



# Around the Courts

Autumn 2023

## From the Chair

So much has happened in boccia this year and its only May! Athletes around the country are getting involved with their clubs and travelling to competitions, where the standard of play has been exceptionally high. Our high-performance team has travelled to Montreal where they played exceptionally well, and a throwers team will travel to Santiago shortly. Our new look website has been launched and 2 new Board members elected at the AGM. In addition, the Paralympics Health Check has been completed for our Classification process to ensure we are compliant with all governance and regulatory requirements.

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 classification link on the last page.

May your balls run true.

*Richard*

*Save the date!*

South Australia  
State titles

10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June

Adelaide

[liamgoldfinch25@gmail.com](mailto:liamgoldfinch25@gmail.com)

Queensland State Titles  
Boccia Battle

22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> July

Brisbane

[sport@sportingwheelies.org.au](mailto:sport@sportingwheelies.org.au)

Boccia Australia  
National Titles

10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> November

Tasmanian State  
Titles

21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> March  
2024

Hobart

# NSW State Titles

Well, the 2023 Boccia NSW Titles were a great success! 38 players from across NSW, Victoria, ACT, Queensland, and South Australia competed over four days for 18 medals, and the standard of play was strong. Well done to all athletes who played, you helped to keep the competition strong!

The Tu Huynh Award went to Jamieson Leeson from Hunter Boccia, the Coaches' Award to Ben Fairlie from Cronulla Sutherland and Fiona Porch, from Penrith Boccia was inducted into the Boccia NSW Athletes' Hall of Fame.

A huge vote of thanks must go to all those volunteers who made this competition such a success: the highly trained referees, the timekeepers and scorers, the call-room attendants, the secretariat, and the people who did the myriad of other jobs that needed to be done. And, finally, a huge thank you to the athletes who competed at this year's Boccia NSW State Titles. Your love of Boccia drives us on to make each competition better than the last.



## And the Medals went to:

BC1: Gold - Chris Allerdice (Northern Beaches Waves), Silver - Neil Dalton (Hunter), Bronze - Joseph Jenkins (Hunter)

BC2: Gold - Aaryan Shah (Northern Beaches Waves), Silver - Scott Elsworth (Northern Beaches Waves), Bronze - Corena Harrison (ACT)

BC3: Gold - Jamieson Leeson (Hunter), Silver - Dan Michel (Cronulla Sutherland), Bronze - Spencer Cotie (Northern Beaches Waves)

BC4/5: Gold - Connor Hamlin (Penrith), Silver - Adam Alcorn (Hunter), Bronze - Matt Van Hoek (Northern Beaches)

Open: Gold - Fiona Porch (Penrith), Silver - Ben Fairlie (Cronulla Sutherland), Bronze - David Lunn (Hunter)

## Teams and Pairs

BC1/2 Teams: Gold - Northern Beaches Waves/South Australia, Silver - Northern Beaches Waves/Cronulla Sutherland/Penrith, Bronze - Queensland/Hunter

BC3 Pairs: Gold - Hunter, Silver - Northern Beaches Waves, Bronze - Penrith

BC4/5/OPEN Pairs: Gold - Queensland/Northern Beaches Waves, Silver - Penrith, Bronze - Hunter 2.

## Tri-Series - Brisbane

Queensland recently held the second of their Tri-Series competition. The Tri-series provides a pathway for new players, sports assistants, and referees to learn and experience competition.

It also offers more experienced Boccia participants the opportunity to prepare for the Queensland Boccia Championships (i.e. Boccia Battle) in July at which the Queensland Boccia National Team will be selected. Athletes from local boccia clubs such as Moreton Bay, Brisbane, Harvey Bay and independents are welcome to attend.



## Adelaide Boccia Club

South Australia, has a small but very active Boccia club located in the Adelaide CBD. The club meets every Friday during school terms at Adelaide Botanic High School from 4:30pm until 5:30pm.

During boccia sessions, they practice drills, work on strategies for games and play a full game of Boccia while explaining rules and better use of shots. This club has been running for nearly a year now and their athletes have travelled to the Nationals to take out a medal, and to the NSW titles.

