



Boccia Australia Classification Rules

Last Updated: March 2023

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Part One: General Provisions

A list of definitions and abbreviations is provided in Part 12 of these Classification Rules.

1. Scope and Application

Adoption

- 1.1. These Boccia Australia Classification Rules are referred to throughout this document as the 'Classification Rules'.
- 1.2. These Classification Rules have been adopted by Boccia Australia (BA) on 5 May 2023
- 1.3. These Classification Rules refer to a number of Appendices. These Appendices form an integral part of the Classification Rules.
- 1.4. These Classification Rules form part of the BA Rules and Regulations.
- 1.5. These Classification Rules are supplemented by a number of Classification forms. These forms are available from BA and can be amended by BA from time to time.

Classification

- 1.6. Classification is undertaken to:
 - a) define who is eligible to compete in Boccia; and
 - b) group Athletes into Sport Classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each sport or specific discipline.

Application

- 1.7. These Classification Rules apply only to BA Para-sport competition and Classification for Athletes with impairments that sit within the scope of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athlete Classification Code and BISFed Rules. These rules do not apply to other BA competition opportunities for other Athletes with or without impairments.
- 1.8. These Classification Rules do not apply to BISFed level Competition and Athlete Evaluation. International Level Athlete Evaluation and competition is governed by the BISFed and the respective BISFed Classification Rules.
- 1.9. These Classification Rules apply to:
 - a) All Athletes and Athlete support personnel who are BA members and/or participate in any BA Para-sport events or competitions organised, authorised, or recognised by BA. They are not mandatory for implementation at school or social level Competition.
 - b) BA employees, contractors, and volunteers;
 - c) BA Member organisations; and
 - d) Any other person or organisation who is engaged by BA to support Para-sport Classification activities.
- 1.10. These Classification Rules must be read and applied in conjunction with all other applicable rules of BA.

Interpretation and Relationship to other key documents

- 1.11. These Classification Rules are to be applied and interpreted as an independent text but in a manner that is consistent with the IPC Athlete Classification Code, the PA Athlete Classification Policy, and Classification Standards and the BISFed Classification Rules.
- 1.12. In the event that these Rules fail to provide for a matter covered by a provision in the BISFed Rules or PA Athlete Classification Policy or Standards, the provisions appearing in the BISFed Rules or PA Athlete Classification Policy and Standards shall apply and be regarded as being part of these Rules.
- 1.13. In the event of any conflict between these Classification Rules and any other document, these Classification Rules shall take precedence.

Amendments to the Rules

- 1.14 These Classification Rules may be amended at any time by BA as a result, for example, of changes in the BISFed Classification Rules or where BA considers it necessary to do so.

BISFed Rules & International Level Classification

- 1.15 Australian Athletes who hold a BISFed International Level Classification will use the BISFed allocated class for all National Level Competition.
- 1.16 International Level Classification outcomes supersede any BA National and Provisional Level Classification.
- 1.17 Where an Athlete holds an International Level Classification, but no longer wishes to compete at an International Level, the Athlete shall retire from International Competition through BISFed's processes.
- 1.18 Following the Athlete's retirement, if the Athlete wishes to continue competing at a National Level, the Athletes BISFed allocated sport class and sport class status shall be converted to a National Level Classification. For the avoidance of doubt, Athletes with a Review sport class status that was allocated by BISFed will be allocated a National Review status; Athletes with Confirmed or Fixed Review Date status will also be allocated National Confirmed and National Fixed Review Date accordingly.

National Level Classification Requirements

- 1.19 In order to participate in National and State Level Competition in the Para-sport Classes (BC1 – BC4), Athletes must have been allocated a Para-sport Class (other than "Para-sport Class Not Eligible") and designated with a Para-sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules. A National Level Classification is required for National Championships and other national events and a Provisional Level Classification at a minimum is required for state level events. BA reserves the right to adjust these requirements at its discretion.
- 1.20 BA will provide opportunities for Athletes to be allocated a Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules at recognised competitions or other such locations or processes as defined by BA. BA will provide Athletes with advance notice of Classification opportunities.
- 1.21 There is no minimum or maximum age restriction for athletes to access Classification opportunities.

Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.22 It is the personal responsibility of Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, and Classification Personnel to familiarise themselves with all the requirements of these Classification Rules.

Athlete Responsibilities

- 1.23 The roles and responsibilities of Athletes include to:
- be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - participate in Athlete Evaluation in good faith;
 - ensure when appropriate that adequate information related to Health Conditions/Diagnosis and Eligible Impairments is provided to BA;
 - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules;
 - Contribute to the process of education and awareness, and Classification research; and
 - abide by the BA Code of Conduct.

Athlete Support Personnel Responsibilities

- 1.24 The roles and responsibilities of Athlete Support Personnel include to:
- be knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - use their influence on Athlete values and behaviour to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
 - assist in the development, management, and implementation of the Classification System; and
 - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel Responsibilities

- 1.25 The roles and responsibilities of Classification Personnel include to:
- have a complete working knowledge of all applicable policies, rules and processes established by these Classification Rules;
 - use their influence to foster a positive and collaborative Classification attitude and communication;
 - assist in the development, management, and implementation of the Classification System, including participation in education and research; and
 - cooperate with any investigations concerning violations of these Classification Rules.

Part Two: Classification Personnel

Classification Personnel

- 2.1 Classification Personnel are fundamental to the effective implementation of these Classification Rules. BA will appoint a number of Classification Personnel, each of whom will have a key role in the organisation, administration, and delivery of Classification for BA. Classifiers are BA officials responsible to conduct Athlete Evaluation according to the specific requirements of BA.
- 2.2 BA will appoint Classification Personnel to:
- Facilitate Compliance with the IPC Code, IF Classification Rules and PA Athlete Classification Policy and Standards.
 - Develop the BA Classification program, policies and procedures and expectations of their members.
 - Develop a Classification program plan including short and long term planning.
 - Manage BA Classification budget and financial reporting.
 - Manage Classification Personnel recruitment, training and performance management.
 - Embed safeguards and integrity practices, in accordance with the Sport Integrity Australia National Integrity Framework, within the BA Classification program including but not limited to: child safety, physical and mental wellbeing support, dispute resolution processes, receipt of Classification Intelligence and Intentional Misrepresentation.
 - Manage the Classification requirements of BA High Performance programs.
 - Plan and organise National Level Athlete Evaluation opportunities and appointment of Classification Panels.
 - Classification Data Storage and protection
 - Manage the BA Classification Masterlist.
 - Develop and deliver Classification education and awareness programs for stakeholders.
 - Manage Classification Research and Administration.
 - Implement changes to Classification Systems.
 - Appoint a key Classification contact with BISFed, other nations and other key stakeholders.
- 2.3 BA may delegate the above responsibilities to one or a number of key personnel including but not limited to:
- A Classification Manager/Coordinator;
 - Classification Administrator for data management purposes;
 - BA Appointed Classification Advisory Group or BA Appointed Head of Classification;
 - An Athlete representative/s;
 - Any other area of BA business, such as embedding Classifier education within officiating department, Classification integrity within BA Member Services; and
 - BA state members or other organisations by way of agreement.
- 2.4 Any BA Classifier designated with some or all of the above responsibilities by BA may also be appointed as a Classifier and/or Chief Classifier at any Classification opportunity/Event.

Classifier Roles

Chief Classifier

- 2.5 A Chief Classifier is a Classifier appointed by BA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition or Event. BA may appoint a specific Chief Classifier, or not, at its sole discretion.

National Level Classifiers

- 2.6 A National Level Classifier is a person authorised as an BA official and certified by BA to conduct some or all components of National Level Athlete Evaluation as a member of a Classification Panel.
- 2.7 Australian Classifiers who hold an active BISFed International Level Classifier Certification, are:
- recognised by BA as meeting the necessary competencies as a National Level Classifier; and
 - expected to contribute to BA at a National Level, unless their conduct or other certification requirements prevent it.

Trainee National Level Classifiers

- 2.8 A Trainee National Level Classifier is a person who is in the process of formal National Level training by BA.
- 2.9 BA may appoint Trainee Classifiers to participate in some or all components of Athlete Evaluation under the supervision of a Classification Panel, to develop their Classifier Competencies.

