



## **JOINT VISUALLY IMPAIRED BOWLS ENGLAND /DISABILITY BOWLS ENGLAND SIGHT CLASSIFICATION FOR PLAYERS IN ENGLAND WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT.**

Visually Impaired Bowls England (VIBE) and Disability Bowls England (DBE) recognise the need for one sight classification system (B1 – B4) for all VIBE & DBE members in line with the laws and guidance from International Blind Bowls Association (IBBA), International Bowls for the Disabled (IBD), World Bowls and Commonwealth Games England.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. The VIBE Sight Certificate Officer will coordinate and maintain the player database for all VIBE members and submit to the IBBA for confirmation prior to international tournaments or events.
2. The DBE Development Office will coordinate and maintain the VI's players database for all DBE members and submit to the IBD for confirmation prior to International, World tournaments and Commonwealth games.
3. Visually Impaired player assessments shall be carried out by a registered Ophthalmologist or Optometrist with experience in low vision assessment, using the joint Sight Classification Application form. Such assessors must be independent from the player being assessed.

### **Procedure:**

1. VIBE members should send their completed Sight Classification Application form to the VIBE Sight Certificate Officer for checking and recording on the VIBE Database.
2. DBE members should send their completed Sight Classification Application to the VI Classification Co-ordinator for checking and recording on the DBE Database.
3. The VIBE Sight Certificate Officer will submit completed application forms to the DBE VI Classification Co-ordinator to forward to the agreed

appointed Joint National Visual Impaired classifier, who will process and award a classification.

4. On receipt of the award, the DBE VI Classification Co-ordinator will forward the respective VIBE award to the VIBE Sight Certificate Officer.
5. The VIBE Sight Certificate Officer will keep a record of the award, send a copy to the VIBE member and inform the IBBA/IBD.
6. The DBE VI Classification Co-ordinator will keep a record of the DBE award, send a copy to the DBE member and inform the IBD.
7. This Certificate is valid for Visually Impaired Bowls England, Disability Bowls England (DBE) and VIB events from the date issued for FOUR YEARS after which a re-assessment must be undertaken (unless a B1 bowler has a signed Statement that they will never regain any sight).
8. A fresh certificate must be obtained, dated and approved by IBBA/IBD within 6 months prior to World or Commonwealth Games events.

#### **Appeal procedure:**

1. Players will have 14 days in which to appeal the decision.
2. A letter of appeal by a VIBE player should be forwarded to the VIBE Sight Certification Officer and a letter of appeal by a DBE player to the DBE VI Classification Co-ordinator.
3. A copy of the sight application form and appeal will be submitted by the DBE VI Classification Officer to the second National Classifier, or other approved professional body as agreed for review.
4. On receipt of the result of appeal, the DBE VI Classification Officer will forward the result of a VIBE appeal to the VIBE Classification Officer to note and advise the player and forward the result of a DBE appeal to the DBE player.
5. Following the result of the appeal, if the player then wishes to lodge a Classification Protest, they will find the form, procedure and details of protest fee on the IBBA or IBD web sites.