

# Around the Courts

Everyone is  
valued, welcome  
and contributing



## From the Chair

Our Boccia competition calendar is now complete for the year but already our 2024 calendar is looking exciting, with states planning their annual competitions and small clubs discussing with BA how they might run their own local event. While the thought of running a small competition can be a bit daunting it but can be very rewarding and fun for your athletes, and BA can help. Checkout the information on our website to help you at All Event Resources

I would like to thank Sporting Wheelies who hosted the recent Nationals in Brisbane. They put on a great event. My thanks also to the Volunteers and Referees and all the supporters who came with our athletes and helped where needed. Boccia couldn't run without you.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas break and I will see you at a court somewhere!

May your balls run true,

**Richard Boele**

Applications are open for the 2024 Boccia Australia Competition Calendar.

Apply for your 2024 [Event Grant](#)

## Save the Date

CANBERRA CUP : Sat 17 – Sun 18 February 2024. Registration via this [LINK](#)

TASMANIA STATE CUP: Thu 7 – Sunday 10 March 2024

NSW STATE TITLES: 10 – 14 April 2024

## Performance Pathway Update

Boccia Australia's first National Camp was held at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra in September. Eight of our emerging and developing athletes along with our podium athletes Dan Michel, Ash Maddern and Jamieson Leeson, along with Jamieson's new ramp operator Jasmine Haydon. (Welcome Jasmine to the Boccia family). We had a mixture of updates from the team at the AIS, learning about categorisation and on court time so that our pathway athletes have the information and education about what it takes to go from **PLAYER TO ATHLETE**. And start to build our Australian Team culture as we aim for a maximum number of eligible athletes competing on the world stage at the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games.



In a major milestone for Australian sport, the country's peak Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sporting organisations have joined forces to launch a national strategy aimed at building success towards Brisbane 2032 and beyond. Bringing their vision of success immediately to life, sporting leaders took a pledge to 'Win Well' – a foundation of the strategy and a new national commitment to balancing ambitious sporting goals with cultures that are safe, fair and supportive. Check out our own Dylan Schwarz's contribution to [WIN WELL](#).



We look forward to supporting all our emerging and developing athletes on their Boccia journey. For more information on the [Performance Pathway](#) check out the document on the Boccia Website.

## High Performance

### Boccia World Cup – Fortaleza BRAZIL, September 2023

Fortaleza was a return to World Cup level for JP having last competed at a World Cup event in 2017. He showed steady form with a match win in the pools and a close match against top 10 player from Brazil's, Eliseu Dos Santos 6-5.  
Spencer Cotie/Tom Lunn – placed 11<sup>th</sup>  
JP La Fontaine – placed 12<sup>th</sup>

After 37 hours of travel the BC3 athletes landed in the seaside town of Povoá to contest the final World Cup event for 2023. It was an incredibly tough field for both the BC3's with all but one of the top ten athletes contesting the female competition and seven out of the top ten for the male competition. Both Dan and Jamieson progressed out of their pools but could not find the form to progress from the quarter finals.

What's next for our HP team? The **2023 BisFed Asia and Oceania Regional Championships** will be held on Hong Kong from 3-12 December. Up to date schedule and results will be available on the World Boccia Website including a link to a live stream. [www.worldboccia.com](http://www.worldboccia.com)

### Boccia World Cup – Povoá, PORTUGAL, October 2023

Dan Michel/Ash Maddern – placed 6<sup>th</sup>  
Jam Leeson/Amanda Lesson – placed 6<sup>th</sup>  
BC3 Pairs – finished 5<sup>th</sup>

The BC3 Pairs extended their undefeated run to 21 matches until meeting an almost flawless performance from Brazil in the final pool match sending the reigning world champions into a knockout match against South Korea. Always a challenge against Howon Jeong and Sunhee Kang with Dan and Jam not able to get the better of them bringing their competition to an end.