National Physical Impairment (PI) Classifier Certification and Competencies

- 2.10 A National Level Classifier will be certified by BA once they have achieved the relevant Classifier Competencies.
- 2.11 BA will provide training and ongoing education to Classifiers to ensure Classifiers obtain and/or maintain Classifier Competencies.
- 2.12 BA Classifier Competencies include:
- an understanding of these Classification Rules;
 - an understanding of Boccia including an understanding of the BA Rule aviation's and BISFed Classification Rules
 - a basic understanding of the IPC Code, PA Athlete Classification Policy, and Classification Standards; and
 - a professional qualification(s) including that Classifiers must:
 - be a certified health professional which BA at its sole discretion deems acceptable, such as a medical doctor or physiotherapist; or
 - have an extensive coaching or other relevant background in Boccia or hold a recognised and reputable academic qualification which encompasses a requisite level of anatomical, biomechanical, and sport-specific expertise, which BA at its sole discretion deems to be acceptable.

- 2.13 BA has established a process of Classifier Certification by which Classifier Competencies are assessed. This process includes:
- a process for the certification of National Level Classifiers (if relevant);
 - quality assessment and ongoing education for the period of certification;
 - a process for handling substandard performance, including options for remediation and/or withdrawal of certification;
 - a process for Re-certification of Classifiers; and
 - a process for non-active National Level Classifiers.

Prerequisite National Level Classifier criteria

- 2.14 The following criteria are pre-requisites for National Level Classifiers:
- Candidate qualifications and experiences such as current medical doctor or Physiotherapy registrations for medical Classifiers and relevant technical expertise for technical Classifiers; and
 - Candidate holds a current Working with Children clearance in the state of residence and appointment;
- 2.15 BA may modify the Classifier scope and certification requirements as it deems necessary from time to time.

Classifier Education model

- 2.16 The Classifier Education model will follow:
- Theoretical modules (online or face to face)
 - Practical learning opportunities – both formal and informal
 - Ongoing education
 - Recertification requirements

National Level Classifier Certification

- 2.18 Certification of Classifiers is completed once a BA Classifier Agreement has been signed by the National Level Classifier.
- 2.19 Classifier details will be stored according to BA Privacy Policy.

Maintaining Certification as a National Level Classifier.

- 2.20 To retain certification as a BA National Level Classifier, the Classifier must:
- Participate in a minimum number or scope of Classification activities over a prescribed period of time;
 - Complete compulsory ongoing professional development opportunities, such as forums, updates, discussion boards, peer mentoring and other formal and informal methods;
 - Complete any compulsory reflective practice opportunities; and
 - Maintain professional registrations or clearances (such as working with children) relevant to the role of Classifier.

Classification Personnel Code of Conduct

- 2.21 The integrity of Classification in BA depends on the conduct of Classification Personnel. All BA Classification Personnel must comply with the Classification Personnel Code of Conduct.
- 2.22 National Level Classification Personnel must:
- accept the fundamental Para-Sport values of honesty, human rights, fairness, justice, non-discrimination and personal integrity;
 - act with dignity, integrity and equality;
 - safeguard Athletes' interests, priorities and opportunity to participate in fair competition and excel in sport;
 - safeguard Athletes' physical and psychological health and wellbeing;
 - comply with local public health advice and review any health risks associated with the delivery of Classification activities.
 - conduct themselves with integrity, maintaining a high standard of personal conduct and avoid any behaviour or action that would tarnish or give the impression of tarnishing the reputation of the Paralympic Movement or BA;
 - have no undisclosed direct or indirect interest in or any relationship with any outside organisation or person that might affect or be reasonably misunderstood by others to be affecting their objectivity, judgement, or conduct in carrying out the duties and responsibilities that they have in conjunction with BA Classification activities. Any potential conflicts of interest are to be declared.
 - avoid assuming any other role and responsibility that conflicts with their duties as Classification Personnel at a Competition, unless authorised by BA. For example, a Classifier should avoid acting as a technical official, coach or health care professional at a Competition when acting as a Classifier at that same Competition.
 - avoid any improper use of information or assets;
 - not seek or accept gifts or gratuities from any organisation or individual outside of BA (or its members);
 - perform their duties courteously, competently, consistently and objectively for all Athletes;
 - respect Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel, ensuring a courteous and collaborative environment during the Classification process.
 - maintain confidentiality of Classification information and abide by other BA data protection mechanisms.
 - perform Classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
 - comply with BA Code of Conduct or other requirements as outlined by BA.
- 2.23 Any person who believes that any Classification Personnel may have acted in a manner that contravenes the Code of Conduct should report this to BA.
- 2.24 If BA receives such a report it will investigate the report and, if appropriate, take disciplinary measures.
- 2.25 BA has sole discretion to determine whether or not a Classification Personnel has an actual, perceived and/or potential conflict of interest.

Part Three: Athlete Evaluation

General Provisions

- 3.1 BA has specified in these Classification Rules the process, assessment criteria and methodology whereby Athletes will be allocated a National Level Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status. This process is referred to as Athlete Evaluation.
- 3.2 National Level Athlete Evaluation encompasses a number of steps, and these Classification Rules therefore include provisions regarding:
- an assessment of whether or not an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for Boccia (Eligibility Assessment);
 - an assessment of whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Boccia; and
 - the allocation of a Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status.
- 3.3 BA may also offer Provisional Level Classification which is a Classification process available to Athletes as an entry level Classification process or to Athletes in locations where National Level Classification is unavailable. Refer Part Four: Provisional Classification for details.

Eligible Impairment

- 3.4 Any Athlete wishing to compete in the Boccia Para-sport competition governed by BA must have an Eligible Impairment and that Eligible Impairment must be Permanent.
- 3.5 Appendices One of these Classification Rules specify the Eligible Impairment(s) an Athlete must have in order to compete in BA Para-sport Competition.
- 3.6 Any Impairment that is not listed as an Eligible Impairment in Appendix One is referred to as a Non-Eligible Impairment. Appendix Two includes examples of Non-Eligible Impairments.
- 3.7 Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.8 Any Athlete who has a Health Condition but does not have an Eligible Impairment will not be eligible to compete in BA Para-sport Class competition. These Athletes may, at the final discretion of BA, be able to compete in other BA Competitions and Events as outlined in BAIC Procedures.
- 3.9 BA adopts the Eligible Impairments outlined in the BISFed Classification Rules for its Para-sport competition.

Eligibility Assessment

- 3.10 BA will determine if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment for BA Para-sport competition.
- 3.11 In order to be satisfied that an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, BA may require any Athlete to provide evidence that they have a Health Condition (Diagnosis) that leads to an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.12 The means by which BA determines that an individual Athlete has an Eligible Impairment is at the sole discretion of BA. BA may consider that an Athlete's Eligible Impairment is sufficiently obvious and therefore not require evidence that demonstrates the Athlete's Eligible Impairment.

