taken by the Operations Manager.

- Independent observers may be invited whose purpose and role will be to ensure due process is followed at all times.
- All possible efforts will be made to hold the meeting in person, but other formats may be acceptable where necessary including a remote/virtual meeting.
- The Selection Panel may consult specialists for input including but not limited to, the Boccia UK physiotherapist, psychologist and other consultants and coaches as appropriate.
- Where such specialist input is obtained, the advice and/or recommendations will be recorded in the minutes.
- The panel requires a majority decision to select an athlete for the WCP. If there is an even number of people on the panel and a resulting split decision, the Performance Director will have the casting vote
- Selection for the World Class Programme will normally take place post the year's Major Championships, ready for selection into the new calendar year, but can also occur at any other point during the year.

4. Selection Decisions

Boccia UK Performance Director, or delegate, shall inform athletes of their nomination outcome via personal contact. Communication of selection or de-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.

Once selected by Boccia UK, Athletes will be put forward to UK Sport for nomination for an APA.

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

5. Athlete Eligibility for the Boccia WCP

To be eligible for selection athletes must:

- Hold a British Passport
- Be internationally classified with a Confirmed Sport Class status or Review Sport Class status with a review date after 31st December 2020 and comply with current IPC and BISFED classification policy or have been profiled by Boccia UK experts and be deemed highly likely to achieve the required classification.
- Have no outstanding or existing doping or criminal offenses
- Comply with the Boccia UK code of conduct
- Be of a level of fitness to be able to safely travel internationally, meet the demands of the elite Boccia environment and compete and train in a reasonably managed manner.
- Ability to meet the demands and resources required to manage identified risks in line with training and competing at elite level.

6. Considerations for Selection

In addition to the eligibility criteria, the following will be considered determinants for selection for athletes to the Boccia WCP. These factors will be given varying importance with the aims of the policy and an athlete's individual and/ or team/pair performances at the forefront of decision making.

- **Performance Potential for medal success in Paris 2024 and/or Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games (Individuals and/or Team/Pairs)**
- **Has met current criteria/measures for either Confirmation/Academy/Podium funding as part of the most recent Boccia UK APA Matrix**
- **Progression and potential for progression in training**
Normally measured through Programme reviews both (formal and informal) which includes information from Individual Athlete Plans (IAP's) Coach reports, Training Diaries, Achievement and Consistency of verified training scores in skills tests. Performance progression tracking and Coaches expert opinion.
- **Positive performance mind set and behaviors**
Evidenced at competitions and training. Expert opinion.
- **Demonstrated ability to perform under competition pressure**
Evidenced at competitions and training both nationally and internationally and in pressure situations in training.
- **Competition results and levels of consistency in major competitions**
World and European Championships and World Cup / International challenger events in previous 4 years
- **Appointed Care or Support Staff's ability to contribute to the performance goals and mindset of the team**
- **Nominated Performance (Ramp) Assistant's ability to contribute to the performance goals of the team**

- **Events and Classification**

The level and selection of athletes may not be parable across male/female classes and between classifications. This is in reflection on the constraints of competition entry for each classification. The strength of one classification or event may deem that selection standards in that classification or event is considerably higher than another. Athletes may also be selected to compete as a team/pair athlete as a priority.

If the number of athletes meeting the nomination criteria exceeds the number of places available, consideration for programme membership may be based on:

- a. The ranking of the athlete in relation to the latest World Rankings.
- b. The age and profile of each athlete in relation to statistics collated on the profile for success in Paralympic Games.
- c. Individual athlete performance progression over the last 3 years.
- d. Performances over the previous two years at major championships.
- e. The quality of the athlete's training environment and training programme, and the athlete's engagement with the Boccia UK WCP Programme.

7. De-selection

Any decision on whether an athlete should be de-selected, after being selected under the above processes, will be taken by a Selection Panel. The composition of the Selection Panel will normally be to the same as the composition of the original Selection Panel but if individual members are not available the Performance Director may select a replacement.

The Selection Panel will consider de-selection of an athlete in the following circumstances.

Failure to meet any of the eligibility requirements whether such failure occurs before or after selection :

- Long term 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/code of codes of conduct
- Failing to meet performance expectations set out in the Boccia UK APA Matrix
- Lack of upward performance progression within an 18 month period on the Boccia uk APA Matrix
- Material non-adherence to agreed training programme and/or the Performance Programme
- Proven disciplinary infringement whether occurring before or after the selection decision was made
- Received anti -doping violation incompatible with membership of the Boccia UK World Class Programme, UK Anti-doping, BISFed, IPC and WADA



- The athlete is no longer seen as possessing genuine and strong potential to make the team at the 2024 Paris Games and to medal at either those Games or the 2028 Paralympic Games.
- Failure between the athlete and the Boccia UK to agree on a care assistant or performance 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 Boccia UK into disrepute with the sport, its sponsors or the public

Reasonable steps will be taken by the Selection Panel to inform any de-selected athlete selection via personal contact. Communication of de-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. Whether or not verbal communication is achieved, written notification (Email), where possible, will be sent within 14 days of the Selection Panel decision.

8. Force Majeure

Boccia UK reserve the right to change the selection policy in response to abnormal situations beyond the control of the sport including but not limited to terrorist threat, medical or environmental disaster.

9. Doping

Boccia UK is committed to Ethical and Drug Free sport. All athletes selected onto the WCP must conform to the Anti-Doping regulations and requirements of both Boccia UK, UK Anti-doping and the International Paralympic Committee. All selected athletes must consent to random, out of competition drugs testing if required.

10. Code of Conduct

All WCP selected athletes will be bound by the Boccia UK Code of Conduct and Athlete Agreement, contravention of which may result in de-selection in accordance with the procedures set out above.

11. Ultimate Authority

The Selection Panel has ultimate authority in final selection decisions relating to the selection of athletes to the WCP.

12. Appeals

Athletes may appeal their non-selection or de-selection through the application of this selection policy. To make an appeal an athletes 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 the written notice 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.