

Spring 2019

AROUND THE COURTS



## 2019 Boccia Australia National Titles

The 2019 Boccia Australia National Titles are almost on us!

This year there will be 46 new and experienced athletes competing at the Boccia National Titles at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. Our first competition outside of Sydney for many years!

This year the Queensland State titles will be held in conjunction with the Nationals. Athletes from Queensland will be able to compete for the first time with other athletes against the best the Nation has to offer.

It's also good to be able to have all our athletes together at the one competition, with our BC3 athletes attending at the same time as the throwers.

BA is hoping that we will be able to stage the National Tiles in a different state each year, and we'll be announcing the 2020 State on Monday at the Nationals! See you there!



### Save the date

**2019 Boccia Australia  
National Titles**

**NSW Boccia Titles**

**Sydney NSW**

**Queensland Boccia Battle**

**Brisbane**

**20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

**1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> November**

**ACT Cup**

**Canberra**

**February 2020**

Further details BA website

<https://www.boccia.com.au/>

## A word from the Chair

I'm very pleased at the response we have had to the first Australian Boccia National Titles held outside Sydney for nearly 10 years! It's a great chance for all our athletes to catch up with friends and enjoy a strong competition. It's also the first time we have combined the Nationals with a State title, so thank you Queensland for letting us join you in what we hope will be a popular formula.

To our officials, coaches and other volunteers our deepest thanks and appreciation, for all your hard work. To all our supporters please enjoy the best boccia games you'll see this year in Australia. And a special thank you to Sporting Wheelies, without whom we wouldn't be having a Nationals this year.

The BA Board will be around talking to everyone at the Nationals. Please let us know your ideas, particularly on how we can grow boccia around Australia

May you all have the best games possible in Brisbane!

– *Richard*

BA will shortly announce the appointment of a part-time Coach Co-Ordinator. Their role will be to build and run a coaching plan for boccia across Australia, similar the Referee program. As part of the training program they will visit coaches, working with them to improve our athletes' skills.

Watch out for this exciting development!

### BA Board

- Richard Boele Chair
- Lucy Bates Secretary
- Tait Jenkins Treasurer
- Allen Macourt Member
- Emily Finn Member
- Chris Nunn Member

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## Grants

Cathy Lambert from the Paralympic Equipment Fund will be at the Nationals on Sunday and Monday. She will be talking to State Delegates and coaches about what you can apply for in the January 2020 round, on Monday afternoon, immediately following the Medal Ceremony. For details see link: <https://www.paralympic.org.au/programs/equipment-fund/>

## Tasmania gets ready for the Nationals



We are a small but happy Tasmanian team who love the game of Boccia! This year will be the smallest team ever heading off for the National Boccia Championships to be held in Queensland in November 2019. Nick Milner BC2, Minna Blaney BC5 and Carolina Ascui EMU will be representing our state and will compete in individual, pairs and team competitions over the four days. Saskia Van Heek-Ascui and Ro Blaney will both be refereeing at the Nationals this year. 'I am sure we will have a wonderful time - we always do.' says Coach Ro Blaney. 'We're looking forward to catching up on our old friends and hope you can make it to Tassie sometime!'

Here is the Tassie team in action! And the referees at the NSW Titles enjoying the referee atmosphere!

Behind all that hard work its always fun to be there.



## Hunter Cups

In September Hunter Boccia hosted its annual fun weekend of boccia. Saturday was a serious day of singles, with Scott Elsworth of Northern Beaches Waves taking home the Throwers Cup and Wendy Evans, of Hunter, the Rammers' Cup. Sunday was more relaxed with mixed team events. A great chance for Throwers to play competitively against Rammers. Once again Hunter Merlot were victorious, and the Hunter Team Cup stayed home in the Hunter!

Well done athletes, supporters and volunteers for putting on a great weekend

## High Performance News

### Can I be part of the High-Performance Team?

The High-Performance Coaches will be attending the Nationals, observing all the athletes during the event. They are particularly keen to watch new athletes or those not seen regularly as they are always on the look-out for prospective new members for our high-performance team!

BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC4 athletes and their supporters are welcome to speak to the Coaches Peter King, Sue Olsen and Ken Halliday over the 4 days and to talk about your interest in being part of the team.

There will be a short meeting at the venue on Sunday night 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 5pm-7pm where Peter will be able to give an overview of the process, what's involved and what's not!

