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## 8.1 SQUAD AND TEAM SELECTION POLICY - BOCCIA

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### Introduction

1. The Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (“OCPSA”) has the responsibility to organize, develop and select athletes for the provincial squad and provincial teams to represent OCPSA at National Championships, Open and Invitational Boccia events. This policy sets OCPSA’s procedures, guidelines, criteria, standards and timelines governing selection of athletes to the provincial squad and teams.

### Communication

2. This Policy will be published on OCPSA’s website and communicated to all eligible athletes via email.
3. Any amendments to this Policy will be immediately posted on the Organization’s website and communicated to all eligible athletes via email.

### Authority for Selection

4. The Boccia Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board, will make recommendations to the Board of Directors in regards to this policy. The Board of Directors of the Organization has the authority for all decision-making under this Policy.

### Selection Committee

5. The Members of the Boccia Committee or members of a sub-committee established for squad and team selection.

### Provincial Squad Selection

#### Athlete Eligibility and Selection Criteria

6. To be eligible to be considered for selection, an athlete must:
  - a) Be a registered member in good standing of OCPSA;

- b) Be identified by the Selection Committee, in their sole discretion;
- c) Have a provincial boccia ranking;
- d) Be committed to the program and training;
- e) Be competitive or have development potential, skills and abilities.

### **Squad Size and Selection**

- 7. The provincial squad size will be determined by the Boccia Committee in consultation with the provincial coach(es). The ideal minimum squad size will be 11 athletes.
- 8. The squad selection will be made after Ontario Boccia Championships of each year.

### **Squad Announcement**

- 9. OCPSA will announce the selected squad list by contacting selected athletes directly via email.
- 10. The final squad roster will be posted on the OCPSA website.

### **Qualifying Period**

- 11. October 1 to September 30

## **Provincial Team Selection**

### **Goals/Objectives of Team Selection**

- 12. The selection criteria are designed to select athletes who will create the best possible competitive and cohesive team; OR
- 13. The selection criteria are designed to select athletes who show potential to be successful at the provincial level within the next five years and require further experience and development.

### **Team Size**

- 14. Team size will be dictated by the event, when this is not the case, the Boccia Committee will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of reserve athletes, or to name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

### **Team Announcement**

- 15. OCPSA will announce the selected team list by contacting selected athletes directly via email.

### **Qualifying Period**

- 16. October 1 to September 30

### **Qualifying Competitions**

- 17. The following competitions will be qualifying competitions:
  - a) Regional Boccia Series
  - b) Boccia Blast
  - c) Ontario Boccia Championships
  - d) Ontario ParaSport Games

### **Athlete Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

- 18. To be eligible to be considered for team selection, an athlete must:
  - a) Be a registered member in good standing of OCPSA;
  - b) Be a member of the Provincial Squad;

- c) Attend the Ontario Boccia Championships;
  - d) Attend at minimum of three (3) events, including the Ontario Boccia Championships, during the qualifying cycle;
  - e) Be eligible to participate in the event as per the rules of the event.
19. Eligible squad athletes will participate in Qualifying Competitions in order to earn points as described in the Table below:

### Provincial Ranking System

20. The following is the Provincial Ranking System for Boccia:

Boccia Blast & Ontario ParaSport Games		Ontario Boccia Championships	
Placing	Points	Placing	Points
1	10	1	14
2	8	2	12
3	6	3	10
4	5	4	8
5	4	5	6
6	3	6	4
7	2	7	2
8	1	8	1

21. The point ranking system is on a one (1) year cycle in accordance with the qualifying period and tallies points accumulated over two (2) seasons. The current or most recent season will hold full point value as identified above and the prior season placing will be calculated at ½ the current value. For instance, for a 1<sup>st</sup> place in both seasons, 5 points will be awarded for the prior season and 10 for the current or most recent season; totaling 15 points.
22. Please note that where an event is held on a bi-annual basis, the full value will be awarded in the appropriate season and ½ the value will be awarded in the preceding season (the athlete result will carry-forward to the subsequent season).
23. In the event of a tie, the athlete with the highest placing at the most recent Ontario Boccia Championships will receive the higher ranking.
24. In addition to the above, selection of squad athletes to the team will be based on skill assessment and coach evaluations, which includes; observations at competitions and training camps, as well as monthly communication and reporting to provincial coach(es).
25. The Selection Committee will rank the total scores of the eligible athletes and a maximum of eleven (11) athletes with the highest rating may be selected to the team.
26. The Selection Committee will give priority to athletes on the National Boccia Training Squad.
27. In the event that one of the top two ranked athletes decides not to join the team, the next highest ranked athlete will be asked as a replacement.

28. Members of the Selection Committee are required to remove themselves from any discussions, ranking and voting if there exists a conflict of interest.

### Exceptions

29. Athletes may be added to the squad or team by the Selection Committee, upon their sole discretion, if the appointed athletes were unable to participate in mandatory events, competitions or evaluations due to illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal, educational or competitive commitments, including national team assignments.
30. If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned, the OCPSA reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

### Athlete Requirements to Remain Selected or be Removed from the Squad/Team

31. Upon selection and in order to remain on the squad and/or team an athlete must:
- Sign a Team Member Agreement,
  - Provide to the OCPSA all required documents,
  - Participate in all squad/team events, activities and meetings,
  - Ensure proper equipment, clothing and funds,
  - Obey all rules established by the OCPSA and Host Committee,
  - Assist the OCPSA in public relation and fundraising project where required,
32. Once selected to the squad or a team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:
- Not satisfying the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach &/or the Boccia Committee;
  - Failure to adhere to squad/team rules and OCPSA's Code of Conduct;
  - Failure to remain competitive-ready all season. Athletes who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level;
  - Voluntary withdrawal/retirement;
  - Fraudulent misrepresentation.
33. Where an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competitive readiness, violates squad/team rules or the code of conduct or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the squad/team and to replace the athlete with another suitable candidate.
34. The Selection Committee will notify the athlete in writing that he/she has been removed from the squad/team and reasons for the removal.

## **Funding**

35. Any money required to be contributed by the athlete must be paid to the OCPSA two weeks before the event. Failure to pay such monies may result in athlete removal from the squad/team.

## **Appeals**

36. Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee can be made in accordance with OCPSA's appeals policy.