

**BOCCIA UNITED STATES  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES  
OCTOBER 20, 2023**

These procedures provide for selection of the Boccia United States (BUS) team (the Team) for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (the Games).

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM.**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athletes and BC3 Ramp Operators (“BC3 RO”) must be a national of the United States at the time of selection. Refer to the [Boccia International Sports Federation \(BISFed\) Policy – Nationality of Competitors.](#)

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

BISFed Qualification System:

<https://www.worldboccia.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BISFed-Competition-and-Ranking-Manual-2021-2024-Final.pdf>

Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Qualification Criteria:

<https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/Paris%202024%20qualification%20regulations%20July%202022.pdf>

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- be 15 years of age before January 1, 2024, to be eligible for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
- be registered with BISFed and have achieved ranking points in at least one (1) event valid for the Individual World Ranking between 1 January 2022 and 1 January 2024.
- hold a valid BISFed Athlete License
  - *BISFed license requirements also apply to BC3 RO*
- have completed BISFed antidoping training
  - *BISFed antidoping training requirements also apply to BC3 RO*
- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Review Fixed Date after 31 December 2024.
  - A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current athlete sport class status can be found at <https://www.worldboccia.com/about-world-boccia/classifications/>.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline.
- Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete aged 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Tryout Events:

1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

The 2023 Teams and Pairs World Ranking list and the 2024 Individual Ranking List will account for ranking points accumulated from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 at the following events:

- World Boccia Championships
- Boccia Regional Championships
- World Boccia Cups
- World Boccia Challengers

All event dates and locations are made available on BISFed's competition calendar via their website: <https://www.worldboccia.com/events/>

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

Entry standards for the BISFed events listed above may be referenced in the BISFed Competition & Ranking Manual via their website:

<https://www.worldboccia.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BISFed-Competition-and-Ranking-Manual-2021-2024-Final.pdf>

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

**Allocation of Qualification Slots:**

Slots qualified via Teams or Pairs allocation methods are allocated to the NPC not to the individual athlete. NPCs who qualify slots via Teams or Pairs allocation methods must enter in the respective Teams or Pairs event.

Slots qualified via Individual World Ranking List allocation method are allocated to the individual athlete not to the NPC.

Any qualification slots that are not used by the respective NPC must be returned to BISFed to be reallocated as outlined in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Qualification Criteria (see Section 1.1.3.).

**Maximum Quota Allocation Per NPC:**

An NPC may be allocated a maximum of two (2) slots for each gender and sport class, and no more than ten (10) qualification slots in total. Exceptions may be granted via the Bipartite Commission Invitation method.

**Maximum Entry Per NPC:**

- An NPC can enter one (1) BC1/BC2 Team consisting of three (3) athletes of which a minimum must be one (1) male, one (1) female and one (1) in the BC1 sport class.
- An NPC can enter one (1) BC3 Pair consisting of one (1) male and one (1) female athlete.
- An NPC can enter one (1) BC4 Pair consisting of one (1) male and one (1) female athlete.
- An NPC can enter a maximum of two (2) athletes in each of the Individual medal events.

**Qualification System:**

<https://www.worldboccia.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BISFed-Competition-and-Ranking-Manual-2021-2024-Final.pdf>

- **Team and/or Pairs Allocation:**

Quota slots for the Team and/or Pairs events will be allocated through the following methods:

- 2023 Regional Championships Teams and Pairs Allocation
- 2023 Teams and Pairs World Ranking List Allocation
- Paralympic Qualification Tournament

Athlete nominations to fulfill Team and/or Pairs allocations to NPC USA will be made by BUS using the Discretionary criteria below in Section 2.2.

- **Individual Athlete Qualification Method:**

The 2024 Individual World Ranking List Allocation will be used to determine individual athlete quota slot allocation. The two (2) highest ranked athletes in each of the BISFed Boccia Individual Ranking Lists closing 31 December 2023 obtain one (1) qualification slot provided that their NPC has not obtained a qualification slot in the corresponding Teams or Pairs event, and up to the maximum quota per NPC. If an NPC would achieve more than ten (10) slots, then the NPC must select which slots it wishes to maintain.

