

**U.S. PARALYMPICS BOCCIA
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
RIO DE JANEIRO 2022 WORLD BOCCIA CHAMPIONSHIPS [DECEMBER 3 – 14]
INDIVIDUAL BIPARTITE SELECTION
7 APRIL 2022**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athletes and BC3 Sport Assistants [Ramp Operators] (“BC3 RO”) must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athletes and BC3 ROs must have a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Rio De Janeiro 2022 World Boccia Championships (“2022 World Championships”).

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

The Boccia International Sports Federation “BISFed” is the International Federation for U.S. Paralympics Boccia. BISFed is responsible for governing Boccia and for representing the sport on the global stage.

To be eligible for selection by an NPC/NF, an athlete must:

- Athlete and BC3 RO must have a valid 2022 annual World Boccia license.
- At the time of selection an athlete must have a World Boccia Classification with an international sport class status of R-Review, FRD-Fixed Review Date or C-Confirmed, or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to undergo international classification evaluation, the athlete must be evaluated by USOPC medical and/or Paralympic staff and determined likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team; provided that athletes without an international sport class status are allowable for submission on the official team entry into this competition. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current athlete sport class status can be found on the World Boccia website at www.worldboccia.com.

- Athlete must be 15 years of age before January 1, 2022 to be eligible for the 2022 World Championships.
- Be on the [BISFed World Ranking](#) list as of April 1, 2022.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be listed on the U.S. Paralympics Boccia Selection Ranking List (as of March 9, 2022) - www.teamusa.org/boccia/rosters
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

There are no tryout events for the Rio de Janeiro 2022 World Boccia Championships.

- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

No preliminary or qualifying events are required.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

- 1.3.1. Member nations of BISFed have been invited to apply for Individual Bi-partite Slots by **named individual**

- Bipartite slots refer to slots awarded on a discretionary basis by BISFed’s competitions committee. The slots are awarded based on the following principles which are listed in no specific order and slots will not necessarily be awarded based on the order that the principles are listed in:

- to complete individual entries for individual classifications to ensure the strength, depth and format for an event is appropriate for the type of competition
 - previous competition and match results and current or previous world ranking position
 - greater representation from emerging/developing nations and regions
 - greater representation across different gender and impairment type
 - equality in competition and qualification opportunity
 - remedy to any extraordinary circumstances affecting qualification or participation.
- U.S. Paralympics Boccia, the member national federation, has been invited to submit an application that an athlete or athletes be considered for a Bipartite slot. U.S. Paralympics Boccia may, but is not required to, submit an application for a Bipartite slot depending on whether or not, as determined by the Discretionary Selection Committee, there are athlete candidates who meet the above principles and who are capable of a top three (podium) result, can positively impact team performance, or are considered to be on track to produce a top three (podium) result in the near future. The selection of a particular athlete for submission to the BISFed competition committee for a Bipartite slot will be based on the above and on the discretionary selection criteria set forth in Section 2.1. The Discretionary Selection Committee shall be responsible for making any such selection.
 - Athletes selected will be notified via email no later than April 11, 2022.
 - Athletes selected to the team must accept or refuse their participation electronically within 48 hours of notification they have been selected.
 - U.S. Paralympics Boccia will disclose on its website at www.teamusa.org/boccia the submission of a particular athlete to the BISFed competition committee for a Bipartite slot.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:

The sport of boccia is not a measured or timed event. Boccia is a closed skill event in which the environment is constant with the only change factor being the most recent ball thrown. The rationale for utilizing discretionary selection is to allow U.S. Paralympics Boccia the ability to select the athletes based on their overall

capabilities and performance and projected development, rather than on a single competition result.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

- 2.2.1. **Boccia athletes:** The U.S. Paralympics Boccia Discretionary Selection Committee will consider the following performance-related factors (which are not in priority order):

Technical

Athletes will be evaluated on the following technical core skills (jack ball placement, first ball, ability to score and block, push, climb balls, covering up, and ricochet) based on performance. Athletes will be evaluated on experience and knowledge of the game.

Tactical

Athletes will be evaluated on tactical awareness in game situations including (shot selection, order of play, when to come onto court, awareness and implementation of playing to teammate(s) strengths to advantage team/pair, clock management, advantaging team/pair by implementing game plan after knowing opponents' strengths/weakness).

Psychological/Social

Attitude: This applies both on and off the court, respecting those athletes he/she plays with and against, staff, coaches and officials. To act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct.

Leadership: Leading by example with a positive influence on all those around him/her.

