

**BISFed**

Boccia International Sports Federation

## **BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION RULES**

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# **1. Purpose, Eligibility and Definitions**

## **1.1 Purpose**

Classification refers to the on-going process by which athletes are assessed to determine the impact of their physical impairment on sport performance and to ensure that there is fairness for all athletes within the sport. Classification provides a structure for competition and takes place on a Club, State, National, Regional and International level.

### **Classification has two important roles:**

- a. To determine eligibility of athletes to compete.
- b. To group athletes for competition.

Every athlete wishing to compete in a Boccia event or competition must be allocated a Sport Class and a Sport Class status in accordance with the BISFed Classification Rules. All Athletes will be assessed individually and a Sport Class will be allocated based on the existence of an eligible impairment, compliance with minimal impairment criteria and the degree to which the impairment impacts upon sport performance (activity limitation).

## **1.2 Eligible Impairment Types**

BISFed provides an opportunity for individuals presenting with a permanent Health condition resulting in severe Neurological impairment of the Central Nervous System (CNS) or severe musculoskeletal dysfunction of Non-Cerebral origin affecting all four limbs, including:

- Spastic hypertonia,
- Dystonia,
- Athetosis
- Ataxia
- Impaired muscle power
- Impaired passive range of movement
- Limb deficiency

All athletes must provide medical evidence of their underlying condition and clinical diagnosis.

Eligible participants for international competition must be 15 years or older on the first day of January in the year of the competition. Exceptions are made for YOUTH EVENTS.

## **2. Athlete Evaluation**

### **2.1 Purpose of Classification**

The purpose of classification is to ensure that sporting success is a result of Athlete's training, skill level, talent and competitive experience rather than their degree of impairment. Classification will ensure that an Athlete meets the Minimum Impairment Criteria (as detailed in each classification physical profile) and assesses the functional impact of their impairment on activity limitation during sport performance.

#### **Principles of Classification**

Classifiers utilise a sport-specific classification system developed for Boccia. This will include the following components.

1. Physical assessment or Bench testing
2. Technical assessment including a range of sport specific tests and non-sport tests in a non-competitive environment
3. Observation assessment consisting of observation of sport-specific activities on court and during competition.

Allocation of sport class is based on types of impairment associated with Neuromuscular, CNS and musculoskeletal conditions, such as coordination, muscle power, range of motion and limb deficiencies, and the severity of the impairments affecting fundamental activities related to the sport, independent of skill level or athlete training.

### **2.2 Classification Personnel**

The following personnel have a key role in the process of Classification:

#### **Head of Classification**

The Head of Classification (HOC) is the person that is responsible for the direction, administration, coordination and implementation of classification matters for BISFed.

#### **Chief Classifier**

The Chief Classifier will be a Classifier responsible for the direction, administration, co-ordination and implementation of classification matters for a specific BISFed Competition.

## **Classifier**

A Classifier is a person authorised as a technical official by BISFed to evaluate Athletes for a sanctioned competition, while serving as a member of a classification panel.

## **Classification Team**

A Classification Team is a group of 2-3 Classifiers, appointed by BISFed for a particular Competition, to determine Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification team will generally consist of a Physiotherapist and a physician and/or sports technical expert.

## **2.3 National Classifications**

All Athletes eligible to participate in Boccia should receive an initial classification from their National Federation. Classification should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the BISFed Classification and Sport Profiles, and National Classifiers should be trained according to BISFed Classification Rules.

## **2.4 International Classification at Sanctioned Competitions**

**2.4.1** "International Classification" refers to the process of classification that is undertaken at, or before, a BISFed sanctioned international Competition. It is required before an Athlete may compete at such an event.

**2.4.2** International Classifications must be carried out by a BISFed accredited and appointed multidisciplinary panel composed of a Physiotherapist together with a physician (ideally specialising in Rehabilitation or Neurology) and/or a sports Technical expert.

**2.4.3** Members of Classification Panels should have no significant relationship with an Athlete (or a member of Athlete Support Personnel) that might create any actual or perceived bias or Conflict of Interest, and have no involvement with any decision being protested or appealed. Should conflict arise the parties concerned should raise these with the Chief Classifier. Members of a Classification Panel should not have any other official responsibilities within a Competition other than in connection with classification.

**2.4.4** A major Competition should have two (2) Classification Panels and

one Chief Classifier.

- 2.4.5** At the discretion of the Head of Classification, one Classification Panel of 3 classifiers may be deemed sufficient for smaller Competitions. If one Classification Panel only is present, no Protests will be dealt with and nations will be notified of this in initial entry information.
- 2.4.6** At smaller Competitions, the Chief Classifier may also act as a Classifier.
- 2.4.7** Adequate time must be allocated at the beginning of a Competition for Athlete Evaluation. At major events, a minimum of two (2) full days is recommended, depending on the number of Athletes to be classified.

## **2.5 Classification: Scheduling, Substitutions and Preparation**

- 2.5.1** The Head of Classification (HOC) appoints a Chief Classifier (CC) for the event, ideally at least three (3) months prior to a Competition. Classification Panels are to be appointed two (2) months before the event.
- 2.5.2** The HOC may also act as the Chief Classifier at a Competition. The HOC and the Chief Classifier are to work with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the Competition to prepare Athlete lists. A minimum of four (4) weeks prior to the first day of the Competition must be allowed for Athletes names to be submitted to the HOC.
- 2.5.3** The Chief Classifier should provide the LOC and National Federation teams with a classification evaluation schedule on or before their arrival at the Competition. After that time, any substitutions must be approved by the Chief Classifier and Technical Delegate for the Sport.

## **2.6 Classification: Athlete Evaluation**

“Athlete Evaluation” is the process, conducted in English, by which an Athlete is assessed so as to determine both Sport Class, and Sport Class Status.

**It is the responsibility of the National Federation/Team Manager to ensure that the Athlete attends evaluation.**

The Athlete must appear at Classification at the assigned time in the

appropriate attire with a recognised form of identification, such as a passport or an ID Card.

The following matters should be noted in relation to Athlete Evaluation:

- All Athletes must sign an Informed Consent Form (which states that the Athlete must comply with all reasonable instructions given by a Classification Panel)
- All Athletes, by way of their National Body, must provide evidence that establishes the existence of a Health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment by presenting a completed medical information form before they may be evaluated;
- The Athlete may be videotaped for classification and education purposes;
- If an Athlete does not appear in appropriate attire they will not be classified;
- If an Athlete has a health condition that causes pain which limits or prohibits full effort during evaluation, they will not be evaluated at that time. The Chief Classifier may, time permitting, re-schedule the evaluation;
- The Athlete must provide information to the panel regarding impairment, medication, medical device/implant and any surgery that affects sport performance. If an Athlete has an unusual or complicated impairment, it is required that the Athlete brings information about the impairment written in English. Athletes must present a full list of medications to the Classification Panel.
- A Classification Panel undertaking Athlete Evaluation may at any stage seek additional medical and technical information, with the agreement of the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier if necessary to allocate a Sport Class.
- The Athlete must present with all necessary sports equipment that they use at Competition such as ramps, pointers and gloves or splints
- Athletes may have one person (and, if required, an interpreter arranged by the National Body) to accompany them at the evaluation. This person should have an understanding of the Athlete's impairment and sport performance. If needed, the person may be asked by the Classifiers to assist with communication. If the Athlete is a minor, that Athlete must be accompanied by a member of the respective National body.
- If an Athlete has a seizure disorder which is a secondary characteristic of cerebral palsy or traumatic brain injury, they will be permitted to compete provided that the condition is controlled.



## **2.7 Classification: Athlete Evaluation Process**

The Athlete Evaluation must take place in a manner that respects the International standard for Classification Data Protection and consistent with the provisions of the International Standard for Classification Personnel and Training.

The Athlete Evaluation process shall encompass the following:

### **2.7.1 Physical Assessment**

The Classification Panel will commence by gathering information on the athlete's medical background and history in the sport. The panel will then conduct a physical assessment of the Athlete in accordance with methods of assessment stipulated in the Classification Rules of BISFed.

The physical assessment may include, but is not limited to the examination by the Medical members of the Classification Panel (Doctor, Physiotherapist).

Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the Physical assessment.

### **2.7.2 Technical Assessment**

The technical assessment may include, but is not limited to, evaluation in a non-competitive environment of the specific tasks and activities that are part of the sport in which the Athlete participates.

Classifiers may apply certain conditions to the Athlete in order to observe how the Athlete performs the activity under simulated sport conditions.

Classifiers must be confident that the Athlete has performed to the best of his/her capacity during the technical assessment.

### **2.7.3 Classification in Competition**

The Classification Panel will observe the Athlete performing the specific skills that are part of the sport during training practice, in an event and/or during pool play (i.e. prior to elimination/knockout stages).

Classification in Competition shall not be deemed to have been completed until the Classification panel has observed the Athlete sufficiently during competition. If for any reason the Classification panel is not satisfied with observations at a specific competition, the athlete may enter the next competition with a Competition Review Status (CRS) and will be observed at the next BISFed sanctioned event.

#### **2.7.4 Completion of Athlete Evaluation**

Athlete Evaluation will be deemed to have been completed once the matters referred to in **2.7.1**, **2.7.2** and **2.7.3** above have been completed to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel.

If Athlete Evaluation is not deemed by the Classification Panel to have been completed, the Athlete will not be given a Sport Class, and will not be eligible to participate in any part of the relevant Competition.

#### **2.7.5 Data protection**

All Classification data such as Personal Information and/or Sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or a National Body and/or a Third Party to the Classification panel and collected by the Classification panel through assessments, Video footage and/or photography taken that the Athlete consented to will be processed in order to allocate a Sports Class.

The data processed will be accurate, complete and kept up-to-date in a secured BISFed database.

Individual Classifiers may only use the Classification data collected during the classification process including video and photographs, notes, comments or records written in connection with the role as a classifier on the panel and may not retain or disclose any of the Classification data after Athlete Evaluation is completed.

**Classifiers are NOT allowed to publish any video or photograph, obtained during or after the classification process, on any form of social media no matter what the purpose or intention are.**

**Video footage and/or photography may be utilised by the Classification Panel for all classification purposes connected to the Competition and if the athlete consented, used for training purposes.**

## **2.8 Classification: Sport Class and Sport Class Status**

### **2.8.1 Sport Class**

A Sport Class is a category in which Athletes are categorized by reference to an Activity Limitation resulting from impairment, and the degree to which that impairment impacts upon sport performance. A range of function will exist within each Sport Class.

Not Eligible (NE) for Competition is considered a Sport Class.

Athletes will be allocated a Sport Class based on the BISFed Classification rules.

### **2.8.2 Sport Class Status**

Following Athlete Evaluation, Athletes will also be given a Sport Class Status. Sport Class Status indicates the extent to which an Athlete will be required to undertake further Evaluation, and whether (and by what party) the Athlete's Sport Class may be subject to Protest.

