

**Blaze Sports America**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2011 PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES**  
**Boccia**  
**February 9, 2011**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a citizen of the United States at the time of nomination and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

2. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) (PAG only) standards for participation (if any):

Athlete does not have to be listed on the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association ("CPISRA") Boccia World Individual Ranking List ("Ranking List") to be eligible for selection to the 2011 ParaPan American Games.

Athlete must be at least 15 years of age as of January 1, 2011.

3. Other requirements (if any):

At the time of nomination, an athlete must have an IPC/CPISRA International Classification with an international sport class status of R-Review or C-Confirmed, or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to be internationally classified, the athlete must be evaluated by USOC medical and/or Paralympic staff and determined likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team; provided that athletes with an international sport class status of N-New are allowable for entry on the official team nomination into the 2011 ParaPan American Games. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current international athlete sport class status can be found at the CPISRA website at <http://cpisra.org/index.php?id=82>. In addition, a brief description of the pertinent classification information can be found in the Boccia Classification Summary (Attachment 1).

Must be a member in good standing with BlazeSports America (BSA).

B. Tryout Events:

1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

See I.C.

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the trials, events or camps listed above in B. 1 (if any).

See I.C.

C. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team Nominees (including maximum Team size).

1. If there is only one slot allotted per class for individual events (BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC4), then the top ranked player in each class on the BlazeSports America National Ranking List as of August 28, 2011, will be nominated to the Team. The BlazeSports America National Ranking List can be found at: <http://www.blazesports.org/>
2. If, for any reason, additional slots are awarded unexpectedly, a replacement athlete is needed or an athlete declines the invitation to be on the 2011 ParaPan American Games Team, the following factors (not in priority order) will be taken into consideration in order to fill the slot:
  - a. 2011 National Boccia Championship results
  - b. BlazeSports America National Ranking List as of August 28, 2011
  - c. Historical knowledge and past performance of the player
  - d. The particular event/class needed for the open slot
  - e. Experience and skill
  - f. Communication, leadership skills and maturity
  - g. Team cohesiveness both on and off the court
  - h. The athlete’s capacity to sustain performance throughout competition
  - i. The athlete’s willingness to put the success of the team first
  - j. Any additional areas outlined in the Player Assessment Form (Attachment 2)

- D. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the names and titles of the current members.

Jeff Jones - BSA Director of Sports & Recreation  
Cathy Drobny - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
Kathy Brinker - Former Boccia National Team Coach  
Marybeth Jones - Former BSA Boccia Sports Manager  
JJ Lewis - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
James Thompson - Athlete Representative, former Paralympian

## II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

- A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of Boccia is not a measured or timed event. It is the belief of BlazeSports America that the selection criteria set out in I.C.2 and Attachment 2, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of athletes to comprise the best Team. Discretionary Selection is not a separate process but is a part of the primary Team selection process.

- B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

See I.C.2 above.

- C. Discretionary Selection Committee

Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members currently serving on the committee and their titles:

The Boccia Athlete Selection Committee shall be comprised of the following individuals:

Cathy Drobny - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
Kathy Brinker - Former Boccia National Team Coach  
Marybeth Jones - Former BSA Boccia Sports Manager  
JJ Lewis - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
James Thompson - Athlete Representative, former Paralympian

## III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC, BlazeSports America has

jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by BlazeSports America may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by BlazeSports America:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the CEO of BlazeSports America.
- Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) as approved by BlazeSports America. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- Violation of the BlazeSports America National/Paralympic Team Code of Conduct (Attachment 3).
- Re-classification of the athlete by the IPC, such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the Team.
- Removal by the IPC of the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team, from the program of the 2011 ParaPan American Games.
- Not attending required training camps without a valid excuse

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the BlazeSports America Complaint Procedures for National or U.S. Paralympic Teams (Attachment 4) or the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- B. After acceptance of nominations by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

A Team member who is accepted by the USOC is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- C. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, CPISRA, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

#### **IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

See I.C.2 above.