- 3.13 If in the course of determining if an Athlete has an Eligible Impairment BA becomes aware that the Athlete has a Health Condition, that makes it unsafe for that Athlete to compete or there is a risk to the health of the Athlete (or other Athletes) if that Athlete competes, it may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Part Three of these Classification Rules. In such instances, BA will explain the basis of its designation to the relevant Athlete and their Athlete Support Personnel.
- 3.14 An Athlete must (if requested to do so) supply Diagnostic Information to BA via the Provisional/Medical Diagnostic Form.
- 3.15 The Provisional/Medical Diagnostics Form must be completed in English and dated and signed by a certified medical practitioner.
- 3.16 The Provisional/Medical Diagnostics Form must be submitted with supportive Diagnostic Information/reports if required by BA.
- 3.17 The athlete may be required to re-submit the Provisional/Medical Diagnostics Form (with necessary supportive Diagnostic Information) if BA at its sole discretion considers the information to be incomplete or inconsistent.
- 3.18 BA may appoint one or a number of persons to complete the Eligibility Assessment.
- 3.19 The Eligibility Assessment is as follows:
- BA will determine what Diagnostic Information must be provided on behalf of the Athlete and for what purposes.
 - BA will set timelines for the production of Diagnostic Information. Typically, Diagnostic Information will be required at a minimum two weeks prior to the Competition opportunity.
 - Person/s will be appointed to conduct the Eligibility Assessment. The appointed person/s will have appropriate medical/allied health qualifications to assess the information provided. All persons conducting Eligibility Assessment must comply with PA Classification Standard: Data Protection. Eligibility Assessment may be deferred to the Classification Panel or an alternate group of assessors.
- 3.20 Each Eligibility Assessment will involve the review of the Diagnostic Information to decide whether such information establishes the existence of an Eligible Impairment.
- 3.21 In the case where the Eligibility Assessment has been deferred to the Classification Panel, the panel may also consider the clinical presentation of the Athlete in its decision.
- 3.22 If the Eligibility Assessment determines that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment the Athlete will be permitted to proceed to complete Athlete Evaluation with a Classification Panel.
- 3.23 If the Eligibility Assessment is not satisfied that the Athlete has an Eligible Impairment, BA will provide a decision to this effect in writing to the Athlete and/or their approved representative. The Athlete will be given an opportunity to comment on the decision and provide further Diagnostic Information for review. If the decision is subsequently revised, BA will inform the Athlete. If the decision is not changed, BA will issue a final decision in writing to the Athlete, with no right of Protest this decision. The Athlete will be allocated Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with Part Five of these Classification Rules.
- 3.24 BA may, if required, seek expertise from Paralympics Australia regarding Eligibility Assessment decisions. In this case, BA will ensure that appropriate data protection provisions are in place to share the Diagnostic Information with PA.

Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 3.25 An Athlete who wishes to compete in BA Para-sport Classes (BC1, BC2, BC3 or BC4) must comply with the relevant Minimum Impairment Criteria as outlined in these Classification Rules.
- 3.26 BA adopts the Minimum Impairment Criteria and processes set by BISFed.
- 3.27 Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies further details.
- 3.28 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for BA Para-sport Classes will be allocated Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) in accordance with the provisions of Part Five.

Para-sport Class

- 3.29 A Para-sport Class is a category defined by BA in these Classification Rules, in which Athletes are grouped by reference to the impact of an Eligible Impairment on their ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia.
- 3.30 BA adopts the Para-sport Classes set by BISFed for BA Para-sport Competitions.
- 3.31 An Athlete who complies with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for BA Boccia Para-sport classes will be allocated a Para-sport Class (subject to Part Seven: Failure to Attend Athlete Evaluation and Suspension of Athlete Evaluation).
- 3.32 Appendix One of these Classification Rules specifies the assessment methodology and assessment criteria for the allocation of a Para-sport Class and the designation of Para-sport Class Status.

Classification Not Completed

- 3.33 If at any stage of Athlete Evaluation, a Classification Panel is unable to allocate a Para-sport Class to an Athlete, the relevant Classification Panel may designate that Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 3.34 The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) is not a Para-sport Class and is not subject to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests. The designation Classification Not Completed (CNC) will, however, be recorded on the BA Classification Masterlist.
- 3.35 An Athlete who is designated as Classification Not Completed (CNC) may not compete in BA Para Competition, unless otherwise approved by BA.

Part Four: Athlete Evaluation and the Classification Panel

The Classification Panel

- 4.1 A Classification Panel is a group of Classifiers appointed by BA to conduct some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation, including as part of an Evaluation Session.

General Provisions

- 4.2 A Classification Panel will be comprised of two certified Classifiers. BA may provide that a Classification Panel comprises only one Classifier, subject to that Classifier possessing a medical/allied health qualification.
- 4.3 A National Level Trainee Classifier may be part of a Classification Panel in addition to the required number of certified Classifiers, and may participate in Athlete Evaluation.

Classification Panel Responsibilities

- 4.4 A Classification Panel is responsible for conducting an Evaluation Session. As part of the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will:
- assess whether an Athlete complies with Minimum Impairment Criteria for Para-sport Classes (Physical Assessment) in accordance with Appendix One;
 - assess the extent to which an Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport (Technical Assessment) in accordance with Appendix One; and
 - conduct Observation in Competition Assessment if required.
- 4.5 Following the Evaluation Session the Classification Panel will allocate a Para-sport Class and designate a Para-sport Class Status, or designate Classification Not Completed (CNC).
- 4.6 The Evaluation will take place in an environment that allows for sufficient assessment of the relevant components of the Athlete Evaluation process. This assessment may take place alongside, or away from, Competition.
- 4.7 An Athlete who has a Non-Eligible Impairment and an Eligible Impairment may be evaluated by a Classification Panel on the basis of the Eligible Impairment, provided the Non-Eligible Impairment does not affect the Classification Panel's ability to allocate a Para-sport Class.
- 4.8 The Para-sport Class allocated to the Athlete will be in accordance with the processes specified in Appendix One.

Evaluation Sessions

- 4.9 Athletes and any other Athlete Support Personnel are responsible for ensuring that Athletes comply with their duties in relation to the provisions in this Article.
- 4.10 In respect of Athletes:
- Athletes have the right to choose one person, and are encouraged to do so, to accompany them during the Athlete Evaluation Session (Athlete Representative). The Athlete must be accompanied if the Athlete is under the age of 18 or has a legal guardian.
 - The person chosen by the Athlete to accompany the Athlete at an Evaluation Session should be familiar with the Athlete's Impairment and sport history.

- The Athlete and accompanying person must acknowledge the terms of the Classification Athlete Evaluation Consent Form.
- The Athlete must verify their identity to the satisfaction of the Classification Panel, by providing a document such as a birth certificate, Medicare card, passport, driver's license, or Event accreditation.
- The Athlete should attend the Evaluation Session with any sports attire or equipment relevant to the sport of Boccia.
- The Athlete should be in a state of sufficient personal health to enable their full participation in Athlete Evaluation processes and minimise any health risk to others;
- The Athlete must provide agreement to be photographed and/or videotaped for Athlete Evaluation purposes and give consent for Data processing and disclosure for the Classification purposes.
- The Athlete must disclose the use of any medication and/or medical device/implant to the Classification Panel.

4.11 In respect of the Classification Panel:

- The Classification Panel may request that an Athlete provide additional medical documentation relevant to their Eligible Impairment if the Classification Panel believes that this will be necessary in order for it to allocate a Para-sport Class.
- The Classification Panel will conduct Evaluation Sessions in spoken English unless otherwise stipulated by BA. If the Athlete requires an interpreter (e.g., language other than English or Auslan) the Athlete will be responsible for arranging the interpreter. The interpreter is permitted to attend the Evaluation Session in addition to the Athlete Representative.
- The Classification Panel may at any stage seek medical, technical or scientific opinion(s), with the agreement of BA if the Classification Panel feels that such opinion is necessary in order to allocate a Para-sport Class.
- In addition to any opinion sought, a Classification Panel may only have regard to evidence supplied to it by the relevant Athlete and BA (from any source) when allocating a Para-sport Class.
- The Classification Panel may make, create, or use video footage and/or other records to assist it when allocating a Para-sport Class.

Observation in Competition Assessment

- 4.12 A Classification Panel may require that an Athlete with a Physical Impairment undertake Observation in Competition Assessment before it allocates a final Para-sport Class and designates a Para-sport Class Status to that Athlete.
- 4.13 The methods by which Observation in Competition Assessment may be undertaken, and the matters to be observed, are set out in Appendix One.
- 4.14 If a Classification Panel requires an Athlete to complete Observation in Competition Assessment, the Athlete will be entered in the Competition with the Para-sport Class allocated by the Classification Panel after the conclusion of the initial components of the Evaluation Session.

