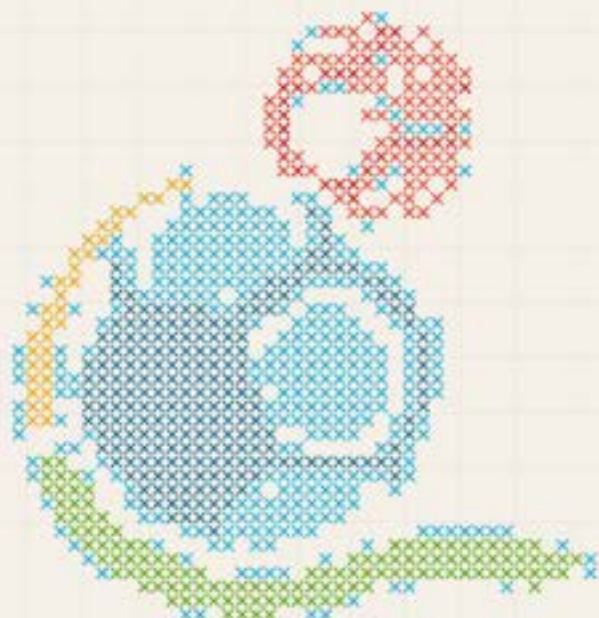




PÓVOA DE VARZIM 2026
**WORLD
BOCCIACUP**

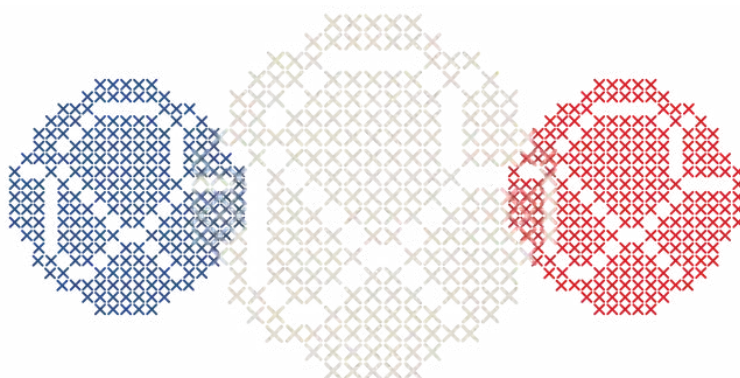
4 A 12 DE JULHO DE 2026

× CRAFTING CHAMPIONS SINCE 1996 ×

COMPETITION HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO **PÓVOA DE VARZIM**



