

Around the Courts

BOCCIA ON THE MOVE



From the Chair

As the year rolled around I have enjoyed attending a range of competitions, from large state titles to small local events, across Australia. I am always excited to see our sport grow with new athletes joining our experienced athletes for fun and challenges in true the Australian sporting tradition. 2023 will conclude with a small Sydney club, Penrith having a go by putting on its first ever 2-day competition, followed by the Nationals in Brisbane in November where athletes from around Australia will test their sporting skills in a meeting full of camaraderie and challenge.

To all I hope you really enjoy the experience and are encouraged to continue playing Boccia at a competitive level in the years to come.

May your balls run true.

Richard

BA National Championships (BANT) Brisbane, QLD.

10 – 12 November 2023

- Tryouts for State teams will be happening in your state soon. Contact your State based association for further information. Make sure that you check the MASTERLIST and submit your request for face-to-face National Classification by 22 September.

Performance Pathway Update

Congratulations to JP LaFontaine (QLD) who was recently successful in receiving a Talent Support Plan (TSP) from the Queensland Academies of Sport (QAS). As a part of the QAS 2032 High Performance Strategy, they recently launched a new program called the Talent Support Plan. The TSP program supports a small number of athletes who have been identified as having genuine potential to achieve medal winning performances in future Paralympic Games.



Also, congratulations to Jack Tori from VIC who has been successful in receiving a small scholarship from the Victorian Regional Academies of Sport (VRAS) Para-Sport Program. This program aims to remove barriers for athletes in regional areas by offering access to support from the expertise of professionals within the Regional Academies. We look forward to supporting both athletes on their Boccia journey.

High Performance

A small team including JP La Fontaine, Aaryan Shah and Lachlan Kavanagh travelled to Chile in June to contest the

Santiago Boccia Challenger. For Lachlan this was his return to the international stage after a ten-year hiatus. Both Aaryan and JP progressed to the knockout rounds, finishing fifth & sixth respectively.

The conditions were certainly challenging for the three athletes in a very chilly climate but they did well to adjust quickly and be competitive. This event provided a key learning opportunity for them all, having identified areas for growth to achieve more. Thanks to Peter, Bruna & Luisa for your coaching and team support.

The high-performance athletes Dan Michel, Jamieson Leeson and Spencer Cotie are in a long training phase as they prepare for upcoming World Cups. Spencer and ramp operator Tom Lunn will head to Fortaleza, Brazil in September with Dan & Jam and their respective RO's heading to Portugal in October with a view to retaining their undefeated status in the BC3 Pairs.

Want to be a Referee?



Officials are critical to the success of boccia and the experience of our athletes. Refereeing is both fun and challenging and is a deeply rewarding way to contribute to boccia.

Click on the link for more information [Become a Referee](#) or contact Lisa at referee@boccia.com.au

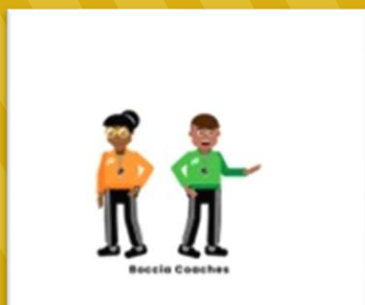
Classification



An updated [MASTERLIST](#) has been added to the BA website. The next classification event will be held at Nationals (Thursday 9th November). Priority will be given to those selected in their state team and are competing with additional spots allocated for those not competing. If you have been selected for your state team and need a Provisional Classification prior to nationals this will need to be submitted by **Friday 22nd Sept.** Contact classification@boccia.com.au for a Provisional Classification & Medical Diagnostic form.

All players are asked to complete the [Fundamentals of Classification](#) via Sport Integrity Australia prior to attending classification.

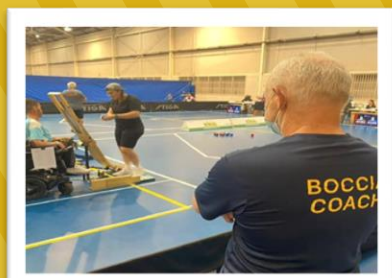
Community of Support (Boccia Coaches)



The first Community of Support was held in July where the guidelines were set and some dates for the next 3 meetings. The purpose is to create a network of coaches to connect, share and discuss what is happening in their environment.

If you would like to join the Community of Support (Boccia Coaches) please contact Ken Halliday kenhalliday51@optusnet.com.au who will send you a copy of the guidelines and a link to the next meeting.

