

## 11 Boccia

Boccia is pronounced "Botcha" in French. It's one of the few disciplines that allows multi-handicapped people to take part in sporting activities. Boccia is inspired by the bowls game, like pétanque. This sport, widely practiced throughout the world, has been recognized as a Paralympic sport since the 1984 New York Games. Boccia has been developing in France since the 2000s.

Two teams compete in duels, doubles or triples. A draw determines the team with the red balls and the team with the blue balls. Each player is given six balls.

The red team starts the game by throwing a smaller-diameter white ball called "Jack".

The aim of each player, per team, is to send his or her balls as close as possible to Jack, the small white ball equivalent to the "jack". The team with the most balls close to Jack wins points.

The eight-and-a-half-centimeter-diameter blue or red balls are made of leather and weigh two hundred and seventy-five grams.

Depending on the degree of handicap, players are classified into different categories.

Each ball is thrown either by hand or foot. In the category where the player does not have the motor skills to throw the balls, a ramp manipulated by a sports assistant is used. The assistant, with his or her back to the game, strictly follows the player's instructions.

At the start of the game, the organizers tell all players whether they can throw their balls in a seated position.

On the left-hand side of the picture, below number 11, a young woman wearing pants is seated in a wheelchair.

The player is facing us, her face looking in the direction of the gesture she is making. A precision throw.

Her right arm, extended, shows her open hand. She has just sent a ball dotted with small reliefs marking red.

This ball will join the other two, already thrown and located at the bottom of the page, to the left, below and in front of the ground line.

The feet rest on the leg rest.

The torso is slightly bent forward, so that the back is slightly clear of the backrest.

His left arm is bent, allowing his hand to rest on the armrest to compensate for the imbalance created by his action.

The tubular frame of the chair runs parallel to the legs. Upwards, it joins the armrest and backrest forming the handle to which it is attached.

Downwards, the structure joins the seat and mobility systems.

The larger-diameter, fixed wheel at the rear is lined with a smaller-diameter ring for independent manual movement. The front left wheel of the wheelchair is called "freewheel", meaning that it pivots in the direction given by the thrust of the large rear wheel. The right side of the wheelchair, like the one shown here, is not drawn.

On the right, another, more severely handicapped player uses a ramp. The ramp crosses the picture from top to bottom.

The bottom of the ramp has a mark on its axis, a sighting device for directing the ramp towards the Jack or an opponent's ball.

In the horizontal extension of the red balls is the Jack, with a smaller diameter, and a ball textured with lines, evocative of blue.

On the right are the heavy-footed base for angulating and rotating the ramp. The ground line follows.

A chair with a more massive structure and different proportions is shown. This is an "electric" wheelchair. We find the same wheel and footrest functionalities, as well as the same seat and armrest connections.

The person is shown in three-quarter view, partially concealed by the ramp used. The legs are in a seated position. The left arm is bent at right-angles, resting on the armrest. Both shoulders rest on the backrest, neck open. The neck is supported by a headrest integrated into the back of the chair. The face is fixed, expression focused on the precision of the action in progress.

With his mouth, the person holds a rigid rod which will enable him to push his second blue ball. The one held in balance at the top of the ramp.

Each player has a limited time in which to throw his six balls in each of the four rounds of the event. Competitions are mixed.