4 - 12 JULY, 2026

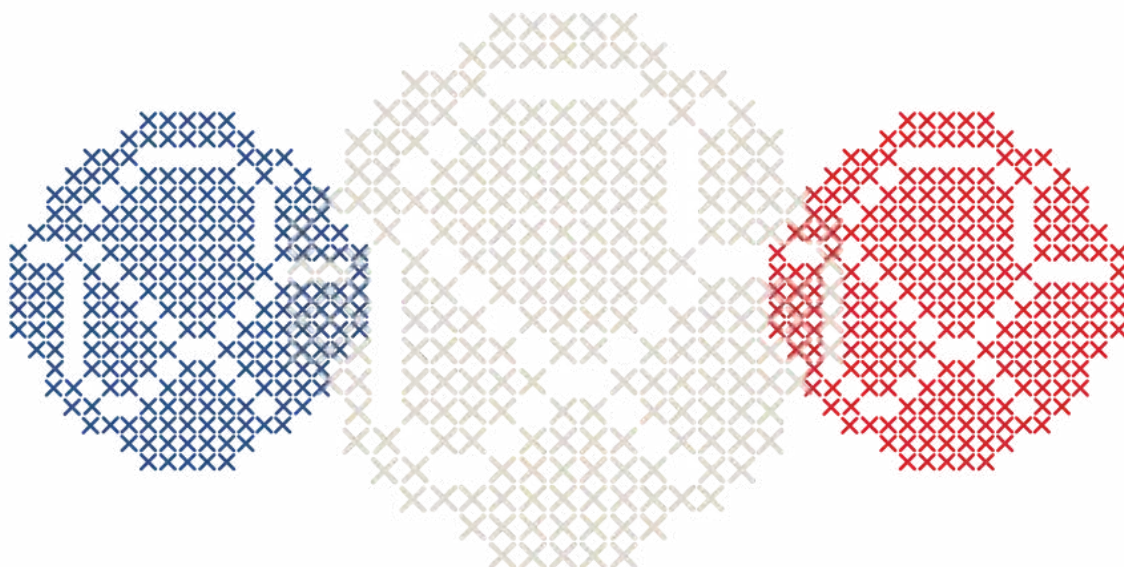
Portugal





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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear athletes, coaches, officials and friends,

It is with great pride and genuine pleasure that we welcome you to Póvoa de Varzim for the 2026 World Boccia Cup. As President of PCAND and Chair of the Organising Committee, it is an honour to host some of the world's finest boccia athletes in a city that proudly lives sport, culture and the sea every day.

This event is more than a competition. It is a celebration of excellence, determination and the true spirit of sport! Each match reflects the incredible talent, commitment, and teamwork that embody the essence of Boccia and the values of inclusion and respect that guide our movement.

This edition is especially meaningful for us, as it also marks the 25th anniversary of PCAND. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than celebrating this milestone together with the international boccia community, by welcoming you to an event that reflects the commitment, progress and shared passion that have shaped our journey over the past twenty-five years.

Our entire Organising Committee has worked with great care on every detail of your stay, from your arrival at Porto Airport to the final medal ceremony. May your days in Póvoa de Varzim be filled with inspiring performances, new friendships, and memorable experiences. On behalf of the entire organising team, I wish you great success and an unforgettable stay.

Welcome to Póvoa de Varzim.

Welcome to the Póvoa de Varzim 2026 World Boccia Cup!

Marta Mascarenhas

President, PCAND

Chair of the Host Organising Committee



COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The Póvoa de Varzim 2026 World Boccia Cup brings together 22 nations competing across eight courts in a World Boccia Cup Series sanctioned event. This section provides a snapshot of the key event information and the overall competition programme.

Date	Activities
4 th July, Sat	Arrival & Accreditation · Training (afternoon)
5 th July, Sun	Training · Equipment Check · Technical Meeting · Opening Ceremony (18:00)
6 th July, Mon	Individual Competition – Day 1
7 th July, Tue	Individual Competition – Day 2
8 th July, Wed	Individual Competition – Day 3 · Draw for Teams & Pairs
9 th July, Thu	Individual Competition – Day 4 · Individual Medal Ceremony Teams & Pairs Competition – Day 1
10 th July, Fri	Teams & Pairs Competition – Day 2
11 th July, Sat	Teams & Pairs Competition – Day 3 · Medal & Closing Ceremony · Farewell Dinner
12 th July, Sun	Departure

Note: Detailed daily schedules will be published via the Sportity app. All times are subject to confirmation.

ACCOMMODATION

All delegations will be accommodated in the two official event hotels, in single, twin or triple rooms, in accordance with each Participating Nation’s confirmed booking requirements. Both hotels are fully wheelchair accessible offer four-star accommodation standards in line with the requirements of an international World Boccia event.





AXIS VERMAR HOTEL

Address

Rua da Imprensa Regional, 90 · 4490-518 Póvoa de Varzim

Distance to venue

1.4 km · approximately 18 minutes on foot

Website: axishoteis.com/en/axis-vermar

Country	Pax	Arrival	Departure	Single	Twin	Triple
AUS	9	01-07	12-07	1	4	-
BRA	22	01-07	12-07	1	9	1
ESP	6	04-07	12-07	-	3	-
FRA	16	04-07	10&12-07	-	8	-
GBR	27	03-07	12-07	3	12	-
GRE	17	02&04-07	09&10 & 12-07	1	8	-
HKG	15	03-07	12-07	1	7	-
KOR	4	04-07	10-07	-	2	-
POL	13	03-07	10&12-07	2	4	1
POR	23	01-07	10&12-07	1	12	-





AXIS OFIR HOTEL

Address: Rua Raul Sousa Martins, 99 · 4740-405 Fão

Distance to venue

18.2 km · approximately 18 minutes by dedicated shuttle

Shuttle service

A daily shuttle service will operate between Axis Ofir Hotel and the competition venue. The full timetable will be published on Sportity.

