

Winter 2020 – AROUND THE COURTS



From the Chair

At last we are emerging from our pandemic slow-down and getting back to our regular boccia with big and small competitions happening across Australia. The Tasmanian Titles are this weekend, and the Hunter Cup will run for its 9th year in July. The Hunter cup is a small local event, run by a club, and designed for new players to enter the world of competition boccia. If your club wants to run a competition, there are details on how to do it on the website or contact us!

BA is very excited to announce a great new competition! Working with Boccia New Zealand we will be holding the exciting Trans-Tasman in July 2023! This will be a great opportunity to play against our friends across the ditch. So watch this space for more details!

The BA National titles will be held in Sydney in October / November 2022. Boccia NSW will host the event at Penrith – details out soon.

May your balls run true

Richard



Save the date in 2022

Tasmanian State Titles

17-18th May

Hobart

pdst@paraquadtas.org.au

Queensland State Titles aka The Boccia Battle

TBC

Brisbane

sportingwheelies.org.au

National Titles November

31st October –
4th November

Penrith, NSW

boccia@nsw.boccia.com.au

Trans-Tasman Championships

July 2023

Gold Coast, Qld

admin@boccia.com.au



The Trans-Tasman

The Trans-Tasman is an exciting new competition which will be run every 2 years – the first being in July 2023 at the Tallebudgera Leisure Camp on the Gold Coast Qld then in 2025 in New Zealand!

Athletes from NZ and Australia will represent their state/region – in a similar manner to the National titles with a Shield awarded for overall winner based on a formula to create fairness.

This will be both a challenging sporting experience for athletes on both sides of the Tasman as well as an opportunity for fun and fellowship with our Kiwi friends

More details coming but make sure you have the costs of the Trans-Tasman in your NDIS plan!



Australians represented at BISFed

BA now has 2 members who are on BISFed International committees, working to ensure Australia has input in important decisions which affect our members

Shail Maharaj has been involved in Boccia since 2007. His initial motivation was to see more kids with a disability becoming active, particularly those with significant/profound physical disability. Since then, he has gone on to classify at local, state, national and international levels. He also sits on the International Classification Committee and its Education sub-committee so he can pass on the latest information coming out of those committees.

Lucy Bates picked up a referee's bat when her husband started playing boccia in 2011. Since then, she has been involved in boccia in a range of areas from grass roots as a Hunter Boccia Club Manager to Secretary of BA and an International Referee. As a referee she regularly attends competitions across Australia and Asia. She sees being on the International Referees Committee an opportunity to help develop the standard of referring throughout the boccia community.



What's happening in Queensland?

We are very excited to be back competing in Boccia in 2022. It is great to see our players joining together socially and enjoying our sport.

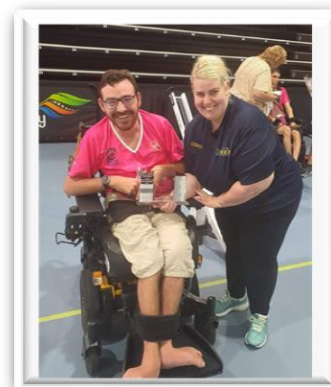
Weekly competitions are up and running in Brisbane, Redlands, Moreton Bay, Hervey Bay, Mackay and Townsville. Everyone is welcome from beginner players to those competing in national competitions.



A shout out to our members who recently competed in NSW Titles in Sydney. Samuel Thorn won 1st place BC3 (Individual). A great effort! Ryan Finn performed really well, but went down in his semi 3 to 2, and we are very proud of his effort. Jason Mayweather won the BC2 (Individual).

It was great to see the determination of our members.

Thank you to all the volunteers, players, coaches and support people who made the State Titles such a success. We are looking forward to the Brisbane Tri-series later in the year.



Congratulations to Will for winning the Elaine Slater Trophy. We are very proud of how much Will has achieved in his time at Moreton Bay Boccia.

We are happy to see the excitement in the sport – building pathways to support athletes achieve their goals.
Lisa, Sporting Wheelies

2022 World Cup Wrap Up

The BISFed World Cup in Rio de Janeiro wrapped up early this month with outstanding results from the Australian BC3 athletes.

Both Jamieson Leeson and Spencer Cotie made it through to the quarter finals whilst Dan Michel went undefeated to win the GOLD in the individual Male BC3 competition.

The athletes could not have achieved these results without their ramp operators Ash McClure, Amanda Leeson and Tom Lunn. They were further supported by coach Ken Halliday and team support, Jessica Dover-Ferraren.

More success was to come for Dan Michel, this time with partner Jamieson Leeson in the BC3 Pairs. The Pair went through the competition undefeated to win the GOLD medal against the hosts, Brazil.

The journey to and from Rio was certainly an adventure and an exercise in resilience. Overall, there were six flights and more than 65 hours of flying time. All worth it though for those two Gold medals and quarterfinal finishes! *Tex, HP Manager*





NSW State Titles.

It was wonderful to see so many players back on the court at the Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre for the Boccia NSW State Titles! Old friends and new from Victoria, ACT, and Queensland joined in what felt like a celebration of our sport, and a great competition was enjoyed by all.

A big "thank you" to the Penrith Boccia Club for hosting us, and to the folks at the PVRSC for making us feel welcome. Thank you also to Ken Halliday who organised the event and was there until 6pm on the 1st day before flying out to Rio at 5.30am on 2nd day.