The following Sport Class Status designations shall be used to indicate Sport Class Status:

#### **Sport Class Status New (N)**

Sport Class Status New (**N**) is assigned to an Athlete who has not been previously evaluated by an International BISFed Classification Panel and has not had an entry Sport Class verified by BISFed.

**N** Athletes include Athletes who have been allocated a Sport Class by their National Federation for entry purposes.

**N Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at International BISFed Sanctioned Competitions.**

#### **Sport Class Status Review (R)**

Sport Class Status Review (**R**) is assigned to an Athlete who has been previously evaluated by an international BISFed Classification Panel but is still subject to further re-evaluation. The Athlete is subject to re-evaluation and the Sport Class may be changed before or during a Competition.

**R** Athletes include, but are not limited to Athletes who have fluctuating, progressive impairments; New athletes to the sport; or, if the Athlete is a minor (under the age of 18).

**R Athletes must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at international BISFed sanctioned Competitions where Two (2) classification panels are present or where One (1) panel is present provided there is time for such classifications in the schedule.**

## **Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (RFD)**

Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (**RFD**) is assigned to an Athlete required to complete Athlete Evaluation at the first opportunity after the relevant Fixed Date.

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

Sport Class Status Confirmed (**C**) is assigned to an Athlete who has been evaluated by an International BISFed Classification Panel and the Classification Panel has determined that the Athlete's Sport Class will not change.

An Athlete with a Confirmed Sport Class will not have that Sport Class altered before or during Competition, and will not be required to complete evaluation prior to competing at International Competitions, except in the case of a Protest lodged by BISFed in the person of the Head of Classification or Chief Classifier (3.5).

An Athlete will not be allocated a Confirmed "C" Sports Class Status until other competitors/nations have had an opportunity to observe the Athlete in Competition.

**C Status** will be assigned if:

- The Athlete has the same Sport Class at a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) consecutive BISFed sanctioned Competitions over a period of at least two (2) years.
- The Athlete is deemed permanently unable to grasp, release or propel the ball into the Field of Play by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation i.e. BC3 Sport Class

Due to the variable nature of recovery after Acquired Brain Injury the athlete with an Acquired Brain Injury will not be given Confirmed Status (C) till at least 4 years post injury. The athlete will remain Review Status (R) until at least four (4) years post injury and has been classified a minimum of two (2) consecutive BISFed sanctioned Competitions in the same Sports Class over a period of at least two (2) years.

If the criteria or methodology used to allocate a Sport Class changes, BISFed may re-designate Athletes with Sport Class Status Confirmed (C) and Athletes with Sport Class Status Review Fixed Date (RFD) as being Sports Class Status Review (R).

## 2.9 Classification: Notification of Sport Class and Sport Class Status

### 2.9.1 Sport Class Status New Athletes

Athletes with Sport Class Status **N** will receive Sport Class Status "Competition Review Status" ("CRS") following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2).

Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), Athletes with Sport Class Status **N** will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status **R** or **RFD**.

### 2.9.2 Sport Class Status R or RFD Athletes

Athletes with Sport Class Status **R** or **RFD** will receive Sport Class Status "Competition Review Status" ("CRS") following completion of Physical Assessment (2.7.1) and Technical Assessment (2.7.2).

Following Classification in Competition (2.7.3) and Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), Athletes with Sport Class Status **CRS** will receive a Sport Class and Sport Class Status **R**, **RFD** or **C**.

### Athlete Evaluation Pathway

Pre-Competition		Post-Evaluation Period		Post-First Appearance
<b>N</b>	→	<b>CRS</b>	→	<b>R, RFD *</b>
<b>R, RFD</b>	→	<b>CRS</b>	→	<b>R, RFD, C</b>

\*BC3 Athletes may be given Confirmed Status as per 2.8.2.

### 2.9.3 Notification to Athlete

Following Completion of Athlete Evaluation (2.7.4), the Athlete shall be informed of the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class and Sport Class Status. This will occur as soon as possible after the decision has been made.

Written notification will be provided to the Athlete and given to the Athlete's National Federation representative and will include:

- the Athlete's assigned Sport Class
- the Athlete's updated Sport Class Status
- details of associated Protest procedures

#### **2.9.4 Notification to Third Parties**

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) shall provide all relevant information that teams may require for viewing Classification in Competition of any Athletes who enter a Competition with an "N" or "R" Sport Class Status.

At the end of each session during the Athlete Evaluation period, the Chief Classifier must provide details of assigned Sports Classes and updated Sports Class Statuses to the LOC and the Technical Delegate for the relevant Sport.

#### **2.9.5 Changes in Sport Class after Observation**

If any changes to an Athlete's Sports Class are determined by the Classification Panel as a result of Classification in Competition:

- The Chief Classifier shall inform the national team representative and the LOC of the Classification Panel's decision as soon as is logistically possible;
- The change of Sport Class is effective immediately;
- The Chief Classifier will inform the Technical Delegate and the LOC;
- Results may need to be adjusted by the LOC in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of BISFed;
- The LOC may make adjustments to start lists and schedule in accordance with the sports and/or Classification Rules of BISFed; and
- The LOC must advise other teams/nations and any other relevant parties of any associated changes as soon as logistically possible.

Written notification of any changes resulting from Classification in Competition period must be provided to the Athlete. This will include:

- The Athlete's assigned Sport Class;
- The Athlete's updated Sport Class Status; and
- Details of any associated Protest procedures

The LOC has the responsibility to inform all relevant parties of the outcomes of the Athletes evaluation after being so advised by the Chief Classifier.

### **2.9.6 Final Confirmation at the end of the Competition**

The Chief Classifier for the Competition must confirm each Sport Class and Sport Class Status assigned by the Classification Panels before the end of each Competition.

### **2.9.7 Post-Competition Notification**

The results from Classification at each Competition will be posted for all countries on the BISFed website, normally within four (4) weeks of the end of the event.

### **2.9.8 Competing in a Higher Sport Class**

An Athlete may compete in a higher (less impaired) Sport Class at a specific Competition at the discretion of the Chief Classifier and Technical Delegate. If the Athlete competes in a higher/less impaired Sport Class e.g. BC1 competing as BC2, they will remain in that Sport Class for the remainder of the Competition.

## **2.10 Classification: Identity Cards**

Following Classification, a Classification Identity Card will be issued to the Athlete's national sport governing body as soon as is practical. The Classification Identity Card will contain details of an Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status, and must be presented to the Chief Classifier at each Competition.

The name on the Classification Identity Card will be the name from the Athlete's passport and that name must be used for registration purposes.

If cards are lost, the National Federation must contact the Head of Classification for replacement.

## **2.11 Classification: Master List**

BISFed, through the Head of Classification, will maintain a Classification Master List of all Athletes, with details such as Athlete's first name and surname, Nationality, Date of Birth, Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Classification Master List will be published on the BISFed website.

Following a Competition, a Chief Classifier must liaise with the BISFed Head of Classification, so that the Classification Master List can be updated.

## **2.12 Classification: Athlete Failure to attend Evaluation**

**If an Athlete fails to attend evaluation, the Athlete will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in the Boccia event.**

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend evaluation; an Athlete may be given a second and final chance to attend evaluation.

Failure to attend evaluation includes:

- Not attending the evaluation at the specified time or place; or
- Not attending the evaluation with the appropriate equipment/clothing and/or documentation; or
- Not attending evaluation accompanied by the required Athlete Support Personnel.

## **2.13 Classification: Suspension of Athlete Evaluation**

**An Athlete who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is unable or unwilling to participate in an Athlete Evaluation shall be considered non co-operative during evaluation, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in the Boccia event.**

A Classification Panel, in consultation with the Chief Classifier, may suspend Athlete Evaluation if it cannot allocate a Sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to in one or more of the following circumstances:

- 2.13.1 A failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of the relevant Classification Rules;
- 2.13.2 A failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
- 2.13.3 The Classification Panel believes that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/device/implant disclosed by the Athlete will affect the ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
- 2.13.4 The Athlete has a Health Condition that may limit or prohibit complying with the requests by the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation, which the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
- 2.13.5 If an Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
- 2.13.6 If in the reasonable opinion of the Classification Panel, the



- Athlete is physically or mentally unable to comply with the instructions of the Classification Panel;
- 2.13.7 The Athlete refuses to comply with any reasonable instructions given by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
- 2.13.8 The Athlete's representation of his or her abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Athlete Evaluation cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

Should the Chief Classifier be satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to co-operate during the evaluation then the Athlete may be given a second and final opportunity to attend and co-operate.

If Athlete Evaluation is suspended by a Classification Panel, the following steps will be taken:

- An explanation for the suspension and details of the remedial action that is required on the part of the Athlete will be provided to the Athlete and/or the relevant National body;
- If an Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of the Chief Classifier or Head of Classification, Athlete Evaluation will be resumed
- If the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within any timeframe specified, Athlete Evaluation will be terminated, and the athlete must be precluded from competing at any Competition until Athlete Evaluation is completed

**A Suspension of Athlete Evaluation may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.**

Any Athlete found to have been non co-operative during an evaluation will not be permitted to undergo any further evaluation for the sport of Boccia for a minimum of twelve (12) months starting from the date upon which the Athlete failed to cooperate and will not be permitted to take part in any BISFed Competition in that time.

## **2.14 Classification: Intentional Misrepresentation**

**An Athlete, who, in the opinion of the Classification Panel, is intentionally misrepresenting skill and/or abilities will not be allocated a Sport Class or Sport Class Status, and will not be permitted to compete at that Competition in the Boccia event.**

In addition:

- The Athlete will not be allowed to undergo any further evaluation for Boccia for a minimum of two (2) years from the date upon which the Athlete intentionally misrepresented skills and/or abilities;
- The Chief Classifier will remove the Sport Class and Sport Class Status allocated to the Athlete from the BISFed classification master list;
- The Athlete will be designated as IM (Intentional Misrepresentation) in the BISFed classification master list and on the BISFed web list;
- The National Federation will be informed of the decision.

An Athlete who, on a second and separate occasion, intentionally misrepresents skills and/or abilities will receive a lifetime ban from BISFed events and will be subject to other sanctions deemed appropriate by BISFed.

## **2.15 Classification: Failure to Attend/Misrepresentation and Consequences for Athlete Support Personnel**

BISFed shall enforce sanctions on Athlete Support Personnel who assist or encourage an Athlete to fail to attend Athlete evaluation; to fail to cooperate; intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities or disrupt the evaluation process in any other way.

Those who are involved in advising Athletes to intentionally misrepresent skills and/or abilities will be subject to sanctions, which are at least as severe as the sanctions given to the Athlete.

In this circumstance, reporting the Athlete Support Personnel to the appropriate parties is an important step in deterring intentional misrepresentation by the Athlete.

## **2.16 Publication of Penalties**

BISFed will disclose details of penalties imposed upon Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in writing to the Athlete and his/her National federation.

## 2.17 Medical Review

A change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment may mean that a review is needed to ensure that any Sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct. This review is referred to as 'Medical Review'. A Medical Review is commenced by way of a 'Medical Review Request'.