Coach Learning & Development



The updated level 1 [Boccia Coach Learning & Development](#) modules are now available via the BA website. Level 2 is being rolled out over the coming weeks, keep an eye on the website. The two levels will form the basis of our Coach Learning & Development.

The new Level 3 Coach Learning & Development is based around building your profile as a coach: Modules that will support key themes are; know your coaching philosophy, building your environment, know the athlete and know the Sport. These modules are currently being piloted and then will be offered face-to-face over a 12month period; starting in 2024.

*NOTE: If you are currently coaching in your club environment, you need to ensure that you have a current [Working with Children Check](#) in your State **and** obtain a [National Police Check](#). Expect a follow up from BA in the coming weeks. Any questions or queries please reach out to brenda.tierney@boccia.com.au*

General UPdates

New Ramps available in Australia

Looking for a new ramp for you or your club? This may be the perfect ramp!

The ramp is made from easy to clean, non-toxic clear coat and constructed with premium 12mm ply. The ramp comes in 3 parts so that length and height can be easily adjusted. Its Australian made and assembled by Freedom Solutions Volunteers (formerly known as TAD).

For more information click on the link:

[Boccia Ramp – Freedom Solutions Australia](#)



freedom
solutions
australia



Check out the World Rankings on the World Boccia website via this [LINK](#).
Australian National rankings are available [Australian National Rankings](#)



Launceston Boccia

The Launceston Boccia group has 10 members. We practise once a week under the guidance of coach Ro Blaney, and with an impressive group of sports assistants. First, we do a warm-up, rolling balls and throwing different distances. Then we usually split up in groups and play individual games or pairs. Lately, we have been doing some fun exercises. We love the one that is having a group of 4-5 on either side of the room. Players then take turn to push a larger, soft ball over the other side's line. It gets very noisy!

Our players Minna Blaney (BC5) and Nick Milner (BC2) recently travelled to Brisbane to play in the Qld State Titles. Both gave it their best. They had a great time competing and meeting with their Boccia friends from other clubs. Nick managed to come home with a silver medal, after some fierce competition.



Now we are looking forward to the Nationals, in Brisbane and, who knows, maybe some other competitions.

Save the Date! Tassie Titles to be held 21st - 24th March 2024 in Hobart. For more information contact Kevin at

"I didn't know there was a sport for me until I found Boccia."

South Australia State Titles



Congratulations to everyone involved in the terrific state titles held in South Australia. It was largest boccia event in BSA history and their first in 8 years. It was wonderful to see so many athletes and their supporters who travelled from interstate to Adelaide.

Here are the results from the weekend.

BC1: 🥇 Dylan Schwarz (ACT) 🥈 Jessi Hooper (VIC) 🥉 Jack Tori (VIC)
 BC2/5: 🥇 Matthew Van Hoek (NSW) 🥈 Adam Alcorn (NSW) 🥉 Corena Harrison (ACT)
 BC3: 🥇 Gold: Liam Titterton (NSW) 🥈 Callahan Shepherd (NSW) 🥉 Max Price (SA)
 OPEN: 🥇 Gold: Dylan Evers (NSW) 🥈 James Roe (ACT) 🥉 Jet Johnson (SA)

TEAMS

- 🥇 Sydney Stars (Matthew Van Hoek, Axil Pavy & Liam Titterton)
- 🥈 Hunter (Adam Alcorn & Corey Molen)
- 🥉 Victoria (Jack Tori, Jessi Hooper & Jason Saadeh)

An event such as this requires a lot of support and the organisers, who were running a boccia competition for the first time, received a lot of support and cooperation from around Australia. Special thanks go to ACT Boccia for supplying equipment not available in SA. BA also provided support, giving advice and developing the draw as well as providing a grant through their Pathways Program. Australian Head Referee Lisa Hanssen attended upskilling referees and ensuring a high level of competition.

Boccia ACT against the Politicians



The 2023 Hill v Valley Boccia challenge was convincingly won 6-3 by the [ACT Boccia](#) team. Despite an injection of talent with David Pocock, Marisa Paterson MLA, Chris Steel MLA, Joy Burch MLA and Councillor Bryce Wilson joining the Hill team were no match for Corena, Dylan and their crew.

Watch out for the Canberra Cup in February 2024! For information contact actboccia@gmail.com

Queensland State Titles (aka Boccia Battle)

July saw Sporting Wheelies host athletes from Victoria, Tasmania and ACT who joined the Queenslanders for 2 great days of competition. Congratulations to all athletes, sports assistants and ramp operators who competed!