- 4.15 An Athlete who is required to complete Observation in Competition Assessment will be designated with Tracking Code: Observation Assessment (OA). This replaces the Athlete's Para-sport Class Status for the duration of Observation in Competition Assessment.
- 4.16 Observation in Competition Assessment takes place during an Athletes First Appearance, unless it is practically impossible to do so. In this regard:
- First Appearance is the first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Para-sport Class.
 - First Appearance within a Para-sport Class applies to participation in all Events within the same Para-sport Class.
 - An Athlete should make First Appearance during the preliminary rounds of a Competition. First Appearance should not take place in the elimination rounds of a Competition.
- 4.17 If an Athlete is subject to a Protest following Observation in Competition and the Protest Evaluation Session is conducted at that same Competition, then Observation in Competition must take place at the next opportunity.
- 4.18 If changes to an Athlete's Para-sport Class or Para-sport Class Status are made following Observation in Competition, the changes are effective immediately.
- 4.19 The impact of an Athlete changing Para-sport Class after First Appearance on medals, records and results are detailed in the BA Rule Variations.

National Level Para-sport Class Status

- 4.21 If a Classification Panel allocates a Para-sport Class to an Athlete, it must also designate a Para-sport Class Status. Para-sport Class Status indicates whether or not an Athlete will be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation in the future; and if the Athlete's Para-sport Class may be subject to Protest.
- 4.22 The Para-sport Class Status designated to an Athlete include:
- New (N);
 - Review (R);
 - Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD); and
 - Confirmed (C).

Para-sport Class Status New

- 4.24 An Athlete is allocated Para-sport Class Status New (N) by BA if they have entered for a Competition but have not yet undergone Athlete Evaluation; meaning that the Athlete will be assessed by a Classification Panel at an upcoming opportunity.

Para-Sport Class Status Review

- 4.25 An Athlete will be designated Para-sport Class Status Review (R) if the Classification Panel believes that further Evaluation Sessions will be required.
- 4.26 This may be for a number of reasons, including but not limited to situations where the Athlete:
- has only recently started Competition in Boccia;
 - has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/s that is Permanent but not stable; and/or
 - has not reached full musculoskeletal or sports maturity.

- 4.27 A Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier for Physical Impairment Classifications, where this Classifier is a Medical Classifier, must designate a Para-Sport Class with Para-Sport Class Status Review (R).
- 4.28 An Athlete with Para-Sport Class Status Review (R) must complete Athlete Evaluation prior to competing at any subsequent BA Competition, unless BA determines otherwise.

Para-sport Class Status Review with Fixed Review Date

- 4.29 An Athlete may be designated Para-sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) if the Classification Panel believes that further Athlete Evaluation will be required but will not be necessary before a set date, being the Fixed Review Date.
- 4.30 An Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) is required to attend an Evaluation Session at the first opportunity as per the date reflected in the BA Classification Masterlist. For example, an Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Review of Fixed Review Date of 2024 will be required to attend an Evaluations Session at their first opportunity after 01 January 2024. If the Fixed Review date is listed as an exact date such as, 05.06.2024, then the athlete may be classified from 05.06.2024. An athlete with FRD status reverts to an R status after the review date has passed at which point the provisions of Article 4.25-4.28 apply.
- 4.31 An Athlete who has been allocated Para-sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) may not attend an Evaluation Session prior to the relevant Fixed Review Date save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.
- 4.32 A Classification Panel for Physical Impairment that consists of only one Classifier may not designate an Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date (FRD) but will designate the Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Review (R).

Para-Sport Class Status Confirmed

- 4.33 An Athlete will be designated with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C) if the Classification Panel is satisfied that the Athlete's Eligible Impairment is and will remain stable.
- 4.34 An Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C) is not required to undergo any further Athlete Evaluation (save pursuant to the provisions in these Classification Rules concerning Protests (Part Six), Medical Review (Part Eight) and Changes to Para-Sport Class Criteria (Article 4.36 - 4.37).
- 4.35 A Physical Impairment Classification Panel that consists of only one Classifier cannot designate an Athlete with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C).

Changes to Para-sport Class Criteria

- 4.36 If BA changes any Para-sport Class criteria and/or assessment methods defined in the Appendices to these Rules, then BA may re-assign any Athlete who holds Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Fixed Review Date (FRD) with Para-sport Class Status Review (R) and require that the Athlete attend an Evaluation Session at the earliest available opportunity.
- 4.37 Relevant Athletes and stakeholders shall be provided appropriate notice of anticipated changes to their Classification System.

Provisional Level Classifications

- 4.38 Provisional Classification is a process offered by BA for Athletes as an entry level Classification process for Athletes where National Level Classification is unavailable or unsuitable. Provisional Classification is an indication of Athlete eligibility and Para-sport Class only. Procedures are guided by the criteria outlined in Appendix One of these Classification Rules, but are not required to follow the same methods of assessment.
- 4.39 Provisional Classifications are conducted by a certified BA Classifier and involve the assessment of information by at least one medical Classifier.
- 4.40 Once an Athlete has undergone a National Level Athlete Evaluation those outcomes supersede any previous Provisional Classification outcomes.
- 4.41 Athletes with Provisional Classifications are valid for State level Competition only, at the final discretion of the local organising committee.
- 4.42 Athletes holding a Provisional Classification may be eligible for BA National team selection for the purpose of National or International classification. This is at the final discretion of BA.
- 4.43 Provisional Classification process is conducted as follows:
- Athlete to complete the Provisional/Medical Diagnostic Form and submit directly to BA, including written consent to Process Athletes personal and Classification information; (via DropBox process with secure password)
 - BA Classifier/s assess information supplied by Athlete;
 - BA classification personnel provide written notification of Provisional Classification outcomes as soon as is practically possible; and
 - Publish Provisional outcome on the BA Classification Masterlist.
- 4.44 Athletes found Not Eligible through a Provisional Level classification who do not demonstrate the presence of an Eligible Impairment, will be allocated a Para-sport Class of NE and Para-Sport Class Status of Confirmed.
- 4.45 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level classification, who meet the conditions of Eligibility Assessment but do not appear to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Boccia are to be allocated a Para-sport Class of NE and Para-Sport Class Status of Review and may be reviewed by a National Level classification panel.
- 4.46 Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification and are allocated a Sport Class of BC1, BC2, BC3 or BC4 will be allocated the Para-sport Class Status of Review.
- 4.47 Athletes who hold a provisional level Classification may have their provisional outcome reviewed and a new provisional Classification issued if:
- their medical condition has changed by way of the Medical Review Process outlined in Part Eight; or
 - there is a relevant change in the BA Classification Rules that would affect the provisional class they have been allocated.

- 4.48 Athletes found Not Eligible through a provisional level Athlete Evaluation process will be given a sport class of Not Eligible and Para-sport Class Status of Review. These Athletes are permitted to be reviewed by a National Level Classification Panel.

Multiple Para-sport Classes

- 4.49 It is possible that an Athlete may be eligible for two or more Para-sport Classes. For example, it may be the case that an Athlete has an Impairment which would make them eligible for two Sport Classes.
- 4.50 If an Athlete is potentially eligible for two or more sport classes, then:
- the Athlete must notify BA as to all the Athlete's Eligible Impairments via the Provisional/Medical Diagnostic process;
 - the Athlete will be offered the opportunity to participate in an Evaluation Session in respect of each Para-sport Class relevant to their multiple Impairments;
 - at the conclusion of the Evaluation Session/s the Athlete is allocated multiple Sport Classes;
 - the Athlete must choose the Para-sport Class that they wish to compete in ('the preferred Sport Class');
 - the selection of Sport Class will be subject to all applicable BA Rules (including but not limited to those in relation to the use of equipment.
 - the Athlete will be permitted to compete in the preferred Para-sport Class; and
 - details of all of the Athlete's Para-sport Classes will be published on the BA Classification Masterlist.

Changing Para-sport Class

- 4.51 An Athlete who is eligible for Multiple Para-sport Classes may change their preferred Para-sport Class between different events. However, if one sport class has been used to obtain qualification in a future Event, the Athlete must compete with this class in that future Event.
- 4.52 Nothing in this Article precludes an Athlete from making a Medical Review Request as outlined in Part Eight at any time in respect of any Para-sport Class they hold.