- 2.17.1 A Medical Review Request must be made if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment changes the Athlete's ability to perform the specific tasks and activities required by a sport due to medication, device/implant or change in function due to degenerative conditions e.g. Muscular Dystrophy.
- 2.17.2 A Medical Review Request must be completed by a National Body and must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's relevant Impairment has changed, and why it is believed that the Athlete's Sport Class may no longer be accurate. This must support all relevant supporting documentation.
- 2.17.3 A Medical Review might also be requested by the Anti-doping Committee on granting an Athlete the permission to use a substance/medication on the list of prohibited medication.
- 2.17.4 The Head of Classification must decide whether or not the Medical Review Request must be upheld as soon as is practical following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 2.17.5 If the Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Sport Class Status will be amended to Review (**R**) or Review Fixed Date (**RFD**).

## 3 Protests and Appeals

### 3.1 Protests

- 3.1.1 The term "Protest" is used in these Rules as it is in the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classification Code International Standard for Protests and Appeals. It refers to the procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class is made and subsequently resolved.
- 3.1.2 A Protest that is accepted will result in Athlete Evaluation being conducted by a Classification Panel, which will be referred to as a

“Protest Panel”.

- 3.1.3 An Athlete's Sport Class may only be protested once. This restriction does not apply to Protests submitted by the International Sport Federation BISFed.
- 3.1.4 A Protest in respect of a Sport Class allocated by BISFed may only be resolved by BISFed.
- 3.1.5 Protests must be resolved in a manner that minimises the impact on Competition participation, and Competition schedules and results.
- 3.1.6 Protests may be submitted during Competition, or after the Competition has ended.

## **3.2 Parties Permitted to Make a Protest**

Protests may only be made by the following parties

- A National Federation; and
- BISFed

## **3.3 National Federation Protest**

- 3.3.1 A National Federation may make a Protest on behalf of an Athlete. An Athlete may not make a Protest without the authorisation of the National Body.
- 3.3.2 A National Federation may make a protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction who at the time of being enrolled at the Competition, holds a Sport Class that has been designated Sport Class Status New (**N**), Review (**R**) or Review Fixed Date (**RFD**).
- 3.3.3 A National Federation Protest must be made at a Competition the Athlete has entered in.
- 3.3.4 The National Federation making the Protest is responsible for ensuring that all Protest process requirements are complied with.
- 3.3.5 A National Federation may not make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete who is under the jurisdiction of another National Federation. If a National Federation believes there are grounds for a Protest in respect of the Sport Class allocated to such and Athlete it may request BISFed to make a Protest.

### **3.4 National Federation Protest Procedure**

- 3.4.1 A National Federation Protest must be made by way of a BISFed Classification Protest Form completed in English. Protests may be submitted by a National Federation representative authorised to submit Protests (for example, the Chef de Mission or Team Manager). All documents and other evidence referred to in the Protest Form must be submitted with the Protest Form, or as soon as is reasonably practical following the submission of the Protest Form. The information and documentation to be submitted with the Protest form must include the following:
- The name, nation and sport of the Athlete whose Sport Class is being protested;
  - Details of the decision being protested;
  - The reasoned explanation for the Protest;
  - Any Supporting documentation and other evidence to be offered in support of the Protest;
  - The signature of the National Federation representative
  - A fee of One Hundred and Fifty (150) Euros (unless there is a different amount specified for that Competition).
- 3.4.2 The Sport Class of an athlete may be protested by the National Federation within one (1) hour (sixty (60) minutes) of the Athlete being advised as to the Classification Panel's decision regarding Sport Class.
- 3.4.3 The Chief Classifier for the event, or a person designated for that event, shall be the person authorised to receive Protests on behalf of BISFed at an event.
- 3.4.4 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is not supported by evidence and/or otherwise does not comply with the relevant Protest procedures, the Chief Classifier will decline the Protest and notify all relevant parties. In such cases, the Chief Classifier shall provide a written explanation to the National Federation as soon as is practicable. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.
- 3.4.5 If the Chief Classifier declines a Protest, the National Federation may resubmit the Protest if it is able to remedy the deficiencies identified by the Chief Classifier. The time frames for re-submitting a Protest will be 1 hour (60 minutes) from the time the National Federation was informed of the decline.
- 3.4.6 If it appears to the Chief Classifier that the Protest is supported by evidence and complies with the relevant Protest procedures,

the Protest must be accepted. If the Protest is accepted:

- The Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested Athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (**R**) as appropriate;
- The Chief Classifier shall appoint a Protest Panel to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible, which must be if practicable at the Competition the Protest was made

3.4.7 The Head of Classification and/or the Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest panel. Regardless of the outcome of a Protest, BISFed will retain the Protest fee.

### **3.5 BISFed Protest**

3.5.1 BISFed may make a Protest in respect of the Sport Class of any Athlete under its jurisdiction at any time.

3.5.2 BISFed in the person of the Head of Classification and/or Chief Classifier, if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification, may make a Protest if he/she has good reason to believe that the Protested Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport are not consistent with the Sport Class that has been allocated to the Protested Athlete.

### **3.6 BISFed Protests Procedure**

3.6.1 The Head of Classification of BISFed will advise the relevant National Body at the earliest possible opportunity that a Protest is to be made.

3.6.2 The Head of Classification will provide the National Body with a reasoned explanation as to why the Protest is justified.

3.6.3 If BISFed makes a Protest:

- The Protested Athlete's Sport Class shall remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest but the Protested athlete's Sport Class Status shall be retained or amended as or to Sport Class Status Review (**R**) as appropriate;
- A Protest Panel must be appointed to resolve the Protest as soon as is reasonably possible

- 3.6.4 A Chief Classifier may make a Protest for and on behalf of BISFed at a Competition if it is in the interests of fairness to Athletes to do so.

### **3.7 Resolving a Protest: the Protest Panel**

- 3.7.1 A Chief Classifier may fulfil one or more of the Head of Classification's obligations in resolving a Protest if authorised to do so by the Head of Classification.
- 3.7.2 A Protest Panel must be appointed by the Head of Classification in a manner consistent with the provisions in the IPC Code and International Standards relating to the Appointment of a Classification Panel.
- 3.7.3 A Protest Panel must not include any person who:
- Was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or
  - An person who has been a member of a Classification Panel that has conducted any Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of twelve (12) months prior to the date of the Protested Decision, save that a National Body may agree to a Protest Panel comprising such a person
- 3.7.4 The Head of Classification or the Chief Classifier at a competition will supply all documentation submitted with the Protest form to the Panel. The Head of Classification or Chief Classifier will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation that will be conducted by the Protest Panel.
- 3.7.5 The Protest Panel will conduct the relevant components of Athlete Evaluation. The Protest Panel may make enquiries of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision and the Chief Classifier if such enquiries will enable the Protest Panel to complete Athlete Evaluation in a fair and transparent manner.
- 3.7.6 The Protest Panel will (if able to do so) allocate a Sport Class and designate a Sport Class Status. All relevant parties shall be notified of the Protest Panel's decision as quickly as possible following Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.7.7 **The decision of the Protest Panel is final and is not subject to any further National Body Protest.**

### **3.8 Provisions Where No Protest Panel is Available.**

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

- 3.8.1 The Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete within the Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest, pending the resolution of the Protest;
- 3.8.2 All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity.

### **3.9 Appeals**

The term "appeal" refers to a procedure by which a formal objection to the manner in which classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

BISFed has designated the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) to act as the appeal body for BISFed. 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.

The BAC shall have jurisdiction to review classification decisions in order to:

- Ensure that all appropriate Sport Class allocation procedures have been followed; and/or
- Ensure that all appropriate Protest procedures have been followed.

### **3.10 Appeal Process**

A National Body may make an Appeal by submitting a Notice of Appeal to BISFed.

A Notice of Appeal must:

- 3.10.1 Be made within fifteen (15) days of the decision being complained of;
- 3.10.2 Identify the decision being Appealed, by attaching a copy of the decision (if written) or briefly summarising it;



- 3.10.3 Specify the grounds of the Appeal
- 3.10.4 Identify all documents evidence and witnesses to be put forward to support of the Appeal;
- 3.10.5 Be submitted with a fee that reflects/equal to the charges of the BAC

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, BISFed must refer the Appeal to the Appeal Body for resolution.

## **4 Classification and Sport Profiles**

### **4.1 Methods of Classification**

#### **4.1.1 Assessment of Spasticity**

The Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale (ASAS) is used to assess spasticity in the upper limbs and lower limbs with athletes seated in their sport specific wheelchair. The scale is outlined below:

##### **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 slow passive movement.

#### **4.1.2 Assessment of Athetosis/Dystonia**

Dyskinetic Impairments such as Athetosis/ Dystonia have historically been difficult to assess. Boccia Classification has adapted the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale as means of quantifying these impairments.

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 (Appendix A).

**Assess if the Amplitude of movements are:**

- 0 Athetosis/Dystonia is absent
- 1 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in < 10% of range of motion
- 2 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in < 25% of range of motion
- 3 Athetosis/Dystonia is present between 25-50% of range of motion
- 4 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in > 50% of range of motion

**Assess if the Duration of movements are:**

- 0 Athetosis/Dystonia is absent
- 1 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in < 10% of observed time
- 2 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in < 25% of observed time
- 3 Athetosis/Dystonia is present between 25-50% of observed time
- 4 Athetosis/Dystonia is present in > 50% of observed time

References:

Monbaliu et al. The Dyskinesia Impairment Scale: A new instrument to measure dystonia and choreoathetosis in dyskinetic cerebral palsy (2012)

### **4.1.3 Assessment of Ataxia**

The assessment of Ataxia that will be used in the Classification of the Boccia athlete to determine the severity is taken from SARA (Scale for the assessment and rating of ataxia) and movements to look at 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)

For the assessment and scoring see **Appendix B**

References:

Schmitz-Hübsch T, Tezenas du Montcel S, Baliko L, Berciano J, Boesch S et al. Scale for the assessment and rating of ataxia: development of a new clinical scale. *Neurology* 2006;66:1717-1720.

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

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;22:1633-1637.

#### **4.1.4 Assessment of Muscle Strength**

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. Athletes are to be assessed seated in their sport specific wheelchair.

##### **Muscle Testing (Strength scale)**

- 0** Total lack of voluntary contraction.
- 1** Faint contraction without any movement of the limb (trace, flicker).
- 2** Contraction with very weak movement through full range of motion when gravity is eliminated.
- 3** Contraction with movement through the complete joint range against gravity without resistance.
- 4** Contraction with full range of movement against gravity and some resistance.
- 5** Contraction of normal strength through full range of movement against full resistance.

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

## **4.2 BOCCIA PHYSICAL PROFILES**

The following information details the different classes within Boccia and the physical profiles of the athletes within each class.

