

AUTUMN 2021– AROUND THE COURTS



From the Chair

Boccia in Australia 2021 got off to a terrific start with the Tasmanian State titles in April and the Hunter Cup in May. State titles provide strong, energizing competitions for all athletes. However small local events like the Hunter Cup are a good opportunity to introduce new athletes into competition in a friendly, low-key way. Talk to your club about running one or contact us at admin@boccia.com.au to find out more.

While I was in Launceston, I meet with Carmel, Rhonda and Kevin from ParaQuad who will be organizing the Nationals in November. They are working with a dynamic committee and plans are well in hand to run a strong, exciting and fun National Competition.

BA will soon announce their new National Development and Pathways Coordinator. Their job will include the development of clubs across Australia as well as pathways for athletes from social games through to high level competition. Its an exciting time to be involved in boccia and I'm looking forward to catching up with BA members on a boccia court somewhere.

May your balls run true.

Richard



Save the date!

NSW State Titles

9th - 12th July

More information:
nsw@boccia.com.au

Qld State Titles

14th - 15th August

More information:
davidb@sportingwheelies.org.au

Canberra Cup

4th - 5th September

More information:
act@gmail.com

2021 BA National Titles

15th - 18th November
HOBART

More information:
northwest@paraquadtas.org.au

TASSIE STATE TITLES

The Tasmanian State Titles were held on 10th to 11th April in sunny but cold Launceston. There was much excitement in the air as people played hard against old opponents and new, with an enthusiastic group of spectators to cheer the athletes along.

The results in the Individual competition were:

BC1 / 2 - Gold: Nick Milner. Silver: Scott Claridge. Bronze: Bodhi Boele

BC3 - Gold: Dana Devine. Silver: Heath Mollineaux.

BC 5/EMU - Gold: Minna Blaney. Silver: Matt Van Hoek. Bronze: Cassie Brown.

On Sunday following the Individual medals games, the Island Team competition was played.

In Island Teams, the athletes were in teams of mixed classifications and played quick and tailored games with each team throwing the jack once and each player in the team throwing one ball. Each game consisted of two ends with lots of friendly banter between players and teams.

As we have come to expect from Tasmania throughout the weekend, the organisation was good and the competition strong.

Penrith Boccia Club

Penrith Boccia Club, in Western Sydney NSW is back in full swing after a challenging year, when, due to COVID, they weren't able to train together. Since returning to regular training on Thursdays over the past couple months they have been growing in numbers and have new regular players who have already shown a lot of skill and passion for their new sport of Boccia.

Penrith athletes love to travel to competitions and can be seen regularly at Canberra Cup, NSW Titles, the Hunter Cup and of course the Nationals!

Fiona Porch, who has been a member of Penrith Boccia Club since 2019 has since become a Level 1 accredited coach and has really enjoyed not only training but assisting her team mates to excel and hone in on their skills. A multi-talented athlete, she is also helping BA improve our website.

The regular training courts for Penrith Boccia Club will be the location of this year's NSW state titles, so expect some fierce competition from the home team!



Sporting Wheelies, Qld RecCONNECT

Sporting Wheelies in Queensland recently launched the RecCONNECT program as an inclusive sport and recreation program focused on building social skills and community participation, with the goal of helping people to have fun and connect with other people.

Sports helps people:

- * Meet new friends,
- * Learn new skills,
- * Get active,
- * Connect with others in the community.



Sporting Wheelies has offered Boccia programs in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Warwick, Redlands, Moreton Bay, Hervey Bay, Townsville and Mackay and will continue to expand throughout the state.

Active Recreation Programs covered the cost of the program through the NDIS, so there was no out-of-pocket cost for those eligible.

A great way to introduce new players to boccia!

Athletes Vs Supporters

At club games and state competitions one of the popular games is Athletes vs Supporters. Supporters can be anyone who is there on the day but they are often Referees. Always fun, they appear at end of the competition as an opportunity to show supporters how skilful and tricky boccia is! Rules vary – usually it's a mixed team format with substitutes coming on throughout the game.

ACT Boccia have made the Athletes v Refs game a feature of the Canberra Cup with the final game an opportunity for the athletes to score points over the Refs – although not penalties allowed in this game!



Often the Ref is surprised where the ball lands!



CLASSIFICATION!

Have you been Classified?

All athletes attending a State or National Titles should be classified.

If you haven't been classified, go to the BA website to find the provisional classification information.



Athlete Evaluation: Who is involved?

- Classifiers are a type of technical official, like judges, umpires, referees and timekeepers, but specific to Paralympic sport.
- They are trained and accredited by the International Federation for the sport and work in panels of at least 2, reaching decisions by consensus.
- A typical classification panel for athletes with a physical impairment is made up of one medical classifier (often a physio) and one technical classifier (can be a qualified coach or a bio-mechanic with experience in that sport).
- The classifiers administer a range of sport and impairment specific tests that measure the athlete's impairment against the sport's classification rules.



