# Comedian Chris McCausland announced as first blind contestant on 2024 Strictly Come Dancing series



Comedian Chris McCausland has been announced as the first blind contestant on the 2024 series of Strictly Come Dancing, according to reports. McCausland, a 46-year-old Liverpool native, lost his sight at the age of 22 due to the hereditary condition retinitis pigmentosa. Known for his appearances on panel shows and CBeebies, McCausland is the first participant revealed for the 22nd series set to air this autumn. He follows actor Rose Ayling-Ellis, who became the show's first deaf contestant and winner in 2021.

McCausland's participation is seen as a significant step for disability representation on the show. Although the BBC has not officially confirmed his participation, sources indicate that producers are delighted with his signing and believe his humor and personality will make him a strong competitor. McCausland's involvement comes amidst a period of controversy for the show, with professional dancer Giovanni Pernice under investigation for alleged misconduct following complaints from past celebrity partners. Pernice, who won the show in 2021 with Ayling-Ellis, has denied the allegations.

Strictly Come Dancing is set to return in September 2024.