

LETTER FROM LOUIS MITCHELL, HEAD REFEREE FOR 2023 NATIONAL TOURNEY

Coaches, Athletes, SA's, RO's and team administrators;

This is Louis Mitchell, the head referee for the 2023 USA Boccia National Championship competition. As with last year, we will not have an actual Team Leaders meeting. World Boccia/BISFed has cancelled its COVID-19 Return to Competition Protocols v.2.0. **There are no COVID-19 restrictions for 2023.** You should go to USA Boccia's web page to access the New International Rules Also, the New Rules and Protocols can be found on the World Boccia web page.

The National Tournament will be run in accordance with BISFed International Boccia Rules 2021 – 2024 v.2.1 **except where abridged by USA Boccia.**

Some rules that were put in place during the COVID period are now general rules of Boccia per BISFed mandate. These rules include but are not limited to the following:

10.1 There will be separate warm-up times for each side.

10.7.1 Athletes are to move to the back out of their box, and remain behind their box, when it is their opponent's turn to propel the ball. Please make this transition of coming into the box and out of the box, quickly as soon as the paddle is presented. When the referee indicates a side's turn to play, they should not wait for their opponent to completely exit the box before entering their box to play.

Pg 5 Definitions: Out of Way- All belongings to be in the throwing box. RO MUST move their own equipment (if it is in the way) so it does not interfere with the opponent...

Please read the following points of interest and send me or Cathy Drobny your comments and questions. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. And good luck to everyone!

- 1) General equipment check will be held at the competition facility on Aug 2nd between 1:00 and 6:00 pm in Turnstone's Plassman Center, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

- 2) Ball Check is in the Call Room, before each match. There is also a post-match ball check. At the end of the match the referee will inspect each of the seven (7) balls a side has used during the match. This is a cursory inspection to see if the balls have been tampered with during the match.
- 3) **No COVID Assistants (Cas) are allowed.**
- 4) Remember Bib numbers ARE required for all Athletes, Sport Assistants (SA) and Ramp Operators (RO). All Coaches (C) and Coach Assistants (CA) need to be members of USA Boccia and be registered and wear their credentials to be in the call room or on court.
- 5) Rule ref: 11. Equipment must remain in the box unless it is attached to the athlete or athlete's wheelchair. RO equipment must stay in the box.
- 6) Out of the way protocol: Equipment does not leave the throwing box, unless it is attached to the player, but must be out of the way of the opponent's play.
- 7) Athletes will be asked to verify the final score. And, if someone other than the athlete signs the scoresheet, they must sign their own name.
- 8) There will be an unofficial ball check system available to athletes/team, in the arena.
- 9) Smart watches/phones and IPADS' should be on "airplane" mode and presented at equipment check for approval. Splints, gloves and w/c supports must have written approval from the classifiers. Any adaptation that could be seen to assist in the direction of the ball (such as something that could guide the hand/foot) is considered illegal. All accessories that you use on court should be brought to equipment check and also called to the attention of the referee in the call room
- 10) Ramp check clarification: The base with all extensions fully extended must fit completely inside the 2.5m X 1m box. This includes any device that holds the ball in place beyond the extent of the ramp.

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