

# Bocce Australia Policy



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| <b>Title</b>   | <b>Bocce Australia</b><br><b>Australian Squad &amp; Team Australia Selection Policy</b><br><b>(High-Performance &amp; Olympic Pathway Framework)</b>   |                                    |            |
| <b>Document Sponsor</b>  | Bocce Australia  |                                    |            |
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| <b>Authorised by</b>   | Bocce Australia Executive Board  | <b>Date First Adopted:</b>         | 7/12/2023  |
| <b>Version</b>   | 01.1   | <b>Date This Version Approved:</b> | 26/01/2026 |
| <b>Policy Status:</b>  | <b>Updated</b>   |                                    |            |
| <b>Next Review Date</b><br>(Annual from date of approval – stagger where required) | 3/06/2026  | <b>Document No:</b>                | xx         |
| <b>Business Function</b>   | Governance   |                                    |            |
| <b>Keywords</b>  | Bocce Australia (BA), Member States, Member Association, Code of Conduct, Breach of Conduct, Sanctions, Suspension, Expulsion, Unsanctioned Event, Sanctioned Event, Violation, Disciplinary Committee, Formal Investigation, Appeal Process, Recurring Breaches, Penalties, Compliance, Regulations, and Integrity. |                                    |            |

## Approval

| Association          | Who | Date |
|----------------------|-----|------|
| Bocce Australia      |     |      |
| ACT/Cooma BF         |     |      |
| Queensland BF        |     |      |
| NSW BF               |     |      |
| Victoria BF          |     |      |
| South Australia BF   |     |      |
| Western Australia BF |     |      |

## Board Approval

This policy was approved by the Bocce Australia Board in accordance with its governance and policy approval framework.

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|---------------|-----------------------|
| Approved By   | Bocce Australia Board |
| Date Approved | dd mmmm yyyy          |

# Bocce Australia Policy



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| Resolution Reference | Board Resolution No. XXXX |
| Next Review Due      | 06 June 2026              |

## Acknowledgments

Bocce Australia acknowledges the contribution of athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers who support the development of high-performance bocce in Australia.

This policy has been developed with consideration of:

- the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) Sport Governance Principles,
- the ASC *Play Well* framework, and
- best-practice approaches to high-performance athlete selection and national team governance.

Bocce Australia also acknowledges the ongoing commitment of its Member States, affiliated clubs, and high-performance personnel in fostering excellence, integrity, and opportunity within the sport, and recognises their role in supporting athletes on the pathway to national and international representation. © Australian Sports Commission

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## Policy Supersession Statement

This policy supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Australian Squad and Team Australia Selection Policy. Any prior policies, procedures, or guidelines relating to athlete selection for Australian Squads or Team Australia are no longer valid from the effective date of this policy.

## Glossary of terms

### **Active Athlete**

An athlete who has maintained continuous financial membership with Bocce Australia, competed in Bocce Australia-sanctioned events (including the Australian National Championships), and demonstrated ongoing engagement with the high-performance pathway during the applicable selection reference period.

### **Australian National Championships**

The Bocce Australia-sanctioned national championship event recognised as the primary domestic performance benchmark for selection purposes.

### **Australian Squad**

The pool of athletes identified through the Bocce Australia high-performance pathway who are eligible for consideration for selection to Team Australia.

### **Bocce Australia (BA)**

The national governing body responsible for the administration, governance, and high-performance development of bocce in Australia.

### **Coach Panel**

A group of coaches convened to assess athlete performance, readiness, and suitability, and to provide selection recommendations to the National Coach.

### **Exceptional Circumstances**

Verified situations, including injury, illness, eligibility restrictions, or circumstances beyond an athlete's control, that may warrant discretionary consideration by Bocce Australia.

### **Expression of Interest (EOI)**

A formal written submission by an athlete confirming their intent, availability, and commitment to participate in Australian Squad activities and potential international competition.

### **National Coach**

The coach appointed by Bocce Australia with primary responsibility for athlete preparation, performance planning, and technical oversight of the Australian Squad and Team Australia.

