

Boccia New Zealand

BOCCIA Ramp Players Manual

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Classification for Ramp Players

Players in the BC3 class have significant movement difficulties in all four limbs and are unable to grasp and release a boccia ball with consistent force and direction. Therefore, players are allowed to use an assistive device, such as a ramp, with the help of a sport assistant to move the ramp and equipment.

Sport Assistant

An assistant can accompany BC3 players inside the playing box to act as their hands. The role of the assistant is to follow all commands directed from the player in order to manoeuvre the equipment as instructed i.e. move the ramp left or right, alter the height of the ramp, and place the ball on the ramp. The assistant must face away from the court and must keep their eyes averted from play to eliminate any decision making impact they may have on the game.



Note: information included in this manual is intended as a guide only.
For more information, please refer to www.boccia.org.nz

Basic Rules for Ramp Players and their Assistants

- Players, their assistants; and all equipment must remain inside the designated box throughout the match;
- The ramp must not extend over the front line.
- The ramp may extend over the lines on either side of their box but is not permitted to touch the ground outside of the box.
- The player must be the last one to touch the ball when it is released. The assistant should ensure that nothing will interfere with the ball as it rolls down the ramp into court.
- The player must direct their assistant to clearly move the ramp to the left and right between each shot.
- Players cannot prepare their next shot until the referee has signalled it is their turn to play
- The assistant must keep their back to play until invited to turn and face the court by the referee at the completion of each end.



Communication

Communication between the player and their assistant must be one-way and may be given either verbally or non-verbally i.e. through hand, eye or head movements. The assistant should not speak, nod nor make any other physical gesture that could be interpreted as a response. Similarly, the player should not ask their assistant for clarification as the assistant is not allowed to respond e.g. "Am I inside the box?"



It is important that all instructions and signals are understood by both the player and their assistant prior to the game so as to avoid confusion and violating the rules. Therefore, it is vital to practice communication during training sessions. If the assistant does not understand a player's request during a game, they are not allowed to question this and therefore should wait for repeated instruction before taking action.

Movement

Assistants may be required to leave their designated box during the game when requested by an opposition player. This is common when the opponent needs to align their ramp but their view is being obstructed by an opposing assistant. In which case, the assistant must move to the back of the box whilst keeping eyes averted from play and must remain there until instructed to return to the front of the box by their player.

Equipment

A suitable chair should be used keeping in mind that the player, their assistant and all equipment must remain inside the box during a game. Footplates and other major features of the chair should not hinder the player's ability to reach and align the ramp. Equally, consideration should be given to clothing and straps i.e. legs, arms or shoulder to enable the player to move comfortably and to control their limbs from knocking the ramp by mistake.



Brackets, baskets and holders attached to the chair are permitted. These can be used to hold equipment off the ground (and keep it from rolling away) and give the player and assistant more room to manoeuvre their chair and ramp inside the playing box.

Pairs

As well as playing individually, BC3 athletes can also play as a pair against other BC3 athletes. It is important to work out which player is best suited to which position on court (which box they play from). As a result, the tactics can be very different for pairs as players only have 3 balls each and will therefore need to consider their partner when choosing which shot to play. For example, in the event of one of the pair being blocked, it may be possible for their partner to drive the jack back to enable them to now have a clear shot.



Working together and communicating (making eye contact) ideas effectively are therefore crucial skills to practice. For players who are non-verbal, gestures can be used to communicate different types of shots. For example, 'doing a kiss' means draw; 'shaking your head' means drive; and 'poking your tongue out' means play-away.

Ramps

- There are two general ramp designs in use (1) curved ramps and (2) straight ramps.
- The basic principle of using a ramp is much like that of rolling down a hill. The steeper the hill = the faster the ball will roll. Note: lifting the bottom of the ramp off the floor also slows the speed of the ball.
- The assistant should position the ramp to allow the player to look down the middle and accurately align the direction of the shot. Note: for some players lifting the bottom of the ramp to horizontal allows the player to aim the ramp easier.
- Extras such as rubber bands and elastic strips can be used to hold the ball securely in place on the ramp – which the player must physically push the ball through to set rolling.
- In general, softer balls are more accurate but don't tend to roll as far. Therefore consideration needs to be given when setting the height and angle of the ramp relative to the firmness of the ball being played.



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Visit the Boccia New Zealand website:
www.boccia.org.nz

