Para Bowls & Classification

Inclusive Opportunities for All

Bowls Scotland is committed to creating opportunities for bowlers with disabilities to participate and compete at local, national and international level. Classification helps ensure fair competition by grouping players according to how their impairment impacts their ability to play bowls. Classification is not designed to assess a player's skill level, but rather the functional impact of their impairment.

What is Classification?

Classification determines whether a player has an eligible impairment for Para Bowls competition and places players into an appropriate sport class to ensure fair and meaningful competition. A valid classification is required to compete in many Para Bowls events, including opportunities that can lead to international competition.

Eligible Impairments

Physical impairments may include impaired muscle power, impaired range of movement, limb deficiency, limb length difference, short stature and coordination impairments.

Players with eligible visual impairments can also be classified within designated vision impairment sport classes.

Annual Classification Opportunities

Bowls Scotland aims to offer annual classification opportunities, typically between February and April before the outdoor season begins. These classification days allow bowlers to begin or update their classification and confirm eligibility for upcoming competitions.

Physical Disability Classification Process

1. Submit Certificate of Diagnosis Form – A GP, consultant or specialist completes a Certificate of Diagnosis and email to performancecoordinator@bowlsscotland.com

2025-IBD-Classification-Certificate-of-Diagnosis-and-Consent-form-Update-.pdf
2. Eligibility Review – Documentation is reviewed by an accredited classifier.
3. Classification Assessment – Eligible players attend an assessment of muscle power, movement, coordination, balance and functional ability.
4. Bowling Assessment – Players complete bowls specific tasks and may be observed in competition before a final class is confirmed.

Physical Disability Sport Classes

B5 – Significant impairment affecting balance, coordination and delivery.
B6 – Moderate balance and functional limitations.
B7 – Minor balance or coordination limitations.
B8 – Meets the minimum impairment criteria with minimal impact on bowling performance.

Vision Impairment Classification

Vision impairment assessments are completed by qualified ophthalmologists or optometrists in line with international standards. The following form should be completed by the registered specialist then sent to performancecoordinator@bowlsscotland.com
2024-IBD-VI-bowls-classification-form-review-JAN.pdf

Vision Impairment Classes

B1 – No light perception to very limited vision.
B2 – Severe visual impairment.
B3 – Moderate visual impairment.
B4 – Restricted visual field and/or lower levels of visual impairment that meet eligibility requirements.

Classification Status

Following assessment, players may receive one of the following statuses:

- Confirmed (C)
- Review at Next Available Opportunity (R-NAO)
- Review with Fixed Review Date (R-FRD)
- Expired (E).

Getting Started

If you believe you may be eligible for Para Bowls classification, please contact Bowls Scotland for further information regarding upcoming classification opportunities and the required documentation. Email: performancecoordinator@bowlsscotland.com