To find out more about their club, and how to be involved, contact Club Manager and Coach, Liam at [liamgoldfinch25@gmail.com](mailto:liamgoldfinch25@gmail.com)



## South Australian State Titles

South Australia Boccia is very excited to be holding its first State Titles in almost 10 years! They will be at the Lights Community and Sports Centre, Lightsvue, Adelaide on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Its sure to be a great event. Experienced and novice athletes are travelling from across Australia to attend. Registrations are closing soon so contact Liam (email above) or go to [South Australian State Titles](#)

## Canberra round-up



ACT Boccia continues to thrive, holding its annual Canberra Cup in February and the 'Valley vs The Hill' competitions between ACT Boccia and a local team of politicians.

# Tassie Titles

'Boccia is a game of strategy and skill, and it can be very inspiring of other people to watch and learn about the amazing abilities of our Athletes', said Ro Blaney, Tasmanian Coach and National Referee. And the excitement of the Tasmania State Titles drew in athletes and spectators for 2 days of fun and boccia, in March in Launceston

## **Congratulations to medallists:**

BC1/2 - Gold - Jessica Hooper (VIC), Silver - Jack Tori (VIC), Bronze - Nick Milner (TAS)

BC3 - Gold - Liam Titterton (NSW), Silver - Dana Devine (TAS), Bronze - Rohan Eastley (TAS)

BC4/5/Open - Gold - Ryan Stott (TAS), Silver - Matthew Van Hoek (NSW)  
Bronze - Minna Blaney (TAS)

A huge thank you to all athletes, their family, friends, and carers and to the referees, scorers and timekeepers who make it all possible.

Ken Halliday, BA Head Coach, and Brenda Tierney, National Performance Pathway Manager attended and kept a close eye on competition, watching some of the athletes in action. Time was set aside for skill testing and talent identification. With the Paralympic Games and other international competitions on the horizon, athletes can be sure that their skills and dedication are not going unnoticed.

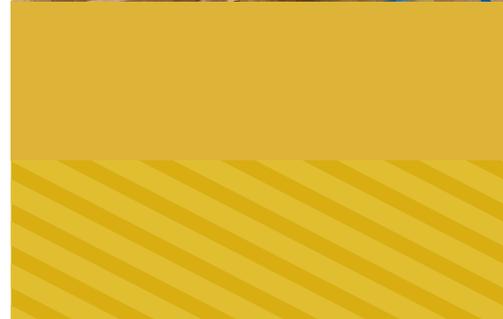
**The Skills Identification** in Launceston was quite a daunting experience, but also fun. Ken and Brenda met with a group of us, and Brenda explained to us how the Talent ID would go, and what it meant towards the Talent Hubs. Although the Victorian Hub is a while away, it was still important to me to see how I would go to see where I can improve ongoing.

Ken then took us through a bunch of drills, marking how close to the jack I would throw the ball, and changing the distance of the jack and where blocking balls would be. Some of the drills really threw me, making me think about ways that I would not usually get around that type of obstacle, and knowing that I had that type of pressure of getting assessed. I did really have fun though, laughing with the other athletes also doing the Talent ID, as boccia is supposed to be fun as well as serious. Of course, knowing that Dan Michel gets full marks every time that he does the drills was extremely scary!

The Talent ID was really good, and definitely has given me skills in which to work on! Very honoured that I could participate in it. *Jessi Hooper Victoria*

## **Wanted: Referees**

BA is looking for more referees! Currently there are insufficient trained referees. Our referees are volunteers who find refereeing a rewarding way to contribute to boccia. Good referees are critical to the success of boccia and the experience of our athletes. To find out more about being a referee go to [Become a Referee](#) or email Lisa at [referee@boccia.com.au](mailto:referee@boccia.com.au)



# High Performance Update

Great results once again from our BC3 Pair of Daniel Michel/Ash McClure and Jamieson Leeson/Amanda Leeson, maintaining their undefeated run to win GOLD at the Boccia World Cup in Montreal last month.

