

March 2026

USA Boccia Sport Division and Assessment Outline with Examples:

For competition purposes, athletes are placed in their sport divisions according to their physical diagnoses, and their physical abilities; thereby creating a level playing field.

- BC1-BC4 are included in WorldBoccia International Events such as the Paralympic Games.
- BC1-BC6 are included in the USA Boccia Regionals and Nationals.
- USA Boccia can perform Pre-Assessments for Regional placements. Official Classification and Assessment occur at Nationals by Boccia United States (BUS) Classification personnel, using WorldBoccia Classification Rules.
- If BUS Classifiers determine an athlete does not meet BC1-BC4 qualifications, the athlete will be seen in Assessment by USA Boccia personnel to determine BC5-BC6 Division status.

*****All Boccia athletes (BC1-BC6) must compete from a seated position in games, and must bring their own wheelchair, scooter, etc. Athletes can lay on a cot to play, with their own cot.***

BC1: Players in this division have a condition with a cerebral origin, most likely **but not limited to** Cerebral Palsy or TBI. The players have a severe impairment in all four limbs. They throw or kick the ball with their hand or foot (foot-player). Due to spastic and or athetoid involvement, players **cannot get 90 degrees** range of motion in elbows upon throw. **They can consistently reach 5 meters (target box), throwing or kicking balls.** They may compete with a Sport Assistant.



BC2: Players in this division have a condition with a cerebral origin and a less impaired throw compared to BC1, most likely **but not limited to** Cerebral Palsy or TBI. They throw the ball with their hand. Due to spastic and or athetoid involvement, players **follow through is limited from 90 degrees, and cannot reach 180 degrees** range of motion in elbows, upon throw. The player has moderate functional impairment and may have some limitations 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 or walk for everyday mobility. They are not eligible for an assistant on court. They easily throw 5 meters.



BC3: Players in this division are combined for cerebral or non-cerebral origin. They have very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities. Cerebral origin conditions include, **but are not limited to** Cerebral Palsy or TBI. Non-cerebral origin conditions include, **but are not limited to** Upper SCI (above C6), Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy), quad amputees, quad deformity, and Arthrogryposis. Players in this division have no sustained grasp or release action (including kicking) of a 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 (**5 meters**) by throwing or kicking. They use an assistive device, such as a ramp, to propel 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 and may not speak. **Rule out BC1 Foot-player or BC4 Foot-player, BEFORE pursuing BC3 (see BC1 and BC4).**



BC4: Players in this division 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 (typically above C6), Muscular Dystrophy, MS, ALS, SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy), quad amputees, quad deformity, and Arthrogryposis. They can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw or kick the ball onto the court. **They can consistently reach 5 meters (target box), throwing or kicking balls.** Foot-players may have a Sport Assistant. Throwers are not eligible for an assistant on court. Throwers have a **visible shoulder/elbow drop upon throw.**

BC5: These are players that throw with less impairment than a BC2 or BC4. Their conditions may be of cerebral and non cerebral origin. They easily throw 5 meters.

BC5 Cerebral: Those who have a disability of a cerebral nature may have the following diagnosis: Quadriplegic; Triplegic; or Hemiplegic. Cerebral origin conditions include, **but are not limited to** Cerebral Palsy or TBI. The impact of the impairment is judged on the throwing arm. Due to spastic and or athetoid involvement, players **can get full** range of motion in elbows, upon throw (**180 degrees elbow extension**). They may use either a manual or power wheelchair or be able to walk with assistance or using a walking aid over short distances.



BC5 Non Cerebral: The impairment, affecting all four limbs, may be a result of lack of muscle strength, limitation in range of movement. Non-cerebral origin conditions include, **but are not limited to** Upper SCI, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy), amputees, deformity, and Arthrogryposis. The impact of the impairment is on the throwing arm (**NO visible shoulder/elbow drop upon throw**). 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 Sport Assistant. The use of scooters is a noteworthy feature in non-cerebral BC5 athletes. 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 easily throw 5 meters, and have a physical disability but do not qualify for the BC1-5 divisions. Typically, they have at least **one limb that is NOT impacted by their diagnosis** (lower SCI, amputee, etc). The BC6 athletes may compete in any competition that offers a BC6 division but are not eligible for competitions sponsored by WorldBoccia.

International Classification Rules: [WorldBoccia Classification Rules - 6th edition](#) (WorldBoccia). International Classification rules apply mainly to BC1-BC4 divisions, but may also be used in whole or part for BC5 and BC6 divisions.

****Cases involving multiple diagnoses are covered in the WorldBoccia Rules. The primary condition which affects movement, throwing, kicking, and release will be foremost when determining placement. Secondary conditions can be considered.**

SEE VIDEO GALLERY BELOW FOR DIVISION EXAMPLES.



DIVISION VIDEO GALLERY:
(BEST VIEWED IN FULL SCREEN MODE)

[BC1 COMPILATION](#) [BC2 COMPILATION](#) [BC3 COMPILATION](#) [BC4 COMPILATION](#)

[BC5 COMPILATION](#) [BC6 COMPILATION](#)

[BC1 SPORT ASSISTANT](#) [BC1 MOVEMENT](#) [BC1 FOOT-PLAYER](#)

[BC2 WHEELCHAIRS](#) [BC2 MOVEMENT](#)

[BC3 CEREBRAL RAMP](#) [BC3 NON-CEREBRAL RAMP](#)

[BC4 ARM DROP](#) [BC4 FOOT-PLAYER](#)

[BC5 CEREBRAL FULL ELBOW EXTENSION](#) [BC5 NON-CEREBRAL NO ARM DROP](#)

[BC6 \(OPEN\) FUNCTIONAL ARM](#)

[COMPARED - BC2 AND BC1 SIDE BY SIDE](#)
