



Become a National Para Bowls Classifier!

WHAT IS BOWLS?

Bowls, or lawn bowls, is a sport in which the objective is to roll your bowl, a large, hard resin ball with a bias to it, so that it stops close to a smaller ball called a jack. It is played on a long, smooth grass surface, called a green. The end goal, as in Bocce or curling, is to get your bowl closer to the jack than your opponent. This is achieved by players from each team taking turns rolling their bowls down the green toward the jack.

WHAT IS CLASSIFICATION IN BOWLS?

Definition of Classification

The Canadian Paralympic Committee defines classification as the system that “determines which athletes are eligible to compete in a sport and how athletes are grouped together for competition. This, to a certain extent, is similar to grouping athletes by age, gender or weight” (International Paralympic Committee). The classification system has been designed so that athletes who succeed in competition do so on the basis of their sporting ability including their technical skill, fitness, mental focus, and tactical ability. Athletes are classified according to their activity limitation resulting from their disability which is termed “impairment” in the context of classification.

International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) Classification Classes

- B1** No light perception in either eye up to light perception but no recognition of hand movements at any distance or any direction.
- B2** From the ability to recognize hand movements up to a visual acuity of 2/60 (Berkeley Rudimentary Test).
- B3** From a visual acuity of better than 2/60 up to a visual acuity of 6/60 (Berkeley Rudimentary Test).
- B4** A visual acuity up to a visual acuity of worse than 6/24 (Berkeley Rudimentary Test) and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees.



- B5** Ambulant and wheelchair bowlers with restricted grip and upper body limb function, poor balance and coordination, unable to bowl a full length end or needing a splinting device to do so.
- B6** Ambulant and wheelchair bowlers with reduced balance function (loss of 5 points or more) but able to bowl a full length end.
- B7** Ambulant and wheelchair bowlers with minor balance problems (loss of less than 5 points).
- B8** Ambulant bowlers, who have a permanent and irreversible disability, have lost 10 points on the bench test, but have minimal noticeable impairment of function (loss of 0-1 points).

HOW DO I BECOME A PARA BOWLS CLASSIFIER?

The first step in becoming a Para Bowls Classifier is to apply to become a National Classifier in Canada. Bowls Canada's [Classifier Certification Pathway](#) outlines the ways in which you can do this. The information is also outlined below:

Qualifications to Become a National Classifier

There are two types of classifiers:

1. Medical Classifier

- Physiotherapist
- Medical Doctor
- Occupational Therapist or other health professional with required medical knowledge, including anatomy, physiology and pathology.

2. Technical Classifier

- Experienced in competitive bowls, coaching, umpiring, etc.

General Requirements for all National Classifier Candidates

- Participation in an IBD accredited classification seminar
- Pass a competency evaluation (open book written exam)
- Have a working knowledge and be conversant in the English language



Requirements to Remain Qualified as a National Classifier by IBD

- Classify a wide variety of disabilities
- Respond to correspondence in a timely manner
- Officially classify at least once a year (authorization is lost if inactive for a period of 12 months or more)
- Forward copies or scans of all classification documents to the IBD Head Classifier
- Submit to ongoing evaluations by IBD
- Observe the IBD Classifier Code of Conduct at all times

HOW TO I APPLY TO BECOME A NATIONAL CLASSIFIER?

1. Complete the Application Form on page 4 & 5 of this package by **July 27, 2022**. A limited number of applicants will be selected. You will be notified by August 5, 2022 if you are selected to attend. This is a fully funded, volunteer opportunity. BOWLS CANADA will cover all costs associated with travel, accommodations and meals for those selected.
2. Submit the following required documentation to office@bowlscanada.com by **July 27, 2022**:
 - a. Medical Classifier: Certificate of graduation in one of the health fields listed above
 - b. Technical Classifier: Resume of experience in competitive bowls as either a coach or an official
3. Attend **Classifier Training September 10th - 12th, 2022 in Windsor, ON ([Windsor Lawn Bowls Club](#))**. Training will be delivered by the International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD) Head Classifier according to the following schedule:

a. September 9th	Arrival
b. September 10th	Theory session
c. September 10th	Practical session
d. September 11th	Athlete Classification
e. September 12th	Competition Observation
f. September 13th	Departure

For more information, please contact:

BOWLS CANADA, office@bowlscanada.com