

WINTER 2022 – AROUND THE COURTS



From the Chair

Hi everyone

Another big couple of months for boccia across Australia, with the Tassie titles, Hunter Cup and Queensland Tri-Series happening. Both the Hunter and Tassie had the largest number of athletes competing ever, a good indication of the enthusiasm for the sport and the skill of our organizers!

A summary of our Big Boccia Survey is included in this newsletter. This survey will help us shape boccia across Australia as we look at what athletes like (and don't like!) about boccia.

We always welcome the opinion of our members so don't wait for the next survey, email us your thoughts and ideas, or talk to us at a competition somewhere.

Don't forget if you haven't been classified, you will need to have provisional classification before your next competition, so go to our website for more information or click on the link on the last page.

Boccia, the most inclusive sport you've never heard of!

Richard

Save the date!

**Queensland State
Titles aka
The Boccia Battle**

18th –19th September

Brisbane

angelom@sportingwheelies.org.au

**Boccia Australia
National Titles**

31st October – 4th
November 2022

Penrith, NSW

admin@boccia.com.au

**Trans-Tasman
Championships**

July 2023

Gold Coast Qld

admin@boccia.com.au





High Performance News

Selection for HP

BA now has a process for selection into the High-Performance teams competing at international competitions. Nomination criteria have been developed which sets the process and selection to the representative team at events and is advertised on Facebook.

Athletes who feel they meet required determinants such as a vigorous training program are asked to fill out the nomination form and provide supporting documents. From there the Selection Panel, a small group of people from outside of the HP team, make the selection based on information received.

This process will provide transparency for all aspiring athletes and open nomination up to the wider boccia community

Rome

The World Boccia Intercontinental Challenger Competition takes place in Rome, Italy from 6 September to 14 September 2022. The Australian team will include Aaryan Shah (Sydney), Corena Harrison (ACT), Dylan Schwarz (ACT), JP La Fontaine (Brisbane) and Jamieson Leeson (Dunedoo)

So watch out for them on YouTube!

Hunter Cup!

Recently Hunter Boccia held its 9th annual Hunter Cup, with the largest number of athletes attending ever. Fortunately, the rain stopped, and the sun shone, and all the participants enjoyed 2 days of singles and mixed teams boccia. Hunter welcomed new athletes, attending their first competition as well as seasoned, international players.

Does your club need equipment?

The Paralympic Equipment Fund final round for 2022 closes on Friday 23 September. The Fund aims to provide equipment to disabled athletes and clubs, particularly those on the entry participation level.

Several boccia athletes and clubs have been successful in these grants. To check out if you or your club is eligible go to

[Paralympic Equipment Fund](#)



Our Big Boccia Survey

Thank you who all completed our survey

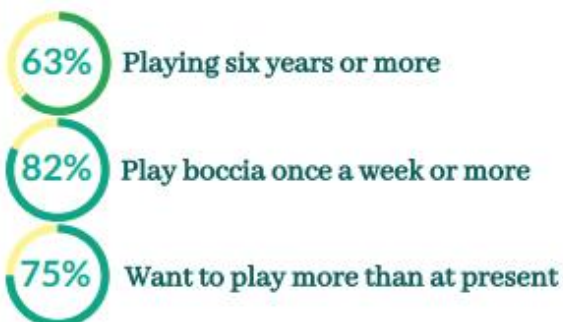
What did we learn in 2021?



People Playing Boccia

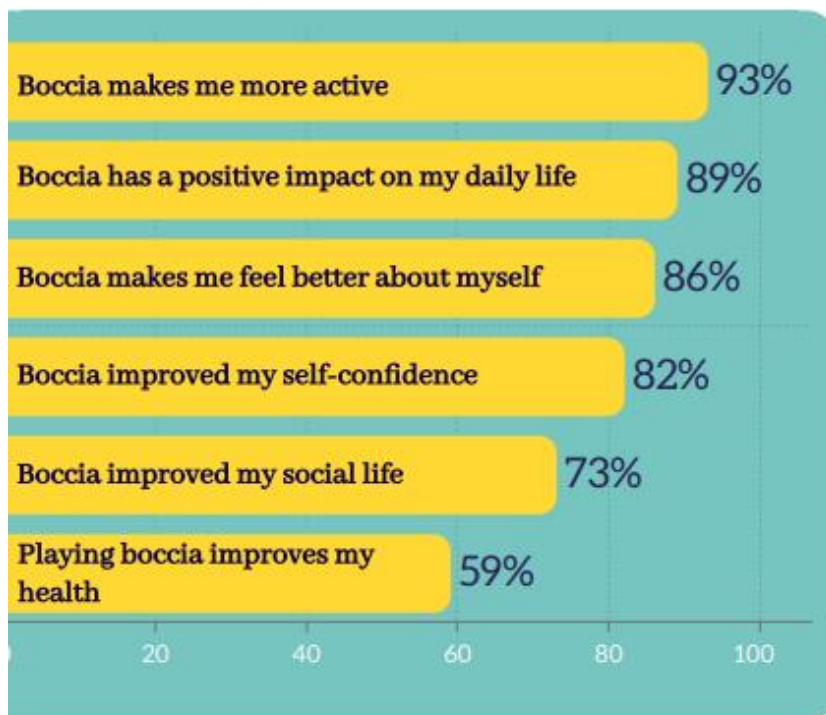


Boccia: The most inclusive sport you've never heard of
For 80% of athletes, boccia is the *only* sport they play



In Tokyo 2020, Australia won it's second ever Paralympic boccia medal - first individual Paralympic boccia medal. The fastest growing Paralympic sport in 2019 - 2021 worldwide.