Teamwork: Cooperative effort to be the best he/she can be, working with their teammates to fulfill one common goal, success.

Coachable: Always open to constructive feedback, embracing new ideas and putting the Team's needs before his/her own.

Ambassador: Acting in a manner that would be pleasing to the program, sport, country, and else affiliated. Doing what is right, even when no one is watching. Refraining from conduct that would detract from their ability or that of their teammates to attain peak performance.

- 2.2.2. Sport Assistant/Ramp Operator:

Sport Assistants assist BC1 sport class athletes. The sport assistant stays outside of the competitor's playing box but can stabilize or adjust an athlete's playing chair and give the ball to the player when requested.

The Ramp Operator is defined as a competition partner by World Boccia and the International Paralympic Committee "IPC", and therefore is selected based upon the preference of the respective athlete who is competing in the BC3 division.

Sport assistants and ramp operators are not included in the maximum team size as defined in section 1.3 above.

The U.S. Paralympics Boccia Discretionary Selection Committee will consider the following factors in the selection of sport assistant(s) and ramp operator(s): (which are not in priority order):

- i) Preference of the qualified athlete;
- ii) Demonstrated expertise of the sport assistance required – must have expertise and experience in the sport of boccia;
- iii) Knowledge and understanding of the World Boccia rules and regulations for competition.

Sport assistants and ramp operators will be held to the same standards and code of conduct as outlined in these Procedures.

The sport assistant and ramp operator position(s) are contingent on the selection of the respective BC1 and/or BC3 athlete to be supported. If the selected athlete declines his/her selection or is subsequently removed from the team after selection, the respective sport assistant/ramp operator also loses his/her place on the team.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

U.S. Paralympics Boccia Discretionary Selection Committee:

1. Boccia High Performance Manager
2. National Team Coach or Team Manager
3. Athlete Representative

- 2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the BISFed competition committee by U.S. Paralympics Boccia, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by U.S. Paralympics Boccia may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by U.S. Paralympics Boccia:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to U.S. Paralympics Boccia.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Paralympics Boccia. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by U.S. Paralympics Boccia, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Paralympics Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- 3.1.5. Re-classification of an athlete by World Boccia, such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team.
- 3.1.6. Removal by BISFed of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team, from the program of the 2022 World Championships.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USOPC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympics National Teams and Paralympic Programs and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to U.S. Paralympics Boccia Athlete Agreement, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at:

www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents
<https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds/Games-and-Competition>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

No replacement of athletes will occur.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

No replacement of athletes will occur.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

U.S. Paralympics Boccia will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro 2022 World Boccia Championships.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct for U.S. Paralympics National Teams and U.S. Paralympics Programs, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Rio de Janeiro 2022 World Boccia Championships:

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by U.S. Paralympics Boccia in the following location(s):

7.1. U.S. Paralympics Boccia website: <https://www.teamusa.org/Boccia/Events>

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: 16:00 GMT, 15th April 2022

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

There are no Team USA mandatory training camps for the World Championships.

All athletes selected to the Team USA roster for the World Championships are required to share training logs and data with U.S. Paralympics Boccia. In addition, athletes and their division coaches will be contacted by U.S. Paralympic Boccia to develop an agreed-upon training plan in preparation for the World Championships.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Dr. Kathy Brinker, U.S. Paralympics Boccia Consultant
Cecelia Bolin, Para Int'l Relations & Events Coordinator

Patrick Parkes, AAC Representative, U.S. Paralympics Boccia

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USOPC Complaint Procedures for U.S. Paralympics National Teams and Paralympic Programs are included with this document as Attachment B.

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, as applicable, and/or IF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or IF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to U.S. Paralympics Boccia. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.


14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/HPMO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:
PHONE: (719) 866-5000
EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org
WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by U.S. Paralympics Boccia.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USOPC, Chief of Paralympic Sport	Julie Dusliere		4/6/2022

U.S. Paralympics Boccia Consultant	Kathy Brinker	<i>Kathy Brinker</i>	4/6/2022
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Patrick Parkes	<i>Patrick Parkes</i>	4/7/2022

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB/HPMO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

ATTACHMENT A

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR U.S. PARALYMPICS NATIONAL TEAMS AND U.S. PARALYMPICS PROGRAMS

ATHLETE PLEDGE AND AGREEMENT

I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of a U.S. Paralympics National Team or a U.S. Paralympics Team to international competition (the “Team”). This Code applies to those Paralympic sports in which the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my membership on the Team. I understand that U.S. Paralympics staff is responsible for enforcement of this Code. If I have any questions regarding this Code, I can reach out to U.S. Paralympics staff at Paralympic.secretary@usopc.org.