Website: axishoteis.com/axis-ofir

Country	Pax	Arrival	Departure	Single	Twin
AZE	2	04-07	10-07	2	-
CAN	2	04-07	10-07	-	1
CRO	13	04-07	12-07	1	6
CZE	11	04-07	12-07	1	5
HUN	6	04-07	12-07	2	2
INA	11	04-07	12-07	1	5
ISR	10	02-07	10-07	2	4
NED	5	04-07	10-07	1	2
SGP	10	03-07	10&12-07	2	4
SVK	9	04-07	12-07	1	4
SWE	8	03-07	12-07	4	2
UKR	6	04-07	12-07	-	3

Accommodation included in the entry fee: The Competition Entry Fee includes accommodation and meals from dinner on 4 July until breakfast on 10 July for delegations attending the individual competition only, or until breakfast on 12 July for delegations attending the full event period.

Check-out time on departure day is 12:00 noon. Luggage storage will be available upon request.

Any **extra charges**, including minibar, telephone, laundry and room service, are not included and must be settled directly with the hotel by each delegation



TRANSPORT

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

The Host Organising Committee (HOC) will provide all official transport services for delegations and officials between Porto International Airport (Aeroporto Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro) and the official event hotels, based on the flight information submitted by each Participating Nation

Airport Meeting Point: An HOC representative carrying the official competition sign will meet all arriving participants and officials at the exit of the baggage reclaim area.

Reference point at the airport

OPORTO — CERVEJARIA PORTO, visible upon exiting the arrivals hall

HOC transport contact

+351 910 691 872 · internacional@pcand.pt



ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

All arriving participants and officials will be received by an HOC representative. No delegation or official should wait more than one hour before departing for the official accommodation. If no HOC representative is visible within 20 minutes of exiting the arrivals hall, delegations should contact the HOC immediately using the transport contact details above.

SHUTTLE SERVICE - AXIS OFIR HOTEL

A dedicated daily shuttle service will operate between Axis Ofir Hotel and the competition venue. Detailed schedules will be published on Sportity.



MEALS

All meals for participants and officials will be provided throughout the competition period. Catering facilities are fully wheelchair accessible, and the meal schedule has been designed to support athletes' preparation and recovery before and after competition.

Meal	Location	Time	Dates
<u>Breakfast</u>	Official event hotel restaurant	07:00 – 10:30 (06:30 on competition days)	4 th – 12 th July
<u>Lunch</u>	Escola E.B. 2/3 Flávio Gonçalves (adjacent to the venue)	11:30 – 15:00	5 th – 11 th July
<u>Dinner</u>	Official event hotel restaurant	19:00 – 22:00	5 th – 10 th July
<u>Farewell Dinner</u>	Escola E.B. 2/3 Flávio Gonçalves	From 19:30 (TBC)	11 th July

FAREWELL DINNER

The Host Organising Committee will offer a Farewell Dinner to all participants at Escola E.B. 2/3 Flávio Gonçalves on Saturday, 11th July, starting at 19:30, following the closing ceremony. This will be a particularly special occasion since it will celebrate the 25th anniversary of PCAND.

Dietary Requirements and Sustainability: The HOC will provide each participant with a commemorative water bottle and hydration stations will be available throughout the venue. Delegations are kindly requested to inform the HOC in advance of any dietary requirements, food intolerances or planned absences from catered meals (to prevent food waste).



VENUE

Póvoa de Varzim is a vibrant Atlantic city with a strong sporting tradition, a welcoming atmosphere and a distinctive coastal setting.