### **4.2.1 BC 1 Class**

**Athletes who are diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia or Athetosis or who may have a mixed picture including those with severe Ataxia**

#### **Minimal Impairment Criteria BC1**

- **Topography: Impairment(s) affect all four limbs**
- **Impairment: Spasticity**
  - **Athlete has at least Grade 3 spasticity in muscle group(s) that affect the propulsion of the ball into the field of play (Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Athetosis/Dystonia**
  - **Athlete exhibits impairment for greater than 50% duration and greater than 50% amplitude of range, in limb propelling the ball in to the field of play. (Adapted from Dyskinesia Impairment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Ataxia**
  - **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**

#### **In summary:**

- Severe impairment affecting all four limbs
- Spasticity ASAS Grade 3-4 (ABOVE Grade 3) with or without athetosis
- Limited functional range of movement and/or limited functional strength in all extremities and trunk
- OR an athlete with severe athetosis or dystonia with limited functional strength and control
- OR Severe ataxia limiting coordination, grasp and release.
- Dependent on a powered wheelchair or assistance for everyday mobility and is unlikely to use a manual wheelchair for any length of time.
- Athletes with athetosis may play from a manual wheelchair, often propelled using their lower limbs.
- Athletes with athetosis may walk.

## **BC 1 Thrower: Spastic Quadriplegia**

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

- On clinical assessment of the biceps and triceps, shoulder flexors and extensors, wrist and hand, athletes will demonstrate spasticity ASAS Grade 3 or above.
- On functional assessment, this level of spasticity will have a direct activity limitation on the throw and will severely limit the follow through, which is poor.
- Spasticity in biceps/triceps specifically limits follow through in the over arm/chest throw and spasticity in the shoulder flexors and extensors/biceps will directly impact on follow through for the pendulum or underarm throw (refer to definitions describing the throwing actions).
- 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 deformity and weakness will be evident in the upper limb.
- Dissociation of the upper limb from the trunk will be limited.
- Reflex patterns are commonly observed such as ATNR/STNR/Flexor pattern but not always present and occur on the throwing side; opposite side; both or in the lower limbs. Clonus or spasm may be observed.

### **Hand function and grip**

- Clinically there will be 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.
- There will be a loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand.
- Athletes may demonstrate delayed release of the ball as a result of flexor tone/spasticity or weakness in the extensors.

### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate spasticity and weakness within the trunk.
- 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).
- Spasticity and/or weakness in the trunk will result in a loss of postural control when throwing; for example, on 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.
- Due to the spasticity and/or weakness in the trunk, athletes will have

- limited dissociation of pelvis/trunk/upper limb movement.
- 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 active weakness/ tonal issues.

### **Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle**

- On clinical assessment of the hip/knee and ankle, athletes will demonstrate ASAS spasticity Grade 3 or above in the lower limbs.
- 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. They will demonstrate poor dissociation of the lower limbs from the pelvis & trunk actively.
- Deformities may be present in the lower limbs, in particular around the hip & knee, more commonly into fixed flexion.
- Athletes will demonstrate an inability to bear weight effectively through the lower limbs when transferring and will not be able to walk.
- Athletes will have very limited pelvic range of movement and control on which the trunk can be moved and will demonstrate poor dissociation of the pelvis from the lumbar spine actively.

## **BC 1 Thrower: Athetosis/Ataxia/Mixed picture**

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

- On clinical assessment athletes will demonstrate a combination of involuntary movement and spasticity in the upper limb, which results in significantly reduced coordination and control of movement. They may have full range of active movement with less control.
- On the assessment scale for athetosis and ataxia the BC1 Thrower will be on the severe end of the scale scoring mostly 4.
- Functionally this uncoordinated and involuntary movement will result in a significant limitation to an athlete's follow through when throwing. In particular they will have poor directional follow through and poor timing of the throw that may result in multiple attempts before releasing the ball.
- Athletes may demonstrate the use of compensatory strategies, for example, the head/shoulder girdle and opposite arm to improve their postural stability in the preparation to throw.
- 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 release of the ball. Involuntary movements then increase also.
- 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.

### **Hand function and grip**

- Clinically there will be weakness 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.
- There will be a loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand and manual dexterity will be affected.
- Athletes may demonstrate delayed release of the ball as a result of flexor tone or weakness in the extensors.

### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate involvement of the trunk with involuntary movement, which results in a loss of postural control and coordination.
- The involuntary movement of the trunk will be more evident during functional assessment when throwing and commonly seen in conjunction with lower limb involuntary movement and increased reflex reactions as detailed below.
- The head will commonly be affected by the involuntary movement and also 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.
- Athletes will demonstrate a greater loss of postural control and stability on release of the ball.

### **Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle**

- On clinical assessment, athletes will demonstrate a combination of involuntary movement and spasticity in the lower limb, which results in significantly reduced coordination and control of active movement.
- This will also be associated with increased reflex activity. Functionally 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 release of the ball.
- As these athletes have some active control, 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 also use the shoulder girdle and arm to improve their stability.



## **BC 1 Foot player**

- 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.
- On clinical and functional assessment athletes will demonstrate the trunk and pelvis involvement described previously along with some involvement of their lower limbs. As this is most likely to be an athlete with athetosis/ataxia rather than spasticity, will have a degree of involuntary movement in the lower limbs.
- On functional assessment the athlete will have sufficient active control and range of movement within their lower limbs to propel the ball with their foot into the field of play with purposeful direction and sufficient velocity in order to be eligible to play Boccia as a BC1 foot player. (See definitions of purposeful direction and sufficient velocity).

### **4.2.2 BC 2 Class**

#### **Athletes who are diagnosed with Spastic Quadriplegia or with Athetosis/Ataxia**

##### **Minimal Impairment Criteria BC2**

- **Topography: Impairment(s) affect all four limbs**
- **Impairment: Spasticity**
  - **Athlete has at least Grade 2 spasticity in muscle group(s) that affect the propulsion of the ball into the field of play (Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Athetosis/Dystonia**
  - **Athlete exhibits impairment for between 25-50% Duration and between 25-50% Amplitude of range, in limb propelling the ball in to the field of play. (Adapted from Dyskinesia Impairment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Ataxia**
  - **Athlete has involvement in proximal or distal joints, as observed in finger nose and finger chase assessments, which create incoordination that affects all aspects of throw**

### **In summary:**

- Impairment affecting all four limbs
- Spasticity ASAS Grade 2-3 with or without athetosis
- OR an athlete with athetosis or ataxia
- 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
- Athletes may use a manual or powered chair for everyday mobility
- Athletes may walk short to moderate distances.

## **BC 2 Thrower: Spastic Quadriplegia**

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

- On clinical assessment of the biceps/triceps, shoulder flexors and extensors, athletes will demonstrate spasticity ASAS Grade 2 or above.
- On clinical assessment, if an athlete presents with ASAS Grade 2 in the biceps/triceps the initial catch must be close to the halfway point of available range. On functional assessment the impact of this level of spasticity must be evident when assessing the release & the follow through.
- Athletes will demonstrate some limitation in functional active range of movement of the upper limb.
- When considering an underarm or pendulum throw, assessment of spasticity in the shoulder flexors and extensors, there must be a minimum of ASAS Grade 2 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.
- This level of spasticity will be velocity-dependent and so greater reactions and limitation will be seen with greater speed of the throw.
- Athletes will demonstrate a degree of directional follow through and dissociation of the upper limb from the trunk when throwing.

### **Hand function and grip**

- Clinically 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.
- 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 classification.
- Athletes will have sufficient manual dexterity to manipulate the ball in their hand and to throw.

## **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate spasticity and weakness within the trunk. They may have one side affected more than the other within the trunk.
- This level of spasticity and/or weakness in the trunk allows these athletes to 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.
- Functionally this will allow athletes to demonstrate postural control and sitting balance in preparation to throw and their ability to maintain some degree of postural control and balance on release of the ball and after follow through.
- 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).
- 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 follow through, will not be Eligible as a BC2 athlete.

## **Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle**

- On clinical assessment of the hip/knee and ankle, athletes will demonstrate ASAS spasticity grade 2 or above in the lower limbs.
- Athletes will demonstrate some loss of functional, active range of movement in the lower limbs as a result of spasticity, weakness and reduced selective control. They will demonstrate some dissociation of the lower limbs from the pelvis and trunk.
- 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.
- 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.
- Athletes will have limited pelvic range of movement and control on which the trunk can be moved but they will demonstrate reduced dissociation of the pelvis from the lumbar spine, actively.

## **BC 2 Thrower: Athetosis/Ataxia/Mixed picture**

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

- On clinical assessment athletes will demonstrate a combination of involuntary movement and spasticity in the upper limb. This is less severe than within the BC 1 classification but results in reduced coordination and control of movement. They may have full range of active movement but will have less selective control.
- On the assessment scale for athetosis and ataxia the BC2 Thrower will score mostly 3
- Functionally the involuntary movement and reduced control will result in some limitation of the follow through when throwing.
- Athletes may demonstrate some directional follow through but clear impact of the athetosis on the throw must be evident.
- Athletes might be able to dissociate the upper limb from the trunk and maintain some postural control and stability on 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.
- 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).

### **Hand function and grip**

- Clinically 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.
- Athletes may use a cylindrical or spherical grasp and may be able to use the whole hand to maintain a grasp of the ball.
- There will be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand therefore affecting manual dexterity.
- Athletes may demonstrate delayed release of the ball as a result of mixed tone or weakness in the wrist and finger extensors.

### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate some involvement of the trunk with involuntary movement, which will mildly displace their centre of gravity and result in a loss of postural control and coordination.
- The involuntary movement of the trunk will be more evident when assessed functionally when throwing and commonly seen in conjunction with lower limb involuntary movement and increased reflex reactions as detailed below.
- Athletes will demonstrate some loss of postural control after the follow through.
- 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).

- 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.

### **Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle**

- On clinical assessment athletes will demonstrate involuntary movement in the lower limb, which results in reduced coordination and control of active movement. They may have full range of active movement with less control.
- This may also be associated with increased reflex activity.
- Functionally, 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.
- As these athletes have some active control, and 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 also use the shoulder girdle and arm to improve their stability.
- Athletes will not be able to run.

## **4.2.3 BC 3 Class**

### **Minimal Impairment Criteria BC3**

- **Topography: Impairment(s) affecting all four limbs**
- **Impairments: Spasticity, Athetosis, Dystonia, Ataxia, Weakness, Reduced range of motion with muscle weakness**
  - **Athlete is unable to grasp or release and propel the ball consistently into the field of play (up to the cross +)**

Athletes who fit the physical profile of a BC1 or BC4 athlete (as detailed in each physical profile) but who are unable to hold/throw the ball may be eligible as a BC3 athlete provided they fulfil the criteria below.

- Athletes must demonstrate that they are unable to hold the ball and have no sustained grasp and/or functional release or unable to propel the ball with their feet into the field play.

- Functionally athletes are unable to consistently propel a boccia ball with purposeful direction & velocity into the field of play (up to the cross +).
- BC 3 athletes will use an assistive device (ramp) to propel the ball onto the field of play with the help of an assistant.
- Athletes may use a variety of methods to release the ball on the ramp, which may include but are 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.

