

Spring 2021 – AROUND THE COURTS



A U S T R A L I A

From the Chair

After another year of lockdowns and restarts in 2021 only Queensland and Tasmania were able to keep to their competition calendar. However with NSW now able to hold a one-day State Titles it seems like we are on the path to recovery.

Despite the ups and downs of 2021, there was lots happening in boccia with small one day competitions as well as the wonderful 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo.

I am sure you were all as proud as me as we watched our terrific athletes perform on the worlds stage Dan and Ash made an outstanding team bring home our first Paralympic medal in an individual competition!

The BA team have been working hard behind the scenes and you should soon receive our first survey to find out what you need and want to make sure boccia grows how you want it in Australia – your contribution will be important. And you may win a movie pass!

May your balls run true *Richard*

Save the date in 2021 -22

NSW State Titles

4th December 2021

Olympic Park
Sydney

bnsw@bigpond.com

Tasmanian State Titles

February

Date to be announced

Hobart

kfaulkner@paraquadtas.org.au

Canberra Cup

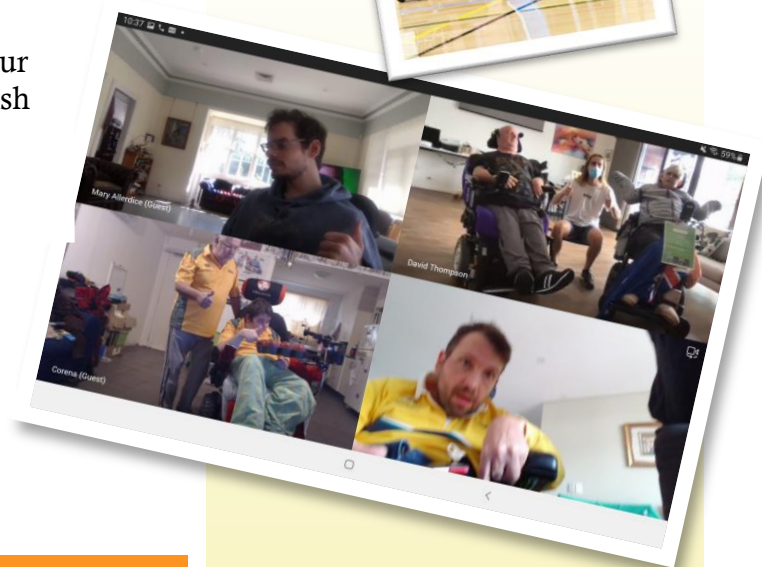
February

Date to be announced

Canberra

act@gmail.com

Watch this Space for
the announcement of
a new big
competition in 2022!





OUR BIG BOCCIA SURVEY

Shortly we will be sending out our first boccia survey with the aim of finding who plays boccia, why you play and how we can help you play more, as we grow boccia across Australia.

Look out for the email and please complete it for us.

You could be in the draw to win a double movie pass!

Remember all the information will go to making boccia better for all our members. So have your say!



Return to Boccia Framework

BA has revised its Return to Boccia Framework and Guidelines for Clubs. They can be found on the website; however the key issues are:

1. Don't play if you are unwell
2. Keep your distance
3. Wash your hands and equipment
4. Follow your state health rules

It is recommended that all attending boccia are fully vaccinated. Speak to your doctor if you are unsure.

BISFed New Rules

The update BISFed Rules 2021 - 2024 (v.1) are now available on the World Boccia website as well as the BA website [BISFed International Bocci Rules 2021 2024 \(v.1\)](#)

Lisa Hanssens, our Australian Head Referee is working with the referees to ensure they are ready to implement them at 2022 competitions.

Changes include ramp assistants are now called Ramp Operators (RO's), increasing the size of the penalty box and clarification on what is a dropped ball. While Boccia Australia will implement these rules there is the ability to make changes to suit our athletes. eg the rules now state '*Competitors must be seated in a wheelchair to compete*' however we will not enforce this rule in Australia.