### **Selection Reference Period**

The timeframe used to assess athlete eligibility and performance, normally the most recent Australian National Championships, or where applicable, all National Championships conducted since the conclusion of the last World International Championship.

### **Team Australia**

Athletes formally selected, approved by the Bocce Australia Board, and announced to represent Australia in international competition.

## 1. Purpose

This policy establishes a clear, transparent, and performance-driven framework for the selection of athletes into the Australian Squad and subsequently Team Australia. It aligns with Australian Sports Commission (ASC) expectations, Play Well principles, and Bocce Australia's long-term high-performance and Olympic pathway objectives.

This policy applies to selection across:

- Senior Men
- Senior Women
- Junior Under 18 (U18)
- Junior Under 23 (U23)
- Bocce-Volo and Bocce-Raffa disciplines

It governs:

- Australian Squad selection (performance pool), and
- Team Australia selection for international competition.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to Senior Men, Senior Women, Junior U18 and U23 athletes across Bocce-Volo and Bocce-Raffa disciplines, governing Australian Squad and Team Australia selection.

This policy establishes a **clear, transparent, and performance-driven framework** for the selection of athletes into the **Australian Squad** and subsequently **Team Australia**.

It supports Bocce Australia's commitment to:

- Australian Sports Commission (ASC) governance expectations
- Play Well principles
- high-performance excellence
- long-term international competitiveness and Olympic pathway readiness

## 3. High-Performance Selection Principles

Selection is performance-first, internationally focused, transparent, consistent, athlete-centered, and governance-driven.

Selection decisions are guided by the following principles:

- **Performance first** – competition results are the primary determinant
- **International readiness** – ability to perform under international conditions
- **Transparency and consistency** – applied uniformly across categories
- **Athlete wellbeing and sustainability** – supporting long-term performance
- **Governance integrity** – decisions must be defensible, documented, and reviewable

## 4. Athlete Eligibility

Athletes must be financial members of Bocce Australia, meet international eligibility requirements, compete in National Championships or approved qualifiers, and comply with all Bocce Australia policies.

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- be a current financial member of Bocce Australia,
- meet international eligibility requirements to represent Australia,
- have competed in the Australian National Championships or an approved qualifying event, and
- comply with Bocce Australia policies, including Code of Conduct and Member Protection policies.

Eligibility alone does not guarantee selection.

## 5. Australian Squad Selection

National Champions receive automatic qualification subject to acceptance. BA will notify eligible athletes of their qualification to the squad. EOI and availability confirmation is mandatory. Runner-ups may be selected where positions are declined.

### 5.1 Automatic Qualification – National Champions

Athletes who place **1st** in their respective categories at the **Australian National Championships** achieve **automatic qualification into the Australian Selection Squad**, subject to acceptance and eligibility confirmation.

This ensures national championship performance remains the **primary entry point** into the high-performance pathway.

## 5.2 Expression of Interest (EOI) and Commitment

All 1st Place Winners must submit, by the nominated due date:

- a written **Expression of Interest (EOI)**, and
- confirmation of **availability and commitment** to squad training, preparation activities, and potential international competition.

Failure to submit an EOI or confirm availability by the due date will be treated as a **declined position**.

## 5.3 Declined Positions

Where a 1st Place Winner:

- declines selection,
- fails to submit an EOI, or
- is unavailable,

the squad position will be offered to the **runner-up** in the same category.

## 5.4 Performance-Based Invitations

Bocce Australia may invite **additional athletes** into the Australian Selection Squad where required to meet international performance or discipline-specific needs.

Such invitations may be based on:

- championship performance outcomes,
- demonstrated international potential,
- discipline or team composition requirements, or
- readiness for elite competition.

Discretionary invitations are **supplementary** and must be formally documented.

## 6. Selection Reference Period (Out-of-Sequence Championships)

Selection will be based primarily on the **most recent Australian National Championships**.

Where an **international World Championship cycle is out of sequence** with the National Championships, Bocce Australia will consider **all Australian National Championship results conducted since the conclusion of the last World International Championship**.