B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur:

i. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

See I.C.2 above.

ii. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC:

Replacement after September 14, 2011 (final entry by name due to the Local Organizing Committee) requires approval of the IPC.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

i. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:  
Refer to Section II.C.

ii. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the Team:

a. prior to acceptance of nominations by the USOC:  
Refer to Section II.C.

b. after acceptance of nominations by the USOC:  
Refer to Section IV.B.ii.

## V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

BlazeSports America will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the ParaPan American Games and are included as attachments:

BlazeSports America National/Paralympic Team Code of Conduct  
(Attachment 3)

## VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by BlazeSports America in the following locations:

- A. NGB/PSO/HPMO Web site: [www.blazesports.org](http://www.blazesports.org) and [www.usparalympic.org](http://www.usparalympic.org)  
These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOC.
- B. NGB/PSO/HPMO Official Publication (if any):  
BSA electronic newsletter
- C. Other: N/A

### **VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before: August 29, 2011

### **IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

After nomination to the Team, athletes may be required to attend a separate training session prior to departure for the 2011 ParaPan American Games that will be designated by the Head Coach. The dates and locations of these training sessions will be confirmed no later than 30 days prior to the training. Dates and locations will be posted on [www.blazesports.org](http://www.blazesports.org).

While waivers for this mandatory training will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for illness, injury or other incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All candidates for the team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of team activities. Requests for a waiver may be submitted in writing to the Head Coach and the BSA Sport Manager for Boccia for review. A response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request.

### **X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, CP-ISRA, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, CP-ISRA, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

## **XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Jeffery Jones- BSA Director of Sports and Recreation  
Cathy Drobny - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
Marybeth Jones - Former BSA Boccia Sports Manager  
Mary Knudsen - Member of BSA Boccia Sports Advisory Committee  
James Thompson - Athlete Representative, former Paralympian

## **XII. NGB/PSO/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The BlazeSports America Complaint Procedures for National or U.S. Paralympic Teams are included with this document as Attachment 4.

## **XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC and/or CP-ISRA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC and/or CP-ISRA rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to BlazeSports America. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.

## **XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by BlazeSports America may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, John W. Ruger, by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.888athlete.org](http://www.888athlete.org)

## **XV. NGB/PSO/HPMO SIGNATURES**

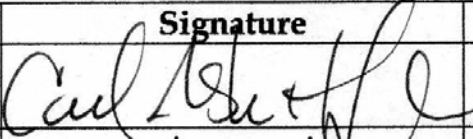
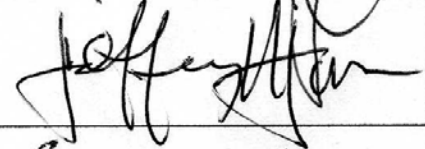

**I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF and/or CF (PAG only), if applicable, standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures**

**represents the method approved by BlazeSports America.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
CEO BlazeSports America	Carol Mushett Johnson		
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Jeff Jones		
BSA Athlete Representative	James Thomson		

Signature by the BSA Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures and certifies that the Selection Procedures submitted represent the method approved by the NGB/PSO/HPMO. If the BSA Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance representative.

represents the method approved by BlazeSports America.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
CEO BlazeSports America	Carol Mushett Johnson		3/1/11
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Jeff Jones		3/1/11
BSA Athlete Representative	James Thomson		2/21/2011

Signature by the BSA Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures and certifies that the Selection Procedures submitted represent the method approved by the NGB/PSO/HPMO. If the BSA Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance representative.

## **Boccia Classification Summary**

### **Eligibility for play**

Eligibility to compete is described in detail in the Classification Section of the CPISRA Rules Manual. The Manual contains details of the classification profiles as well as the process for athlete classification, reclassification and protests.

