

1. Introduction

One of the key objectives of World Boccia is to ensure that athletes who compete in international competition are able to do so on an equal basis (including having access to the same equipment and in particular to boccia balls) The International Federation will continue to licence the balls that are used at World Boccia's sanctioned competitions. The Boccia Rules will reflect this continuity and only minimal changes will be implemented in the next quadrennial.

New manufacturer contracts will be finalised by and commence on 1st January 2025. Boccia balls used at ANY World Boccia-sanctioned competition must be supplied by an Approved Equipment Supplier. This document explains the procedure and timetable for obtaining a licence for manufacturers to sell boccia balls which are approved for use in World Boccia sanctioned boccia competitions.

2. Implementation

- A licence to manufacture boccia balls approved for competition play will be issued to a number of manufacturers (likely between 6 and 10) at the beginning of every four year Paralympic cycle. The licence will last for four years, and this quadrennial will run from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028.
- Starting on 1st January 2025, all athletes participating at World Boccia Sanctioned Events may continue to play with balls from manufacturers that have maintained their licence. Athletes will also be able to use balls from the new manufacturers who have received a licence. Balls from manufacturers who did not renew their licence for 2025-2028 but who held a licence from 2021-2024, will be able to be used in World Boccia sanctioned competitions for one more year only, up until 31st December 2025. From 1st January 2026, boccia balls used at ANY World Boccia-sanctioned competition must be supplied by an Approved Equipment Supplier for the 2025-2028 quadrennial.
- The process for granting a licence to produce boccia balls will normally be concluded by the end of June in year 4 of the Paralympic cycle to allow athletes to familiarise themselves with any new manufacturers or balls. If a manufacturer's licence is not renewed from one cycle to the next, athletes who use balls from that manufacturer may only continue to use previously approved balls for the first year of the new Paralympic cycle.
- All approved manufacturers must commit to produce boccia balls which comply with the Boccia Rules for the duration of the licence period. If a manufacturer fails to

provide the continuous sale of licensed balls for the duration of the licence period, the licence will be withdrawn. If a manufacturer's licence expires (or if it is withdrawn) that manufacturer's balls may only be used in World Boccia-sanctioned competitions for a maximum of one year following withdrawal of the licence. If, at any time, World Boccia believes that manufacturers are limiting the sale of balls or, in any way, attempting to manipulate fair competition, sanctions may be put in place, up to and including immediate termination of the licence.

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- The World Boccia Ball Group (A working group of the World Boccia Competition and Rules Committee) will review manufacturers' Applications for a licence and will award licences to approved boccia ball manufacturers. The current list of approved manufacturers will be posted on the World Boccia website.

3. Approval procedure

1. All Manufacturers wishing to supply boccia balls for use in sanctioned competitions should apply for a licence to become a World Boccia Approved Equipment Supplier using the Application Form available on the World Boccia website:
<http://www.WorldBoccia.com/about-boccia/boccia-sport-equipment/>
2. Each manufacturer must send the Application Form together with one ball set (6 red, 6 blue and 1 white) of the softest ball they propose to supply to World Boccia for testing and approval. This needs to be done for each model of ball for which a licence application form is sent in. Details can be found in point 6. *Submission* of this document and the application form on the World Boccia website, link above.
3. Upon receipt of the Application Form and the sample balls, World Boccia will test the sample balls using the World Boccia Rules. Once all balls have passed the test and the manufacturer has been accepted to be licensed, World Boccia will send a contract for the relevant Paralympic Cycle together with an invoice for the Licence Fee.
4. The fee for a licence to supply boccia balls for use in sanctioned competitions will be £9000. The fee must be paid in one instalment at the beginning of the cycle. In the event that licences are granted to fewer than 5 Approved Equipment Suppliers, World Boccia reserves the right to increase the fee. Licensees who are continuing for their second consecutive cycle will have the opportunity to pay the licence fee in 3 instalments (which fall due on 1st January 2025, 2026 & 2027). Upon receipt of the Licence fee, World Boccia will sign and return the contract to each Approved Equipment Supplier and publicise the names of all such suppliers on the World Boccia website.
5. If a manufacturer wishes to change the characteristics of previously approved boccia

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balls or introduce a new type of ball during a current licence period they must apply for a modification of the licence and must send new sample balls to World Boccia for testing and approval before such balls are made available for general sale. New or modified balls can only be sold from the start of a new year (January 1st) on. The application must be made at least 6 months in advance of new balls being made available to the market (i.e. before July 1st).

