

USA Boccia Classifier Code of Conduct

A. General Principles

The role of the classifier is to act as an impartial evaluator in determining an athlete's sport class and sport class status. The integrity of classification in Boccia rests on the professional and ethical conduct and behavior of each individual classifier.

B. Classifier Compliance

Classifiers will adhere to the USA Boccia Code of Ethics, indicating an agreement to act in a professional manner according to a set of guidelines for professional conduct and behavior.

Classifiers should:

- Value and respect the athletes and athlete support personnel; and work together with athletes and athlete support personnel with understanding, patience, and dignity.
- Be courteous, objective, honest and impartial in performing classification duties for all athletes, regardless of team affiliation or geographic origin.
- Accept responsibility for all actions and decisions taken and be open to discussion and interaction with athletes and athlete support personnel in accordance with the classification rules for athlete evaluation, protests and appeals, and rules for the tournament or competition.
- Perform classification duties and related responsibilities while not being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.
- Maintain confidentiality of athlete information whenever possible, according to the classification rules for athlete evaluation and protests and appeals.
- Classifiers should respect the classification rules. Understand the theory and practice of the classification rules and assist athletes and athlete support personnel in learning and understanding the classification rules.
- Accurately and honestly represent their qualifications and abilities when applying for training and certification and when accepting classification appointments at competitions.
- Perform duties without yielding to any economic, political, sporting or human pressure.
- Recognize that anything that may lead to a *Conflict of Interest*, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Disclose any relationship with a team, athlete, or athlete support personnel that would otherwise constitute a conflict of interest.
- Seek self-development through study of the sport, classification rules, and mentoring less-experienced classifiers and classifier trainees.
- Classifiers should respect their colleagues and, treat all classification discussions with colleagues related to athletes as confidential information. Explain and

This Code of Conduct is an extension to the USA Boccia Code of Ethics (May 2021)

justify decisions without showing anger or resentment. ^{SEP}Treat colleagues with professional dignity and courtesy, recognizing that it is inappropriate to criticize other classifiers or officials in public.

- Publicly and privately respect the decisions and decision-making process of other classifiers and officials, whether or not in agreement.
- Share theoretical, technical and practical knowledge, skills and expertise with less experienced classifiers and classifier trainees.

C. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Classifiers must acknowledge and accept that disciplinary action against them may include a variety of sanctions from verbal or written reprimand to revoking their certification as a classifier in Boccia.

USA Boccia has zero tolerance for retaliatory conduct by any USA Boccia member who comes forward with a good faith complaint or issue. Retaliation for reporting an alleged violation shall constitute a violation of USA Boccia Classifier Code of Conduct and the USA Boccia Code of Ethics and will be grounds for disciplinary actions.

A classifier may contact the chair of the USA Boccia Classification Committee or a representative of the USOPC for further information regarding his/her rights under this Code.