### Australians Head to Dubai

December will see the newest members of our High-Performance team attend the Regional Opens in Dubai. Joining the team will be Siobhan Daley of Hunter and Corena Harrison of ACT who is returning to International competition after a break. Corena and Siobhan are well known athletes and we are all excited to see them head overseas. They will be joined by Scott Elsworth and Chris Allerdice, playing in the BC1 & BC2 Teams as well as Dan Michele & Spencer Cotie in the BC3s



Good Luck Aussies play well & have a great time.

Look on Facebook for the streaming times.



# Coaching Workshop with Cheol Hyeon, Kwon

## What's happening?

BA has invited Cheol Hyeon Kwon, of Korea, to visit Australia to share his knowledge with our coaches by conducting 2 special workshops. Cheol is probably the most experienced boccia coach in the world and understands many of the problems our coaches experience.

Well known as the former Korean Head Coach, Cheol spends much of his time travelling around the world sharing his knowledge.



## Who can come?

The 2-day workshop will be for coaches. The workshop will be about coaching techniques and anyone attending must be an experienced coach, who has completed the on-line Community Coaching General Principles Course with the AIS. There will be theory as well as practical parts to the workshop.

It will be held following NSW State titles on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Sydney. He will also conduct a workshop in Brisbane the following week.

More information on how to apply will be available soon.

Contact [admin@boccia.com.au](mailto:admin@boccia.com.au) if you have any questions.



## Queensland completes its Tri-series 2019

In early October Queensland held its final day in its Boccia Tri-series at Bowen Hill, with many new and old athletes attending. The Tri-series is an inter-regional competition for SE Queensland boccia players hosted by Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association. It's a great event which provides an important development opportunity for boccia players wanting to improve their competition experience in preparation for the Nationals Boccia Battle in November.

Congratulations to all competitors and their supporters on a great competition.





## Kids Sports Rebates

Many states now offer a rebate on sporting fees for schoolchildren. This is a big help for many parents and encourages them to get their kids out & active.

In NSW boccia clubs have applied to be registered activity providers, which means any child aged 4 -18 years, playing boccia is entitled to a rebate.

Check these links to see if your young athletes are entitled to a rebate/sports voucher.

### Which States?

- \* Queensland FairPlay

<https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/fairplay>

- \* NSW Active Kids

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/active-kids>

- \* South Australia Sports Vouchers

<https://www.sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au/>

- \* WA Kidsport

<https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/kidsport>



### Featured Club:

#### Salisbury Eagles, SA.

Salisbury Eagles are a small but keen group who meet regularly for fun and competition.

Like all good clubs it has a mix of social and serious players. New athlete Dee Key and James Morrison recently travelled to Wellington to attend the 2019 Championships in New Zealand where they brought home Bronze in the Pairs – an exciting start for a new player! James took Gold in the Kiwi (EMU) class.

Looking forward to seeing the SA athletes at the Nationals in Brisbane!



Max with RA Jean  
testing his new ramp

# Referee Corner



Congratulations Lisa Hanssens who has been selected to referee in Toyoko at the 2020 Paralympics! Our first Australian Referee at the Paralympics.



## About Referee Training

In 2015, Boccia Australia started looking for a new way to train referees to:

- Increase the number of trained referees across Australia
- Ensure formal, consistent training with a clear pathway to higher levels of refereeing

## Why Train Referees?

Good refereeing increases the skills and playing level of athletes by preparing athletes for competition at all levels. It also increases their pleasure in and understanding of the game. For a new athlete who only plays social games, entering a local competition can be scary and a good referee is able to combine education with their refereeing role. This helps both the new athlete and the experienced athlete have an enjoyable and worthwhile competition. As the level of games rises through to state and national competition, the level of expertise of the referee must rise with it, again assisting the athlete to increase their skills. By decisively and consistently enforcing the rules the athlete learns to how to develop their game within the frame of BISFed rules.



## What is the Referee Training?

In 2016, BA started their two accredited on-line Referee Training programs. They give new referees basic and up-to-date skills, training and assessment, and allow experienced referees to update their skills and take on higher roles in boccia.

- Level 1 accreditation referee at social, local and state competitions
- Level 2 accreditation referee at these competitions plus National competitions

For more information - contact Australian Head Referee Pam Johnston at [Referee@boccia.com](mailto:Referee@boccia.com)

*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 from the Nationals particularly welcome!*

Send your stories and photos to [admin@boccia.com.au](mailto:admin@boccia.com.au)

Lucy