The competition venue has been prepared to deliver an accessible, efficient and high-quality environment for athletes, officials and delegations throughout the event.

Venue Information	
Detail	Information
Venue	Pavilhão Municipal da Póvoa de Varzim
Address	Rua Dona Maria I 220, 4490-538 Póvoa de Varzim
Facilities	8 competition courts + 4 double-sided warm-up courts on wooden floor





HOST ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Host Organising Committee is responsible for the planning, delivery and day-to-day operational coordination of the event. The team below will support delegations, officials and participants throughout the competition period. In addition to this key personnel, a team of dedicated and competent volunteers will provide support to all aspects of the competition.

Role	Name
Chair of the Event	Marta Mascarenhas
Competition Manager	Isabel Silva
Information Desk/Transport Manager	Roberto Pereira
Call Room Manager	Gonçalo Beja
Communication/Protocol Manager	Joana Teixeira
Volunteers Coordinators	Mafalda Costa / Cátia Maciel

Contact Information:

Email: internacional@pcand.pt

Phone: +351 910 691 872





WORLD BOCCIA OFFICIALS

The following officials have been appointed to oversee the technical delivery and sporting integrity of the competition in accordance with World Boccia standards and procedures.

Position	Name
World Boccia Representative	Paul Trayner
Technical Delegate	Charles Hordenneau
Assistant Technical Delegate	Gustavo Alvarim
Head Referee	Beatriz Castedo
Assistant Head Referee	Nikos Mavropoulos

REFEREES

International Referees	
Aline Pereira	Marie-Claire Parent
Anabela Marto	Maria Ucar
Darren Thomson	Martina Kincesova
Edwig Lamberechts	Roberto Marchena
Goran Dernej	Simone Reis
Jan Mulligan	Sandra Monteiro
Klára Štefkova	
National Referees	
Daniel Nunes	Cristina Costa
Marta Freire	





COMPETITION RULES

The competition will be conducted in full accordance with the World Boccia Rules 2025-2028 [V.1.2.1 – Updated 23/04/2026], as published on the World Boccia Website: [Rules – World Boccia](#)

CLASSIFICATION & ASSISTIVE DEVICES

No classification sessions will be held during the Póvoa de Varzim 2026 World Boccia Cup. Throughout the event, the Technical Delegate will remain in permanent contact with a World Boccia International Classifier.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Delegations are strongly encouraged to consult the library of approved devices available on the World Boccia website (Documents → Classification) before arrival, in order to avoid delays on site.

Important:

No new gloves or splints may be used during the competition, as these require in-person approval by the classification team.

- Items such as lap straps, head blocks and grab rails may be pre-approved or submitted for approval through the World Boccia Platform.

To request approval, delegations should download the relevant equipment form and submit it to the Chair of the World Boccia Classification Committee, Marali Olen, at classification@worldboccia.com.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation passes will be issued to all athletes and officials upon registration. Accreditation must be worn at all times to access the warm-up area, Call Room, Field of Play and dining facilities.

No athlete will be permitted to enter the Field of Play until all outstanding fees due to the HOC and/or World Boccia have been fully settled.





TECHNICAL MEETING & DRAW

Online draw for Individual Competition

Date

1 July

Time

13:00 (Portugal time)

Format

The draw for the individual competition will take place prior to the arrival of delegations.

Broadcast

The draw will be streamed online via the official PCAND YouTube channel [@pcand_worldboccia](#).

Technical Meeting

Date

5 July

Location

Call Room at the venue

Time

Prior to the Opening Ceremony

Each Participating Nation may be represented by up to two persons, one of whom must be the Team Manager.

Draw for Teams & Pairs

Date

8 July

Location

Venue

Time

Following the conclusion of the last match of the day





CEREMONIES

Opening Ceremony

Date & Time

5 July, 18h00

Location

Field of Play

The Opening Ceremony will include the presentation of the participating nations, the athlete oath, the official declaration by the World Boccia Representative, and the formal signing of PCAND's adhesion protocol to the White Card initiative from the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, which promotes fair play and recognises ethically exemplary conduct in sport.