SOP- Training for Hong Kong

### Australian Team

Athlete/RO

Athlete/RO

Athlete/RO

Athlete

Team Leader

Head Coach

Coach

Performance Analyst

Care Coordinator

Dan Michel-Ash Maddern

Jamieson Leeson- Jasmine Haydon (international debut)

Spencer Cotie (individual event only)-Tom Lunn

Jean-Paul La Fontaine (individual event only)

Caroline Walker

Ken Halliday

Bruna Accurso

Sam Wells

Jessica Michel

Both Spencer and JP were allocated direct individual slots from BisFed in early 2023 based off their place on the World Ranking list and bipartite slots available for each class.

We wish the team the best of luck, particularly for the BC3 Pairs as this is their direct Paralympic Games qualifier with the gold medallists across each class earning themselves a slot to the Games next year in Paris.

## Classification

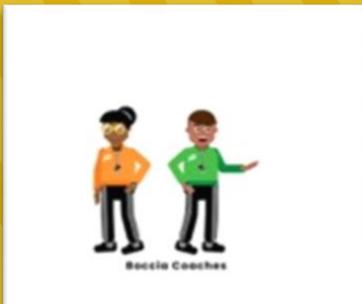


National Classification was completed at BANT this year. We had 2 panels and classified 12 athletes. Thanks to our volunteer classifiers for making themselves available. The master list will be updated by the end of November.

If you require Provisional classification, please contact: [classification@boccia.com.au](mailto:classification@boccia.com.au) for a Provisional Classification & Medical Diagnostic form.

All players are asked to complete the [Fundamentals of Classification](#) via Sport Integrity Australia prior to attending classification.

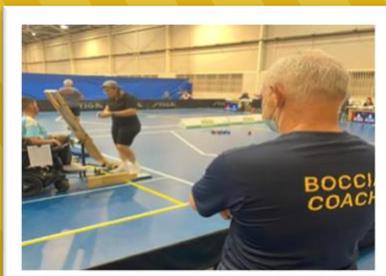
## Community of Support (Boccia Coaches)



The next Community of Support (Boccia Coaches) will be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

If you would like to join the Community of Support (Boccia Coaches) please reach out to Ken Halliday [kenhalliday51@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kenhalliday51@optusnet.com.au) who will send you a copy of the guidelines and a link to the next meeting.

## Coach Learning & Development



Module 2 of the new Coach Learning & Development was piloted at the National Camp at the AIS in September. We had 8 coaches attend for some learning with Alex Jago from Paralympics Australia.

The updated level 1 [Boccia Coach Learning & Development](#) modules are now available via the BA website. Level 2 is being rolled out over the coming weeks, keep an eye on the website. The two levels will form the basis of our Coach Learning & Development.

*NOTE: If you are currently coaching in your club environment, you need to ensure that you have a current [Working with Children Check](#) in your State **and** obtain a [National Police Check](#). Expect a follow up from BA in the coming weeks. Any questions or queries please reach out to [brenda.tierney@boccia.com.au](mailto:brenda.tierney@boccia.com.au)*

# General UP↑dates



## Richard Boele appointed Treasurer of World Boccia.

World Boccia are delighted to announce that Mr Jon Morgan OBE has been appointed as President and Mr Richard Boele as Treasurer, following elections at the recent General Assembly in Portugal. Jon was nominated by UK Boccia and Richard by Boccia Australia. Both have previous World Boccia Board experience



## Awards for Boccia

### NSW Sports Awards

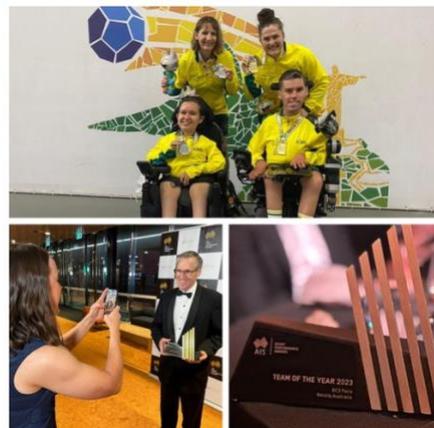


Congratulations to our BC3 Pair who won “Team of the Year with a disability” Well done to Jamieson, Amanda, Dan, Ash & Ken.