6. World Boccia reserves the right to withdraw a manufacturer's licence if evidence comes to light which may reasonably give rise to the belief that examples put on the market do not conform with the approved sample balls.
7. World Boccia reserves the right (but has no obligation) to check the quality or the characteristics of licensed balls used in sanctioned competitions. Each approved manufacturer will be solely responsible for the quality of balls supplied for use in sanctioned competitions and for their compliance with the Boccia Rules.

4. WORLD BOCCIA Rules

1. Ball Rule

A boccia ball set must consist of six defined red coloured balls, six defined blue coloured balls and one defined white coloured ball and must fall within World Boccia's acceptable colour range (see Annex 1 below.) All balls must be stamped with the World Boccia Licence logo and be in good condition*. The ball shall be a sphere formed by a granular filling encased within a tightly stitched outer layer made from leather or similar material. A ball shall weigh no less than 263g nor more than 287g and measure not less than 262mm nor more than 278mm in circumference. Ultimately the Head Referee at each competition will make the final decision as to whether any particular ball may be used.

* Good Condition means fit for intended purpose, of satisfactory quality, not damaged and capable of any agreed standard of performance, with the World Boccia logo visible.

No player shall modify the integrity of the original manufacture of the balls or the ball surface (for example by applying any foreign substance like, but not limited to glue, water, rubber or spray.) PENALTY: The Head Referee will remove the ball and the player will receive an automatic Red Card.

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It has been recommended in previous research that the process for design, material selection or manufacture of boccia balls should not be regulated since such restrictions could hinder product development and innovation.

2. Ball Testing

Each ball will be tested using a standard World Boccia Roll Test to check that it will roll under the influence of gravity by releasing the ball down an aluminium ramp 290mm in length at an incline of 25 degrees to the horizontal (plus or minus 0.5 degrees). Each ball must roll at least 175mm on the 100mm wide horizontal aluminium exit plate of the test device and will be deemed to have passed the test if it rolls true along the horizontal exit plate and drops off the end of the horizontal exit plate. Each ball may be tested a maximum of three times and will be deemed to fail if it does not fall off the horizontal exit plate on one of up to three attempts. A ball that falls off the side of the exit plate will be deemed to fail. If the ball passes on the first attempt the second and third attempts are not required. Likewise, if it fails on the first attempt but passes on the second attempt, the third attempt is not done (at World Boccia sanctioned tournaments, testing will be done on a Roll Test Device that has been confirmed by the HR with an angle finder to be between 24.5 and 25.5 degrees).

5. Proposed Timeline

30 th April 2024	Ball licensing approval process completed
30 th June 2024	List of approved and licensed manufacturers for the next quadrennial on the World Boccia website
1st July 2024	Manufacturers must have new balls ready for sale so that athletes have time to test them - they must be stamped by the manufacturer with its own logo and the World Boccia/BISFed logo. World Boccia will provide the 'mark' for stamping and the cost of stamping lies with the manufacturer
1 st January 2025	Implementation of Ball Licence cycles
1 st January 2025 to 31st December 2028	Licensed balls must be used in all World Boccia competitions

6. Submission

Submissions from manufacturers must be addressed by email to World Boccia on admin@worldboccia.com

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Annex 1

BISFed ACCEPTABLE COLOUR RANGE					
JACK BALL	BISFed JACK BALL COLOUR RANGE				
	Based on the Pantone book of: FHI Paper TPG (Lacquer Coating on Paper Product Design)				
	FROM LIGHTEST TO DARKEST				
	PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	LIGHTEST
	11-0601 TPG Bright White	245 247 246	F5F7F6	N/A	
PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	DARKEST	
11-0507 TPG Winter White	241 234 212	F1EAD4	N/A		

BISFed RED BALL COLOUR RANGE					
RED BALL	Based on the Pantone book of: Formula Guide Coated (Spot Color Ink on Coated Paper Graphic Design)				
	FROM LIGHTEST TO DARKEST				
	PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	LIGHTEST
	185 C	228 0 43	E4002B	0 100 89 0	
	PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	DARKEST
7427 C	151 27 47	971B2F	0 100 68 35		

BISFed BLUE BALL COLOUR RANGE					
BLUE BALL	Based on the Pantone book of: Formula Guide Coated (Spot Color Ink on Coated Paper Graphic Design)				
	FROM LIGHTEST TO DARKEST				
	PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	LIGHTEST
	298 C	65 182 230	41B6E6	65 3 0 0	
	PANTONE scale code	RGB scale code	HEX/HTML scale code	CMYK scale code	DARKEST
DARK BLUE C	0 36 156	00249C	100 86 0 10		