

AUTUMN 2020 – AROUND THE COURTS



From our Chair

In light of the rapidly changing situation involving Coronavirus (COVID-19) boccia clubs are closed down for a while. However, the BA board and club organizers are working hard to make sure that, when this pandemic is over, our sport will bounce back stronger than ever. In the meantime, keep those balls rolling at home and send us pictures of you in action for our Facebook page - I'm giving it ago but not happy with my efforts!

Email admin@boccia.com.au for a chance to see your boccia story and photos on our Facebook page or the next newsletter!

– Richard

National Titles Update

Plans for the 2020 Nationals titles in Hobart continue with the Tasmanian Organizing committee meeting soon for the first time. It's a great venue in a great city!

The Nationals are 8 months away and will be a great celebration of boccia and friendship, so keep practicing!

Keep up with what's happening on Facebook, Instagram our website!

Save the date in 2020

Queensland
Boccia Battle
Brisbane

To be confirmed

NSW State Titles

Sydney

To be confirmed

Boccia
Australia
National Titles

Hobart

12th – 15th
November



WA Update

Perth has long been the home of boccia athletes who love the game and the fellowship it brings. We met Amanda Langdon in 2019 who is new to the sport and in 2020 we hope to welcome back some old friends. Once everything settles, plans are made for come-and-try days and they are looking at coach training. For more information contact bocciawa@bigpond.com.au

Hope we see you in Hobart in November!



Queensland awards

Boccia enjoyed some great success at Sporting Wheelies and Association's Annual Awards last Friday night.

- 🏆 Samuel Thorne - *Best Male Junior Athlete*
- 🏆 Jean-Paul LaFontaine - *finalist in Sporting Wheelie of the Year and Senior Male Athlete of the Year awards*
- 🏆 Emily Finn - *finalist in Coach of the Year & Official of the Year*

Congratulations to these great ambassadors of our sport!

Birthday Coincidence

The 4 athletes in the BC3 Australian Team all have birthdays on the 18th with Siobhan and Jamieson on the same day – 18th March, Spencer on the 18th April and Daniel the 18th August!



Farewell Refs

BA was very sad to lose 2 popular Refs recently.

Niki Vostrovskaya has returned home to Solavikia after 2 years in Sydney. Niki had worked as a Ref in International competitions and was a great addition to our experienced team, always keen to attend competitions big and small.

Maree Simpson of Brisbane also will be a great loss. She has been one of our top referees for many years and we will miss her calm presence on the boccia court and her great sense of humor.

If you are interested in training as a referee, contact referee@boccia.com.au





Tasmanian State Titles

The 2020 Tasmanian State Boccia Titles was a small but successful event hosted by ParaQuad in Hobart, supported by the local family of volunteers to assist with the organization and cheer our athletes on. Our competitors played hard and with great enthusiasm! Successful medal winners were:

BC1/2 Gold - Nick Milner; Silver - Scott Claridge

BC3 Gold - Lily Kelly; Silver - Dana Devine; Bronze - Heath Mollineaux

BC5/EMU - Gold – Ryan Stott; Silver – Minna Blaney; Bronze – Carolina Ascui

Special Congratulations to Minna Blaney on winning the Sportmanship Award!



Canberra Cup

February saw the Annual Canberra Cup held at the Tuggeranong Archery Centre. It was 2 days of singles and mixed teams events, with athletes from ACT, NSW, Queensland and Tasmania competing. Thank you, ACT Boccia, for a great weekend!

Paralympic Test Event – Toyoko

In February, Referee Lisa Hanssens took part in the Paralympic Boccia Test Event in Toyoko. The competition itself was cancelled due to COVID-19 however the purpose of the test event was to check that the systems worked and to familiarize key sports officials with a new venue, rather than test the athletes.

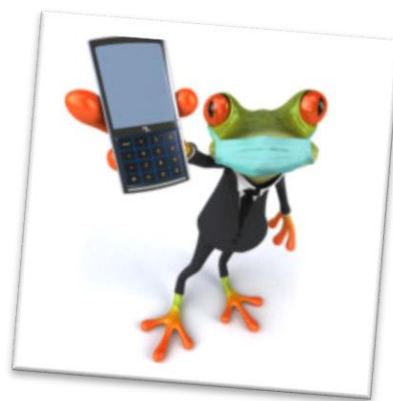
The Refs worked with local volunteers to conduct the test and are sure it's going to be an exciting sporting spectacle as part of the Paralympic Games in 2021



BA NEWS 2020

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was planned to be held at the NSW State Titles which unfortunately had to be cancelled. Instead it was held as a telephone conference call with 12 people attending, representing 5 states. The draft 2019 Annual Report was presented and included financial statements, High Performance Report and governance issues. The Draft Minutes are on the website.



Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024

The quadrennial Strategic Plan is now almost completed with contributions coming from lots of boccia athletes and their supporters across Australia. Common themes are emerging of the need for more awareness of boccia which will lead to more clubs and sponsorship. Other suggestions include working with schools and upskilling our volunteers, particularly the club coaches. Thank you all for your contributions



Member Protection Policy

A key part of caring for our athletes is the current Member Protection Policy. The MPP allows all BA members to play their sport free from harassment, discrimination, abuse and other harmful behavior. The policy outlines members' rights, responsibilities and options. It is available on the website. If any BA member has complaints about the way they are treated, please contact Richard, our Chair, who is our MPP Officer. Email chair@boccia.com.au



Coaching Framework

Glen, our Coach Coordinator, has been working with local coaches across Australia to develop the framework for coach training. The framework is based on the best practice model used by all the major National Sporting Organizations. He will now begin writing the coaching course, which will include both on-line and face to face components



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 at home & across Australia! Send your stories and photos to admin@boccia.com.au

Lucy