National Level Athlete Evaluation Classification Outcomes

- 4.53 The outcome of Athlete Evaluation will be verbally notified to the Athlete as soon as practically possible after completion of Athlete Evaluation.
- 4.54 If Athlete Evaluation is held at a Competition, the Classification Personnel must convey the Classification outcomes to the Organising Committee so that they can prepare start lists and make associated Event management arrangements.
- 4.55 All Classification outcomes shall be confirmed in writing to the Athlete, as soon as is practically possible. Copies of the full Classification Form are available to the Athlete on request.
- 4.56 The outcomes will be made available via the Classification Masterlist on the BA website.

Part Five: Para-sport Class Not Eligible

General Provisions

- 5.1 If BA determines that an Athlete:
- has an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment outlined in these Classification Rules; or
 - has a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment; or
 - has an Eligible Impairment that does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria for BA Para-sport Classes;
- then that Athlete will be allocated Para-Sport Class Not Eligible (NE).
- 5.2 An Athlete designated Para-sport Class NE may be permitted, at the discretion of BA or the competition organiser, to compete in competitions outside of the events offered for athletes in the BA Para-sport Classes, as per the conditions outlined in BAIC Procedures.
- 5.3 An Athlete designated Para-sport Class NE may be eligible to compete in other Para-sports. Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE), does not question the presence of a genuine Impairment. It is only a ruling on the eligibility of the Athlete to compete in the BA Para-sport Classes.

Absence of Eligible Impairment

- 5.4 If BA determines that an Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment as outlined in Appendix One through the Eligibility Assessment process, that Athlete:
- will not be permitted to attend an Evaluation Session; and
 - will be allocated with Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C).
- 5.5 If an IF or another NSO/NSOD has allocated an Athlete with Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) because the Athlete does not have an Eligible Impairment, BA may likewise do so without the need for the process detailed in Part Seven of these Classification Rules.
- 5.6 An Athlete who is allocated Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by BA or a Classification Panel (if delegated by BA) because that Athlete has:
- an Impairment that is not an Eligible Impairment; or
 - a Health Condition that does not lead to an Eligible Impairment;
- has no right to request such determination be reviewed by a second Classification Panel and will not be permitted to participate in any BA Para-sport Classes (ie BC1, BC2, BC3 or BC4).
- 5.7 The provisions outlined in Article 5.2-5.4 also apply to athletes undergoing provisional classification.

Absence of Compliance with Minimum Impairment Criteria

- 5.8 Any Athlete who does not comply with the Minimum Impairment Criteria will be allocated Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) and designated Para-sport Class Status Review (R).
- 5.9 The Athlete will be reviewed by a second Classification Panel, as soon as is possible. The Athlete will not be permitted to compete before such re-assessment, unless otherwise designated by BA.

- 5.10 If the second Classification Panel determines the Athlete does not comply with Minimum Impairment Criteria (or if the Athlete declines to participate in a second Evaluation Session); Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) will be allocated and the Athlete designated with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed(C).
- 5.11 If an Athlete makes (or is subject to) a Protest on a previously allocated Para-sport Class other than Not Eligible (NE) and is allocated Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) by a Protest Panel, the Athlete will be provided with a further and final Evaluation Session which will review the decision to allocate Para-sport Class Not Eligible (NE) made by the Protest Panel.

Part Six: Protests

Scope of a Protest

- 6.1 A Protest is defined as the procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's Para-sport Class is submitted and subsequently resolved.
- 6.2 A Protest may only be made in respect of an Athlete's Para-sport Class. A Protest may not be made in respect of an Athlete's Para-sport Class Status.
- 6.3 Protests do not apply to:
- Athletes that have been allocated a Not Eligible Para-sport Class; or
 - Athletes whose condition has changed and are subsequently eligible for a Medical Review process.
- 6.4 Dispute resolution processes for Provisional Classifications are outlined in Part Four.

Protest of National Level Athlete Evaluations

Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Protests

- 6.5 A National Level Protest may only be made by one of the following bodies:
- an Athlete; or
 - BA.
- 6.6 An Athlete may only make a Protest in respect of the Athlete's own Classification outcome. Protests of other Athlete's Classifications are not permitted. If any person has a genuine belief and holds evidence that another Athlete has been allocated the incorrect class, it may pass such evidence on to BA for consideration. The receipt of evidence does not require BA to make a Protest.
- 6.7 BA may, in its discretion, make a Protest at any time in respect of an Athlete under its jurisdiction if:
- it considers an Athlete may have been allocated an incorrect Para-sport Class; or
 - an Athlete makes a documented request to BA. The assessment of the validity of the request is at the sole discretion of BA.

Submission processes of National Level Protests

- 6.8 The Protesting party must complete the relevant Protest Form, including but not limited to:
- the name, identifying particulars of the Athlete whose Para-sport Class is being Protested;
 - the details of the Protested decision and/or a copy of the Protested decision;

- an explanation as to why the Protest has been made and the basis on which the Protesting party believes that the Protested decision is flawed. Reference to specific rules alleged to have been breached is encouraged;
- Any documents and other evidence in support of the Protest; and
- The signature of the party making the Protest.

6.11 PI Protests must be submitted within seven (7) days of the Classification outcome being determined.

6.12 Protests initiated by BA may be made at any time.

6.13 If an Athlete is required by a PI Classification Panel to undergo Observation in Competition Assessment, an Athlete may make a Protest before or after First Appearance takes place.

Assessment of National Level Protest Submission

6.14 Upon receipt of a National Level Protest, BA will review the Protest, and determine if the Protest will be accepted or dismissed.

6.15 Protests may be dismissed, at BA's discretion where it does not comply with Protest requirements including but not limited to:

- The Protest has been submitted without all necessary information;
- The Protest is an allegation without evidence.

6.16 If the Protest is dismissed, BA will notify in writing the Protesting party as soon as is practical. Any Protest Fee will be forfeited.

6.17 If the Protest is accepted:

- The Protested Athlete's Para-sport Class will remain unchanged pending the outcome of the Protest, but the Protested Athlete's Para-sport Class Status will be changed to Review, effective immediately.
- A Protest Panel shall be appointed to review the Protest as soon as reasonably possible. This may be a Protest Panel at the current Competition, the next Competition or Athlete Evaluation opportunity.
- BA will notify all relevant parties in writing of the acceptance of, or reason for the Protest and advise of the opportunity for protest re-evaluation to occur.

Protest Panel

6.18 A Protest Panel will be appointed by BA in a manner consistent with the provisions for appointing a Classification Panel in these Classification Rules.

6.19 A Protest Panel will not include any person who:

- was a member of the Classification Panel that made the Protested Decision; or
- conducted any component of Athlete Evaluation in respect of the Protested Athlete within a period of 12 months prior to the date of the Protested Decision;

unless otherwise agreed by the Athlete and BA.

6.20 BA will notify all relevant parties of the time and date for the Evaluation Session that will be conducted by the Protest Panel. All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that the Protest is resolved at the earliest opportunity. Pending the resolution of the Protest, the Protested Athlete will be permitted to compete in the Para-Sport Class that is the subject of the Protest with Para-sport Class Status Review (R).

- 6.21 The Protest Panel will conduct the new Evaluation Session in accordance with these Classification Rules. The Protest Panel may refer to the Protest Documents and other Classification records when conducting the new Evaluation Session.
- 6.22 The Protest Panel will allocate a Para-sport Class and designate a Para-sport Class Status. All relevant parties will be notified of the Protest Panel's decision in a manner consistent with the provisions for notification in these Classification Rules.
- 6.23 The decision of a Protest Panel in relation to both an Athlete Protest and a BA Protest is final. If the Protest was submitted in conjunction with a Competition, an Athlete or BA may not make another Protest at that Competition. The decision of a Protest Panel may be Appealed if the requirements set out for Appeals in Part Eleven are met. This does not preclude an Athlete from Protesting future Classification decisions.
- 6.24 If the decision of the Protest Panel results in the Para-sport Class of the Athlete being changed, the Protest Fee will be refunded to the Athlete.

Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Protests

- 6.25 BA may issue special ad hoc provisions related to Protests related to their specific impairment group to operate in specific circumstances. Athletes will be provided as much notice of the ad hoc provisions as is reasonable in the circumstances.