### **Divisions of Play**

#### **General**

There are seven divisions of play. Each division is played by competitors of either sex. The divisions are:

- Individual BC 1
- Individual BC 2
- Individual BC 3
- Individual BC 4
- Pairs - for Players classified as BC 3
- Pairs - for Players classified as BC 4
- Team - for Players classified as BC 1 and BC 2

#### **Individual BC1**

is played by Players classified within the CPISRA Classification system as CP1 or CP2 (foot Player). Players may be assisted by one Sport Assistant, who should be positioned behind the playing box in a designated area. These Sport Assistants perform tasks such as:

- adjust or stabilize the playing chair
- passing a ball to the Player
- to roll the ball

#### **Individual BC2**

is played by Players classified within the CPISRA Classification system as CP2 (U). Players are not eligible for assistance by a Sport Assistant. They can only ask assistance from the Referee, in their time, to pick up a dropped ball from the court or to go into the court.

#### **Individual BC3 (Players using an assistive device)**

is played by Players with a very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities of a cerebral or non-cerebral origin. Players will not functionally propel the wheelchair

and will be dependent on assistance or an electric wheelchair. Players will have no sustained grasp or release action. They may have arm movement, but have insufficient functional range of movement to consistently propel a Boccia ball into court. Each Player is allowed to be assisted by a Sport Assistant, who will remain in the player's box, but who must keep his/her back to court, and eyes averted from play. (ref. 11.1.3/13.1).

### **Individual BC4**

is played by Players with a severe locomotor dysfunction of all four extremities combined with poor dynamic trunk control, with non-cerebral origin or degenerative cerebral origin. The Player will be able to demonstrate sufficient dexterity to manipulate and throw a Boccia ball consistently into court. Poor grasp and release will be evident, combined with poor timing of release and follow through. Lack of control over smoothness and speed of movement and synchronization may also be observable. Players are not eligible for assistance by a Sport Assistant. They can only ask assistance from the Referee, in their time, to pick up a dropped ball from the court or go into the court.

### **Pairs BC3**

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC3 division. A Pair BC3 must include a substitute. Exceptions will be at discretion of the CBC whose decision will be final. A Pair BC3 must include at least one CP Player on court. Each Player may be assisted by a Sport Assistant as determined in rules relating to individual play. The rules for play in this section are the same as for team competition except that boxes 2-5 are used in appropriate sequence.

### **Pairs BC4**

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC4 division. A Pair BC4 must include a substitute. Exceptions will be at discretion of the CBC whose decision will be final. The rules for play in this section are the same as for team competition except that boxes 2-5 are used in appropriate sequence.

### **Team**

Competitors must be classified as eligible to play in the individual BC1 or BC2 division. A team must include at least one BC1 Player on court. Each team is allowed one (1) Sport Assistant who must abide by the rules laid down under individual BC1. Each Team must start the match with three Players on court and is allowed to have one or two substitutes. Where there are two substitutes, the Team must include two BC1 Players.

## BlazeSports America Player Assessment Form Boccia

Players will be assessed in the following areas.

The scale for numerical assessment is:

- 1 – Deficient
- 2 – Needs improvement
- 3 – Nationally capable
- 4 – Internationally capable
- 5- Internationally exceptional

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Offense:</b>	
Aim and Precision with ball	
Ability to adjust during a game	
Balls out of bounds	
Point scoring	
Strategy and Game sense	
All-court play	
Ability to play in any section of the court	
<b>Defense:</b>	
Blocking	
Scoring against	
Strategy and Game sense	
<b>Other:</b>	
Team Work	
Communication	
Leadership	
Following commands from captain	
Analytical skills (who should take the shot)	
Sportsmanship	
Responsiveness to coaching (on court)	
Responsiveness to coaching (off court)	
Stamina and endurance	
Knowledge of rules	
Preparedness for Competition	

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Print

Signature



## **BLAZESPORTS AMERICA NATIONAL/PARALMPIC TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT**

I pledge to uphold the spirit of this Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of a BlazeSports America National Team or a U.S. Paralympics Team to international competition (the “Team”). This Code applies to those Paralympic sports in which the USOC has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code. I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my membership on the Team.