### AIS Sport Performance Awards

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of athletes, teams, coaches, volunteers and leaders in Australian high performance sport. The AIS Sport Performance Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of athletes, teams, coaches, volunteers and leaders in Australian Sport.

**WINNER's – SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR  
BC3 PAIRS Boccia**



“I didn’t know there was a sport for me until I found Boccia”

## Boccia Australia National Titles (BANT23)

The 2023 BA National Titles (BANT) were held in November in Logan, Brisbane. It was the largest boccia event held in Australia since the pandemic with athletes from across Australia and New Zealand. And what a competition it was with keen excitement felt by all the spectators as our skilled athletes fought for the right to claim the gold medal!

A huge vote of thanks must go to Sporting Wheelies who hosted this great event. In addition, the volunteers who were invaluable in keeping the competition running: our highly trained referees, TD, the timekeepers, the call-room manager, the secretariat. And, finally, a huge thank you to the athletes who competed at the 2023 Nationals. Your skills, sportsmanship and love of the game are what make this the best competition in Australia.



- BC1:** Gold – Christopher Allerdice (NSW), Silver – Jessica Hooper (VIC), Bronze- Dylan Schwarz (ACT)  
**BC2:** Gold – Scott Elsworth (NSW), Silver – Aaryan Shar (NSW), Bronze- Corena Harrison (ACT)  
**BC3:** Gold – Daniel Michel, RO: Ash Maddern (NSW), Silver – Jamison Leeson, RO: Jasmine Haydon (NSW)  
Bronze- Sam Thorne, RO: Vivian Tully (QLD)  
**BC4:** Gold – JP La Fontaine (QLD), Silver – Ryann Finn (QLD), Bronze- Jason Saadah (VIC)  
**BC5:** Gold – Thomas Robins (QLD), Silver – Phil Bates (NSW), Bronze- Conner Hamlin (NSW)  
**Open:** Gold – Lilian Exton (NZ), Silver – Brent Mynott (ACT), Bronze- Fiona Porch (NSW)

**Teams:** Gold- QLD/TAS/NZ, Silver- NSW, Bronze- ACT/VIC.

**BC3 Pairs:** Gold- NSW, Silver- NSW 2, Bronze- NSW 3.

**BC4/BC5 Pairs:** Gold- QLD 1, Silver- QLD/VIC, Bronze- NSW 1.

**Open Pairs:** Gold- NZ, Silver- NSW, Bronze- QLD 1



STATE SHIELD: NSW

Sporting Wheelies put on another well-run, fun event. With a very big thank you to the Referees and Volunteers for a big two days of competition.



## Penrith Cup

October saw 30 athletes from near and far gather at Penrith for their first ever Penrith Cup. It was a great local competition, run by the club organisers and supported by Boccia NSW and BA.

Penrith Club was also supported by their sponsor [Allara Support Services](#), who as well as providing monetary support, provided staff to act as timekeepers.

BA was pleased to see Jack Wilkinson and Liam Goldfinch achieve Level One Referee status at the competition.



## SA School Boccia competition

On the 25<sup>th</sup> October, School Sports SA hosted their annual Boccia School Carnival. This Carnival is a fun boccia competition for all public schools in Adelaide. Boccia SA representatives and referees, Liam and Will attended to help, there was 20 teams that participated, with the winners being Mary MacKillop College for taking out first and second places. All participants including teachers and support staff enjoyed the competition.

Boccia SA have offered support to schools who are interested in integrating Boccia into their physical education curriculum



## National's Snap Shot's



## Volunteer Recognition



(NAME)



## 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)

*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 [mediacomms@boccia.com.au](mailto:mediacomms@boccia.com.au)*