In the individual Men's BC3, Spencer Cotie and Daniel Michel faced a quality field with seven out of the top ten contesting the event. Spencer won one of his three pool matches, losing out to the eventual Gold and Bronze medallists. Daniel finished second in his pool to progress to the Quarter Final where he was knocked out by in form player and eventual silver medallist Howon Jeong from South Korea.

Jamieson returned home with a BRONZE in the individual BC3 Female event. This is Jamieson's first

individual World Cup medal and solidifies her place in the top four on the world ranking list following her outstanding results in the 2022 World Championships. Well done Jamieson and to the rest of the team.

The High Performance athletes now have some time at home with a focus on preparations for upcoming world cups scheduled in September/October. The Asia/Oceania Regional Championships in Hong Kong will be in December.

Also attending Hong Kong will be Lisa Hanssens who will be the Assistant Head Referee, and Lucy Bates.



## Local Competitions

Is your club thinking of running a small competition? The thought can be a bit daunting it but can be very rewarding and fun for your athletes. BA has information on their website to help you at [All Event Resources](#) Or contact Lucy at [admin@boccia.com.au](mailto:admin@boccia.com.au)

### Upcoming local competitions include:

Hunter Cup: 12-13<sup>th</sup> August.

Enquires [hunterboccia.com.au](http://hunterboccia.com.au)

Geelong Games: 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> September

Enquires [jessihooper@outlook.com](mailto:jessihooper@outlook.com)



## Volunteer Recognition

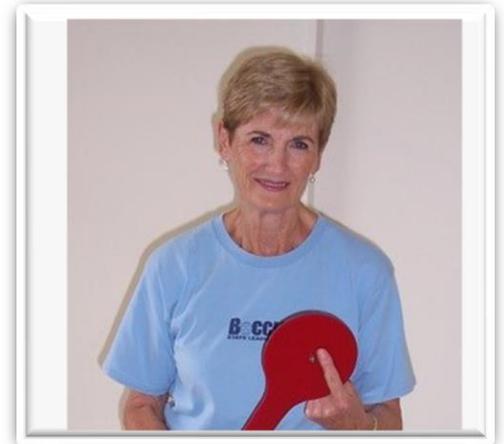


To run the sport of boccia we rely on many people to volunteer their time. Boccia Australia would like to acknowledge and thank all volunteers without whom BA could not function. Today we recognise ...

*Robyn Wynen of NSW!*

Robyn has been volunteering as a referee for Boccia NSW for more than 15 years. Robyn is a Level 2 accredited Referee and has been a referee at many competitions including National and State Titles, Regional Competitions and has for some time on a weekly basis refereed at Cerebral Palsy Alliance at Allambie Heights. Robyn held the position of NSW Head Referee until recently.

Robyn is currently a volunteer on the Boccia NSW Committee. She has been on the Committee for 6 years and held the office of Treasurer for 5 years. Robyn is a valued member of the Committee and is always happy to help in any way she can.



### BOCCIA AUSTRALIA AGM 2022

The annual Boccia Australia AGM was conducted virtually in April. Updates were provided on Boccia Australia's strategic plan including high performance, pathways, and coaching. The new Boccia Australia website was officially launched and is live. In a first, a poll was conducted to elect new Boccia Australia board members. New board directors William Tuffley and Andrew Johnson were successful, and we look forward to their contributions. Allen Macourt presented the Audited Financial Report. Both Allen and Tait Jenkins, who stepped down from the Board at the AGM, were thanked for their efforts to support our sport.

### Classification

Not classified?

The updated [Classification Rules for the Para-sport classes](#) (BC1, BC2, BC3 & BC4) and [Boccia Australia Inclusion Classes \(BAIC\) Procedures](#) for BC5 & OPEN sport classes are now available on website. Go to the [Classification Page](#) for more information and details on how to be classified.

The next classification event will be advised in the coming months - keep an eye on the [BA website](#) for updates.

*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](mailto:admin@boccia.com.au)*