



18 July 2011

Dear Member Nations

### **Qualification**

The International Paralympic Committee has been working with CPISRA and its Boccia Committee to ensure that the London2012 Paralympic Boccia competition is an exciting and dynamic event, showcasing the best Boccia athletes from around the World in a series of exciting and meaningful matches which would make it more in line with other Paralympic sports. With this in mind, the competition format has been changed in the individual events to a single elimination format (or single knockout). The format for the Team and Pairs events will remain the same as before – Round Robin pool matches followed by knock-out final stages.

To ensure that all players who qualify for the Paralympics have at least two games, those players who qualify for the individual event (as per the Qualification Guide published on the IPC website) will first play in a 'seeding' match, which will determine each player's position in the draw for the subsequent elimination round. No more than 50% of the players in each event will be allocated a seeded position.

We would also like to draw your attention to IPC's qualification criteria for the Boccia events. You can find the qualification criteria at the following link:

[http://www.paralympic.org/Paralympic\\_Games/London\\_2012/Qualification\\_Criteria/index.html](http://www.paralympic.org/Paralympic_Games/London_2012/Qualification_Criteria/index.html)

The criteria for qualification for individuals are different from those in Beijing, so please study them carefully. Essentially, an athlete might qualify as part of one of the Team or Pair events but this does not guarantee that athlete a place in the individual event. Athletes in the individual event qualify based on the CPISRA Boccia World Ranking List as of December 31, 2011. If there are athletes who do not qualify for the Team or Pairs event, but who have world ranking that is higher than or equal to the number of competitors in the relevant individual event, they may be eligible to play in the individual event, subject to the maximum numbers stated in the IPC document.

Full details of the seeding for the draw and the format for the competition will be presented at the Boccia World Cup in Belfast, where Sandra King (Boccia Manager for London2012) and members of the CBC will be available to present all the details to you and answer any questions. We will also be able to answer questions about the updated Qualification Guide (published by the IPC in April 2011), and Sandra will reveal plans for the London2012 Test Event and Paralympic Boccia competition. Due to the pressure of work we hope you will understand and respect that Sandra and the CBC members are too busy at the moment to respond to individual queries about any issues raised in this letter. If you wish to send any questions in advance we can respond to them in Belfast. Please direct all questions to Ms. Cannie Leung at: [cannieleung@yahoo.com](mailto:cannieleung@yahoo.com) no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Details of the date and place for the meeting in Belfast still need to be confirmed and you will be notified as soon as possible.

We hope you will agree that this is an exciting new prospect for Paralympic Boccia, bringing a new importance to each individual match, as only the winner will progress to the next stage. In conjunction with this initiative, the Field of Play will be reduced to five courts, with one centre court being used for finals, highlighting the importance of a Paralympic Gold medal match.

With best wishes



Koos Engelbrecht  
**PRESIDENT**