

SPRING 2022 – AROUND THE COURTS



From the Chair

Hi everyone

As I look back over the last year, I can't help but be pleased to see the growth of boccia across Australia. As we come out of the pandemic, clubs and states are more confidently planning events and athletes travelling further to compete. We had a great response to our first Australian Boccia National Titles since 2019! It was a chance for all our athletes, coaches, and referees to catch up with friends and enjoy a strong competition.

Recently I prepared our Annual Report, and I took a moment to reflect on how much of our Strategic Plan we have implemented. I'm incredibly proud of just how much we have achieved – and there is plenty more in the pipeline.

Don't forget if you haven't been classified, you will need to have provisional classification at your next competition, so go to our website for more information.

May your balls run true

Richard



Save the date



Canberra Cup

18th - 19th February

Tuggeranong
ACT

Tasmanian State Titles

24rd – 26th March

Launceston
pdst@paraquadtas.org.au

NSW State Titles

17th – 20th April

Penrith, NSW
nsw@boccia.com.au

High Performance News

2022 World Boccia Championships

The 2022 World Boccia Championships will be held 4-14 December in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Representing in both the individual and pairs events will be Dan Michel and Jamieson Leeson with their respective ramp operators, Ash McClure and Amanda Leeson. Spencer Cotie and his ramp operator Tom Lunn will compete in the men's individual competition.

Also representing at the World Championships will be two of Boccia Australia's international referees, Lisa Hanssens and Lucy Bates.

We wish all heading to the World Championships the best of luck.

Keep an eye on Facebook for all team updates and the BisFed website for links to live streams, schedules, and results

2022 Bahrain World Cup

The BC3 finished their Bahrain World Cup with the BC3 Pairs winning GOLD having defeated the world number one Hong Kong not once but twice to secure the victory. On their run to the gold medal match they also defeated the reigning Paralympic Champions, South Korea. A strong performance which puts them in good stead for the World Championships in Rio.

In the individual competition, Dan Michel and Jam Leeson made it through to the quarter finals, however did not progress. Spencer Cotie had a tough pool and did not progress out of his pool.

2022 Rome Boccia Challenger

Boccia Australia sent an emerging and developing team to the Rome Boccia Challenger in September. The BC1/2 team was represented by Aaryan Shah (BC2), Corena Harrison (BC2), and Dylan Schwarz (BC1). As a team they made it to the playoffs having narrowly missed defeat over Great Britain 4-3 and beating Spain in their pool match. In the playoff they came up against world number one Brazil who were better on the day to take the win. It was a great experience for them all in particular Dylan Schwarz who was making his international debut.

Making a return to international competition after a hiatus of five years was JP La Fontaine (BC4) who led the team into the Opening Ceremony as flagbearer. On the court, he demonstrated he still has got what it takes to win games to make it into the playoffs where he came across Khayal ISLAMOV (AZE) who ended his comeback.

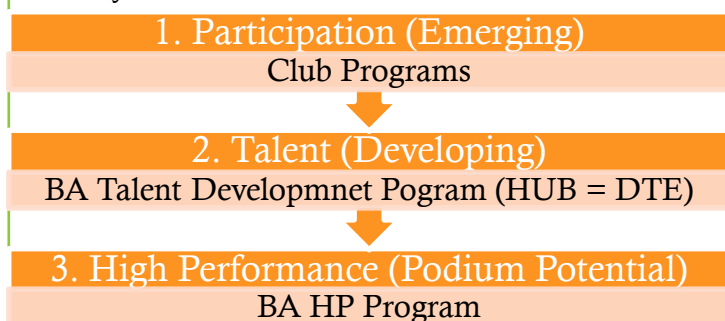
HP athlete, Jamieson Leeson also represented in Rome in the BC3 female individual competition. It was a great opportunity for Jam to build her international experience and did well to make it to the Bronze medal match where her opponent, world number 3 Evelyn de Oliveira (BRA) was too good on the day relegating Jam to fourth.



Performance Pathway update

Boccia Australia's goal is to see an incremental growth in the number of athletes, coaches, and ramp operators in our performance pathway. The new talent development program will provide athletes, coaches, and ramp operators with a Daily Training Environment (DTE) that supports the development of High-Performance behaviours along with technical & tactical skills to achieve Podium success for the future.

Pathway:



Over the coming months we will look to recruit new coaches to head up our Hubs in QLD, NSW and VIC and then start the Talent Identification process for athletes to be invited into the talent development Hubs.

Coach Development update:

Recently Boccia Australia collaborated with the AIS to design our Coach Development Strategy. We are going to invest in our coaches, improve the coach development pathway and will partner with our key stakeholders to facilitate a shift in our approach to coach development so that we have continuous learning opportunities with an athlete driven, coach supported system. We want to be aspirational so that we can have a world class coaching profile by implementing and achieving the actions and outcomes from the strategy.