#### **4.2.4 BC 4 Class**

**Athletes who are diagnosed with conditions of NON cerebral origin who do not have spasticity, ataxia or athetosis**

##### **Minimal Impairment Criteria BC4**

- **Topography: Impairment(s) affect all four limbs**
- **Impairment : Weakness**
  - **Athlete has muscle strength of 3 or less in shoulder muscles (in 0-90 degrees ROM Flexion/Abduction) and in elbow extensors, assessed in sitting position. (Adapted from Daniel and Worthingham).**

##### **In summary:**

- Athletes will have severe locomotor dysfunction affecting all four limbs.
- Athletes must have lack of full active trunk control due to weakness in trunk muscles.
- Moderate impairment of function and may have some limitation in active functional range of movement due to weakness and lack of control affecting the upper limbs/trunk/lower limbs.
- Overall muscle strength of 3/5 or less.
- Athletes may use a manual or power chair for everyday mobility.
- Athletes may walk with assistance or using a walking aid.
- Sport functional profile and mechanics of throwing is similar to Boccia Class 1 or 2 athletes.

Athletes with the following diagnoses that result in functional limitations and meet the physical profiles detailed below may be eligible:

- Myopathies with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the shoulders and the rest of the upper limbs. This includes conditions such as Muscular Dystrophy.

- Spinal cord lesion of upper cervical spine, complete or incomplete tetraplegic, with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Motor neuron disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Spinal cord disease such as Transverse myelitis with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Spina bifida combined with upper extremity involvement with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Peripheral Neuropathies such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease with overall strength of 3/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Amputees of all 4 limbs with a very high level of amputation. For example high amputations above the knees influencing the trunk stability and high above elbow amputations.
- Athrogryposis with muscle strength of 3/5 or less in the available active range of the upper limb as well as the trunk extensor muscles.
- Other conditions and syndromes such as Multiple Sclerosis, TAR Syndrome (thrombocytopenia with absent radius), Juvenile Arthritis, and Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which result in overall poor strength of 3/5 and/or limited range of movement, may be included in this profile.

## **BC 4 Thrower**

### **Mobility**

- Athletes may use a manual or powered wheelchair for everyday mobility.
- Athletes may be able to propel a manual wheelchair; however rapid movements are not possible.
- Athletes may be able to transfer independently using a variety of methods.
- Athletes may have the ability to walk short distances but will require assistance to balance from another person. They may use walls or a walking aid.

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

- Active range of movement is limited, either due to lack of strength and/or lack of flexibility and or limb loss.

### **Shoulder**

- Athletes may be able to move the shoulder through full range of movement against gravity, however they are unable to do this against manual resistance or holding the ball. They have Grade 3/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.

### **Elbow (Triceps and Biceps)**

- Athletes may be able to move the elbow through full range of movement against gravity, however they are unable to do this against manual resistance. They have Grade 3/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.

### **Combined Shoulder and Elbow**

- Athletes are unable to maintain 90° to full shoulder range of flexion/elevation/abduction and actively extend the elbow against manual resistance or when holding the ball. They have Grade 3/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment of combined movement at the shoulder & elbow.
- Functionally when throwing using the over arm/dart throw, the elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) on active extension of the elbow, when releasing the ball. It is therefore a gravity assisted release of the ball.

### **Wrist, Hand function and grip**

- Athletes may be able to demonstrate full ROM of the wrist, thumb and fingers, however there will be weakness Grade 3/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.
- Intrinsic hand and grip strength weakness will be evident on power grip and pinch grip testing. This will be demonstrated functionally by weakness of functional grasp (flexors) and on release of the ball (extensors).
- There may be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand as a result of muscle weakness and so manual dexterity will be affected in some way.

### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate weakness, trunk muscle strength of less than 3/5, within the trunk musculature on clinical testing and will have some limitation of their active trunk mobility as a result of this postural muscle weakness (namely abdominals and extensors).
- Athletes are able to 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.
- Functionally trunk muscle weakness will affect the athlete's ability to maintain good sitting balance/ posture and to control movement without the use of some compensatory strategies (see definitions of compensatory movement & strategies).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Athletes with 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.
- It is common for athletes to present with spinal deformities such as scoliosis.

N.B. It is very important to consider the whole upper limb and its relationship with the trunk when assessing individual athletes.

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 strength on the functional throw must be considered, assessed and explained.

**If this additional muscle strength in the upper limb or strength in the trunk is found to assist the throwing technique then the athlete will not be eligible as a BC 4 athlete.**

### **Technical Analysis of the throwing actions**

- Gravity assisted throwing actions are commonly seen within these athletes.
- 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. Therefore athletes have reduced control of grasp and release of the ball when throwing.
- The elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) on active extension when releasing the ball, particularly relevant when considering the chest/dart throw.

The ball is often propelled

- From a bilateral grasp and push action from the chest.
- By use of pendulum swing action or
- Another gravity assisted release action such as a dart/over arm or chest throw.

## **Use of an approved glove, Splint and strapping**

Gloves, Splints or strapping are to be evaluated prior to the competition by the classifiers. No device or strapping is permitted that assists the propulsion of the ball.

- 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 to play.
- The gloves, splints, strapping or any other device must be assessed and approved by the classification panel to check its suitability and necessity.
- List of athletes allowed to use a glove, splint, strapping or other device will be published on the BISFed website.

## **BC 4 Foot Player**

- 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 and sufficient velocity will be able to play as a BC 4 Foot player.

### **Lower limbs: Hip, Knee and Ankle**

- On clinical assessment of 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 (gluteals, hip flexors, quads, hamstrings, calf) combined with a deformity that impairs the active and passive range of movement of the knee joint.
- Athletes may demonstrate some loss of functional active range of movement in all joints of the lower limb as a result of muscle weakness and/or deformity.
- Athletes must have a maximal functional active and passive ROM of less than 50% of full ROM in the Knee Joint on their kicking leg and this must be accurately measured using goniometry.

## 4.2.5 BC 5 Class

**Athletes who are diagnosed with conditions of Cerebral and NON Cerebral origin.**

### **Minimal Impairment Criteria BC5**

- **Topography: Impairment(s) affect all four limbs**
- **Impairment: Spasticity**
  - **Athlete has at least Grade 1 in muscle group(s) that affect the propulsion of the ball into the field of play (Australian Spasticity Assessment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Athetosis/Dystonia**
  - **Athlete exhibits impairment for between less than 25% Duration and less than 25% Amplitude of range, in limb propelling the ball in to the field of play. (Adapted from Dyskinesia Impairment Scale)**
- **Impairment: Ataxia**
  - **Athlete has evidence of ataxia in finger nose and finger chase assessments and incoordination is observable when Athlete propels the ball into the field of play**
- **Impairment: Weakness**

**Athlete has muscle strength of grade 4 or less in shoulder muscle strength (in 0-90 degrees ROM Flexion/Extension/Abduction) or in elbow extensors. All assessed in sitting position (Adapted from Daniel and Worthingham).**

### **In summary:**

- These are athletes with less impairment than a BC2 or BC4
- **Cerebral:** Quadriplegic, Triplegic, Severe Hemiplegic with trunk involvement. The Impairment may be a result of Hypertonia/Spasticity, Athetosis/Ataxia/Dystonia.
- **Non Cerebral:** The Impairment may be a result of lack of Muscle strength, limitation in Range of movement or limb shortening (see BC4 inclusion).
- The impact of the impairment is on the throwing arm and must be seen during the throwing action.
- Athletes will use a manual or powered wheelchair for everyday mobility.
- Athletes may walk with assistance or using a walking aid over short distances.

### **4.2.5.1 BC 5 Thrower: Cerebral**

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

- Tonal change in dominant UL (throwing arm) that affects function this may include spasticity Gr1 to Gr2 or Hypertonia.
- Slight evidence of ataxia and athetosis on purposeful movement affecting coordination.
- On functional assessment, this level of tonal change will have an impact on the throw but is minimal.
- Any impact is likely to be seen in the follow through.

#### **Hand function and grip**

- Dominant hand may demonstrate a variety of grasps however fine motor skills and dexterity will be affected.

#### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate some involvement in the trunk which may include hypertonia or spasticity and lead to asymmetry.
- The athlete may demonstrate sufficient postural control and balance in their preparation to throw and after follow through
- Athletes are able to use their trunk muscles to actively rotate their trunk or to assist in the throwing action without using any compensatory movements or strategies.

#### **Lower limbs: Pelvis, Hip, Knee and ankle**

- On clinical assessment of the hip/knee and ankle, athletes will demonstrate ASAS spasticity grade 3 or above in one or both lower limbs.
- Or they will demonstrate a degree of involuntary movement in the lower limb, which will result in reduced coordination and control of active movement.
- Athletes will demonstrate some loss of functional, active range of movement in the lower limbs as a result of spasticity, weakness and reduced selective control. They will demonstrate some dissociation of the lower limbs from the pelvis and trunk.
- 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.
- 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.

## **4.2.5.2 BC 5 Classification Non Cerebral**

**Athletes who are diagnosed with conditions of NON cerebral origin who do not have spasticity, ataxia or athetosis/dystonia.**

### **In summary:**

- Athletes will have locomotor dysfunction affecting all four limbs.
- Moderate impairment of function and may have some limitation in active functional range of movement due to weakness and lack of control affecting the upper limbs/trunk/lower limbs.
- Overall muscle strength of 4/5 or less in the upperlimb with trunk involvement.
- Athletes may use a manual or powered wheelchair for everyday mobility.
- Athletes may walk with assistance or using a walking aid for short distance.

Athletes with the following diagnoses that result in functional limitations and meet the physical profiles detailed below may be eligible:

- Myopathies with overall strength of 4/5 or less in the shoulders and the rest of the upper limbs. This includes conditions such as Muscular Dystrophy.
- Spinal cord lesion of upper cervical spine, complete or incomplete tetraplegic, with overall strength of 4/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Motor neuron disease, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Spinal cord disease such as Transverse myelitis with overall strength of 4/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Peripheral Neuropathies such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease with overall strength of 4/5 or less in the upper limb.
- Athrogryposis with muscle strength of 3-4 in the upper limb but presents with trunk movement and strength.
- Amputees of all 4 limbs with the level of amputation in all 4 limbs through elbow and above the knees.
- Other conditions and syndromes such as Multiple Sclerosis, Juvenile Arthritis, and Osteogenesis Imperfecta, which result in overall poor strength of 4/5 and/or limited range of movement, may be included in this profile.

## **BC 5 Thrower: Non Cerebral**

### **Mobility**

- Athletes may use a manual or powered wheelchair for everyday mobility.
- Athletes may be able to propel a manual wheelchair; however rapid movements are not possible.

- Athletes may be able to transfer independently using a variety of methods.
- Athletes may have the ability to walk short distances but will require assistance to balance from another person. They may use walls or a walking aid.

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

- Active range of movement may be limited, either due to lack of strength and/or lack of flexibility and or limb loss.

#### **Shoulder**

- Athletes may be able to move the shoulder through full range of movement against gravity and with some manual resistance (NOT FULL RESISTANCE). They have Grade 4/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.