Part Seven: Misconduct during an Evaluation Session

Failure to Attend Evaluation Session

- 7.1 An Athlete is personally responsible for attending an Evaluation Session.
- 7.2 If an Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session, the Classification Panel will report the failure to BA. BA may, if satisfied that a reasonable explanation exists for the failure to attend and subject to the practicalities, specify a revised date and time for the Athlete to attend a further Evaluation Session before the Classification Panel.
- 7.3 If the Athlete is unable to provide a reasonable explanation for non-attendance, or if the Athlete fails to attend an Evaluation Session on a second occasion, BA may preclude the Athlete from further competing in the Para-sport Classes.

Suspension of Evaluation Session

- 7.4 A Classification Panel, in consultation with BA may suspend an Evaluation Session if it cannot allocate a Para-sport Class to the Athlete, including but not limited to, one or more of the following circumstances:
- a failure on the part of the Athlete to comply with any part of these Classification Rules;
 - a failure on the part of the Athlete to provide any medical information that is reasonably required by the Classification Panel;
 - the Classification Panel considers that the use (or non-use) of any medication and/or medical procedures/devices/implants disclosed by the Athlete will affect its ability to conduct Athlete Evaluation in a fair manner;
 - the Athlete has a Health Condition (of any nature or description) that may limit or prohibit complying with requests made by the Classification Panel during an Evaluation Session, which

the Classification Panel considers will affect its ability to conduct the Evaluation Session in a fair manner;

- the Athlete is unable to communicate effectively with the Classification Panel;
- the Athlete refuses or is unable to comply with any reasonable instructions given to them by any Classification Personnel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner; and/or
- the Athlete's representation of their abilities is inconsistent with any information available to the Classification Panel to such an extent that the Evaluation Session cannot be conducted in a fair manner.

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

- an explanation for the suspension and the remedial action and timeframe will be provided to the Athlete;
- if the Athlete takes the remedial action to the satisfaction of BA, the Evaluation Session will be resumed; and
- if the Athlete fails to comply and does not take the remedial action within the timeframe specified or to a satisfactory standard, the Evaluation Session will be terminated, and the Athlete will be precluded from competing in Boccia Para-sport Competition until the Athlete Evaluation is completed.

7.6 If an Evaluation Session is suspended by a Classification Panel, the Classification Panel may designate the Athlete as Classification Not Completed (CNC) in accordance with Part Three of these Classification Rules.

7.7 A Suspension of an Evaluation Session may be subject to further investigation into any possible Intentional Misrepresentation.

Part Eight: Medical Review

Medical Review

8.1 This Article applies to any Athlete who has been allocated a Para-sport Class with Para-sport Class Status Confirmed (C) or Review with Fixed Review Date (FRD). Additionally, this process applies to Athletes who have undergone a Provisional Classification.

8.2 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 execute the specific tasks and activities required by Boccia in a manner that is clearly distinguishable from changes attributable to levels of training, fitness and proficiency.

8.3 A Medical Review Request must be made by the Athlete together with any supporting documentation. The Medical Review Request must explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed and why it is believed that the Athlete's Para-sport Class is no longer accurate. It will generally be the case that any Medical Review Request will need to be accompanied by medical records.

8.4 A Medical Review Request must be received by BA prior to competing at any future Event or within 12 months of the change occurring, whichever comes sooner.

- 8.5 BA will decide whether or not the Medical Review Request is upheld as soon as is possible following receipt of the Medical Review Request.
- 8.6 Any Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel who becomes aware of changes outlined in Article 8.2 but fails to draw those to the attention of BA may be committing Intentional Misrepresentation.
- 8.7 If a Medical Review Request is upheld, the Athlete's Para-sport Class Status will be changed to Review (R) with immediate effect.
- 8.8 If a Medical Review Request does not include sufficient evidence to explain how and to what extent the Athlete's Impairment has changed, the Medical Review will not be accepted and the Athlete's Para-sport Class Status will not be changed.

Part Nine: Intentional Misrepresentation

Intentional Misrepresentation

- 9.1 Intentional Misrepresentation (IM) is a deliberate attempt by an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel (either by deed or omission) to mislead a Para-sport organisation or anyone else regarding the existence or extent of their skills and/or the nature of their Eligible Impairment. IM may occur during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any point after the allocation of Para-sport Class.
- 9.2 IM includes circumstances where an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel:
- submits false and/or fraudulent medical Diagnostic Information as a part of the Classification process, or withholds relevant medical documentation that may have an impact on the Classification process;
 - attempts to deceive the Classification Panel during Athlete Evaluation by misrepresenting the Athlete's skills and/or abilities and/or the degree or nature of impairment;
 - deliberately presents at Athlete Evaluation in a way that is inconsistent with their usual presentation in Competition;
 - fails to make a Medical Review Request as to a change in circumstances that may impact upon sport class allocation;
 - knowingly assists, covers up, is involved in any type of complicity involving IM, or disrupts the Athlete Evaluation process with the intention of deceiving or misleading the Classification Panel.
- 9.3 Athletes and/or Athlete Support Personnel may be subject to disciplinary actions if found guilty of IM offenses.
- 9.4 BA procedures regarding the investigation and management of Intentional Misrepresentation in the Para-sport Classes follows the PA Classification Standard: Intentional Misrepresentation and Data Protection.
- 9.5 BA will cooperate and expects the cooperation of their members with any Classification investigative process.
- 9.6 BA will recognise, respect and enforce any disciplinary action imposed on an Athlete or Athlete Support Personnel for IM as notified by the IPC, IF, SIA or other relevant body across all levels of BA competition.

Intentional Misrepresentation - International Level Competing Athletes

- 9.7 Classification intelligence, allegations, investigations, and disciplinary proceedings relating to athletes competing in International Level competition follow the processes outlined by BISFed, and not the processes outlined in these Classification Rules.

Intentional Misrepresentation – National Level Competing Athletes.

- 9.8 National Level Classification Intentional Misrepresentation Complaints will be dealt with under the National Integrity Framework. IM, as defined in these Classification Rules, is deemed to be Competition Manipulation as defined in the Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering Policy. Allegations of National Level cases of IM are to be handled by Sport Integrity Australia in accordance with the Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.
- 9.9 The National Sports Tribunal - General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level Classification Intentional Misrepresentation Appeals. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable National Sports Tribunal Legislation.
- 9.10 The National Sports Tribunal - General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level Classification Intentional Misrepresentation Appeals. An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable National Sports Tribunal Legislation.

Part Ten: Use of Athlete Information

Classification Data

- 10.1 A will only Process Classification Data if such Classification Data is reasonably necessary to conduct Classification. If BA is not sure if the Data submitted by an Athlete is necessary to conduct Classification, they will not Process that Data, will inform the Athlete of the receipt of that information, and subsequently destroy the Data.
- 10.2 All Classification Data Processed by BA will be accurate, complete, and kept up to date.

Consent and Processing

- 10.3 Subject to Article 10.5, BA will only Process Classification Data with the consent of the Athlete to whom that Classification Data relates.
- 10.4 If an Athlete cannot provide written consent (for example because the Athlete is under age 18) the Athlete's parent or legal guardian must give consent on their behalf.
- 10.5 BA may only Process Classification Data without the consent of the relevant Athlete if permitted to do so in accordance with applicable laws and codes.

Classification Research

- 10.6 BA may request that an Athlete provide it with Personal Information for Research Purposes.
- 10.7 The use by BA of Personal and/or sensitive Information for Research Purposes must be consistent with these Classification Rules and all applicable ethical use requirements.
- 10.8 Personal Information that has been provided by an Athlete to BA solely and exclusively for Research Purposes will not be used for any other purpose.
- 10.9 BA will only use Classification Data for Research Purposes with the express consent of the relevant Athlete. If BA wishes to publish any Personal Information provided by an Athlete for Research

Purposes, it must obtain express consent to do so from that Athlete prior to any publication. This restriction does not apply if the publication is anonymised so that it does not, and may not be used to, identify any Athlete(s) who consented to the use of their Personal Information and or sensitive Personal Information.

