



**Around the Courts**

**SUMMER**

**2023/24**

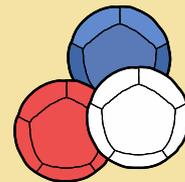


## From the Chair

The start of a fresh new year is always exciting and 2024, as a Paralympic year, will be even more exciting! Australia will have representatives at the Paralympics again, as competitors, as officials, as well as in the audience, cheering our athletes on. Surely the highlight of the year for many. For others the competition around Australia will provide great excitement as athletes travel around their state, as well as interstate, to compete and have fun in our Boccia community. Some may even venture 'across the ditch' to New Zealand in 2024 to compete in their championships. A great opportunity to meet our neighbours and test your skills in a new and different environment. Wherever you choose to play this year, I wish you well as you experience the challenge and friendship of boccia.

May your balls run true.

*Richard*



# UPDATES:

## A word from the Boccia Australia Board strategy day

For the past few years, the Board of BA has meet at the beginning of the year, for a full day planning session. This year it was in Brisbane. The day meant the board could spend quality time on some very important issues, often achieving more than in their monthly virtual meetings. This year was no exception with the team bringing lots of energy and excitement to the room to tackle the important task of planning the BA strategy for the next 4 years.

Lou Begley from the Australian Institute of Sport Strategy and Design team lead the group through the process and while the Board will continue to work on the strategy, the direction is clear as we strive towards sustainability and growth.

## Performance Pathway



In 2024 we are pleased to have 5 athletes from the development program categorised by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS). Great recognition for these athletes, for our program and the system we are implementing in our boccia performance pathway.



### ***What is categorisation?***

This is the criteria that is agreed on by the AIS and Boccia Australia to set the benchmarks for progressing along the performance pathway. From emerging and developing through to podium ready. These documents can be found on the BA website:

- [Sport Specific Categorisation Table](#)
- [Boccia Australia Categorisation Table](#)



Being categorised is a key component of our [Performance Pathway](#). Athlete Categorisation is used to identify, track and prioritise athletes at each stage of the Performance Pathway, to support Australia consistently winning medals at major international events. Athlete Categorisation is used to inform planning and to prioritise support to best achieve targets.



We look forward to supporting all our emerging and developing athletes on their Boccia journey. Well done to Aaryan Shah, Chris Allerdice, Dylan Schwarz, Lachlan Kavanagh & JP LaFontaine.

# High Performance

## 2023 ASIA AND OCEANIA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WRAP UP

Hong Kong hosted a great Regional Championships in December 2023 with the Australian representative team of four athletes and three ramp operators returning home with one GOLD and one SILVER medal.

Dan Michel, alongside ramp operator Ash Maddern, turned their year around to finish 2023 by winning the BC3M Individual event and take home the Gold medal. Off the back of a tough year, which included breaking both his legs, Dan returned home from the Povia World Cup in October with a determination to finish the year strong and get back on top. Not only did Dan achieve his goal, he did so by fulfilling his long-term goal of defeating Howon Jeong (KOR), widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time. Dan has faced Jeong five times across his career and this was his first win against a formidable opponent.

Jasmine Haydon made her debut for Australia at the Regional Championships as Jamieson Leeson's new ramp operator. With just four months of training under her belt, Jasmine demonstrated exceptional ability as ramp operator for Jamieson. This team have a very promising future ahead. Jamieson faced world number one Yuen Kei Ho (HKG) in the quarter final and was knocked out 1-5, with some great lessons learnt.

Spencer Cotie/Tom Lunn and JP La Fontaine did not progress out of their pool matches to finish 11th and 12th respectively.

The BC3 Pairs rallied after their 21-match winning streak came to an end at the Povia World Cup by increasing their Pairs training and making small strategic changes to their game to give them their best success heading into the Regionals. With six of the top ten BC3 Pairs on the world ranking list all vying for the direct slot to Paris 2024, the competition was always going to be tough. South Korea were the recipients of that direct qualifying slot winning Gold against our BC3 Pair of Dan/Ash/Jam/Jasmine who claimed the Silver medal in a close match 4-5.



## 2024 COMPETITIONS



The BC3 Pair have had their slots confirmed for the Montreal and Chinese Taipei World Cup events to be held in April and July respectively.

A warm welcome to Phoebe Carter who joins the high-performance team in her role as Performance Analyst. This role has been made possible through additional AIS Paris 2024 Stream2 funding which invested in initiatives to support medal success in Paris.

## PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024 QUALIFICATION / GAMES

The Paris 2024 qualification period ended on 31 December 2023. With all the Regional Championship winners in the Teams & Pairs having earned their slots. The top four Teams/Pairs in the World Ranking list, not already qualified, were also allocated their slots.

**Australia have qualified their slot for Paris 2024.**

Qualification continues at the Paralympic Qualification Tournament which is 22-28 March 2024 in Coimbra, Portugal. Three more slots for each Team/Pair are up for grabs. The final qualification opportunity is then via a bipartite application process which opens in June.