Actions:

1. Creating an internal coach development program and pathway
2. Capturing intellectual property for succession planning
3. Creating a network of coaches and increased learning opportunities

Outcome:

1. Increased numbers of coaches in our coach development pathway



Boccia Coaches

For information on the high performance program and athlete categorization go to [Athlete Categorisation - Boccia Australia](#)

National Titles



The BA Nationals Titles are over for another year! And what an exciting event it was with some unexpected results and new champions emerging

The weather was kind to us, and our hosts, the BNSW committee welcoming. One of the reasons many of us return to boccia competitions, year after year, is the great feeling of community as we gather to share our love of the game – and hopefully to win a medal. BANT 2022 was no exception.

Thank you to our Hosts BNSW, Penrith Boccia Club, Referees and all the supporters who came with our athletes and helped where needed.

Boccia couldn't run without you!

Results

BC1- Gold: Dylan Schwarz. Silver: Chris Allerdice. Bronze: Ainsley Pond

BC2 – Gold: Lachlan Kavanagh. Silver: Scott Elsworth. Bronze: Jason Mayweather

BC 3 - Gold: Jamieson Leeson. Silver: Spencer Cotie. Bronze: Dan Michel.

BC4/5 - Gold: Connor Hamlin. Silver: Matt Van Hoek. Bronze: Ryan Finn.

Open - Gold: James Roe. Silver: Tony Watson. Bronze: Fiona Porch.

Teams and Pairs - Gold: Qld / Tas. Silver: NSW. Bronze: ACT / Vic

BC3 – Gold: Qld / Independent. Silver: NSW 1. Bronze: NSW 2

BC4/5/ Open - Gold: NSW 1. Silver: ACT / SA Bronze: Qld 1.

State Shield: ACT

Encouragement Award: Jet Johnson SA.

National Integrity Framework

BA as a National Sporting Organisation and the peak body for the sport of boccia in Australia, is committed to safeguarding the integrity of the sport and nurturing a safe and inclusive environment for all participants. We adopted the Sport Integrity Framework in July 2022. This will provide fairness, transparency, and independence at all levels of our sport particularly in the areas of:

- Member protection
- Safeguarding children
- Improper use of drugs and medicines
- Anti-Doping
- Competition manipulation and sport wagering
- Complaints, disputes, and discipline



Old Boccia Battle

The new team at Sporting Wheelies have been working hard at increasing the participation of Boccia in Queensland and exceeded expectations with the recent Boccia Battle or State Titles held over 2 days in September. There was a big roll-up from across Australia for a friendly, well organized boccia competition.



Results:

BC1- Gold: Chris Allerdice. Silver: Jesse Hooper. Bronze: Jack Tori

BC2 – Gold: Lachlan Kavanagh. Silver: Corena Harrison. Bronze: Scott Elsworth

BC 3 - Gold: Samuel Thorne. Silver: Liam Titterton. Bronze: Lachlan Williamson.

BC4/5 - Gold: JP LaFontaine. Silver: Phil Bates. Bronze: Connor Hamlin.

Open - Gold: Trina Stewart. Silver: Thomas Robbins . Bronze: Paul Hazell.



NSW School Knockout Competition

September saw the finals of the NSW School Knockout competition. Over 185 schools participated in the competition, coming from as far afield as Broken Hill.

St Clair High School was crowned the state boccia champions after an undefeated run through the NSW Competition at the final day at Sydney's Olympic Park.

The Broken Hill team was a result of the hard work of 13-year-old Cal Shepard who had pushed hard to get the backing of the School Sport Unit's Disability Inclusion Team. In their first year of competition, they were excited to come 9th

Boccia NSW is now working with Cal and his family to establish a boccia club in Broken Hill.



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 and we are doing a regular Volunteer Recognition series. Our Spring Volunteers is...

Jack Wilkinson of Penrith Boccia Club.

Jack will be known to many as he was the Call Room Manager at the recent Nationals. He was introduced to boccia when he came to Australia in March 2022, with his partner Fiona who has competed for many years. He now volunteers at club level at Penrith Boccia Club and is doing the coaching course. He also hopes to complete the Referee course so watch this space. What does Jack love about boccia? The comradery, and the fact the game can change in a second. Try it & you will love it, says Jack!



Do you know a great Volunteer? Send your nomination to admin@boccia.com.au

Meet our Athletes

During 2022 we have introduced a number of our amazing athletes

They were:

- Ryan Finn – Morton Bay Qld
- Wendy Evans – Hunter, NSW
- Samuel Thorne – Morton Bay, Qld
- Minna Blaney – Launceston Tas
- Jessie Hooper – Geelong Vic

Need to check something? Look for it on the website

- National Integrity Framework (NIF)
 - [National Integrity Framework - Boccia Australia](#)
- Boccia & your NDIS Plan
 - [Boccia and your NDIS Plan](#)
- BA Member Protection Policy
 - [BA Member Protection Policy](#)
- 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

