IBTF BATON TWIRLING RULEBOOK

7 NATIONS

2027 PARA TWIRL RULE BOOK

INTERNATIONAL BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION

Version 2, September 2026

INTRUDUCTION

Para twirl competitions are separate competition for athletes who due to their disability or condition are unable to compete in the mainstream competitions. They run alongside the standard competition during the Nations Cup event.

The rules of the events are the same as the events provided for the Technical Nation Cup competition following the content restrictions of the B level.
Content restrictions are in a separate document. For the safety of athletes, they are strongly recommended.
What you expect to see, depends on the disability of the athlete.

1. DISABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

There will be 3 Disability Classifications.
When deciding which classification a para athlete should enter, the following should be considered. What is the main reason for not accessing the standard competition?
Would it be the physical needs, learning needs or social emotional needs that affect the athlete the most.

Physical Disability

- A physical disability is a “limitation on a person’s physical functioning, mobility, dexterity or stamina”. It has a “substantial” and long-term negative effect on a person’s ability to do daily activities.
  Physical disabilities may include but are not exhaustive of: degenerative neurological conditions, traumatic brain injury (physical and birth), chromosome disorders, musculoskeletal conditions, limb differences, complex medical needs.
  The disability may impede an athlete’s ability to move or walk in a coordinated way. It may affect fluidity of movement, balance, strength and stamina. It can affect one or more limb. The athlete may require a walking aid which allows them to move and walk independently.

Learning/Intellectual Disability

- A learning or intellectual disability affects the way a person learns new things throughout their life. A person’s cognition will be affected. Cognition is a term for the mental processes that take place in the brain, including thinking, attention, language, learning, memory and perception.
  Such a disability may cause an athlete to have difficulties comprehending, processing and retaining information (visual and directory) that it presented to them, resulting in a slower level of understanding and attainment.
  Learning/intellectual disabilities may include but are not exhaustive of: chromosome disorders, degenerative conditions, global developmental delay and traumatic brain injury.

Social Emotional and mental Health (SEMH)

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH) are a specific type of Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). Children and young adults with SEMH have severe difficulties in managing their emotions and behavior.
  This may be due to a number of conditions including Autism spectrum condition, ADHD, Tourette's social anxiety disorder, personality disorder and mood affective disorders.
  The SEMH condition may/will impede an athlete ability to interact with others, communicate, behave and manage themselves in social setting situations.
  Athletes with SEMH needs may have an additional learning or physical disability. When deciding which classification a para athlete should enter, as stated above it should be considered whether it is the physical needs, learning needs or social emotional needs that affect the athlete the most.

  If support is required when deciding, please, liaise with Para twirl lead, GEMMA MILNE, who can advise.

  Email Address: gemmatwirl@yahoo.co.uk

ELIGIBILITY IN ORDER TO COMPETE

Athletes will only be eligible for entry to the Para twirl competitions by submitting the following:

- disability certificate issued by an authorized body with the diagnosis
- certificate of suitability for competitive practice

Medical certificates may be written in the language of the athlete's country.
The IBTF will provide a summary form to be filled in by the country that will assume responsibility for it.

Athletes with the above-named disabilities/conditions do NOT have to compete in the Para twirl competition, if they are able and will compete in standard competition.
Once selected where to compete, they must stay for the duration of the competition season.
They can still participate in pair, team or group events.

2. AGE DIVISION

The minimum age to compete is 12 years old.

12 – 14 years	YOUTH
15 – 17 years	JUNIOR
18 and more	SENIOR

Competitors will be separated by gender and declared disability (3 classifications).

3. PARATWIRL EVENTS:

- Para Solo 1 Baton
- Para Artistic Twirl

The para events will be open to all Para athletes, following the content restrictions of the Technical Nations Cup B level. Content restrictions are in a separate document.
Drops and falls will not be penalized.
Gymnastics will be permitted where appropriate.
The Para solo music is the Technical Nations Cup A & B level version (1’45’’).
Athletes may finish their routine before the end of the music.
Artistic twirl is the Technical Nation Cup music.