The Paris 2024 Paralympics take place from: **28th of August to 8th of September.**



## FUN FACT!

Recently the International Olympic Committee has revealed the design of the Olympic and Paralympic medals for the 2024 Paris Games.

On each medal, fragments of original iron from the Eiffel Tower are embedded in the respective bronze, silver and gold. The front of the Paralympic medals features a graphic representation of a low-angle view under the Eiffel Tower. The words "Paris" and "2024" frame the pillars of the Tower and are written in Braille, a script symbolising accessibility. Creative director Thierry Reboul states "it's the opportunity for the athletes to bring back a piece of Paris with them."

# UPCOMING EVENTS:

## STATE TITLES 2024:

- Tasmania State Titles: 9th – 10th March in Hobart  
Contact: [pdst@paraquadtas.org.au](mailto:pdst@paraquadtas.org.au)
- NSW State Titles: 11th – 14th April in Penrith  
Contact: [NSW@boccia.com.au](mailto:NSW@boccia.com.au)
- South Australia State Titles: 8th – 10th June in Adelaide  
Contact: [bocciasouthaust@gmail.com](mailto:bocciasouthaust@gmail.com)
- Boccia Battle (QLD State Titles): 17th-18th August in Milton.  
Contact: [Sport@SportingWheelies.org.au](mailto:Sport@SportingWheelies.org.au)



## OTHER EVENT DATES:

**WA DSA Participation event: 4 April, WA**

**Tri Series 02: 6 April, Brisbane**

**Tri Series 03: 2 June, Brisbane**



# SPECIAL FEATURE:

## A Kiwi at BANT:

I have played competitive Boccia in NZ for 8 years after being introduced to the sport in 2010 whilst at Primary School by School Sport and Parafed Canterbury. My home club is the Parafed Canterbury Boccia Club. I really enjoy the competitive and strategic side of boccia playing against a variety of talented tactical boccia players in the Kiwi/Open classification at both Regional and National level in NZ.



It has been a long time goal for me to enter The Boccia Australia Nationals to challenge myself against a wider range of players. I was extremely happy to have my entry accepted for 2023 and arrived at The Logan Metro Sports Centre full of nervous excitement, ready to play my game to the best of my ability without any expectation or pressure. My goal was to win some games and try to qualify for the semi finals. I managed to scrape in by 3 points and somehow found myself playing for Gold after a nail biting semi against Fiona Porch, narrowly winning in a tie break. All the competitors and officials were very friendly and made me feel welcome with all matches played with great sportsmanship.

I would like to thank the tournament organisers, Boccia Australia, Sporting Wheelies and the fantastic officials who went above and beyond to allow me to compete especially in the pairs when my tchair decided to challenge the rules of open boccia and required Dad (Kevin) to assist me. The support received made this an unforgettable first Trans Tasman experience. I have made some amazing new Boccia Friends and look forward to welcoming them to play in New Zealand this coming year and hopefully if you will have me, compete in Sydney at the 2024 Australian Boccia Nationals.

All the best for the coming Boccia Season.

***Written by Lilian Exton from Christchurch, New Zealand***



***New Zealand National Championships will be held in Christchurch from 3rd to 6th October 2024. All Australian athletes, their supporters and referees are invited to attend.  
For more information contact [sportdevelopmentlead@boccia.org.nz](mailto:sportdevelopmentlead@boccia.org.nz)***

# AROUND THE STATES:

## Victoria

Change is happening at Boccia Victoria – a new board/committee is in the process of being established and plans are being made to develop Boccia around the state. Two interim board members have joined: Omar Shahab and Jess Salazar.

All the existing and interim Board members will be ratified at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

*In the meantime please contact us at [bocciavicinc@gmail.com](mailto:bocciavicinc@gmail.com) if you have any questions*



## Tasmania

Tasmania has 2 clubs: one in Launceston, run by coach Ro Blaney and Head Referee Saskia with NewHorizons Tasmania, and the other in Hobart is managed by Kathryn, with assistance of Referee Jenny as part of ParaQuad, Tasmania. The state titles alternate between Launceston and Hobart, and the friendly rivalry between the two clubs helps build the fun and excitement of the titles. Players from other states are very welcome and, if time permits, we socialise outside the tournament too. Many players return each year, which forges the bonds between all. The Tassie Titles, as they are called by the players, are a good taste of what is happening at the nationals, and good practice for playing somewhere else than at your home club. Organiser Kevin Faulkner always makes sure the games run smoothly and has all the equipment ready for play. Having the games in March, and not in May, should give us warmer weather than last time, but don't forget to bring a warm jumper.

**See you in Hobart 8-10 March!**

# Queensland

The dates for the Queensland tri-series have been announced. The Boccia 'Tri-Series' provides a pathway for new players, sports assistants, and referees to learn and experience competition. It also offers more experienced Boccia participants with the opportunity to prepare for the Queensland Boccia Championships.

