



**Inclusive Boccia Tournament in partnership with
Special Olympics Suffolk
Saturday 2nd March, 2024**

**Gainsborough Sports Centre, Braziers Wood Road,
Ipswich, IP3 0SP**

Special Olympics
Suffolk



Entry Pack

General Information

Welcome to the ActivLives Inclusive Boccia Tournament hosted by ActivLives, in partnership with Special Olympics Suffolk. The event is also being supported by Special Olympics GB, Ipswich Borough Council, and Suffolk Community Foundation.

Please note that this event has been sanctioned by Special Olympics GB (SOGB), as a Regional Partnership Single Sport Competition. This means that players who are registered with SOGB, and those who are not, are able to participate alongside each other.

This will be a Pairs and Team event (there may be Singles divisions if entries allow) and will also include a Team 'Spider decider' competition.

Divisions will be based upon Player Ratings and may include Women's, Men's and/or Mixed pairings/players in the same group. The 'Spider decider' competition will be based on a mixed-ability team format.

Provisional Schedule

10.00 Arrival and Registration
10.15 Warm Up begins/Volunteer Briefing
10.45 Athlete Welcome, Opening Ceremony and Briefing
11.00 Group Matches start
12.30 Lunch break
1.15 Group Matches resume
2.30 Team Event 'Spider decider'
3.30 Awards Presentation
4.00 Close

Please note that times may vary during the actual competition depending upon numbers and divisions. There may not be a formal lunch break during the day, depending upon the number of entries/matches.

All of the matches, and the awards ceremony, will be held in the Sports Hall.

Eligibility

Whilst we are seeking SOGB sanctioning for this event, this is as a 'partnership event', with Special Olympics Suffolk. Therefore, athletes do not need to be registered with SOGB or Boccia England, to compete.

All competitors in this event should have a recognised disability (Intellectual, Physical and/or Sensory)

All competitors will be divisioned based upon Boccia England and SOGB guidelines.

How to enter

Entry Form

All Entry Forms (see attached) must be fully completed and submitted by email, or in person, to Mike McCarthy (mike@activlives.org.uk) or by post to ActivLives, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0HH and **received by the 16th February, 2024.**

We will assume that all players will want to play in the 'Spider decider'- please let us know if this is not the case. We will assign players to teams - you don't need to be part of one when you enter - We will organise this for you on the day!

Entry Contribution Fees

The entry contribution for this competition will be:

- **£10 per player** this includes one event and the 'Spider decider'.

All fees must be paid by **16th February, 2024 (unless otherwise agreed)**.

Cheques must be made payable to 'ActivLives' and sent to Mike McCarthy, Inclusive Boccia Tournament, ActivLives, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 0HH) with completed Entry Forms. Please do not send cash through the post.

Alternatively, you can pay via direct payment to:

Account name - ActivLives, Account number - 64484106, Sort code 53-61-24

Include the Athlete's name and the word 'boccia'

Entry contributions are not usually refundable. Any exceptions to this would be at the discretion of the organisers.

Venue

The venue is a local council facility. There is plenty of free parking available on site.

The competition will take place in the Main Sports Hall.

The hall has four badminton courts. There is lift access to the upstairs facilities.

Covid-19

The UK Government Guidance removed all legal restrictions relating to Covid-19 (as of 24/02/22), however, we continue to adhere to the NHS advice of Hands. Face. Space and Fresh Air.

This means that we continue to:

- Encourage all participants/staff/volunteers to self-assess for symptoms before attending
- Sanitise hands (Provide hand sanitiser)
- Optional wearing of a face covering particularly when in close contact with participants (e.g. when taking payments and in the event of an emergency/accident)
- Maintain physical distance (1m+) from others whenever possible
- Ventilate the activity area as appropriate

Toilet and Changing

Accessible toilet, changing and showering facilities are available at the venue.

Refreshments

There will only be limited refreshments available at the centre (vending machines).

Participants and spectators are advised to bring a packed lunch.