4. ALLOTEMENT OF NUMBER OF ATHLETES

Each Country may elect to enter:

- 6 female athletes in total
- 6 male athletes in total

Country determines the age division and discipline each athlete will enter according to age classification rules.

5. ASSISTANCE

A Para athlete may have a support person if required when competing in any para individual event. This should be limited to one person.
Athletes may use accommodations such as ear defenders and dark glasses.

6. COSTUME & BATON

Costuming is free, bearing in mind this is a sporting event. Any costume deemed inappropriate or indecent will result in disqualification.
Shoes must be worn.

The baton must be a maximum of 34 inches long.
The shaft may be made of metal or plastic.
The tips and balls may be made of rubber or soft material.
All colors are permitted

7. MAKE UP

Natural feature enhancing make up is permitted but no drawing, glitter or attachments allowed.

8. JUDGING SYSTEM

We appreciate that some athletes may compete and perform their routine in a different way that is in line with their disability.

This may be their ability to present showmanship or the use of both arms for example.

Our judging team will be undertaking specific webinars and training that focus on how the para twirl athletes may perform. This will aim to educate our judges on how to analyze these sections and how to support the development of Para athletes.

A short-term rating system will award gold, silver or bronze based on achievement against scoring benchmarks rather than direct placement.

DETAIL OF THE JUDGING SYSTEM

There are 4 skill levels:

Average (score 30, 40)
Good (score 50, 60)
Excellent (score 70, 80)
Superior (score 90, 100)

Once the ability range has been identified, choose one of the 2 scores (example: Average: score 30 or 40. Not decimal numbers)

Tabulation:

- Add the scores and divide by the number of the judging criteria (5) to obtain the judge average score
- Add the judges average score and divide by the number of the judges to determine the award:

  FINAL TOTAL AVERAGE SCORE
  from 30 to 40 points BRONZE
  from 41 to 75 points SILVER
  from 76 to 100 points GOLD

PARA TWIRL **SOLO AND ARTISTIC TWIRL**				
SCORE SHEET				
	ABILITY RANGE			
	AVERAGE	**GOOD**	**EXCELLENT**	**SUPERIOR**

	Up to 40%	50% - 60%	70% - 80%	90% - 100%
	SCORE			
JUDGING CRITERIA	30 - 40	50 - 60	70 - 80	90 -100
CORRECT TECNIQUE				
VARIETY OF MOVEMENTS				
SKILL within the potential athletes' ability				
COMPOSITION				
PERFORMANCE				

TOTAL	
AVERAGE (divide by 5)	

Once the ability range has been identified, choose one of the two scores below (example Average: score could be 30 or 40)

Tabulation:

- add the scores divided by the number of the judges criteria (5) to obtain the judge average score
- add the judges average score divided the number of the judges to obtain the final average score

Ranking and rewards

Total Average score	from 30 to 40	BRONZE
	from 41 to 75	SILVER
	from 76 to 100	GOLD

Para Solo and Para Artistic Twirl

Content Restrictions

A maximum of only 2 acrobatic movements are allowed in Solo, with or without a toss

No acrobatic movements restrictions in Artistic Twirl

Level B

Spins	**2 Spin** Maximum with no restrictions on release or catch and **3 Spin** maximum allowed with standard release and catch only.
Acrobatic movements	A Single acrobatic movement under the toss for a maximum of 2 (only) acrobatic movements Aerial acrobatics are not allowed with or without the toss. **Baton** Releases No Restrictions Receptions No Restrictions
Stationary & Traveling Complex	Single major body move under the toss **Baton** Releases No Restrictions Reception No Restrictions
Rolls	• No continuous front neck rolls (with or without hands) • No front neck figure 8's • No monster rolls (partial or complete)
Contact Material	No Restrictions

Clarification: One major body move is allowed under a toss in Level B.

Drops and falls are not considered.

For 2027 there will be no penalties for restrictions, but this guideline should be respected.