

Provincial High Performance Plan

BOCCIA

OVERVIEW

As the Ministry recognized Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) for boccia, the Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (OCPSA) delivers structured athlete development and high-performance programming with the overarching goal of guiding Ontario athletes toward podium performances at the Paralympic and World Championship levels.

Building on OCPSA's Vision2028 Excellence Goal, the High-Performance Pathway and Plan are grounded in Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles and designed to prepare athletes for success at the top domestic and international stages. The program's objectives are to:

- Strengthen the provincial high-performance system to optimize performance in national and international competitions;
- Develop and support world-class coaching and technical leadership to guide elite athletes;
- Enhance training environments that reflect the standards and expectations of world-class performance;
- Increase access to high-level competitive opportunities; and
- Provide comprehensive, individualized support to athletes, ensuring they have the resources to maximize performance potential.

To achieve these objectives, OCPSA has developed a High Performance Pathway aligned with Boccia Canada, the delivery arm of the National Sport Organization (Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (CCPSA)). This alignment ensures a coordinated approach to programming, investment, and athlete development across Ontario.

Recognizing the province's geographic scale and varying local capacities, OCPSA supports multiple pathways to Team Canada representation, through both centralized, OCPSA-led programming and decentralized training environments guided by clubs &/or personal coaches.

Given the finite nature of available resources, OCPSA will prioritize investment in athletes who demonstrate the greatest potential for international success. Selection decisions will be guided by evidence-based practices and aligned with Boccia Canada's Gold Medal Profile, Podium Pathways, and other established performance metrics.

To ensure responsible use of expert support, equipment, and financial resources, athletes and coaches receiving individual investments will be held to high standards of accountability.

These efforts will result in advanced athlete development pathways, skilled coaching, and elite support teams. By building world-class training and competition systems, OCPSA will position Ontario athletes for sustained national leadership and international podium success.

High Performance Mission

Build and support a top-tier high-performance pathway for boccia athletes in Ontario.

High Performance Vision

Ontario boccia athletes consistently deliver world-class performances, leading the nation in representation on National Teams.

Guiding Principles

Athlete First: Athletes are at the centre of all decisions. We support their development, well-being, and performance through inclusive, individualized, and responsible programming.

Coaches as System Builders: Coaches and club leaders are key to performance success. We invest in their growth, leadership, and alignment with high-performance standards. They can provide quality daily training environments that reflect the demands of high-performance sport, which are safe and positive environments.

System Alignment & Collaboration: A unified, coordinated system ensures all levels - from clubs to national teams - work toward shared goals and athlete progressions. Key partnerships to help support innovation, data, and the holistic care of an athlete are essential to ensuring preparedness and sustainability.

Responsible & Effective Governance and Management: We manage resources transparently and strategically to ensure sustainable success. Investment is focused on projects that maximize return in developing athletes.

This plan aligns with the objectives of the Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI) and supports Boccia Canada's Podium Pathway through shared planning, performance tracking, and resource integration with the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO).



Evolution of the High-Performance Plan

In 2022/23, OCPSA developed a framework for a Provincial Squad, designed to address the specific needs of each athlete and coach within the high-performance pathway. Through this initiative, key gaps in the existing system were identified, clearly showcasing the need to strengthen all aspects of Ontario's high-performance structure.

To address this, OCPSA applied to become a Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) Project Partner in 2024. Through this partnership, OCPSA piloted a new high-performance framework that introduced enhanced data collection and analysis via the development of the Boccia Tracker App in collaboration with Boccia Canada.

The legacy of the CSIO Project Partnership has elevated the prestige of our provincial program. As a direct outcome of the project, an Ontario Coach was selected as an Assistant Coach with the National Team program, a key resource as we move forward with bridging the provincial and national performance systems. In addition, Ontario now has the highest number of athletes named to the National program in quite some time - this includes 2 National Team Members and 4 Espoir Team Members (an increase from only 1 National Team Member from 2024).