Impact of boccia



NDIS



What's important for playing boccia:

- Accessible venue (95%)
- Smooth playing floor (88%)
- Good coach (75%)

Two greatest barriers to playing boccia

- No access to a support worker
- No local club

*Ref: all Big Boccia Survey 2021 except fastest growing paralympic sport: World Boccia.



Tasmanian State Titles

When is too much Boccia never enough? When the State Titles are on – and what a weekend it was in southern Tasmania for the ParaQuad Tasmania 2022 Boccia State Titles. Athletes travelled from Brisbane, Hunter, Sydney, and Victoria to battle the Tasmanians

A full day of matches on Saturday saw 19 athletes battle it out to gain a spot in the medal rounds. The skill levels were high, and the spirit of competition meant that everyone was supported.

Referees, timekeepers and scorers were kept busy and many of the rounds were extremely tight. For spectators it was hard to know which match to keep an eye on.

It was great to see Tasmania's Sports Minister Nic Street drop by to take a look, and the event made 7 Tasmania Nightly News.

The matches on Sunday produced these results:

BC1/2

Gold - Jason Mayweather (Brisbane),

Silver - Corena Harrison (ACT),

Bronze - Nick Milner (Launceston)

BC 3

Gold - Dana Devine (Launceston)

Silver - Eliza King (Hobart)

Bronze - Health Mollineaux (Hobart)

BC4/5/EMU

Gold - Axil Pavey (Sydney)

Silver - Matthew van Hoek (Sydney)

Bronze – Minna Blaney (Launceston)

Thank you to everyone taking part those behind the scenes who made the event possible.

Boccia is now being played on Saturday morning 11-12.30 in Hobart at Moonah Sports Stadium Gormanston Rd Moonah. Any enquiries

boccia@paraquadtas.org.au



Commonwealth Games Victoria 2026

BA has entered an Expression of Interest in being part of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Regional Victoria.

However, we have the support of BISFed and many commonwealth nations, across the world including UK, Canada, Africa, Singapore, Bermuda, India, and New Zealand

This is a very competitive process, and we are up against many large established sports, such as shooting, archery and rowing

We are hoping to hear later this year that we will be able to host the first ever boccia competition at the Commonwealth Games

Tri-series Brisbane

The new team at Sporting Wheelies have been working hard at increasing the participation of Boccia in Queensland. Last weekend they completed their annual Tri-series in Brisbane. The Tri-series competition is set in 3 different locations so all Brisbane athletes get the opportunity to participate.

For information on where to play boccia in Queensland Contact Angelo on angelom@sportingwheelies.org.au

The winners were:

Day #1 at Capalaba

BC1/2 Gold: Daniel Swart. Silver: Ainsley Pond

BC3 Gold: Samuel Thorne. Silver: Lachlan Williamson

BC4/5/Emu: Gold Tony Watson. Silver: Louisa Smart



Day #2 at Morayfield, Morton Bay

BC1/2 Gold: Lachlan Kavanagh. Silver: Daniel Swart

BC3 Gold: Samuel Thorne, Silver: Jaymi Ferguson

BC4/5 Gold: JP LaFontaine. Silver: Bruce Walker

Emu: Gold: Trina Stewart. Silver: Timothy Stephensen

Day #3 at UQ Brisbane

BC1/2 Gold: Daniel Swart. Silver: Ainsley Pond

BC3 Gold: Jaymi Ferguson. Silver Nathan Langdon

BC4/5 Gold: JP LaFontaine. Silver: Bruce Walker

Emu: Gold: Tony Watson. Silver: Louise Smart



Victorian Update

The Boccia Vic crew have had busy few months, with training, competition and even a few Come and Try days.

We held our AGM and elected our new management committee and started to lay the foundations for new clubs in Victoria, with the first being a Melbourne club. We hope to have it up and running with regular sessions starting in August at the North Geelong Community Centre.

Contact us at bocciavicinc@gmail.com

Recently Kids+ in Geelong, reached out to have Boccia showcased at their weekly sports sessions. Kids+ develop and run programs for kids and young people from 0-25yrs old who have physical disabilities as a result of brain injury, stroke or cerebral palsy.

We held two sessions and had 10 new players take part, with at least 5 showing interest in attending our weekly sessions next term.





Volunteer Recognition Award

Torun 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 Winter Volunteer is ...

David Swift of Geelong

David came to boccia through his good friend and boccia player Will Taylor who asked if David could coach him. At the time he hadn't heard of boccia but Will persisted and David went on to do the Level 1 Coaching Course.



From there David worked with Vicki and Danny Thorpe to grow the Geelong Boccia Club. He and his Committee have big plans for Boccia Victoria and that includes their players continuing to perform strongly in competition.

They hope to host a State Titles next year and then Nationals in 2024. If these go well then as David says how awesome would it be to have Boccia at the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Victoria!!

Need to check something? Look for it on the website

- Boccia & your NDIS Plan
 - [Boccia and your NDIS Plan](#)
- BA Member Protection Policy
 - [BA Member Protection Policy](#)
- BA Training Resources
 - [Training Resources - Boccia Australia](#)
- State Head Referee Job Description
 - [State Head Referee Job Description](#)
- Provisional Classification and Medical Pack
 - [Provisional Classification and Medical Pack](#)



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 happening in boccia across Australia. Photos are particularly welcome!

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