RESULTS

- BC1: 🏆 Christopher Allerdice (NSW) 🥈 Jessi Hooper (VIC) 🥉 Dylan Schwarz (ACT)
- BC2: 🏆 Lachlan Kavanagh (QLD) 🥈 Nick Milner (TAS) 🥉 Coreena Harrison (ACT)
- BC3: 🏆 Liam Titterton (NSW) 🥈 Lachlan Williamson (QLD) 🥉 Jaymi Ferguson (QLD)
- BC4: 🏆 Jean Paul La Fontaine (QLD) 🥈 Eddie Buttimore (QLD) 🥉 Ryan Finn (QLD)
- BC5: 🏆 Thomas Robins (QLD) 🥈 Adam Alcorn (NSW) 🥉 Matthew Van Hoek (NSW)
- OPEN: 🏆 Brent Mynott (ACT) 🥈 Trina Stewart (QLD) 🥉 Louisa Smart (Qld)

Sporting Wheelies put on another well-run, fun event. A very big thank you to the Referees and Volunteers for a big two days of competition.



There were also visitors from the AIS Coaching and Officials team who were there to interview and film boccia in action for their new on-line officiating course where Boccia will be featured. They interviewed a range of officials, athletes, coaches, and support people, with a focus on Kate Jenian, the Qld Head Referee about her journey as a boccia referee. This was a great opportunity for boccia to feature in mainstream sports training.



National titles coming up!

Around the courts athletes and coaches are starting to get ready for the Boccia Australia National Titles being held in Brisbane from Friday 10th November to Monday 13th November. All states select their athletes differently. Athletes from Queensland were selected following their state titles, and in NSW selection trials are being held in 4 different locations. Don't worry if you don't make the state team. There will be places available for athletes attending as an individual – you just wear your club uniform, not the state one! Don't be frightened to give it a go. The National titles are a great opportunity to mix with athletes across Australia and test yourself in a serious competition.

Jason's Story

After spending a few years in a wheelchair and being a keen sports fan, I wanted to try a wheelchair sport. I tried a few sports including Soccer, Rugby League, and AFL however, these just didn't suit my abilities. Then by chance I had a conversation with my Physiotherapist whose brother had DMD, and he was a Champion Boccia player. I had never heard of Boccia; however, she suggested I give it a go.

After some research I headed down to North Melbourne to meet the team of Boccia Victoria. The team, especially my mentor Jessi Hooper, made me feel welcome and part of the family.

After some tutoring, I took to the court and attempted different methods of throwing and rolling until I was comfortable. I received a great deal of encouragement, and I had finally found a sport that I could compete and be competitive at. That day planted the seed of Boccia in me, and I couldn't wait for the next session.

I borrowed some balls from Boccia Victoria and continued practicing at home and in the park. After a couple of weeks, I decided to buy a set of balls to have my own regular set. I continued practicing and after a couple of months a competition was announced in South Australia. Jessi suggested I should come along and play in this competition. I was somewhat reluctant as I hadn't been playing long and I hadn't competed in any competition for a very long time. After some thought I decided to give it a go.

I headed to Adelaide in June and discovered a new world and family. Adelaide was so professionally run I was impressed and the whole Boccia family welcomed me with open arms, with lots of encouragement and advice. I was very nervous for the whole first day and couldn't believe I was here.

My very first match I won which built up my confidence immensely, as all the hard work and coaching was paying off. I was playing against seasoned athletes and even though I didn't win another match, I was happy that I could compete with other athletes, and I pushed some to tiebreakers and won some ends. Then on the next day we played in the team's event representing Boccia Victoria. This event was so much fun and to work as a team was fantastic. We started off slow, but once we got into our rhythm, we played some good Boccia and we managed to win a Bronze Medal. It was such a proud moment for me and my team.

After Adelaide I continued to work on my skills and decided to head up to Brisbane for the Boccia Battle. Again, I was very nervous heading into this competition as I was going to be played fellow BC4 athletes that have been playing for several years. My first match I was a little rusty and got beaten well, however that made me hungrier. My next match I won an end and then I played well in my third match and managed to win it. The next day I played for a Bronze medal. I didn't win this match, however I thought I played well at times. Even though I didn't win a medal in Brisbane I had a great experience and am now looking forward to the next competition.



Jason waiting patiently for his turn to throw!

Welcome to Boccia, Jason.

JASON SAADEH
MELBOURNE