Individual Medal Ceremony

Date & Time

9 July, following the final match of the day.

Medal Order

BC1 Individual (F/M) · BC2 Individual (F/M) · BC3 Individual (F/M) · BC4 Individual (F/M)

Teams & Pairs Medal and Closing Ceremony

Date & Time

11 July, 30 minutes after the finals

Location

Field of Play

Medal Order

BC1/2 Team · BC3 Pair · BC4 Pair

Detailed medal ceremony protocol briefings will be provided during the Technical Meeting.





Farewell Dinner

Date & Time

11 July, 19:30 (TBC)

Location

Escola E.B. 2/3 Flávio Gonçalves, adjacent to the competition venue.

ANTI-DOPING CONTROL

This event is subject to anti-doping testing in accordance with the regulations and procedures of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the Autoridade Portuguesa de Anti-Dopagem (ADOP).

Testing Programme

In-competition tests

Minimum of 4 random in-competition tests

Out-of-competition tests

Minimum of 2 random out-of-competition tests

Athlete Requirements

WADA e-learning (ADEL)

All athletes must have completed the ADEL International Level programme, which remains valid for two years. Ramp Operators are also required to complete this course.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

Athletes who require prohibited substances for therapeutic purposes must carry an authorised TUE form at all times. Relevant forms are available at worldboccia.com and must be submitted in advance to the World Boccia Doping Officer for approval.

The full WADA Prohibited List is available at: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/prohibited-list>



MEDICAL CARE & INSURANCE

Prior to participation, each delegation is responsible for securing adequate personal and medical insurance, including repatriation cover, as well as travel insurance to protect against loss of property, injury, medical treatment or hospitalisation, travel disruption, or baggage loss. The Host Organising Committee will provide third-party liability insurance for all participants.



Disclaimer: World Boccia and the Póvoa de Varzim 2026 World Boccia Cup HOC accept no responsibility for injuries or loss of earnings resulting from injury. A release form must be signed by all participants, delegation members, referees and volunteers.

All participants should carry a list of current medication and any specific medical requirements in English, together with a digital or paper vaccination record. The HOC kindly requests that all delegations also provide up-to-date information on any comorbidities or health conditions that may be relevant to medical or emergency teams, if required.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

World Boccia and Paralisia Cerebral – Associação Nacional de Desporto, as well as their officials, agents, and members, accept no responsibility for any claims, costs, proceedings, or damages incurred directly or indirectly as a result of participation in the Póvoa de Varzim 2026 World Boccia Cup or of any provision by the Host Organising Committee, except to the extent that such claims, costs, proceedings or damages result from their own negligence, wilful misconduct or breach of applicable duties of care.

Emergency & Health Services

For 24-hour health advice, call 808 24 24 24.



Service	Details
Emergency Number (Portugal)	112
24h National Health Advice Service	808 24 24 24
Hospital da Luz Póvoa de Varzim	R. de Dom Manuel I 183, 4490-592 Póvoa de Varzim · Tel: (+351) 21 710 4400 · LUZ 24: 217 104 424 · intlpatientservices.povoa@hospitaldaluz.pt
Hospital de São João Porto	Alameda Prof. Hernâni Monteiro, 4200-319 Porto · Tel: (+351) 22 55 12 100 · geral@ulssjoao.min-saude.pt
Pharmacy – Póvoa de Varzim	Farmácia Campos e Salvador · Praça Luís de Camões N15 · Tel: (+351) 252 682 999
Pharmacy – Fão	Farmácia Higiénica · R. Dr. Moreira Pinto 7 · Tel: (+351) 253 986 013

SOCIAL MEDIA & SPORTITY APP

Official Channels

Platform	Details
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559047682210
Instagram	@pcandparalisiacerebral https://www.instagram.com/pcandparalisiacerebral/
YouTube	@pcand_worldboccia
Sportity	sportity.com

Sportity App



The Sportity app will serve as the central information hub for the event. Competition schedules, shuttle timetables, results and event news will be published via Sportity, and all participants are strongly encouraged to download and install the app before arriving in Póvoa de Varzim.