#### **Elbow (Triceps and Biceps)**

- Athletes may be able to move the elbow through full range of movement against gravity and with some manual resistance (NOT FULL RESISTANCE). They have Grade 4/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.

#### **Wrist, Hand function and grip**

- Athletes may be able to demonstrate full ROM of the wrist, thumb and fingers, however there will be weakness Grade 4/5 muscle strength or less on clinical assessment.
- Intrinsic hand and grip strength weakness will be evident on power grip and pinch grip testing. This will be demonstrated functionally by weakness of functional grasp (flexors) and on release of the ball (extensors).
- There may be some loss of fine motor control and coordination within the hand as a result of muscle weakness and so manual dexterity will be affected in some way.

#### **Trunk/Postural Control and Balance**

- Athletes will demonstrate weakness, trunk muscle strength of 3/5 and less than 3/5, within the trunk musculature on clinical testing and will have some limitation of their active trunk mobility as a result of this postural muscle weakness (namely abdominals and extensors).
- Athletes are able to 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.
- Functionally trunk muscle weakness may affect the athlete's ability to maintain good sitting balance/ posture and to control movement without the use of some compensatory strategies (see definitions of compensatory movement & strategies).
- Athletes may 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Athletes with 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.
- It is common for athletes to present with spinal deformities such as scoliosis.

NB. It is very important to consider the whole upper limb and its relationship with the trunk when assessing individual athletes.

### **Technical Analysis of the throwing actions**

In relation to the BC4 athlete the BC5 athlete will be able to demonstrate a more active throw as a result of increased trunk control and/or Upper limb muscle strength.

The ball is often propelled

- From a bilateral grasp and push action from the chest.
- By use of pendulum swing action or
- Another action such as a dart/over arm or chest throw.

### **Use of a an approved glove**

- Athletes with the above physical profile and overall upper limb muscle strength of Grade 4/5 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 other device to play.
- The glove, splint, strapping or other device must be assessed and approved by the classification panel to check its suitability and necessity.

#### **4.2.6 Sport Class Not Eligible (NE)**

If an Athlete does not have a relevant impairment impacting on their sport performance in Boccia according to the BISFed rules, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete and a Sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated to the athlete.

If an Athlete has an Activity Limitation resulting from an impairment that is not permanent and/or does not limit the Athlete's ability to compete equitably with Eligible Boccia Athletes, the Athlete will be considered ineligible to compete.

In circumstances where the determination of eligibility involves evaluation by a Classification Panel at a Competition, and a Sport Class of "Not Eligible" (NE) is allocated, the Athlete will be examined by a second Classification Panel. If the second Classification Panel confirms that the Athlete's Sport Class is NE the Athlete will not be permitted to compete, and will have no further right to Protest.

BISFed Sport Rules shall provide if an Athlete deemed NE cannot be substituted or replaced by another Athlete. In the case of team events, the sport rules shall apply to teams that lack one or more players as a result of such players being designated NE.



## 5. Classification Personnel

### 5.1 BISFed International Classification Personnel

The IPC Classification Code and BISFed recognise Classifiers as games officials.

**There are two types of BISFed Classifiers:**

#### 1. Medical Classifier

- **Medical Doctor** who has experience in dealing with people with cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke or physical impairments as defined in the Athlete profiles.
- **Physiotherapists** or related disciplines trained to work with individuals with the clinical manifestations of cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke and other physical impairments.

#### 2. Sports Technical Expert

Individuals with an extensive coaching background in Boccia, or those with degrees in physical education, biomechanics or kinesiology. Individuals must have a working knowledge of Boccia and individuals with physical impairments.

### 5.2 Level of BISFed Classifiers

#### **BISFed Trainee Classifier**

An individual who has completed the BISFed Accredited Basic Classifier's Course and has been classifying for at least 2 years in his or her country and attending National Boccia competitions in the process of training as a National Boccia Classifier.

The BISFed Head of Classification may appoint trainee classifiers after receiving an application from a National Body with an up to date logbook of all the classifications done on a National level.

Approved Applicants will be invited as a Trainee Classifier to attend an International BISFed event. At the first International Event the trainee Classifier will complete a Refresher Course for Classification and may actively participate in or observe Athlete Evaluation under supervision of a Classification Panel in order to develop the necessary competencies.

After completing the second practicum and all the requirements as a trainee Classifier the Trainee will be certified by BISFed as an International Classifier. They will be required to perform any such other duties as BISFed requires.

### **BISFed Level 1 International Classifier**

This is a Classifier who has completed the requirements as a Trainee BISFed classifier.

A BISFed Level 1 International Classifier may be invited to participate as part of a classification panel of 3 Classifiers at World Open and Regional BISFed sanctioned events.

### **BISFed Level 2 International Classifier**

A BISFed Level 2 International Classifier is a qualified level 1 classifier that has been classifying at an International level for at least four year and no less than 3 competition. A BISFed Level 2 International Classifier may be invited to participate as part of a classification panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers at World Open, Regional and BISFed World Competitions.

### **BISFed Level 3 International Classifier**

A BISFed Level 3 International Classifier is a Senior Classifier that shows leadership, participates in research and development of the classification system, has sufficient experience to interpret the BISFed rules while at a Competition or is able to act as the final arbiter in Protests.

A BISFed Level 3 International Classifier may be invited to participate as part of a classification panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers at World Open, Regional and BISFed World Competitions.

The **Chief Classifier** is a Senior Classifier who has attended training for Chief Classifiers and/ or has been mentored by another Chief Classifier in the position. Chief Classifiers are appointed by the Head of Classification for a specific Competition.

### **BISFed Head of Classification**

BISFed Head of Classification is a Senior Classifier that is appointed by the BISFed Board to fill the position.

## **5.3 Responsibilities and Duties of Classification Personnel**

### **BISFed Trainee Classifier**

A BISFed Trainee Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the BISFed Trainee Classifier may include:

- Classifying on a National level in there Countries keeping a log book of Classifications done.
- Active participation and observation to learn classification rules and to develop competencies and proficiencies for certification; and
- Attend classification meetings at events.

### **BISFed Level 1 International Classifier**

A Level 1 Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of the Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Work as a member of a Classification Panel of 3 Classifiers to allocate Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status at BISFed sanctioned World Open and Regional events;
- Work as a member of a Protest Panel of 3 Classifiers as required at BISFed Sanctioned Regional events;
- Attend classification meetings at Competitions and other organised events.

### **BISFed Level 2 International Classifier**

A Level 2 Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

- Work as a member of a Classification Panel of 2 or 3 Classifiers to allocate Athlete's Sport Class and Sport Class Status at BISFed sanctioned World Open, Regional and World events;
- Work as a member of a Protest Panel as required;
- Attend classification meetings at Competitions and other organised events.

### **BISFed Level 3 International Classifier**

A Level 3 Classifier is responsible for following prescribed rules as set down in the latest rule book and adhering to the Classifier's Code of Conduct.

The duties of a Senior Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Supervise and evaluate Classifiers in training and Classifiers;
- Conduct or assist in the introductory and accreditation level practical courses;
- Assist in the research, development and clarification of the classification rules and profiles for Boccia
- Assist in the review of the rules / profiles on a regular basis; and
- Provide workshops to update Classifiers on a National, Regional and International Level.

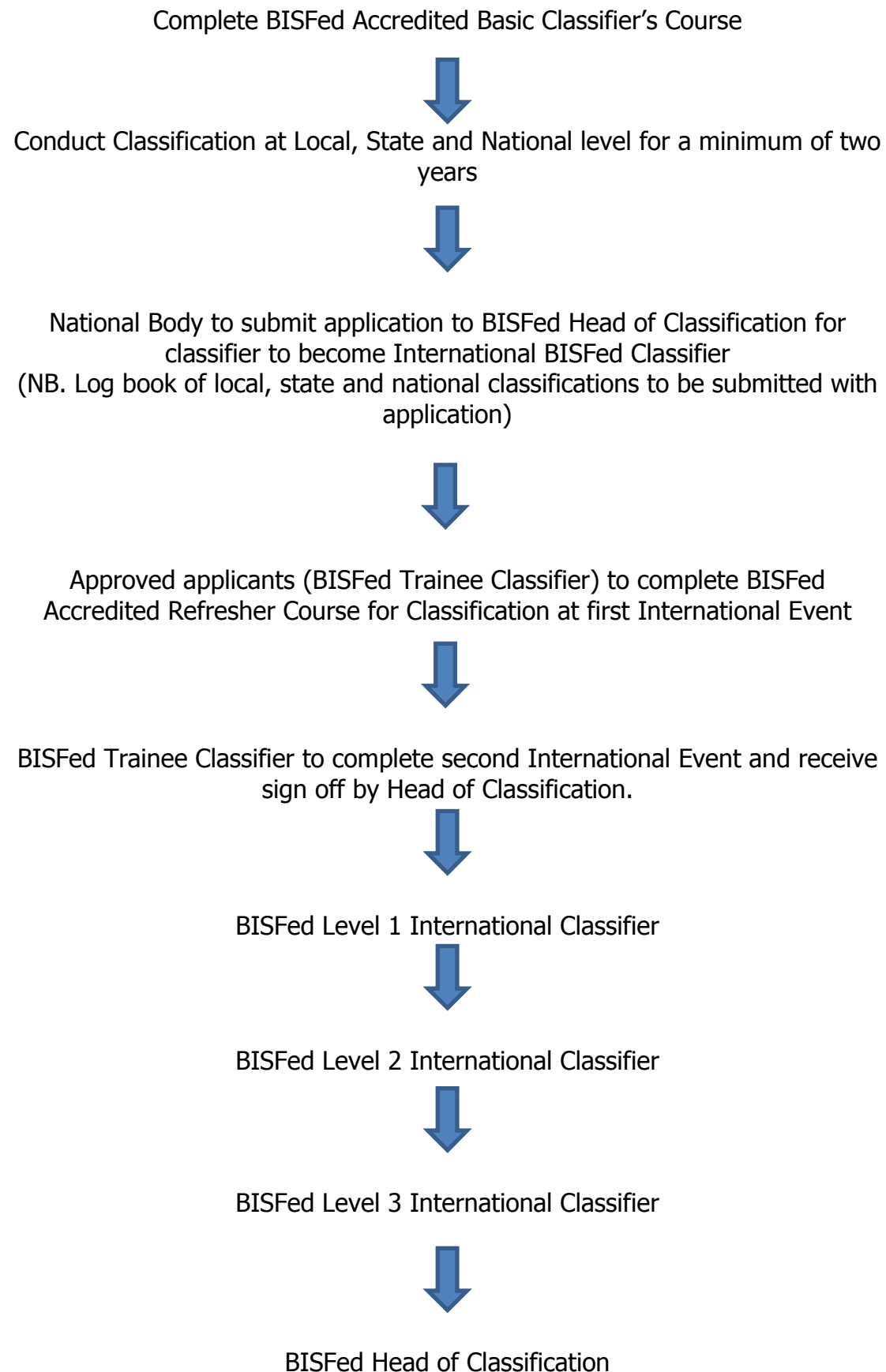
### **Chief Classifier**

The Chief Classifier is a BISFed Level 3 International Classifier appointed by the Head of Classification for a specific Competition.