While alignment with the National program continues to strengthen, OCPSA recognizes that sustained success requires broader system integration. To build greater depth and consistency within the athlete pool, OCPSA will continue to advance collaboration and alignment with local clubs, personal coaches, and community partners. This approach aligns with Boccia Canada's 2024 OTP annual review priorities, which emphasize strengthening PSO connections by sending coaches to provincial hubs, increasing contact with PSO experts, and deploying HPD development across all hubs in Canada to support talent identification and coordinated work with PSOs.



Ontario Boccia High Performance Pathway

Support Program	Club / Local Program	Provincial Program		Espoir Program	National Team				
Tier	Athlete Pool	Provincial HP ID	National Development	Talent confirmation	International class	World class	Top 8	Medal	Gold
Years out from National Team		4-6 years from National Team	2-4 years from National Team	1-2 years from National Team					
Years out from Podium				8 to 6 years from podium	6 to 4 years from podium	4 to 2 years from podium	Top 8	Medal	Gold
Classification pathway		Provisional	National	International					
Competition pathway	Local / Regional	Provincial	National	International					

Provincial Athlete Development Process

Ontario’s high-performance athlete development process follows a structured, LTAD-informed framework designed to identify, support, and prepare athletes for national and international success. The process includes:

Talent Identification

OCPSA will identify athletes who show outstanding performance results and/or display physiological, mental, or behavioural traits aligned with potential for success in international boccia competition.

Development / Investment

Identified athletes will receive personalized support based on individual assessments and planning. This support includes access to integrated sport science services, development opportunities for their personal coaches, and resources to enhance their club and training environments.

Performance

Athletes will be provided with structured opportunities to demonstrate their progression through performances in high-level competitions and by achieving measurable physiological and behavioural benchmarks that reflect high-performance standards.

Ontario Boccia High Performance Program

OVERVIEW

The Ontario Boccia High Performance Program (OBHPP) focuses on athletes who have achieved the minimum eligibility of the Train to Compete stage of the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Model and who demonstrate the potential to progress into the National Team program within 1 to 4 years. These athletes may be eligible to receive enhanced support services and development opportunities.

Ontario's High Performance Program invests in athletes who meet the minimum eligibility criteria for inclusion in the national high performance pathway, ensuring alignment with Boccia Canada's High Performance Program and the Paralympic pathway. Currently, this includes athletes competing in Paralympic-recognized sport classes (BC1–BC4). While OCPSA/Ontario Boccia continues to support participation and development opportunities for all classifications, including BC5, High Performance resources and services are prioritized for athletes eligible for national team consideration and international competition.

Detailed athlete eligibility, nomination processes, and funding criteria are outlined in the Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI) and Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) selection criteria documents, which operate in conjunction with this High Performance Plan.



High Performance Plan Initiatives

The Ontario Boccia High Performance Plan is built around five key initiatives aligned with OCPA’s Strategic Plan, operational priorities, and Boccia Canada’s High Performance Program. Developed in consultation with key partners and stakeholders, these initiatives support our mission to provide a high-performance training and competition environment that advances Ontario boccia athletes toward National Team and international success.

Initiative	Goal	Overview
1. Talent Identification & Development Pathway	Identify and nurture a sustainable pipeline of emerging boccia athletes across Ontario with the potential for national and international success.	Provide a standardized framework for the identification and recruitment of promising athletes, which utilizes clubs to elevate opportunities.
2. Ontario Boccia High Performance Program (OBHPP)	Provide targeted support and recognition to Ontario’s top boccia athletes on the national and international stage.	Tiered support model allows for personalized support across the five areas of focus in the Gold Medal Profile (ie. Technical, Tactical, Environmental, Mental, & Physical).
3. Coach Capacity Building	Build a world-class network of boccia coaches to support high-performance development.	Coaches of identified athletes are provided opportunities for education, mentoring, and skill sharing in high-performance environments that support their development and provide optimal training for provincially identified athletes.
4. High Performance Partner Program	Establish daily training environments around the province that provide year-round high-performance support to athletes.	Clubs and personal coaches are provided with a framework to structure their training environments for identified athletes.
5. Competition Exposure	Enhance competitive experience and readiness through increased domestic exposure.	Based on ongoing assessment of identified athlete needs, athletes are supported to participate in selected competitions, including Ontario Boccia and/or Partnered Club-led projects.