ROUTES

Key route information is provided below to support daily movement between the official hotels, the competition venue and the lunch location. Updated route maps and transport schedules will be available on the Sportity app and at the General Information Desk at the venue.

Route	Details
Lunch Venue	Venue → Escola E.B. 2/3 Flávio Gonçalves (adjacent to the competition hall)
Axis Vermar Hotel	Hotel → Venue: 1.4 km · approx. 18 minutes on foot
Axis Ofir Hotel	Hotel → Venue: 18.2 km · approx. 18 minutes by dedicated shuttle

For any transport or route-related queries, please contact the HOC at internacional@pcand.pt or +351 910 691 872.

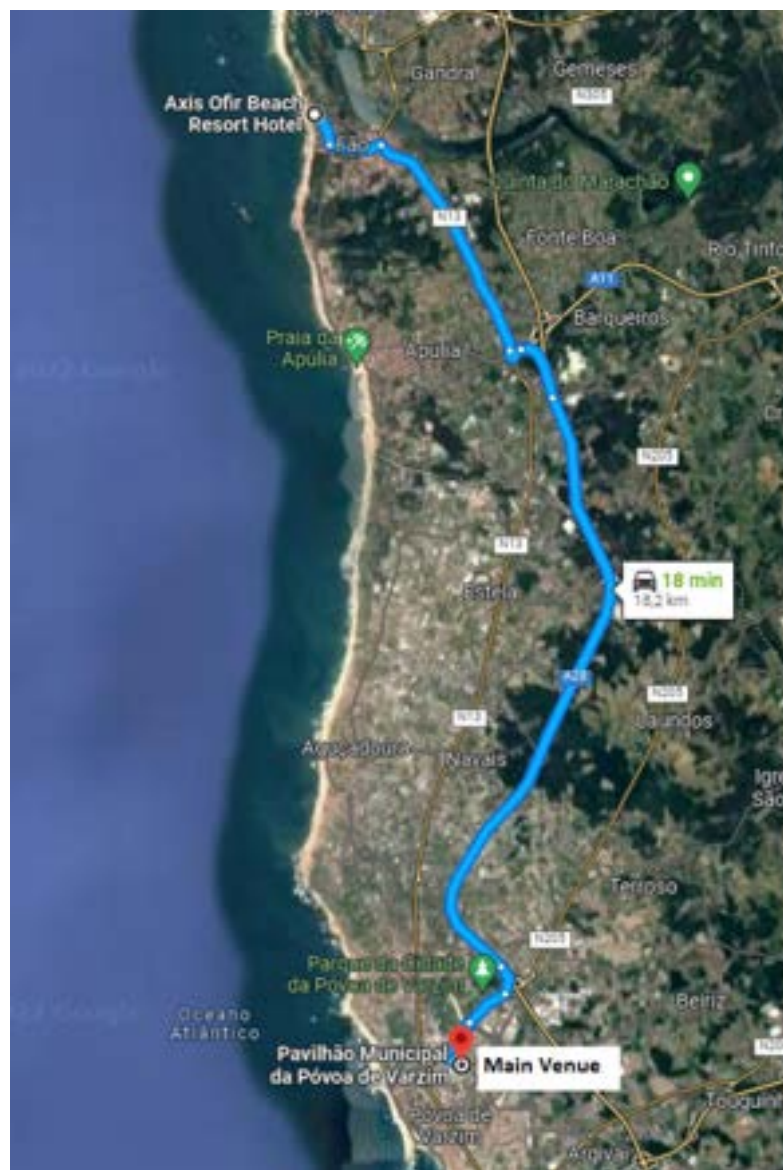
Route Maps

Route 1: Venue – Axis Vermar Conference Hotel



Route Maps

Route 2: Venue – Axis Ofir Beach Resort Hotel



Route 3: Venue – School Dr. Flávio Gonçalves



We wish all athletes an inspiring and successful competition...

Welcome to Póvoa de Varzim!

