



BOCCIA

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About the Turnstone Flyers:

Turnstone has two boccia teams, one plays competitively and the other recreationally. Athletes practice once a week. Tournaments are held once per month in the Chicago area (you do not have to attend all tournaments). Turnstone hosts one tournament each spring as part of this tournament circuit. Travel is at the discretion of each individual player. As with any other sport, Nationals moves around the country based on whoever is awarded the bid.

Who is a Boccia athlete?

Although boccia was originally created for persons with Cerebral Palsy, all persons with physical abilities are encouraged to participate in Turnstone's boccia program. Boccia players are assigned to one of four sport classes, which is dependent on their functional ability:

- BC1 - Players in this class throw the ball with the hand or foot. They may compete with an assistant who stays outside of the competitor's playing box, to stabilize or adjust their playing chair and give the ball to the player when requested.
- BC2 - Players in this class throw the ball with the hand. They are not eligible for assistance.
- BC3 - Players in this class have very severe loco-motor dysfunction in all four extremities. Players in this class have no sustained grasp or release action and although they may have arm movement, they have insufficient range of movement to propel a Boccia ball onto the court. They may use an assistive device such as a ramp to deliver the ball. They may compete with an assistant; assistants must keep their back to the court and their eyes averted from play.
- BC4 - Players in this class have severe loco-motor dysfunction of all four extremities as well as poor trunk control. They can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw the ball onto the court. Players are not eligible for assistance.

Rules of Boccia:

- Played on a boccia court with dimensions of 12.5m x 6m (usually on a basketball court, but can use any hard, flat surface).
- Balls are soft, lightweight leather filled with "beans" (kind of like a hacky-sack or a beanbag).
- Ramps can be used depending on the classification of the athlete.

Recent accolades:

In 2010, one of Turnstone's boccia athletes was named to the USA National Team.

For more information on Turnstone's sports and recreation program, please contact Andrew Achenbach or Kevin Hughes at 260-483-2100.



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