### **As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:**

- will abide by all rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by the BlazeSports America;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will submit to a physical examination approved by BlazeSports America medical personnel if my ability to compete is compromised due to physical injury, illness or incapacity and I understand that such physical injury, illness or incapacity may be cause for my not being selected to the Team, being removed from the Team, or not being allowed to participate if I remain on the Team.
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) or BlazeSports America rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of the IPC and its pertinent committees, and its pertinent member organizations and under the rules of BlazeSports America;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;
- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior nor in any form of verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;

- will follow the Team rules, whether set by Team leadership or adopted by consensus, including by way of example, rules regarding curfew and required attendance at Team meetings;
- agree to wear the uniforms approved by BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division at official activities sponsored by BlazeSports America or the USOC as directed by USOC Paralympics Division staff, and I agree to compete in the BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division approved Team uniform, where such a uniform is provided, in competitions at which I am supported by the USOC through its Paralympics Division. I agree to wear the names and logos of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division sponsors, suppliers and licensees on Team competition wear, other uniforms and casual wear as provided by BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division. I agree to not alter any Team uniform, either by removing or obstructing the names or logos of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division Team sponsors, suppliers and licensees or by adding patches, stickers, or other means of displaying unauthorized names, logos or messages;
- agree to not demean or defame BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division or its sponsors, their names, logos, marks, products or services. I acknowledge that endorsing and supporting BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division sponsors through my actions and words reflects well on the team and on those supporting the team.
- agree to be filmed, videotaped and photographed, and to have my image and voice otherwise recorded, in any media, during any event I am attending under the auspices of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division, by BlazeSports America's and/or the USOC Paralympics Division's official photographer(s), film crew(s) and video crew(s), and by any other entity authorized by BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division, under the conditions specified by BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division. I hereby grant BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division the irrevocable, perpetual, fully paid-up, worldwide right and license to use, and to authorize third parties to use, in all media, my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for: (1) news and information purposes, (2) promotion of the Paralympic movement and the specific competition(s) in which I compete, (3) promotion of the Team, and (4) promotion of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division; in no event may BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division apparel or equipment or the use of any BlazeSports America logo (including, without limitation, any Paralympic logo) for the purpose of trade, promotion, fund raising or on merchandise, without the prior written consent of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division;
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, the Team, BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division, and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and BlazeSports America and/or the USOC Paralympics Division.

**ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN**

I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, toll free at 888.ATHLETE (888.284.5383), [John.Ruger@usoc.org](mailto:John.Ruger@usoc.org) or [www.888athlete.org](http://www.888athlete.org) for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by BlazeSports America or US Paralympics.

**PARTICIPANTS' AFFIRMATION**

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being a member of the Team.

---

Signature	Date
<b>BlazeSports America</b>	<b>BOCCIA Sport</b>

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION**

**(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)**

---

Signature	Date
-----------	------

Relationship (Parent or Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_

**BLAZESPORTS AMERICA  
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES  
FOR  
NATIONAL OR U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAMS**

Section 1. Jurisdiction.

These Complaint Procedures are applicable to those Paralympic sports in which the USOC has not recognized a National Governing Body or a Paralympic Sport Organization to govern the sport. Only matters concerning those Paralympic sports fall within the jurisdiction of these Complaint Procedures.

Section 2. Designation of Complaints.

The following kinds of complaints may be filed with BlazeSports America and/or the USOC:

- a. Administrative Grievance. Any aggrieved individual may file a complaint pertaining to any matter relating to the cognizance of BlazeSports America and/or the USOC, including but not limited to any alleged violation of or grievance concerning any BlazeSports America rule, regulation or code of conduct.
- b. Right to Compete. Any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official may file a complaint pertaining to any alleged denial, or alleged threat to deny, of that individual's opportunity to compete in a BlazeSports America or USOC sponsored competition.