Well done Emily Finn who was successful in having a BISFed rule modified !





Queensland Boccia Battle 2021.

Over the weekend of the 11th and 12th of September Queensland was able to hold their State Titles, or Boccia Battle, despite all the lockdown worries to bring joy to our players and much needed competition.

Normally we welcome lots of interstate athletes but this year due to travel restriction we were able to host Mina and Ro Blaney from Tasmania which was great. Everyone worked so hard over the very long days to achieve countless personal bests and a great medal result.

Day one saw serious singles competition with fun mixed pairs on day two.

The results were:

BC1/2 - Gold: Lachlan Kavanagh, Silver: Daniel Swart, Bronze: Ainsley Pond

BC3 - Gold: Samuel Thorne, Silver: William Proctor, Bronze: Nathan Langdown.

BC4/5 - Gold: Bruce Walker, Silver: Ryan Finn, Bronze: Minna Blaney

EMU- Gold: Laura Dawson, Silver: Trina Stewart, Bronze: Glenda Anderson

Huge congratulations to all that played and even our supporters that came along to cheer all our players on!

Emily



Liam at the 2016 Nationals

News from South Australia

Great news from South Australia! Boccia is coming back! Working to rebuild SA Boccia is Liam Goldfinch, long time member and boccia athlete, along with John Henschke from Paralympics Australia

An experienced Boccia athlete Liam has also been on past BSA committees, has been a coach and referee. He realized that he could combined his passion for the sport with his goal as a support worker to help people reach their potential and have fun.

A come and try session will be held on the 7th November from 12pm-2:30pm at The Lights Community and Sports Centre. The session is open to anyone aged 10 or more. New and past players are welcome to attend.

A Boccia League, as a social competition, will start at Action Indoor Sports Morphett Vale early November

As BSA grows again and gains interest, they hope to have their first state team to compete in the 2022 BA National Titles. If you live in South Australia and want to play Boccia or continue with Boccia, please contact Liam via email liamgoldfinch25@gmail.com or call 0401 224 425

Toyoko Wrap-Up!

The Australian Boccia team consisted of Daniel Michel, Spencer Cotie and Jamieson Leeson alongside their ramp assistant/carers, Ashlee McClure, Zoe Dix and Amanda Leeson. The team was supported by Team Manager, Caroline Walker (Tex), Team Support and Care Assistant, Sarah Skidmore and Head Coach, Ken Halliday.

Australian Head Ref Lisa Hanssens was also there.

Our overnight flight to Tokyo via Cairns was on a Qantas chartered flight with other members of the Australian Paralympic Team. We all arrived into Tokyo safe and well but then had to go through the process of COVID testing, customs, immigration and accreditation validation at the airport which took more than six hours!

It was a 50 minute bus trip to the Paralympic Village where we had another security check before settling into our accommodation in the Australian Allotment. Our apartments weren't flash but comfortable, even with cardboard beds and foam mattresses. The Referees were accommodated in a different hotel.

We had four days of training before the competition started which included equipment checks.

Individual Competition

The individual competition started on Saturday August 28 with Dan and Spencer competing in their first pool games which they both won - a good start. They played their other two pool games over the next two days with both of them having another win and a loss. Dan progressed to the quarterfinals but Spencer just missed out.

Spencer, with a world ranking of 20, played very well to beat two athletes ranked in the top ten before losing narrowly (3-4) in his third and final game. He was unlucky not to progress to the quarterfinals but did finish the competition in eleventh place.



The following day Dan had a very good win over Hansoo Kim from Korea in the quarterfinal, beating him 8-0 and moving him into the semi-finals that afternoon against Adam Peska from the Czech Republic. Dan was narrowly beaten by Peska 3-4 in a very close game who in turn went on to win the Gold Medal.

