

Scottish Boccia

National Selection Policy

1. Introduction & Objective

For Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) to select a national boccia programme of elite players that covers all Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed) classes who will train individually, together and represent Scotland.

The mission of Scottish Boccia is to “develop and support players to achieve their potential, whilst ensuring players regularly make the transition to UK Boccia world class programmes.”

This Scottish Boccia selection policy covers four critical areas:

- Scottish Boccia squad
- UK Boccia Championships
- International competition
- All domestic open championships or invitational events

2. Eligibility

Potential squad players must be:

- Eligible for selection under the rules of the sports International Federation, BISFed.
- Players with a physical disability in classes BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC4.
- Eligible for selection to compete for Scotland under SDS eligibility rules. An athlete must be either;
 1. born in Scotland,
 2. have one or more parents born in Scotland or,
 3. have confirmed residency of two years in Scotland.

3. Selection Criteria for the Scottish Boccia Squad

The following criteria will be used to select players to the Scottish Boccia Squad. Selections for the squad will take place by the selection panel in November each year. Confirmation of selections will be communicated to all players selected and/or deselected, in writing, as soon as possible, thereafter.

3.1 Primary Criteria

- Regular playing member of a club, regional squad or have a bespoke individual training programme
- A confirmed national or international classification
- Performance record at national and domestic competitions
- Receptive to high levels of performance coaching
- Attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to training and preparation
- Commitment to the Scottish Boccia programme

3.2 Secondary Criteria

- Current level of physical fitness
- Current medical / injury status
- Strategy awareness
- Skill progression
- Suitability as team member
- Ability to react positively to game pressure

Having discussed and agreed individual and squad commitments, players will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct. It should be noted that breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to de-selection from the Scottish Boccia Squad. The Scottish Boccia Performance Group reserves the right to select and deselect from the squad. New players selected into the squad will be reviewed after 6 months to monitor progress and improvement. If players have made no improvement in that time, deselection may occur.

4. Selection Criteria for the UK Boccia Championships

The following criteria will be used to select players to represent Scotland at the UK Boccia Championships:

4.1 Primary Criteria

- Players who win the Scottish championships in their classification.
- Reigning UK champion in their classification.
- If the Scottish champion is the reigning UK champion, then the runner-up will be assigned the automatic qualification slot.
- Attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to training and preparation
- Commitment to the Scottish Boccia programme

4.2 Secondary Criteria

- Additional invitational entries will be selected based on:
 1. The world ranking list
 2. Players on a Boccia UK transition programme
 3. Scottish Boccia wildcards based on performance trajectory

- Players not in the Scottish squad who qualify for the UK Championships must have a national or international classification prior to selection and/or before competition.
- Any player not currently in the Scotland squad, who qualifies for the UK Championships, may be invited into the Scotland squad for a 3 month focussed training period in the lead up to the championships.
- Current level of physical fitness
- Current medical / injury status
- Strategy awareness
- Skill progression
- Suitability as team member
- Ability to react positively to game pressure

5. Selection Criteria for International Competition

The following criteria will be used to select players to represent Scotland at international competition:

5.1 Primary Criteria

- Selected member of the Scottish Boccia Squad
- A confirmed national or international classification
- Players with performance potential, who are regular playing members of a club, regional squad or have a bespoke individual training programme may be invited to attend international events.
- Performance record at national and previous international competitions.
- Attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to training and preparation
- Commitment to the Scottish Boccia programme

5.2 Secondary Criteria

- Current level of physical fitness
- Current medical / injury status
- Strategy awareness
- Skill progression
- Suitability as team member
- Ability to react positively to game pressure

6. Selection Criteria for Domestic Open Championships or Invitational Events

The following criteria will be used to select players to represent Scotland at domestic open championships or invitational events:

6.1 Primary Criteria

- Players with performance potential, who are regular playing members of a club, regional squad or have a bespoke individual training programme may be invited to compete.
- A confirmed national or international classification
- Performance record at national and international competitions.
- Attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to training and preparation.
- Commitment to the Scottish Boccia programme.

6.2 Secondary Criteria

- Current level of physical fitness
- Current medical / injury status
- Strategy awareness
- Skill progression
- Suitability as team member
- Ability to react positively to game pressure

7. De-selection

A player may be deselected from the squad if they:

- Demonstrate a lack of commitment to training requirements and tournament preparations.
- Is not reaching the required standards based on performance on skills tests, benchmarks and competition results.
- Breaches the Scottish Boccia Code of Conduct

Any de-selected player will be informed of the de-selection both verbally and by letter. Any de-selected player will receive feedback from the SDS Performance Manager and/or Head Coach to clarify the de-selection decision. These discussions will be documented, and a copy of the notes given to the player, if requested. A de-selected player has the right to appeal the decision.

8. Right of Appeal

Any appeals against selection in relation to this selection policy must be made in accordance with the SDS appeals procedure.

9. Selection Panel

The selection panel will meet to select the Scottish Boccia squad in November on an annual basis. Selection for other areas mentioned within this policy under sections 4., 5., and 6. will take place when appropriate. The Scottish Boccia Performance Group will act as the selection panel and will comprise of the following members:

- Scottish Boccia Coach Mentor: Voting Member
- Scottish Boccia Coach/s: Voting Member
- SDS Performance Manager: Voting Member