Enquiries contact: [Sport@SportingWheelies.org.au](mailto:Sport@SportingWheelies.org.au)

*Boccia Tri-Series Event #1 - February 18, 2024 - Location: Sporting Wheelies Milton (completed)*

Boccia Tri-Series Event #2 - April 6, 2024 - Location: Morayfield Sport & Events Centre, Morayfield

Boccia Tri-Series Event #3 - June 2, 2024 - Location: Sporting Wheelies, Milton



## ACT

In October 2023 a small team from the ACT flew to Wellington, New Zealand to participate in the 2023 NZ Nationals Boccia Championships at the Akau Tangi Sports Centre (formerly ASB), in Kilbirnie, Wellington. The four-day competition had both individual and team events which were played across all classifications. Boccia New Zealand ran the tournament with the utmost professionalism, featuring top-notch referees and dedicated volunteers. With great management the event managed to run without any delays. The organisers very supportive and with a great kiwi attitude, created a homely atmosphere for everyone.

The competition proved to be a great success for the ACT athletes;

- Dylan Schwarz winning gold in the BC1 individual category
- Corena Harrison silver medals in BC2, BC4, and BC5 individual competition.

Adding to the excitement, our team secured the gold medal in the team event at the NZ Championship.

The ACT crew are looking forward to attending the NZ Nationals Boccia Championships again in 2024.

# New South Wales

Boccia in NSW is GROWING! There are now 6 clubs. The Northern Beaches Waves, which is being run through CP at Allambie Heights, and Hunter, are 2 of Australia's longest running clubs. They are now joined by Penrith (which held its first 2-day competition in 2023), Cronulla, South Coast Stingrays and Central Coast. The latest to join this list is a new club in Liverpool. Many thanks to Jack Wilkinson and Fiona Porch for the huge effort they are putting into getting the club up and running.

Long term member of Boccia NSW and international athlete, Spencer Cotie is taking an extended break from playing Boccia but will continue to be around our clubs and events. BA commends him for the determination and effort he has put in over the years to achieve what he has at the highest level in International Competitions, including Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. His highest ranking was number 10 in the world in 2022.



## Rankings:



### BA NATIONAL 2023 RANKINGS ARE NOW OUT!

Based on attendance at the Boccia Australia National Titles over the previous 3 Titles (2019, 2022 & 2023) regardless of an athlete's registration as an independent or as a member of a state team. Only Australian athletes are ranked.

All athletes were awarded points ranging from 5 for the athlete who came first in their classification to 0.5 for those who attended.

Check out the rankings on the BA website at [BA National Ranking 2023](#)

# Volunteer Recognition!



## JENNY WATTS

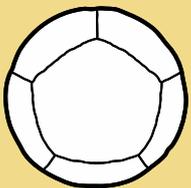
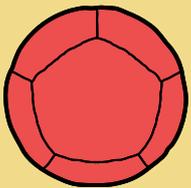
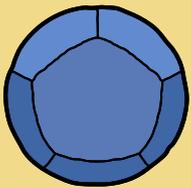
Jenny Watts is a volunteer from Boccia in Hobart. She is a Level 2 Referee with many years experience at state titles and national events. Jenny volunteers her time to referee during weekly Hobart training sessions. She likes the challenge of trying something new and learning new skills. Jenny has been a social worker, registered nurse and public servant. One of her biggest achievements is that she has sailed on a yacht to South America! Jenny is now planning a trip with her twin sister Lucy Bates (yes, that Lucy) to Norfolk Island.

We thank Jenny for all the work she puts in for Boccia, and look forward to seeing her at our State Titles in Hobart, 8-10 March.



# NIF POLICY ADOPTION

## Boccia Australia adopts updated suite of National Integrity Framework (NIF) policies.



Boccia Australia's board recently adopted the updated NIF policies with effect from 1 November 2023. These policies have been tailored as appropriate for BA and their members. BA is committed to implementing the updated policy framework at all levels across Australia to ensure that all participants in the sport have a safe, inclusive and enjoyable experience. The updated NIF policies form an important part of Boccia Australia's governance framework.

Policies which consist of the following:

1. Member Protection Policy
2. Child Safeguarding Policy
3. Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy
4. Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering Policy
5. Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy



The policies are available for download from BA's website via the following link:  
<https://www.boccia.com.au/test/national-integrity-framework>.

This page also provides some background about the NIF and a brief explanation of what each policy covers.

More information on the NIF is available here:

<https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/national-integrity-framework>

# Newsletter handover...



It's a big **THANK YOU** to Lucy Bates for her valuable contribution to the Boccia community and in particular this newsletter. For the last five years Lucy's commitment to keeping everyone informed with articles, information, images and updates is much appreciated.

We now enter a new chapter as Lucy hands over the pages. If you have any stories or information you'd like to share please submit to the media crew at the email address below.....



[media@boccia.com.au](mailto:media@boccia.com.au)

## Helpful links...



[www.boccia.com.au](http://www.boccia.com.au)



[bocciaaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bocciaaustralia)



[Boccia Australia](https://www.facebook.com/BocciaAustralia)