The duties of the Chief Classifier may include, but are not limited to:

- Administer and coordinate classification matters related to BISFed for a specific Competition according to BISFed Rules;
- Liaise with organising committees and teams before a Competition to identify and notify Athletes who require evaluation of Sport Class and Sport Class Status;
- Liaise with organising committees before a Competition to ensure travel, accommodation and working logistics are provided for Classifiers;
- Supervise Classifiers to ensure that classification rules are applied appropriately during a specific Competition;
- Supervise Classifiers and trainee Classifiers in their duties as members of Classification Panels and monitor their level of classification competencies and proficiencies; and complete a Competition report normally within thirty (30) days of a particular Competition and send to the Classification Officer and the Head of Classification for the Sport.
- A Chief Classifier will act as the Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Classifier in a Protest Panel at World events where 2 Panels of 2 Classifiers forms the panels.

## 5.4 Classifier Pathway



## 5.5 BISFed Classifier Accreditation Process

The BISFed Classification training and accreditation program consists of two levels:

- A person who has successfully completed the BISFed Accredited Basic Classifier's Course Classification course can classify at local and national levels.
- A person who then, after classifying for at least 2 years on a national level, successfully completes the BISFed Trainee Classifiers training consisting of an Accredited Refresher Course and 2 practicums at International events .

The theory component in both levels is accompanied by a practical component.

In the Basic Classifier's Course the practical component of the classification is done on athletes during the course.

In the Refresher course for BISFed Trainee Classifiers, the theory lends itself to support the practical component allowing trainees more time for hands on experience and interaction with classification panels. Typically the practical will be a one day group session with other classifiers addressing the technical and assessment protocol led by senior classifiers. This will be followed by one to two days of classification (depending on the competition) with mentor classifiers during the actual classification process and followed by observations during a competition.

### BISFed Basic Classifiers Course

#### **Pre-requisites:**

Open to all who work with people with a disability and/ or wish to gain knowledge of the BISFed Classification System.

#### **Who should take the course?**

Athletes, coaches, physiotherapists, doctors and other persons who work with people with neurological conditions or with severe physical impairments.

#### **About the Basic Classifiers Course:**

The BISFed Basic Classifier's Course presented by BISFed Accredited Classification Trainers. The completion of the Basic Classifiers course is a prerequisite for applying for BISFed Classifier training along with the other requirements such as logbook and a minimum of 2 years classifying on a National level.

### **Notification of Certification**

The participants successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion from the Head of Classification.

The participants that classify at national level are to be nominated by their National Federation and application has to be submitted to the Head of Classification to start BISFed International Classifier Training.

## **BISFed Accredited Refresher course**

### **Pre-requisites:**

Students must have completed the BISFed Basic Classifier's Course, at least 2 years of classification on a National level and apply through the National Body to start training as a BISFed International Classifier.

### **Who may take the course?**

Individuals who work with people with neurological impairments or severely physically disabled people as defined in the section "Types of Classifiers" and have completed the pre-requisites.

### **About the Course:**

The theory component is complimented by a hands-on practical session followed by the final written examination. The practical component is completed with the student attending 1(one) to 2(two) international competition to classify under the supervision of the classification panel. Those who pass the exam with a mark of 75% or higher will then complete a practicum under the supervision of accredited BISFed classifiers.

The theory lends itself to support the practical component, allowing trainees more time for hands on experience and interaction with classification panels. Typically the practical will be a group session with other classifiers addressing the technical and assessment protocol led by senior classifiers. This will be followed by one - two days of classification with mentor classifiers during the actual classification process and observations during play at a Sanctioned BISFed competition. The final exam (pass mark of 75%) is written after the practical classification. This is followed by a review/evaluation of practical components with the trainee and the decision if a second practical is needed.

### **Notification of Certification**

Upon completion of the practical component at 1-2 competitions and successfully attaining 75% or higher in the written exam, a Certificate will be issued and the individual will qualify as a BISFed Level 1 International Classifier.

The National Federation that paid for the training of the new Level 1 International Classifier will receive a copy of the certification.

## **5.6 Maintaining Classifiers Accreditation**

Classifiers must maintain their accreditation and will be notified annually regarding the status of their accreditation and how to develop further competencies by the Head of Classification. Classifiers who fail to meet the maintenance criteria after four years will lose their status and become INACTIVE until they have been able to upgrade their skills and recertify.

### **BISFed Level 1 International Classifier**

Maintaining Certification:

- Must respond to communications on a regular basis including responding to calls for classifiers for Regional competitions indicating availability or not.
- Must be active within their nation or region annually classifying at least one National competition or a minimum of 10 athletes.
- Submit an annual classification log to indicate activity each year certified by the National Federation.
- Attend classification seminars or meetings (sometime held prior to the competition) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current BISFed classification rules
- Attend and classify at a minimum of one Regional BISFed Competition per quadrennial

### **BISFed Level 2 International Classifier**

Maintaining Certification:

- Must respond to communications on a regular basis including responding to calls for classifiers for competitions indicating availability or not.
- Must be active within their nation or region annually classifying at least one National competition or a minimum of 10 athletes
- Submit an annual classification log to indicate activity each year certified by the National Federation.
- Attend classification seminars or meetings (sometime held prior to the competition) to maintain or obtain knowledge of current BISFed classification rules
- Attend and classify at a minimum of one International BISFed Competition per quadrennial



## **BISFed Level 3 International Classifier**

Maintaining Certification:

- Is active within nation and region,
- Classifying on a National level.
- Submit a logbook to the Head of Classification each year.
- Is active internationally and attends at least one BISFed competition every two years.
- Attend classification workshops and seminars
- Participates in classifier discussions and tasks keeping abreast of committee communications and directions.

### **5.7 BISFed Classification Workshops**

Countries can request a BISFed accredited Basic Classifier's Course for specific learning outcomes for example to improve practical skills of National classifiers.

These workshops are separate from and do not substitute the practical components of the International Classification Accreditation Education course.

## **6 Classifiers Code of Conduct**

### **6.1 General Principles**

6.1.1 The role of Classifiers is to act as impartial evaluators in determining an Athletes Sport Class and Sport Class Status. The Integrity of Classification in the Paralympic movement and BISFed rest on the professional conduct and behaviour of each individual Classifier.

6.1.2 All Classifiers must adhere to the IPC code of Ethics (See IPC handbook) and the IPC Classifiers Code of Conduct that BISFed adhere to.

6.1.3 All classification personnel must sign and adhere to the IPC code of ethics indicating an agreement to act in a professional manner according to a set of guidelines for professional conduct and behaviour.

6.1.4 Classifiers should value and respect the Athlete and Athlete support Personnel and;

- Treat Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel with understanding, patience and dignity,

- Be Courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing their classification duties for all Athletes, regardless of team affiliation or national origin.
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel in accordance with the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals, and BISFed and/or competition rules
- Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Maintain confidentiality of Athlete information whenever possible, according to the International Standard for Athlete Evaluation and the International Standard for Protest and Appeals

#### 6.1.5 Classifiers should respect the Classification Rules and;

- Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments to competitions.
- Understand the theory and practical aspects of the Classification Rules and make them widely known and understood by Athletes and Athlete support Personnel.
- Continuously seek self-improvement through study of the Sport, Classification Rules, mentoring lesser experienced classifiers and developing trainee classifiers.
- Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure.
- Recognise that anything that may lead to a Conflict of Interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided.
- Disclose any relationship with a team, Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel that would otherwise constitute a Conflict of Interest.

#### 6.1.6 Classifiers should respect their colleagues and;

- Treat all discussions with colleagues as confidential information
- Explain and justify decisions without showing anger or resentment
- Treat other classifiers with professional dignity and courtesy, recognising that it is inappropriate and unacceptable to criticise other Classifiers, Games Officials or Technical Advisers in public.
- Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision making process of fellow classifiers, games Officials and Technical Advisers whether you

agree or not.

- Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills with less experienced Classifiers and assist with the training and development of Classifiers in their respective sports in accordance with the International Standards for Classifier Training and Certification.

#### 6.1.7 Consequences of NON compliance with the Classifiers Code of Conduct;

- Classifiers perform a professional role and voluntarily observe a high-level of professional and ethical conduct and behaviour, not because of fear of penalty but out of personal character and responsibility.
- Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a Classifier of BISFed.

## **7. Classification Administration and Development**

### **7.1 BISFed Classification Committee**

The BISFed Classification Committee is a group responsible for the Administrative and developmental duties related to International Classification. The Duties of the Classification Committee include evaluation and revision of classification rules and development of new classification rules, and/or policies and procedures related to athlete evaluation, protests and Classification, Classifier certification and training and other related administration of classification

The BISFed Classification Committee is chaired by the Head of Classification who is also a board member. This person is responsible for overseeing the day to day administration of classification and reports to the Board of BISFed on behalf of the Classification Committee. The rest of the Classification Committee is composed of One International Classifier from each Region that has been recruited by the Head of Classification and the committee for their research and other skills as well as regional importance for regional development. All Classification Committee members are ratified by the Board of BISFed. 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.

In addition to the above members the BISFed Classification Committee may select an athlete to serve as a player Classification representative in an advisory capacity. This individual may be utilised for his/her perspective as an athlete, or former Boccia athlete experience in situations such as athlete evaluation.

### **7.2 Competition Classification Administration**

#### **7.2.1 Classification Panel Requirements**

##### **International Panel**

- Class awarded
  - International Sport Class and Sport Class Status, restrictions depend on numbers of athletes and panels classifying.
- Panel requirements
  - 3 or 7 International Classifiers. The numbers of panels and make up of levels of classifiers are dependent on number of athletes to be classified and number of countries to compete.
  - **One Classification panel of 3 Classifier** from a minimum of

two countries and with at least one Level 2 or Level 3 classifier and a Chief Classifier.

- At a small competition with only one Classification Panel allocated in special circumstances the Chief Classifier may be a classifier.
  - This type of classification panel should be used at developmental competitions where the priority is to provide International Classes for New athletes.
  - This type of classification panel should only be used for athletes without a previous International Sport Class. Only New athletes will be Classified
  - There may be a limit to the number of athletes that can be evaluated because of smaller panel numbers.
  - No Protest will be dealt with. A protest may be carried forward to a World Competition or International competition with two panels.
  - **Two Panels allocated will consist of 2 Classifiers per panel with a Chief Classifier** from a minimum of three to five countries and one to two regions with at least one Chief Classifier and level 2 and Level 3 Classifiers.
  - Classifiers in Training can do a practical at these competitions under the supervision of a Level 3 classifier.
- Competitions
    - BISFed recognised/sanctioned international competitions

### **World Competition Panel**

- Class awarded
  - International Sport Class and Sport Class Status
- Panel requirements
  - 5 Classifiers, including an experienced Chief Classifier and Level 2 and Level 3 Classifiers from least three different countries and two regions. There will be 2 panels of 2 classifiers and in the event of a protest the Chief Classifier will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Classifier in Protest Panel.
- Competitions
  - BISFed Sanctioned, International multi regional competitions

### **Regional Competition Panel**

- Class awarded
  - International Sport Class and Sport Class Status.