BC1: 1st - Neil Dalton (Hunter).
2nd - Joseph Jenkins (Hunter).
3rd - Christopher Allerdice (Northern Beaches).

BC2: 1st - Jason Mayweather (Independent Qld)
2nd - Aaryan Shah (Independent, NSW).
3rd - Bodhi Boele (Independent, NSW).

BC3: 1st - Samuel Thorne (Moreton Bay).
2nd - Wendy Evans (Hunter).
3rd - Siobhan Daley (Hunter).

BC4/5/EMU: 1st - Fiona Porch (Penrith).
2nd - Phil Bates (Hunter).
3rd - Connor Hamlin (Penrith)

Tu Huynh Memorial Award for Sporting Excellence and Determination - Aaryan Shah.

Coaches Award - Bodhi Boele.

The PVRSC at Penrith has been selected for the 2022 BA National Titles to be held from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November



AIS Performance Pathways Workforce Grant

Boccia Australia was recently allocated AIS Pathways Workforce funding to support investment into performance pathways resources for Boccia through to June 2024.

The Workforce Grant allows Boccia Australia to engage a full time National Pathways Manager to develop and execute our Performance Pathways Strategy. The main objectives of the strategy being the identification, development, support and progression of talented athletes and coaches towards future podium success.

Why do I play Boccia?

by Jessi Hooper

I saw Boccia being played in the 2020/2021 Paralympics and as soon as I saw it, I put forward an expression of interest to join the Victoria team.

I started playing in January of 2022, and on the first day I fell in love with it. I saw it as a sport I could play as a new wheelchair user. The acceptance of the entire team was absolutely amazing, I hadn't been in an environment like it before!

I see Boccia as super fun to do with amazing people and friends

I had never played Boccia before this year, or honestly paid much notice before becoming a wheelchair user, but I don't think I can stop now! I am having too much fun!!

The team in Victoria has been nice enough to lend me some boccia balls at the moment, but so would love to purchase my own, hopefully super soon.

I have made the most amazing friends, especially in my Victorian team. We give each other a hard time, teasing each other and trying our hardest to beat each other at every practice, but these are some great friends that I have made, plus we get to play a cool sport!

I got to go to Canberra this year after only 4 weeks of training and won 2 out of 3 of my singles matches. It was definitely a fast-learning curve at my first comp, with do's and don'ts, plus learning some extra rules and expectations, and going way out of my comfort zone. Sydney was awesome as well, having some great matches, and just smiling and laughing all the time! I am so looking forward to attending the Queensland competition this year, seeing everyone and maybe advancing my competitive streak!

Jessi was classified as a BC1 in Sydney which makes her wins against strong BC5/EMU athletes all the more impressive Well-done Jessi!

Send your story to admin@boccia.com.au

Don't agree with the Referee's decision?

If at a competition you disagree with the Ref's decision, you then you must say something at the time before any balls are moved. Speak politely to the court Ref about your concern. If you still don't agree, ask for the Head Ref. They will come and make a ruling. Don't wait till the end of the game.

All problems must be addressed where they occur eg a call room problem must be addressed in the call room.

All protests are now addressed on the court (or call room) and the Head Refs decision is final. No further protest can be made.

BISFed Rules 2021-2023 (V.1.2) 20.2





Volunteer Recognition Awards

To run the sport of boccia we rely on many people to volunteer their time. Boccia Australia would like to acknowledge and thank all volunteers and we will be doing a regular Volunteer Recognition series. Our Autumn Volunteers are Kerry Thomas and Fiona Porch of Penrith ...

While Fiona Porch is an athlete and qualified BA coach, she also makes a huge contribution as a volunteer, and she also holds the roles of treasurer and secretary of the Penrith Boccia Club. Kerry states that "Fiona does a lot of the computer work for us and is one in a million".

Kerry found her way to the sport of boccia with her client Blake Leahy who played boccia at school. Once Blake had left school Kerry went onto join the Penrith Boccia Club to help the players that were participating in Boccia. Kerry then took over the running of the club and helped move venues from the PCYC to the Penrith Valley Sports Centre.

The duo of Kerry and Fiona are running the Penrith Boccia club which has grown to 10 players. Penrith Boccia Club were also the recent hosts of the successful Boccia NSW State Titles.

Do you know a great Volunteer? Send your nomination to admin@boccia.com.au

Changes to the BA Board

Recently, well-loved Queensland Board Member Emily Finn stepped down from her position on the Board. Emily has made a huge contribution including starting the Volunteer Recognition and Meet the Players awards.

Kerri Griffiths is our new Board member. Kerri's sporting involvement includes mentoring a Paralympian, reaching national levels in athletics and dance, and competing in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race. She is a passionate, optimistic, and motivated leader who will bring a fresh perspective to the Boccia Australia Board to help us achieve great success for the sport.

Need to check something? Look for it on the website

- Boccia Classification Masterlist May 2022
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/7hepm0hjyvarrmoy.pdf>
- Organizing a Boccia Competition
 - <https://www.boccia.com.au/get-involved/eventresources/>
- Boccia & your NDIS Plan
 - [Boccia and your NDIS Plan](#)
- BISFed Ball ball licensing rules and procedures
 - [Boccia Balls Condition Gallery](#)



Thank you to everyone who submitted items for this Newsletter from BA. We will keep any unused stories and photos for our next Newsletter. Please feel free to submit more – we want our members to know what happening in boccia across Australia. Photos are particularly welcome!

Send your stories and photos to admin@boccia.com.au