During this look-back period:

- athletes must have been **active**, and

- must have **competed in the Australian National Championships** during the relevant years.

Eligible athletes meeting these requirements may be **invited into the Australian Selection Squad**, from which **Team Australia** will be selected.

## 7. Definition of Active Athlete

An active athlete maintains continuous membership, competes in sanctioned events including Nationals, and engages with the high-performance pathway. Exceptions may apply in documented circumstances.

For the purposes of this policy, an athlete is considered **active** if, during the applicable selection reference period, they have:

- a) maintained **continuous financial membership** with Bocce Australia; and
- b) competed in **Bocce Australia-sanctioned events**, including the Australian National Championships; and
- c) demonstrated ongoing **engagement with the high-performance pathway**, which may include sanctioned competition, training activities, camps, or preparation programs.

An athlete who has not competed in the Australian National Championships during the reference period will **not normally be considered active**.

### Exceptions

Bocce Australia may, in **exceptional circumstances**, determine that an athlete remains active despite not meeting one or more criteria, including:

- verified injury or illness,
- eligibility restrictions, or
- circumstances beyond the athlete's control.

All exceptions must be:

- assessed on merit,
- supported by evidence, and
- formally documented and approved.

## 8. Coaching Appointments

Bocce Australia appoints the National Coach and any supporting coaches required.

## 8.1 National Coach

Bocce Australia appoints the **National Coach**, who holds primary responsibility for:

- athlete preparation,
- performance planning, and
- technical oversight of Team Australia.

## 8.2 Supporting Coaches

Where required, Bocce Australia, in consultation with the National Coach, may appoint **additional coaches** to support squad training and competition delivery.

## 9. Squad Participation and Performance Expectations

Squad athletes are required to:

- attend designated squad training and preparation activities,
- meet performance, conduct, and preparation standards, and
- demonstrate readiness for international competition.

Failure to meet participation or performance expectations may impact selection outcomes.

## 10. Team Australia Selection

Final selection to Team Australia is event-driven, based on athlete performance readiness, discipline requirements, and international competition conditions, and is subject to approval by the Bocce Australia Board.

Where the number of eligible or available athletes exceeds the number of positions permitted for a specific international event, final selection decisions will be determined through a coach-led selection process.

In such circumstances:

- the coaching panel will assess athletes against event-specific requirements,
- consideration will be given to performance consistency, discipline suitability, tactical requirements, and readiness for international competition, and
- the panel will provide recommendations to the National Coach.

The National Coach will submit final team selection recommendations to the Bocce Australia Board for approval.

## 10.1 Event-Driven Team Composition

The number of athletes selected for Team Australia will depend on:

- the international event,
- disciplines contested, and
- international federation entry requirements.

Selection to Team Australia is **not automatic** and is contingent on performance readiness.

## 10.2 Coach Panel Review

A panel of coaches will:

- assess athlete performance, preparedness, and suitability, and
- provide formal recommendations to the National Coach.

## 10.3 National Coach Recommendation

The National Coach will submit final team selection recommendations to the **Bocce Australia Board**.

## 10.4 Board Approval and Announcement

The Bocce Australia Board will:

- review selections for policy compliance and governance integrity, and
- formally approve and announce **Team Australia**.

## 11. Exceptional Circumstances

Bocce Australia may apply discretion in exceptional circumstances, including:

- verified injury or illness,
- international eligibility issues, or
- significant athlete wellbeing considerations.

All such decisions must be evidence-based, documented, and approved.

## 12. Withdrawal

Athletes who withdraw after accepting selection must notify Bocce Australia immediately.

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Replacement selections will be made in accordance with this policy.

## 11. Appeals

Appeals relate only to the application of this policy and are managed under the Appeals & Grievance Policy.

## 12. Review

This policy takes effect from the date of approval by the Bocce Australia Board and will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with:

- ASC high-performance expectations,
- international competition structures, and
- Bocce Australia's long-term elite and Olympic pathway objectives.