Notification to Athletes

10.10 BA will notify an Athlete who provides Classification Data as to:

- that fact that BA is collecting the Classification Data; and
- the purpose for the collection of the Classification Data; and
- the duration that the Classification Data will be retained.

Classification Data Security

10.11 BA will:

- protect Classification Data by applying appropriate security safeguards, including physical, organisational, technical, and other measures to prevent the loss, theft or unauthorised access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure of Classification Data; and
- take reasonable steps to ensure that any party provided with Classification Data uses that Classification Data in a manner consistent with these Classification Rules.

Disclosures of Classification Data

10.12 BA will not disclose Classification Data to other Classification Organisations except where such disclosure is related to Classification conducted by another Classification Organisation and/or the disclosure is consistent with applicable laws and codes.

10.13 Any suspected breaches will follow the procedures outlined in the BA Privacy Policy.

Retaining Classification Data

10.14 BA will ensure that Classification Data is only retained for as long as the Athlete remains active in Boccia. If Classification Data is no longer necessary for Classification purposes, it will be deleted, destroyed, or permanently anonymised.

10.15 BA Classifiers and Classification Personnel will retain Classification Data for only as long as is necessary in order for them to carry out their Classification duties in relation to an Athlete.

Access Rights to Classification Data

10.16 Athletes may request from BA:

- confirmation of whether or not BA has Processed Classification Data relating to them personally and a description of the Classification Data that is held;
- a copy of the Classification Data held by BA; and/or
- correction or deletion of the Classification Data held by BA.

10.17 A request may be made by an Athlete or their legal representative and will be complied with within a reasonable period of time.

Classification Masterlists

- 10.18 BA will maintain a Classification Masterlist of Athletes, which will include the Athlete's name, sex, year of birth, state of residence, Para-sport Class, and Para-sport Class Status.
- 10.19 The Classification Masterlist will include and clearly delineate Classifications allocated by BA and those allocated by BISFed.
- 10.20 The BA Classification Masterlist is available to all relevant members and Competition organisers via the BA website.
- 10.21 Classification Masterlists will be updated by BA following each Athlete Evaluation within two months after the Classification opportunity has taken place.
- 10.22 These Rules are subject at all times to the BA Privacy Policy and to all applicable privacy legislation, including the Privacy Act and nothing in these Rules will prevent an Athlete accessing all available rights under such legislation.

Part Eleven: National Level Classification Appeals

Appeal

- 11.1 An Appeal is the process by which a formal objection to how Athlete Evaluation and/or Classification procedures have been conducted is submitted and subsequently resolved.

International Level Classification Appeals

- 11.2 International Level Classification Appeals follow the processes outlined by BISFed, and not the processes outlined in these Classification Rules.

National Level Classification Appeals

- 11.3 If an Athlete considers there have been procedural errors made in respect of the allocation of a National Level Para-sport Class and/or Para-sport Class Status and as a consequence an Athlete has been allocated an incorrect Para-sport Class or Para-sport Class Status, they may submit an Appeal.
- 11.4 The National Sports Tribunal - General Division will act as the hearing body for the resolution of National Level Classification Appeals.
- 11.5 An Appeal must be made and resolved in accordance with the applicable National Sports Tribunal Legislation.

Parties Permitted to Make a National Level Appeal

- 11.6 An Appeal may only be made by an Athlete or their legal representative.

Ad Hoc Provisions Relating to Appeals

- 11.7 Paralympics Australia and/or BA, in conjunction with the National Sports Tribunal where necessary, may issue special ad hoc provisions relating to an Appeal to operate during specific Competitions or circumstances. PA or BA, as the case may be, will provide as much notice of the ad hoc provisions as is reasonable in the circumstances.

Part Twelve: Definitions

Appeal: The means by which a complaint that the sports federation has made an unfair decision during the Classification process is resolved.

Athlete: For purposes of Classification, a person who participates in sport at the International Level (as defined by BISFed) or national or lower level (as defined by BA). A reference to an Athlete includes a reference to the Athlete's legal guardian where the context so permits.

Athlete Evaluation: The process by which an Athlete is assessed in accordance with these Classification Rules, so that they may be allocated a Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status.

Athlete Support Personnel: Any individual who supports an Athlete, including but not limited to coaches, team staff, medical or para-medical specialists, interpreters, administrators, carers, and parents/legal guardians.

BA: Boccia Australia Limited (ABN 33505607265) - the Australian National Sporting Organisation affirmed by BISFed as the organisation responsible for Boccia in Australia.

Boccia Australia Inclusion Classes (BAIC): Designation for athletes who do not meet the criteria for the BA Para-sport Classes for the purpose of inclusion in competition opportunities at the discretion of BA.

Chief Classifier: A Classifier appointed by BA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for a specific Competition according to these Classification Rules.

Classification or Athlete Classification: Grouping Athletes into Para-sport Classes according to the extent to which their Impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline.

Classification Data: Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information provided by an Athlete and/or their authorised representative to BA in connection with Classification.

Classification Intelligence: Information obtained and used by an International Sport Federation in relation to Classification.

Classification Masterlist: A list made available by BA that identifies Athletes who have been allocated a Para-Sport Class and designated a Para-sport Class Status.

Classification Not Complete: The designation applied to an Athlete who has commenced but not completed Athlete Evaluation to the satisfaction of BA.

Classification Organisation: Any organisation that conducts the process of Athlete Evaluation and allocates Para-sport Classes and/or holds Classification Data.

Classification Panel: A group of Classifiers, appointed by BA, to determine Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status in accordance with these Classification Rules.

Classification Personnel: Any individuals who act with the authority of BA in relation to Athlete Evaluation, for example Classifiers and administrative officers.

Classification Rules: Also referred to as **Classification Rules and Regulations**. The policies, procedures, protocols, and descriptions adopted by BA in connection with Athlete Evaluation.

Classification System: The framework used by a sport federation to develop and designate Para-Sport Classes within a Para-sport.

Classifier: A person authorised as an official by BA to evaluate Athletes as a member of a Classification Panel

Classifier Certification: The processes by which BA will assess that a Classifier has met the specific Classifier Competencies required to obtain and maintain certification or licensure.

Classifier Competencies: The qualifications and abilities that BA deems necessary for a Classifier to be competent to conduct Athlete Evaluation for sport governed by BA.

Classification Personnel Code of Conduct: The behavioural and ethical standards for Classification Personnel specified by BA.

Competition: A series of individual events conducted together under one ruling body. Competition delivered in accordance with these Classification Rules is referred to as Para-sport Competition.

Compliance: The implementation of rules, regulations, policies, and processes that adhere to the text, spirit and intent of the Code as defined by the IPC. Where terms such as (but not limited to) 'comply', 'conform' and 'in accordance' are used in the Code they shall have the same meaning as 'Compliance.'

Diagnostic Information: Medical records and/or any other diagnostic documentation that enables BA to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment or Health Condition

Eligibility Assessment: A process to assess the existence or otherwise of an Eligible Impairment.

Eligible Impairment: A Physical Impairment designated as being a prerequisite for competing in Boccia Para-sport Classes, as detailed in these Classification Rules.

Evaluation Session: The session an Athlete is required to attend for a Classification Panel to assess that Athlete's Compliance with the Minimum Impairment Criteria for Boccia; and allocation of a Para-sport Class and Para-sport Class Status depending on the extent to which that Athlete is able to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to Boccia. An Evaluation Session may include Observation in Competition.

Event: A single race, match, game, or single sport contest.

First Appearance: The first time an Athlete competes in an Event during a Competition in a particular Para-sport Class.

Fixed Review Date: A date set by a Classification Panel prior to which an Athlete designated with a Para-sport Class Status Review with a Fixed Review Date will not be required to attend an Evaluation Session, save pursuant to a Medical Review Request and/or Protest.

Head of Classification: A person who may be appointed by BA to direct, administer, co-ordinate and implement Classification matters for BA.

Health Condition: A pathology, acute or chronic disease, disorder, injury, or trauma.

Intentional Misrepresentation (IM): A deliberate attempt (either by fact or omission) to mislead any person or organisation as to the existence or extent of skills and/or abilities relevant to Boccia and/or the degree or nature of Eligible Impairment during Athlete Evaluation and/or at any other point after the allocation of a Para-sport Class.