- Panel requirements
  - 5 Classifiers, including an experienced Chief Classifier, a minimum of two Level 2/3 Classifiers (one in each panel) and two Level 1 Classifiers. The Classifiers must be from at least three different countries in the Region. In the event of a protest at such competition the Chief Classifier will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Classifier in Protest panel.
- Competitions
  - BISFed Sanctioned, Regional multi country competitions

### **World Open Event Competition Panel**

- Class awarded
  - International Sport Class and Sport Class Status
  - Only New (NS) athletes will be seen at these competitions.
- Panel requirements
  - **One Panel** of 3 Classifiers, including an experienced Chief Classifier (may be part of a classification panel as well as Chief Classifier). The panel must consist of a minimum of one Level 2 or Level 3 Classifier and the other classifiers may include Level 1 Classifiers. The Classifiers must be from at least 2 different countries (in the Region where possible, depending on availability of classifiers).
- Competitions
  - BISFed Sanctioned, World Open Event competitions

### **7.2.2 Classification Administration Processes**

The following administration processes will be followed in the appointment of Classifiers for Regional and World events.

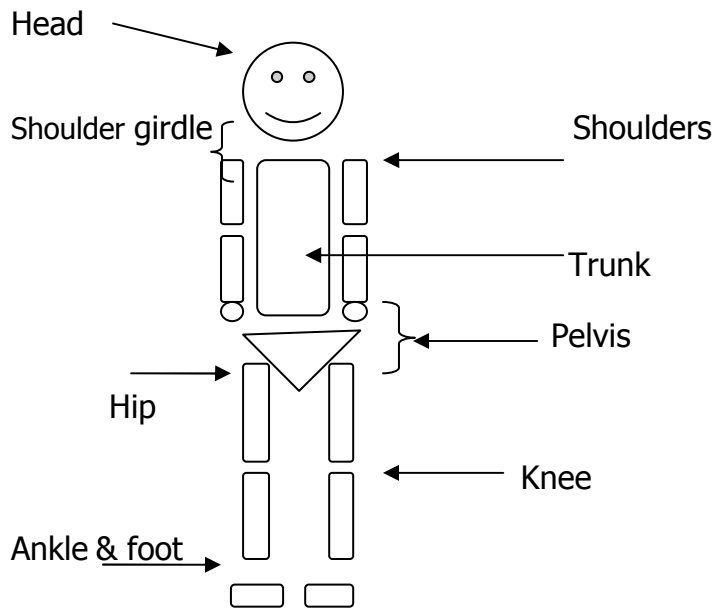
- Call for Classifiers
- Call for Classifiers in Training.
- Appointment of Classification Panels and Notification Process.
- Chief Classifiers duties pre-event, during the event and post event.
- Classifiers duties regarding Classification results and 'posting'

## 8. Glossary

### Activity Limitation

- Difficulties an individual may have in executing activities which may include attainment of high performance skills and techniques.

### Anatomical reference points



### Athlete

- For purposes of Classification, any person who participates in Boccia at an International Level (as defined by BISFed) or National Level (as defined by each National Federation) and any additional person who participates in sport at a lower level if designated by the person's National Federation.

### Athlete Evaluation

- The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with the BISFed classification rules.

### Athlete Support Personnel

- Any coach, trainer, manager, interpreter, agent, team staff, official, medical or paramedical personnel working with or treating Athletes participating in or preparing for training and/or Competition.

## **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 - ability to maintain balance with body movement e.g. during the throw and follow through.

## **Competition**

- A series of individual Events conducted together under one ruling body.

## **Conflict of Interest**

- A Conflict of Interest will arise where a pre-existing personal or professional relationship gives rise to the possibility of that relationship affecting the Classifier's ability to make an objective decision or assessment.

## **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 is 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 midline or an upright position, may be used in conjunction with the arm, fixing the head in a stable position to optimise trunk activation.

### **Competition**

- (IPC, IF, Major Competition Organization, or another international sport organization) is the governing body for the Competition or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

### **Dissociation (of movement)**

- The ability to move one area of the body or limb without affecting another area and while maintaining postural control.
- 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.

### **Follow Through**

- The movement of the limb after the release of the ball.

### **Impairment**

- A deficiency in or loss of body function or structure.

### **International Classification**

- Athlete Evaluation that has been designated in advance by BISFed as being conducted with the aim of allocating a Sport Class that entitles the relevant Athlete to compete at Recognised Competitions.

### **International Federation (IF)**

- A sport federation recognized by the IPC as the sole world-wide representative of a sport for Paralympic Athletes that has been granted the status as a Paralympic Sport by the IPC.

### **IPC**

- International Paralympic Committee.

### **Medical Intervention**

- Any intervention such as surgery, pharmacological intervention or other

treatment, which affects the Athlete's performance.

### **National Competition**

- 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**

- The organization recognized by an IF as the sole national governing body for its sport.

### **National Paralympic Committee (NPC)**

- 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 the sports for which the IPC is the IF.

### **Paralympic Games**

- Umbrella term for both Paralympic Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

### **Protest**

- The procedure by which a formal objection to an Athlete's Sport Class and/or Sport Class status is submitted and subsequently resolved.

### **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 functional activity.
- It provides a reference frame and stability from which to move the head, eyes, and upper/lower limbs.

### **Purposeful Direction**

- 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.

### **Shoulder girdle/Complex**

- Clinical anatomy includes the joints of the shoulder which comprise the acromioclavicular, sternoclavicular, glenohumeral, scapulothoracic joints, and the associated muscles and connective tissue e.g. those attached to the scapula, to provide dynamic stability.

### **Sufficient Velocity**

- Velocity is defined as rapidity of motion or operation; swiftness; speed e.g. when throwing an athlete must demonstrate sufficient ball speed to enter the field of play.

### **Trunk**

- This is an anatomical term for the central part of the body including the thorax and abdomen.

### **Throw**

#### **Chest Throw**

- A two handed throw from the chest.

#### **Dart Throw**

- Single arm throw from shoulder height or below. The elbow must be below shoulder level (90 degrees) on 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.

## 9. APPENDIX A

### Assessment of Athetosis/Dystonia

Dyskinetic Impairments such as Athetosis/ Dystonia have historically been difficult to assess. Boccia Classification has adapted the Dyskinesia Impairment Scale as a means of quantifying these impairments.

The elements of the Scale that are used in the Boccia assessment are the following:

- a. Walking/Wheeling into the room
  - Observe the athlete walking/wheeling into the room
- b. Sitting at rest in supported position
  - Observe the athlete in their wheelchair
- c. Sitting at rest in unsupported position
  - Observe the athlete on a plinth/typical chair/ have athlete sit forward of backrest of chair (ensure that there are people close by to maintain the safety of the athlete)
- d. Turning head to left and to right
  - 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 sitting)
  - Ask the athlete to bend all the way forwards and then return back to their original position (x6)
- f. Shoulder abduction with the throwing arm (in sitting)
  - Ask the athlete to lift their arm up to their side and raise it above their head (x6)
- g. Reaching and moving the ball from one side to the other
  - 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 and then back to the original position (x2)
  - The ball should be placed within reach, but ensure that the movements include:
    - o Forward reach, lateral reach, crossing the midline
  - You can use the athlete's wheelchair as a guide (have the ball outside the width of the chair and place the ball to the other side of the chair)
- h. Foot player – Alternate heel/toe tapping
  - Ask the athlete to do alternate heel/toe taps with the leg they use to propel the ball (x6)

## 10. APPENDIX B

### Assessment of Ataxia

Taken from SARA (Scale for the assessment and rating of ataxia)

#### A) Finger chase

Athlete sits 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. Athlete is asked to follow the movements with his index finger, as fast and precisely as possible. Average performance of 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. 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. Average performance of movements is rated according to the amplitude of the kinetic tremor.

- 0 No tremor
- 1 Tremor with an amplitude < 2 cm
- 2 Tremor with an amplitude 2-5 cm
- 3 Tremor with an amplitude > 5 cm
- 4 Unable to perform 5 pointing movements

#### C) Fast alternating hand movements

Athlete sits comfortably. If necessary, support of feet and trunk is allowed. 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 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)**

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

# 11. CERTIFICATE OF DIAGNOSIS

## FOR BOCCIA CLASSIFICATION

The person named below is required to undergo Boccia Classification to compete at International level of their chosen sport. During the classification process the approved Classifier (physiotherapist or medical doctor) will assess their Physical Impairment as relevant to the requirements for playing Boccia. To assist the classification assessment process, a confirmation of the medical diagnosis is required.

**Athlete's Details** (To be completed by the Athlete applying for Classification – Please print)

First Name		Family Name	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Date of Birth	
Address			
City	Zip/Postcode	Country	
Telephone No		E-mail	
I hereby consent that the information below being release to BISFed for the purpose of Boccia classification			
Signature		Date	

**MEDICAL DETAILS** (This section to be completed by a Doctor of Medicine only – please print clearly) Please attach a separate sheet of report if insufficient space

Name of Applicant	
Diagnosis	
Tests results to support the above diagnosis e.g MRI, CT, Muscle Biopsy, nerve conduction	
Other relevant factors e.g. Epilepsy, Diabetes, and Heart Disease	
Prescribe Medication taken by the Athlete	

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby certify that I have followed this patient for \_\_\_\_\_ years and that the above named patient has the diagnosis specified above.

Please print

Doctor's Name:	
Address:	
Signature:	
Date:	

**N.B. Information disclosed on this form will be dealt with confidentially by BISFed and in accordance to the IPC Code of Ethics for Classification.**

**Guidelines for the medical practitioner completing this form:**

### **Requirements**

Relevant and appropriate medical documentation is essential to the process of Classification of Athletes for International Boccia Competitions sanctioned by BISFed.

This medical information should provide the results of medical tests and investigations which demonstrate that the Athlete has a diagnosis of a medical condition which leads to their presenting physical impairments.

It is not necessary to supply a report stating the symptoms such as weakness, pain, lack of sensation, inability to walk or perform certain actions. These limitations are assessed during the Classification process by Accredited BISFed Classifiers at sanctioned events.

**For International Classification any documentation or information provided such as a report from the neurologist or test results should be presented in English,**



## 12. CONSENT FOR CLASSIFICATION

1. I agree to undergo the Athlete Evaluation process detailed in the BISFed Classification Rules and administered by the designated BISFed 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 BISFed. 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 BISFed 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 BISFed and could also lead to my disqualification from BISFed competitions. (refer to BISFed Classification Rules 2.12-2.16)

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 BISFed 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 BISFed 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 BISFed website.

Please tick as appropriate:

I wish to assist BISFed 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 BISFed. I understand that I may withdraw this consent in writing at any time.

I agree to BISFed 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 of Athlete/Guardian/ other responsible person:			
Print Name :		Date:	

**The allocation of a Boccia Class and classification under BISFed 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.**