Paralympics Australia

Paralympics Australia is responsible for classification of boccia athletes. It is hoping to hold a workshop on classification event processes and preparation for our State Coaches and Managers to help them prepare their athletes for classification. There will be opportunity for discussion on the new PA Classification Policy and Standards as well as general questions on classification.

Why Do We Classify In Sport ?

- To try and create a 'fair' competition amongst athletes
- Athletes With Disability
 - To minimise the effect of disability on the outcome of competition



Information on classification and the latest Australian Classification list (April 2020) is available on the BA website <https://www.boccia.com.au/test/classification/>



Classification happens at International competitions as well!

TARGETING TOYOKO

High Performance Update

The HP team of Dan Michel, Spencer Cotie and Jamieson Leeson have settled in well to their new training venue within Sydney Olympic Park training three days a week, five hours per day. The Netball Centre has its perks with a meet and greet with members of the Sydney Swifts in March.

This year, head coach Ken Halliday has been greatly supported by a team training assistant as identified through University of Technology Sydney. The extra set of hands has allowed more opportunity for more video and timing of training matches for analysis with Jamieson joining in remotely on training sessions through the Paralympic Connect platform.

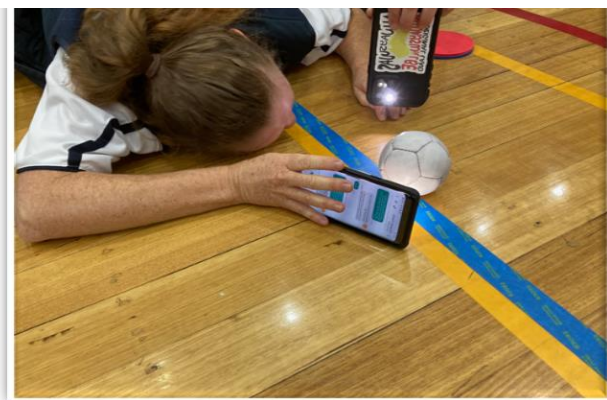


Preparations for Tokyo continue to forge ahead despite the ongoing pandemic with regular updates by Paralympics Australia in regard to risk assessments and mitigation through tough COVID measures which will see a very different Games experience for all involved.

The aim however is to get the athletes to the starting line and provide them every opportunity to perform at their best.

In May, the team will participate in a Tokyo Team Familiarisation Camp designed to replicate, as close as possible, the conditions that they can expect in Tokyo (minus the heat!). This will include a two-day round robin competition between the three athletes. The camp will test them on their tolerances to wear masks at all times, increase hand hygiene, limit movement to only their accommodation and training venue while eating pre-prepared meals that they are likely to have available to them in Tokyo.

Lisa Hanssens, our Australia Head Referee will also be in Tokyo and was seen brushing up her techniques in Hobart.





BOCCIA AUSTRALIA UPDATE!

2021 Annual General Meeting

The BA Annual General Meeting was held virtually on Sunday 7th March at 7.30pm, with 23 BA members present and 5 states represented. Craig Thorne, from Logan in Queensland, has been appointed as the new board member. He believes the [strategic plan](#) can really grow the sport in Australia and encourages all players, coaches, assistants and volunteers to read this to see how each of us can contribute to its success. Craig will also be supporting the board on its ongoing implementation and can be contacted at craig.thorne@boccia.com.au

The draft 2020 Annual Report was presented. It included financial statements, High Performance Report, Coaching, Referees, and governance issues. These documents will be available on the BA website.

Boccia Australia also meet with Boccia New Zealand to discuss a joint response to BISFed on their new policies on gender splitting, accreditation of boccia ball manufacturers and BC5 participation in sanctioned events.



Useful documents

Boccia & your NDIS Plan

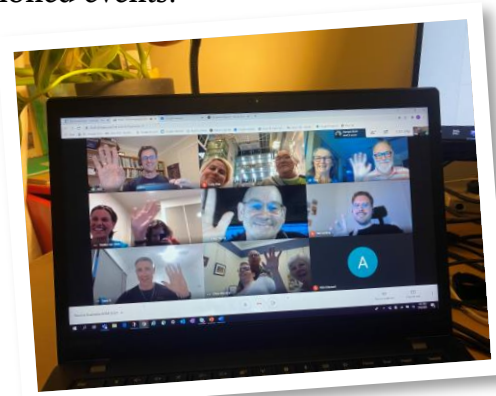
<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/.../fil.../zcsicfni2g8kmowt.pdf>

BA Member Protection Policy

<https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/yasogii8uylewca5.pdf>

Australian National Anti-Doping Policy

<https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/anti-doping/world-anti-doping-code/australian-national-anti-doping-policy>



New World Boccia website

The new BISFed website is called World Boccia and aims to make it easier to use and to better promote our sport. Access the new website

<https://www.worldboccia.com/>



WorldBoccia



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