

Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI) 2026 ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA - BOCCIA

OVERVIEW

The Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI) is a targeted provincial investment program delivered by the Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (OCPSA), operating as Ontario Boccia, in partnership with the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO). The program supports athletes identified within Ontario's high performance pathway who demonstrate the capacity to progress toward National Team selection and international performance excellence.

As part of the Ontario Boccia High Performance Program, OHPSI aligns with OCPSA's Strategic Plan, Boccia Canada's High Performance pathway and Boccia Canada's Gold Medal Profile (GMP). The program supports athletes eligible for inclusion in the national pathway, currently limited to Paralympic-recognized sport classes BC1-BC4. OHPSI nominations are intended to support athletes who demonstrate measurable progress toward national benchmarks and who are positioned to contribute to future national team success.

OHPSI is a program-based investment. Nomination does not constitute direct financial assistance to athletes. Program support may include access to training, sport science services, competition support, and other targeted high performance resources as determined by Ontario Boccia.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All athletes nominated to OHPSI must:

- Be a member in good standing with OCPSA;
- Have permanent resident status in Ontario;
- Be eligible to represent Ontario and Canada in accordance with NSO and PSO policies;
- Be at least 12 years of age at the time of identification by OCPSA;
- Adhere to the OCPSA Athlete Code of Conduct;
- Have a current provincial and national Boccia ranking
- Be actively participating in a recognized boccia program that is supervised by a coach that is trained, at minimum, NCCP Competition Introduction at the time of selection. Athletes may not serve as coaches within the program, including coaching themselves or other athletes.
- Have competed in a minimum of three (3) recognized boccia competitions in the prior year, which may include:
 - Niagara, Toronto, Ottawa, Sudbury &/or London Regional Competitions
 - Boccia Blast
 - Ontario Boccia Championships
 - Defi Sportif
 - Ontario ParaSport Games
 - Canadian Boccia Championships
 - International Boccia events

NOMINATION CATEGORIES

1. National Espoir Team

Athletes officially identified by Boccia Canada as members of the 2026 National Espoir Team will be automatically nominated to OHPSI.

2. National Development Pool

Athletes officially identified by Boccia Canada as members of the National Development Pool for the 2026 cycle will be automatically nominated to OHPSI, subject to confirmation by Boccia Canada.

3. Provincial High Performance

Athletes who demonstrate progression toward Boccia Canada's High Performance benchmarks and are tracking toward the national program may be considered under this category.

A maximum of one (1) athlete per sport class per gender may be nominated under the Provincial High Performance category based on final Ontario Boccia Rankings.

Important notes:

- Final nominations will consider performance results, demonstrated progression and the strategic needs of the program.
- Overall team composition will be considered, including representation by sport class and gender, as well as optimal combinations for mixed teams and pairs.

“RISING STAR” ATHLETES

Rising Star designation is not a nominated or selected category and does not guarantee OHPSI nomination or funding.

A Rising Star athlete is an athlete with a High Performance Profile (GMP) who, from a program perspective, should be invited to OHPSI program(s) as they demonstrate the potential of a future Paralympic athlete.

- At the discretion of the Selection Committee, up to three (3) additional Rising Star athletes may be invited to OHPSI programs.
- Rising Star athletes must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined.
- Rising Star athletes may be added at any time.
- Rising Star athletes may be selected for events if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the program.

SELECTION AUTHORITY

Final selection decisions will be made by the Selection Committee, comprised of designated representatives of Ontario Boccia (PSO) and Boccia Canada (NSO), and will be based on athlete eligibility, available resources, and alignment with OHPSI objectives.

OHPSI nominations apply to the 2026 program cycle and are subject to review based on continued eligibility, performance, and program needs.

TRAINING COMMITMENTS

Athletes nominated to OHPSI must:

- Train technically/tactically, a minimum of six (6) hours per week;
- Regular mental & physical training in addition to technical/tactical training;
- Follow a structured weekly training program supervised by their club or personal coach;
- Submit monthly personal training reports to the Manager, Technical & Program Development;
- Be actively participating in a recognized boccia program that is supervised by a coach that is trained, at minimum, NCCP Competition Introduction at the time of selection. Athletes may not serve as coaches within the program, including coaching themselves or other athletes;
- Set performance and personal improvement goals for the current year in collaboration with the Manager, Technical & Program Development and make every effort to achieve them;
- Develop, with the Manager, Technical & Program Development, an annual competition schedule that includes the following required competitions:
 - One (1) Regional Competition
 - Ontario Boccia Championships
 - Boccia Blast
 - Defi Sportif

Athletes selected to Team Ontario must also attend the Canadian Boccia Championships.

Failure to meet these training and competition commitments may, at the discretion of Ontario Boccia, result in removal from the OHPSI program or ineligibility for future consideration.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITMENTS

Upon nomination, athletes must:

- Provide an annual training plan to the Manager, Technical & Program Development for approval, or notify the Manager, Technical & Program Development if one does not exist;
- Participate in the training and evaluation activities identified by Ontario Boccia;
- Participate in the events identified by Ontario Boccia;
- Provide Ontario Boccia with the name and contact information of the Performance Partner (mandatory). BC3 Performance Partners must be Canadian citizens.

- Ensure that both the athlete and their Performance Partner are members in good standing with OCPSA;
- Provide Ontario Boccia with their club and/or personal coach contact information;
- Communicate and respond in a timely manner, as specified in the athlete agreement (within 7 business days), with the Manager, Technical & Program Development.

Financial contribution requirements will be communicated upon nomination.

APPEALS

Athletes who have not been nominated to OHPSI may appeal the nomination decision only on the following grounds:

- a. Whether the Selection Committee completed the selection process in accordance with its published selection criteria and related procedures;
- b. Whether the Selection Committee applied the selection criteria in a manner free from bias, discrimination or conflict of interest.

Issues related to the specific content of the selection criteria or the selection requirements themselves are not grounds for an appeal.

PROGRAM CONTACT

All program inquiries should be directed to:

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