- **Bipartite Commission Invitation:**

To be considered for a Bipartite slot, NPCs must submit an official application to BISFed in writing by 17 June 2024.

BUS may, but is not required to, submit an application for a Bipartite slot depending on whether, as determined by the BUS Discretionary Selection Committee, there are athlete candidates who meet the discretionary selection criteria set forth in Section 2.1. The BUS Discretionary Selection Committee shall be responsible for making any such selection. BUS will disclose on its website (<https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>) by 18 June 2024 the submission of a particular athlete to BISFed for a Bipartite slot.

If BISFed awards a Bipartite slot to an athlete by name, BUS will accept such athlete to the Team. BUS will disclose on its website (<https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>) the name of any

athlete named to the Team through the Bipartite Commission Invitation Method.

- **Sport Assistants/Ramp Operators:**

One Sport Assistant and one Ramp Operator will be allocated for every BC1 and BC3 athlete, respectively, that qualifies. Sport Assistants and Ramp Operators will be selected based on the discretionary criteria listed in Section 2.2.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

### **2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):**

Discretionary selection criteria may be utilized by BUS to determine bipartite applications, BC1-2 Team, BC3 Pair or BC4 Pair athlete nominations, and/or Sport Assistant and Ramp Operator selection.

The sport of Boccia is not a measured or timed event. It is a closed skill environment that is ever-changing with each shot on the floor of competition. It is the belief of BUS that the discretionary selection criteria set outlined below, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of athletes to comprise the most competitive Team and/or Pair(s) or individual play.

### **2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):**

#### **Boccia athletes:**

Athletes must be on the 2024 Boccia United States National or Development Team to be considered for selection by the Discretionary Selection Committee. The National and Development Team Standards can be found in the Athlete and Sport Program Plan on the website - <https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>. The Discretionary Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (which are not in priority order):

1. Athlete position on BISFed International Individual Ranking List as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
2. Athlete demonstrates a trend of improving performance in international competition that is favorable to international success.
3. Tactical
  - a. Athletes will be evaluated on tactical awareness in game situations including (shot selection, order of play, when to come onto court, awareness, and implementation of playing to teammate(s) strengths to

advantage team/pair, clock management, advantaging team/pair by implementing game plan after knowing opponents' strengths/weaknesses.

4. Psychological/Social
  - a. Attitude: this applies both on and off the court, respecting those athletes he/she plays with and against, staff, coaches and officials. To act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct.
  - b. Leadership: leading by example with a positive influence on all those around them.
  - c. Teamwork: cooperative effort to be the best he/she can be, working with their teammates to fulfill one common goal, success.
  - d. Coachable: always open to constructive feedback, embracing new ideas and putting the Team's needs before their own.
  - e. Ambassador: Acting in a manner that would be pleasing to the program, sport, country, and BUS. Doing what is right, even when no one is watching. Refraining from conduct that would detract from their ability or that of their teammates to attain peak performance.

**Sport Assistant/Ramp Operator:**

Sport Assistants assist BC1 sport class athletes. The sport assistant stays outside of the competitor's playing box but can stabilize or adjust an athlete's playing chair and give the ball to the player when requested.

The Ramp Operator is defined as a competition partner by World Boccia and IPC, and therefore is selected based upon the preference of the respective athlete who is competing in the BC3 division.

Sport Assistants and Ramp Operators are not included in the maximum Team size as defined in Section 1.3 above.

The Boccia United States Discretionary Selection Committee will consider the following factors in the selection of Sport Assistant(s) and Ramp Operator(s): (which are not in priority order):

1. Preference of the qualified athlete;
2. Demonstrated expertise of sport assistance required – individual must have expertise and experience in the sport of Boccia;
3. Knowledge and understanding of the BISFed rules and regulations for competition.

Sport Assistants and Ramp Operators will be held to the same standards and code of conduct as outlined in these Procedures.