Spectators

There is space available for spectators to sit on the balcony. There will also be some spectator space in the sports hall.

Transport

Off-road car parking is available at the venue.

First Aid and Medical

There will be first aid cover at the event provided by the facility operators - Ipswich Borough Council. Should the need arise, Ipswich Borough Council staff will be responsible for calling the emergency services.

It is the **Coaches/Carers/Support responsibility** to ensure that they have access to relevant health information for all members of their group, in the event of an emergency.

Insurance

This event is covered by Public Liability insurance, through ActivLives.

Photos/Videos

Cameras will not be registered at this event. If you are taking photographs please do this responsibly and do not distract players during the games.

The organisers of this event will be taking photographs and the local press will be invited to attend. Please inform the organisers if you, or any of your players, do not wish to be photographed.

Volunteer (Coach/Escort) Eligibility

All volunteers who are travelling with athletes and fulfilling a specific role are the responsibility of the relevant Head Coach.

Volunteers should meet the minimum age requirement of 16 on the date of this event. Volunteers who are 16 & 17 years of age should only be assigned to fulfill supervised roles.

Club Head Coaches

Head Coaches must be appointed by their relevant Club/Organisation and are required to attend the Head Coaches briefing which will be held on the day of the competition. Head Coaches are also responsible for submitting all of the forms relating to the tournament and checking that all individuals are entered into the correct events at the appropriate level for their playing standard.

Head Coaches should keep a photocopy of every form that is submitted. They are also responsible for managing their players during the competition.

Athlete to Volunteer (Coach/Escort) ratio

The maximum ratio of Athletes to Volunteers (coach/escorts) for this event is 4:1

Competition Format

- All competitors at this event will be 'divisioned' using Boccia England/SOGB guidelines
- Divisioning may be subject to change on the day
- Players will play as an individual, or as part of a pair - this will be dependent upon entries and divisions
- The format for each of the divisions will be round-robin groups. Every effort will be made to ensure that these groups are as closely matched as possible in terms of playing ability and boccia experience
- The Organisers reserve the right to reallocate players/pairings to an alternative division on the day
- Placings within the groups will be determined by the number of points won in all of the matches. If two pairs/players have the same points total at the end of the competition then their performance against each other will determine which of the two is placed higher in the final group standings. A play-off will be used if the teams are still tied.

- Groups/pairings may be mixed gender dependent upon entries
- All matches will be played over four ends
- We plan to have a Referee and a Supporting Official on each court

Format for the ‘Spider decider’ Team Event

This is an informal, fun event that is based upon mixed ability teams.

- All of the players will be placed into a mixed ability team
- Each team will consist of an even number of players dependent upon entries
- Each team will be assigned a ‘coach’ for this event
- The two teams in each match, will sit opposite each other at either end of the court (one red, one blue team)
- Each match will consist of a pre-set number of games of ‘Spider’ where all players propel one ball, simultaneously, at the jack (placed on court by the referee)
- The winning team will be the one with the most points at the end of the pre-set number of games
- All players in the team must take part in the event
- Awards will be presented to all members of the winning teams

Boccia Rules

The groups/divisions will be run in accordance with the **Rules of Boccia** as recognised by Boccia England and World Boccia (BISFed)

Officials decisions and etiquette

- The Officials decision is final at all times
- All players, coaches and spectators are asked to respect the efforts of all of the players and volunteer officials throughout the day
- Players are asked to thank their partners, opponents and officials after each match
- Spectators are asked to show their appreciation of the efforts of all players throughout the day.

Awards

Medals will be awarded to the first three pairs/players in each division, irrespective of how many competitors there are. Certificates/ribbons will be awarded to the pairs/teams/players who finish in all of the remaining places in each division.

Alcohol, Tobacco and/or Illegal substances

No alcohol or tobacco products or illegal substances are permitted inside or outside the competition venue.

Final Note

The closing date for entries is **Friday 16th February, 2024**. If you do have any queries please email Mike McCarthy at mike@activlives.org.uk or telephone 07531 236442

We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd March!