As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:

- will abide by all published rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by U.S. Paralympics or the USOPC;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will notify U.S. Paralympics if (i) I have a physical injury or illness that might compromise my ability to compete; (ii) will submit, if requested, to a physical/medical examination by medical personnel approved by the USOPC and authorize the submission of the physical examination/medical information to US Paralympics and the USOPC; and (iii) understand that such injury or illness may be the cause for my not being selected to the Team, being removed from the Team, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the team.
- will comply with all aspects of the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s (the “Center”) SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements (the “SafeSport Code”) and all other applicable athlete safety policies, procedures and protocols of the USOPC and the Center. Such policies include the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or USOPC rules;
- am not currently provisionally suspended or serving a period of ineligibility for a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;

- will immediately notify the USOPC at athlete.safety@uspoc.org if I have any (a) unresolved allegations of SafeSport Code violations, (b) participation restriction, safety plan(s), temporary measure(s) and/or sanction(s);
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors; and I have the affirmative duty to disclose my criminal history to the USOPC. Failing to disclose, or intentionally misrepresenting, an arrest, plea, or conviction is grounds for disciplinary action regardless of when the offense is discovered or occurred;
- will not participate or assist in any gambling or betting activities associated with any event related to my sport or my participation;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of the IPC and its pertinent committees, and its pertinent member organizations and under the rules of the USOPC;
- am in possession of a valid U.S. passport, that will not expire prior to six months following the conclusion of any international competition, should I be chosen for an international team that requires a passport;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will maintain a level of personal hygiene and cleanliness appropriate to respect my teammates;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior nor in any form of verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow the Team rules, whether set by Team leadership or adopted by consensus, including by way of example, rules regarding curfew and required attendance at Team meetings;
- agree to wear the uniforms approved by U.S. Paralympics at official activities sponsored by the USOPC or U.S. Paralympics as directed by U.S. Paralympics staff, and I agree to compete in the U.S. Paralympics-approved Team uniform, where such a uniform is provided, in competitions at which I am supported by U.S. Paralympics. I agree to wear the names and logos of U.S. Paralympics sponsors, suppliers and licensees on Team competition wear, other uniforms and casual wear as provided by U.S. Paralympics. I agree to not alter any Team uniform, either by removing or obstructing the names or logos of U.S. Paralympics sponsors, suppliers and licensees or by adding patches, stickers, or other means of displaying unauthorized names, logos or messages;
- agree to not demean or defame the USOPC, U.S. Paralympics or its sponsors, their names, logos, marks, products or services. I acknowledge that endorsing and supporting U.S. Paralympics sponsors through my actions and words reflects well on the team and on those supporting the team.

- agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed, and to have my image and voice otherwise recorded, in any media, during any event I am attending under the auspices of the USOPC or U.S. Paralympics, by U.S. Paralympics official photographer(s), film crew(s) and video crew(s), and by any other entity authorized by U.S. Paralympics, under the conditions specified by U.S. Paralympics. I hereby grant U.S. Paralympics the irrevocable, perpetual, fully paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, and to authorize third parties to use, in all media, my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for: (1) news and information purposes, (2) promotion of the Paralympic movement and the specific competition(s) in which I compete, (3) promotion of the Team, and (4) promotion of U.S. Paralympics and the USOPC ; in no event may U.S. Paralympics or the USOPC use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my USOPC or Paralympic Team apparel or equipment or the use of any USOPC or U.S. Paralympics logo for the purpose of trade, promotion, fundraising or on merchandise, without the prior written consent of U.S. Paralympics;
- will abide by the rules of the IPC or other Paralympic international federation concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used in competition or on my body (such as visible tattoos).
- will be responsible for payment of all legal fees and expenses if I require legal representation because I am accused of a doping violation or criminal misconduct, or if for any other reason I require the services of an attorney;
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, the Team, U.S. Paralympics, the USOPC, and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Paralympic Movement.

ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, at 719.866.5000 or ombudsman@usathlete.org for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by U.S. Paralympics.

PARTICIPANT AFFIRMATION

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

Signature

Date

Name (Print)

PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION

(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)

I certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and accept this Code of Conduct and, on behalf of my minor participant, agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

Signature

Date

Name (Print)

Relationship (Parent or Guardian)

ATTACHMENT B

**U.S. PARALYMPICS
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES
January 1, 2020**

<https://www.teamusa.org/Boccia/Resources/Documents>