The Sport Assistant and Ramp Operator position(s) are contingent on the selection of the respective BC1 and/or BC3 athlete to be supported. If the selected athlete declines his/her selection or is subsequently removed from the Team after selection, the respective sport assistant/ramp operator also loses his/her place on the Team.

- 2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

**Boccia United States Discretionary Selection Committee**

1. Boccia United States High Performance Consultant
2. Former/current coach or National Team Manager
3. Athlete representative

- 2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the selection committee must comply with BUS's conflict of interest policy (*located online at <https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>*) to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the BUS's ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the BUS's ethics committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the BUS's ethics committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the ethics committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee

member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to BUS's ethics committee. Reports may be made anonymously. Information on the complaint procedures can be found online at <https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/> in the "Lakeshore National Adapted Sport Organization (LNASO) Complaint Procedures for National or U.S. Paralympic Teams. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with BUS's selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, BUS has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by BUS may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by BUS:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the Boccia United States Consultant.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by BUS. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by BUS, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the [Boccia United States Athlete Agreement](#)
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the medal event program of the Games.
- 3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following Team selection, such that:
  - 3.1.7.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the Team; and/or
  - 3.1.7.2. the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IF.



An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the Lakeshore National Adapted Sports Organization (LNASO) Complaint Procedures for National or U.S. Paralympic Teams (*located at <https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>*) and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the Local Organizing Committee, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable Boccia United States Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, BISFed, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Replacement athletes for Team and/or Pairs entries will be selected pursuant to discretionary selection set forth in Section 2.2.

Any slots allocated to individual athletes by name through the 2024 Individual World Ranking List Allocation or via the Bipartite Invitation Allocation process will be returned to BISFed.

Sport Assistant and Ramp Operator replacements will be selected pursuant to discretionary selection set forth in Section 2.2 as applicable per athlete.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

If replacement athletes are allowed after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, BUS will follow the procedures outlined in Section 4.1.1. above.

## **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Boccia United States will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games (include as attachments or provide links):

[Boccia United States Athlete Agreement](#)

[Boccia United States Code of Conduct](#)

## **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by BUS in the following public location(s):

7.1. Web site: <https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

Athlete nominations for Bipartite Commission Invitations will be announced on or before:

18 June 2024

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before:

19 July 2024

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

All athlete nominees to the Team are subject to the provision of the Boccia United States Code of Conduct that requires each athlete to maintain the level of fitness and readiness that qualified him or her for the Team and that will allow for his or her best performance at the Games.

All athletes selected to the Team are required to share training logs and data with BUS. In addition, athletes and their personal coaches will be contacted by BUS staff to develop an agreed-upon training plan in preparation for the Games.

The location, schedule and duration of any mandatory training will be announced and posted on the website at least 30 days prior to the start of the mandatory training and/or competitions (<https://www.lakeshore.org/activity/boccia-united-states/>).

While waivers for any mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for illness, injury or other incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All candidates for the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of Team activities. Requests for a waiver may be submitted in writing to the Boccia United States Consultant for review by emailing Kathy Brinker at [usabocciahpmanager@gmail.com](mailto:usabocciahpmanager@gmail.com). A written response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request.

#### **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, BISFed, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, WADA, BISFed, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

#### **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Kathy Brinker, Boccia United States High Performance Consultant  
Jen Allred, CPO  
Patrick Parkes, USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative

#### **12. USOPC BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USOPC Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

#### **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC and/or BISFed rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC and/or BISFed rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to BUS. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

**14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE**

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

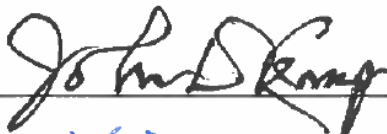


PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds](http://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds)

**15. BOCCIA UNITED STATES SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by BISFed and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by Boccia United States.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB/PSO President or CEO/Executive Director	John D. Kemp		10/25/23
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Kathy Brinker		10/27/2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Patrick Parkes		10/24/2023

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by Boccia United States, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, Boccia United States must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.