



Disability
Sport NI
Boccia

Pathway Squad

Selection Guidelines 2020/21

ABOUT THE NI BOCCIA PATHWAY SQUAD:

The Northern Ireland Boccia Pathway Squad has been developed to identify, nurture and support local talented Boccia players in Northern Ireland who have potential to play at international level.

OBJECTIVES:

Primary: To select players fitting classifications BC1 – BC4 for the Northern Ireland Boccia Pathway Squad that have the greatest potential to improve in line with UK Boccia Player profile guidelines.

Secondary: To select players who have the greatest potential to compete at international level for UK Boccia through the UK Boccia performance pathway.

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE TO PATHWAY SQUAD PLAYERS:

1. Provide a system to nurture elite home country players so that they can mature and fulfil their potential as a Boccia player.
2. Create a positive and inspiring environment.
3. Be responsible to observe the code of ethics, well-being, health and future of the individual performer.
4. Develop and support you as an individual, not just a player.
5. Provide you with appropriate training opportunities.
6. Provide you with a tailored training plan to help you achieve your potential.
7. Support you to achieve your goals and training objectives.
8. Ensure you have sufficient feedback from coaches following sessions.
9. Constantly seek new ways to improve your performance.
10. Improve coach development opportunities
11. Provide opportunities for appropriate competition.
12. Create a platform to accelerate development and provide opportunities to attend appropriate Boccia UK events.
13. Provide opportunities for National Classification.
14. Provide you with 'Clean Sport' (Anti-Doping) education and awareness.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Athletes will be eligible for consideration based on the following criteria;

1. Being nominated by their Club or School coach or Boccia Pathway Officer.
2. Hold a UK or Irish passport
3. Being born in Northern Ireland or have a parent born in Northern Ireland.
4. Meeting or have the potential to fit into classifications BC1 – BC4 as laid out by BISFED
5. Being able to meet their expected training plan for 2020/21 as set out by the Head Coach

SELECTION PANEL

All selections are made by Disability Sport NI. The Boccia Pathway Squad selection panel will consist of:

- Disability Sport NI Boccia Performance Pathway Officer (Terry Conroy)
- Disability Sport NI Performance Sport Manager (Elaine Reid)

The selection panel are able to invite, when appropriate contributions from UK Boccia Performance staff.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection policy intends to provide a clear guidance to all athletes on the basis upon which selection decisions will be made. The criteria is based on a number of factors which may be weighted in order and importance for each athlete.

All players will be reviewed every 12 months.

The following factors will be taken into consideration by the Selection Panel.

- Player's potential for eligibility as laid out by the international governing body BISFED (Pending formal classification during the season)
- Potential to compete at international level based on the UK Boccia Player profile including the following elements:
 - o Technical – *ability to deliver a highly consistent & accurate shot*
 - o Tactical – *ability to consistently select the appropriate match winning shots*
 - o Physical – *physical ability to play a highly consistent shot*
 - o Performance Mindset - *ability to engage in a learning process & prepare correctly to execute a match winning performance*
- Performance progression measured by:
 - o UK Boccia Player Profile
 - o LUP, KON, & KNOFF tests
 - o Results in match play
 - o Individual Action Plan

To maintain a place in the performance centre athletes must adhere to all agreed training programmes and to the agreed code of conduct.

Selection to the Pathway Squad will last for a maximum of 1 season (12 months from time of selection) with two performance reviews carried out each season in autumn and spring. Athletes who meet progression targets will be eligible for reselection the following season.

DESELECTION

Players may be deselected from the Northern Ireland Boccia Performance Centre at any point during the year for:

- Lack of commitment to the agreed programme
- Lack of performance progression against agreed goals
- Lack of performance progression based on the UK Boccia Player Profile
- Failure to meet any of the eligibility requirements (including classification)
- Non-adherence to agreed training programmes.

A written progress report will be provided to each selected athlete after all performance review meetings.

Upon deselection an appropriate exit strategy will be agreed with all individual performers.

APPEALS

An athlete may appeal a non-selection or deselection on one or more of the following grounds;

- The selection criteria are believed to have been improperly followed, applied or implemented.
- The selection process was affected by actual or demonstrable bias.

APPEALS PROCESS

- An athlete may lodge an appeal in writing (Notice of appeal) to Disability Sport NI Boccia Pathway Officer within five working days of being notified in writing of selection decision.
- A subcommittee will be formed to consider the appeal.
- The subcommittee shall have ten working days to make its written response to the Notice of appeal.
- The appeal shall be heard by the way of written submissions unless the applicant requests an oral hearing at the time of giving notice of appeal. Such a hearing shall take place on a date and at a place to be determined by Disability Sport NI.
- The decision of the appeals subcommittee shall be final.

APPLICATIONS

Applications should be completed online: <https://forms.gle/usvbKpUih5TrA9BK7>

The closing date for applications will be **Friday 17th August 2020**.

Should any applicant have questions or wish to submit in writing, please contact:

Terry Conroy (Boccia Performance Pathway Officer)

E: tconroy@dsni.co.uk | T: 028 9046 9925 | M: 07887 955 065

Disability Sport NI,
Unit 9, Curlew Pavilion,
189 Airport Rd West,
Belfast,
BT3 9ED