International Level Competitions: A Competition where the IPC, an International Sport Federation or a Major Competition Organisation is the governing body for the Competition and/or appoints the technical officials for the Competition.

International Standards: Documents complementing the IPC Code and providing additional technical and operational requirements for Classification.

IPC: International Paralympic Committee.

IPC Athlete Classification Code (IPC Code): The IPC Code document which details the purpose of Classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all sports Classification Systems and sets principles to be applied by all sports within the Paralympic Movement. The IPC Code is supplemented by the International Standards.

Maintaining Certification: The advanced training, education, and practice necessary for continued competency as a Classifier.

Major Competition Organiser: An organisation that functions as the ruling body for an International Competition.

Medical Review: The process by which BA identifies if a change in the nature or degree of an Athlete's Impairment means that some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation are required to be undertaken in order to ensure that any Para-sport Class allocated to that Athlete is correct.

Medical Review Request: A request made by an Athlete for Medical Review.

National Integrity Framework: the suite of integrity-related policies adopted by BA which includes the National Integrity Framework, the Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering Policy, and the Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

National Sports Tribunal: the National Sports Tribunal established by the *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019 (Cth)*.

National Sports Tribunal Legislation: The *National Sports Tribunal Act 2019 (Cth)*, the *National Sports Tribunal Rule 2020 (Cth)* and the *National Sports Tribunal (Practice and Procedure) Determination 2021 (Cth)*.

Observation Assessment (OA): A designation given to an Athlete that replaces the Athlete's Para-sport Class Status until Observation in Competition has been completed.

Observation in Competition: The observation of an Athlete in a Competition by a Classification Panel so that the Classification Panel can complete its determination as to the extent to which an Eligible Impairment affects that Athlete's ability to execute the specific tasks and activities fundamental to the sport.

Paralympics Australia (PA): Paralympics Australia Limited ACN 061 547 957.

PA Athlete Classification Policy: The PA document which details the purpose of Classification, policies and procedures that should be common to all Australian sport's Classification Systems. The PA Athlete Classification Policy is supplemented by the PA Classification Standards.

PA Classification Standards: Complement the PA Athlete Classification policy and provide the technical and operational requirements for key Classification areas.

Para-sport(s): Sport for Athletes with a Physical Impairment, on a Paralympic Games program, or recognised by the IPC. For the avoidance of doubt this refers to athletes who compete in BC1, BC2, BC3 or BC4 classes, as defined by BISFed.

Permanent: The term Permanent as used in the IPC Code describes an Impairment that is unlikely to be resolved meaning the principal effects are lifelong.

Personal Information: Any information that refers to, or relates directly to, an Athlete.

Physical Impairment: An impairment that affects an Athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising Ataxia, Athetosis, Hypertonia, Impaired Muscle Power, Impaired Passive Range of Movement and Limb Deficiency.

Process/Processing: The collection, recording, storage, use or disclosure of Personal Information and/or sensitive Personal Information.

Protest: The procedure by which a reasoned objection to an Athlete's sport class is submitted and subsequently resolved.

Protested Athlete: An Athlete whose Para-sport Class is being challenged.

Protested Decision: The Para-sport Class decision being challenged.

Protest Documents: The information provided in the Protest Form together with the Protest Fee.

Protest Fee: The fee prescribed by BA, payable by the Athlete when submitting a Protest.

Protest Form: The form on which a National Protest must be submitted.

Protest Panel: A Classification Panel appointed by BA to conduct an Evaluation Session as a result of a Protest

Provisional/Medical Diagnostics Form: A form that an Athlete must submit in order for an Athlete to undergo Athlete Evaluation, identifying the Athlete's Health Condition if so required.

Re-certification: The process by which BA will assess that a Classifier has maintained specific Classifier Competencies or can regain certification after having lost it.

Recognised Competition: A Competition that is sanctioned or approved by BA.

Research Purposes: Research into matters pertaining to the development of sports within the Paralympic Movement.

Para-sport Class: A category for Competition defined by BA by reference to the extent to which an Athlete can perform the specific tasks and activities required by Boccia. The Para-sport Classes are those which are recognised by BISFed and the IPC.

Para-sport Class Status: A designation applied to a Para-sport Class to indicate the extent to which an Athlete may be required to undertake Athlete Evaluation and/or be subject to a Protest.

Sport Integrity Australia: The non-corporate Commonwealth entity of that name established by the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020* (Cth).

Appendix One

Athletes with Physical Impairment

Introduction

This Appendix outlines the process by which an Athlete with a Physical Impairment will be classified and allocated a Para-sport Class for BA Boccia Competition.

1 Eligible Impairment Types

1.1 In order to be eligible for BA Para-sport Classes, an Athlete must be affected by at least one of the Eligible Impairments listed in the first column of the table below.

Eligible Impairment	Examples of Health Conditions
Impaired Muscle Power Athletes with Impaired Muscle Power have a Health Condition that either reduces or eliminates their ability to voluntarily contract their muscles in order to move or to generate force.	Spinal cord injury, transverse myelitis, sacral agenesis, spinal tumours, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida or nerve damage.
Limb Deficiency Athletes with Limb Deficiency have total or partial absence of bones or joints of the shoulder, upper limb, pelvis, or lower limb.	Traumatic amputation, illness (for example amputation due to bone cancer) or absence of bones from birth (for example dysmelia).
Hypertonia Athletes with hypertonia have an increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, hereditary spastic paraparesis
Ataxia Athletes with Ataxia have uncoordinated movements caused by damage to the central nervous system.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, brain tumour, Frederichs ataxia, spinocerebellar ataxia, stroke and multiple sclerosis.
Athetosis Athletes with Athetosis have continual slow involuntary movements.	Cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury and stroke.
Impaired Passive Range of Movement Athletes with Impaired Passive Range of Movement have a restriction or a lack of passive movement in one or more joints.	Arthrogryposis, talipes equine arts, contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint, joint fusions or other joint movement conditions.

2 Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC) and MIC Assessment Methodology

- 2.1 BA adopts the MIC and assessment methodology as outlined in the BISFed Classification Rules for all Para-sport Competitions under its jurisdiction.

3 Assessment Criteria for the Allocation of a Para-sport Class and the Designation of Para-Sport Class Status

- 3.1 BA adopts the Assessment methodology and criteria outlined in the BISFed Classification Rules for the allocation of Para-sport Class during National Level Athlete Evaluation.

Appendix Two: Non-Eligible Impairment Types

1 Non-Eligible Impairment Types for Para-sport Classes

1.1 Examples of Non-Eligible Impairments include, but are not limited to the following:

- Pain;
- Hearing impairment;
- Low muscletone;
- Hypermobility of joints;
- Joint instability, such as unstable shoulder joint, recurrent dislocation of a joint;
- Impaired muscle endurance;
- Impaired motor reflex functions;
- Impaired cardiovascular functions;
- Impaired respiratory functions;
- Impaired metabolic functions; and
- Tics and mannerisms, stereotypes, and motor perseveration.

1.2 An Athlete who has one or more of these Non-Eligible Impairments, without the presence of an Eligible Impairment, is not eligible to compete in the Para-sport Classes offered by BA. They may still be able to compete in other Boccia Australia Competition as outlined in the BAIC procedures document.

2. Health Conditions that do not lead to an Eligible Impairment

2.1 Many Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. If an Athlete has multiple Health Conditions, they will be assessed to determine if one or more of these Health Conditions leads to an Eligible Impairment for Para-sport Classes.

2.2 The IPC Code considers the following Health Conditions do not lead to an Eligible Impairment. Health Conditions that:

- primarily cause pain eg fibromyalgia, complex regional pain syndrome;
- primarily cause fatigue e.g., chronic fatigue;
- primarily cause joint hypermobility or hypotonia; or
- are primarily psychological or psychosomatic in nature eg post-traumatic stress disorder or conversion disorders

2.3 Any Athlete who has a Health Condition but does not have an Eligible Impairment is not eligible to compete in Para-sport Classes offered by BA. They may still be able to compete in other BA Competition.