

PARALYMPIC CLASSIFICATION Explanation:

Classification is the grouping of athletes based on functional ability of the entire profile of an athlete.

Athletes must be 15 years of age for classification to be permanent, with two confirmations at least one year apart, and no more than four years apart.



Boccia International Sports Federation www.bisfed.com

The full explanation of the Paralympic Boccia Classes is described in the BISFed Classification Rules Manual pages 25-37.



NOTE: Classification is only given at sanctioned events by certified classifiers.

The following is a brief description of each class:

BC1 Athlete typically has Cerebral Palsy (possibly TBI/ABI & other Cerebral Origin injuries) with loco motor dysfunction affecting the whole body

Typically the athlete can:-

- a) not usually be able to propel a manual wheelchair
- b) often have difficulty altering the sitting position
- c) often use the trunk in head and arm movements
- d) have difficulty with grasp and release motions
- e) have no functional use of the legs
- f) may or not be able to pickup balls; may need balls handed to them
- g) usually have elbow catch BEFORE 90 degrees of passive extension
- h) release when throwing BEFORE 90 degrees of elbow extension
- i) have severe to moderate spasticity, athetosis, and or ataxia
- j) possibly be able to kick balls with purpose and direction (5 meters), if unable to throw

BC2 Athlete typically has Cerebral Palsy (possibly TBI/ABI & other Cerebral Origin injuries) with loco motor dysfunction affecting the whole body

Typically the athlete can:-

- a) have trunk control, but this involves all **four** limb movement
- b) have difficulties with consistent isolated shoulder movement
- c) be able to spread fingers and thumb, but not quickly
- d) be able to hand or foot push a wheelchair
- e) possibly be able to stand/walk, but is very unstable
- f) pick up balls and throw
- g) usually have elbow catch AFTER 90 degrees BEFORE 180 degrees of passive extension
- h) release when throwing AFTER 90 degrees BEFORE 180 degrees of elbow extension
- i) have severe to mild spasticity, athetosis, and or ataxia

BC3 Athlete may have a Cerebral origin (Cerebral Palsy, TBI/ABI, MS, etc.), NON-Cerebral origin, or degenerative origin. Both designations will be noted for Pairs play. Athlete has severe loco motor dysfunction in all four limbs. The Athlete has insufficient strength and co-ordination to grasp and release (or kick 5 meters) a Boccia ball and / or to propel it consistently onto the court. Must use assistive device

BC4 Athletes have severe loco motor dysfunction in all four limbs, of NON-Cerebral Origin or degenerative Cerebral Origin. Active range of movement is poor. The athlete will demonstrate poor strength or severe lack of co-ordination combined with poor dynamic trunk control. The use of arm(s) or head thrust is needed to return to an upright sitting position after a balance disturbance e.g. throw. The athlete is able to demonstrate sufficient dexterity to pick up and throw a Boccia ball consistently onto the court. However poor control of grasp and release will be evident. Poor timing or lack of follow through may be present A "pendulum swing" is often seen instead of an overhand throw Athlete may be able to propel wheelchair. Rapid movements are not possible. Possibly be able kick if unable to throw. Athletes with the following diagnosis and the above profile MIGHT be eligible if all **four limbs** are involved: Examples of non-cerebral origin: a) Friedrich's Ataxia and or Muscular Dystrophy b) Multiple Sclerosis or ALS c) Spinal cord lesions C6 and above d) Spina Bifida combined with upper extremity involvement e) Other similar conditions which result in poor strength and co-ordination problems

Gloves, splints or strapping are to be evaluated prior to the competition by the classifiers. No device or strapping is permitted that assist the propulsion of the ball. Gloves cannot give extra momentum (power) than bare hands. No Telekinetic splints. Most gloves are out.