**Classification/Assessment – working copy – USA Boccia**

For competition purposes, athletes are classified according to abilities within each of their disability categories. Athletes are classified in order to provide a level playing field of competition.

BC1-BC4 are included in International Events created for Paralympic Classes.

BC1-BC6 (Open) are included in the USA Boccia Nationals.

**BC1**
Players in this class have a condition with a cerebral origin. The players have a severe impairment in all four limbs. They throw the ball with their hand or foot. They may compete with a Sport Assistant.

**BC2**

Players in this class have a condition with a cerebral origin. They throw the ball with their hand. The player has moderate functional impairment and may have some limitation in active functional range of movement. This may be due to muscle weakness, spasticity, or a lack of control affecting the upper limbs. Athletes may use a manual or powered wheelchair for everyday mobility. Athletes may walk short to moderate distances with or without a walking aid. They are not eligible for an assistant on court.

**BC3**

Players in this class are combined. They have a condition with a cerebral or non-cerebral origin. They have very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities. Players in this class have no sustained grasp or release action of a boccia ball. Even though they may have some arm or leg movement, they do not have sufficient range of movement to propel a boccia ball onto the court by throwing or kicking. They use an assistive device, such as a ramp, to deliver the ball. They compete with a Ramp Operator, who must keep their back to the court and their eyes averted from play during each End.

**BC4**

Players in this classification have severe locomotor dysfunction of all four extremities, as well as poor trunk control. Their condition is from a non-cerebral origin. Examples are: High SCI, Muscular Dystrophy, MS, ALS, SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy), Arthrogryposis They can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw or kick the ball onto the court. Kickers may have a Sport Assistant. Throwers are not eligible for an assistant on court.

**BC5**

These are players with less impairment than a BC2 or BC4. Their conditions may be of cerebral and con cerebral in origin. Those who have a disability of a
Cerebral nature may have the following diagnosis: Quadriplegic; Triplegic; or Hemiplegic. They may use either a manual or power wheelchair or be able to walk with assistance or using a walking aid over short distances.

BC5Non Cerebral: The Impairment, affecting all four limbs, may be a result of lack of muscle strength, limitation in range of movement. The impact of the impairment is on the throwing arm. Athletes will use a manual or power chair for everyday mobility. Athletes may walk with assistance or using a walking aid over short distances.

These athletes have a more active throw because of increased trunk control and/or upper limb muscle strength. A BC5 may use a manual wheelchair, a power wheelchair or a scooter for competition. Does not use a Sports Assistant.

BC5 athletes may compete in any competition that offers a BC5 division but are not eligible for competitions sponsored by World Boccia.

**BC6 (OPEN)**

These athletes have a physical disability but do not qualify for the BC1-5 classifications. The BC6 Open Athletes may compete in any competition that offers a BC6 (open) division but are not eligible for competitions sponsored by World Boccia.

[**International BISFED Boccia Classification Rules:**](https://www.worldboccia.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Boccia-Classification-Rules-5th-Edition-September-2021287.pdf) (World Boccia)
These International Classification rules apply mainly to the BC1-BC4 categories but may also be used in whole or part for BC5 and above categories too.