Dan played Scott McCowan from Great Britain in the Bronze Medal match playing very well to win 6-1 and claim the Bronze Medal. It was great to see Dan and Ash on the podium that afternoon receiving their medals with the Australian flag raised as part of the medal ceremony. A huge achievement for both of them winning not only the first Paralympic medal for Boccia for 25 years but the first individual medal for Boccia ever. They have both worked so hard for many years to form a unique partnership and achieve at the highest level of competition.

Pairs Competition

With no rest, the Pairs and Teams competition started the following day with Jamieson finally getting her opportunity to take the court after a week of supporting from the side-lines. We came up against the home team in the first game with a hard loss to Japan 2-3. The final day of pool matches was a 12 hour day at venue for the team playing three matches starting at 9:30am and the last at 18:05. We had two good wins against Portugal and Brazil but then came up against the world number two Hong Kong Pair in the last game. It went down to the wire with Hong Kong winning the tie-breaker. Regrettably, with two losses we didn't progress to the semi-finals in the BC3 Pairs competition but finished the competition placing fifth.



Home again

Despite the ongoing pandemic, Tokyo put on the best event possible in the circumstances.



The organising committee staff and volunteers were all so very polite and happy to welcome us. It was a unique experience and regardless of the fact that we weren't able to attend opening or closing ceremonies nor go to the dining hall, Paralympics Australia ensured that Australian Team members had the best and safest experience possible.

It was an absolute privilege to represent the Boccia community in Tokyo. Now let's bring on Paris 2024!!

Ken Halliday

And from our Head Referee

Head Coach - Boccia High Performance

The Tokyo Paralympics were a whirlwind of emotions. It was amazing to be heading off to Tokyo to do what I love and be involved in the pinnacle of the sport. It was a long road there, having been selected in August 2019, to flying over in August 2021. It was a different game than it would have been pre COVID, but it was still the Paralympic games. I was both nervous and excited walking onto the playing field for my first match but I told myself this is just a game of Boccia and it will be awesome. And it was.

Our Head Referee, Terea Calverol, was great. She encouraged and had faith in each of us to do what we had been selected to do. At the games there were 8 referees who had not been to the Paralympics before, and we each refereed a gold medal match. It was an honour and I'm glad that I could do my best for the players. Which is what I strive to do each match.

I was talking to David Smith, BC1 Gold medalist, after the games and I hadn't realized that this was the first time boccia had a live court. It is an exciting time for Boccia with the world watching our amazing sport, getting to see how professional, dedicated and strong our athletes are.

I was thrilled to know that it brought people to the sport who have never seen it before.

Thankyou Boccia community for all your support, I could not have done it without you.

Lisa Hanssens



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 first Volunteer is ...

Terri Ruddick of Launceston!

"Terri came to New Horizons Boccia in Tasmania in 2018. She was working in a doctor's surgery and volunteering with the Cancer Council when she came to watch the Tassie State Titles.

She loved it so much she began volunteering every week. She has been on our Volunteer Team at our Titles in 2019, 2020 and 2021 and is currently completing her Level One Referee training. She is very well liked by all our Boccia players" - *Ro Blaney*.

Do you know someone who is a volunteer who helps run boccia? Now is your chance to recognize them. A Volunteer is someone who works without being paid. They may be your Coach, Manager, Referee, an Official or someone who turns up every week at your local club to help with the smooth running of the game

If you'd like to give a shout out to your amazing club volunteers - it's easy to do!

Email Emily at emily.finn@boccia.com.au



- Boccia & your NDIS Plan
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/.../fil.../zcsicfni2g8kmowt.pdf>
- BA Member Protection Policy
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/yasoqii8uylewca5.pdf>
- Framework and Guidelines for Return to Boccia
 - <https://www.boccia.com.au/news/return-to-boccia-framework-2021/>
- BISFed International Boccia Rules 2021-2024
 - [BISFed International Boccia Rules 2021 2024 \(v.1\)](#)

Thank You

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's happening in boccia across Australia. Photos are particularly welcome!

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