Section 3. Manner of Filing.

The complainant shall file the complaint with the BlazeSports America Chief Executive Officer. The complaint shall set forth in clear and concise language, preferably in numbered paragraphs: (i) the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny and (ii) the remedy requested. The complainant shall sign the complaint.

Section 4. Statute of Limitations.

A complaint filed under these Complaint Procedures shall be filed within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the occurrence of the alleged violation, grievance, denial or threat to deny.

Section 5. Field of Play Decisions.

The final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable through the procedures for, or the subject of, Administrative Grievances or Right to Compete Complaints unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee to make or (ii) the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Section, the term "referee" shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play

decisions.

#### Section 6. Hearing Panel.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the BlazeSports America Chief Executive Officer shall appoint a hearing panel consisting of three (3) individuals to hear the complaint. The Chief Executive Officer shall also appoint a chair of the hearing panel from among the three individuals appointed. At least one member of the hearing panel shall be an athlete.

The Hearing Panel shall be responsible to ensure that all complaints are heard in a timely, fair and impartial manner.

#### Section 7. Administration.

The General Counsel of BlazeSports America shall generally administer and oversee all administrative grievances and right to compete matters filed with BlazeSports America.

#### Section 8. Conduct of the Proceeding.

The hearing panel shall rule on all motions and other matters raised in the proceeding. If the complaint is not dismissed, the hearing panel shall hold a hearing on the complaint. The hearing panel shall set such timelines and other rules regarding the proceeding and the conduct of the hearing as it deems necessary. The hearing shall be informal, except that testimony shall be taken under oath.

The hearing may be conducted by teleconference, if necessary or convenient to the parties. Each party shall have the right to appear personally or through a legal representative. All parties shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present and examine evidence, cross-examine witnesses and to present argument. Members of the hearing panel shall have the right to question witnesses or the parties to the proceeding at any time.

Any party may have a record made of the hearing. A court reporter may be present at the hearing at the request of a party. The court reporter shall be paid for by the party requesting the court reporter, or if mutually agreed, the cost may be equally divided. Any transcript shall be paid for by the party requesting the transcript.

#### Section 9. Expedited Procedures.

Upon the request of a party, and provided that it is necessary to expedite the proceeding in order to resolve a matter relating to a competition that is so scheduled that compliance with regular procedures would not be likely to produce a sufficiently early decision to do justice to the affected parties, the BlazeSports America Chief Executive Officer is authorized to order that the complaint be heard and decided within forty-eight (48) hours of the filing of the complaint. In such a case, the hearing panel is authorized to hear and decide the complaint pursuant to such procedures as are necessary, but fair to the parties involved.

#### Section 10. Complaints Involving Selection to Participate in a Competition.

Where a complaint is filed involving selection of an individual to participate in a competition, the complainant shall include with the complaint a list of all other individuals, together with their contact information, that may be adversely affected by a decision rendered on the complaint. The hearing panel shall determine which additional individuals must receive notice of the complaint. The complainant shall then be responsible for providing appropriate notice to these individuals. Any individual so notified then shall have the option to participate in the proceeding as a party. If an individual is notified of the complaint, then that individual shall be bound by the decision of the hearing panel even though the individual chose not to participate as a party.

#### Section 11. Decision.

A decision shall be determined by a majority of the hearing panel. The hearing panel's decision shall be in writing, shall state the reasons for the decision and shall be distributed to the parties.

#### Section 12. Arbitration.

Any party may appeal a decision of the hearing panel to the American Arbitration Association. The arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association shall have the authority to hear the matter anew or if requested by a party to render a decision on a more limited review. Either party may submit the decision of the hearing panel to the arbitrator for the arbitrator's consideration. The arbitrator may give whatever weight or authority to the hearing panel's decision as the arbitrator deems appropriate.