

# SUMMER 2023 – AROUND THE COURTS



## Welcome to 2023!

2022 was a big year, where we were able to get back to Boccia with all the States running events and the Nationals held the first time since 2019 and the pandemic. And, of course, the excitement with our BC3 team becoming Number 1 in the world in Rio in December. What a terrific way to end the year.

There has been a lot happening over the summer break with our National Performance Pathway Manager, Brenda Tierney, planning some exciting talent identification days across Australia.

In this newsletter we are featuring families in Boccia, and I want to take the opportunity to say 'Thank you' to all those families who come with our athletes and stay to help grow our sport in Australia.

The BA AGM will be happening virtually on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. State Delegates can vote on Motions, but all BA members are invited to attend. Contact: [secretary@boccia.com.au](mailto:secretary@boccia.com.au) for the link

Looking forward to seeing you on a court somewhere



## Save the date in 2023

*Richard*

### Tasmanian State Titles

Launceston  
25 -26 March

### NSW State Titles Including NSW AGM

Penrith  
17 – 20 April

### South Australia State Titles

Adelaide  
10 – 11 June

### Queensland Titles aka Boccia Battle

Brisbane  
22 -23 July

### Boccia Australia National Titles

Brisbane  
10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November

## Performance Pathway Update

BA is pleased to announce that Bruna Accurso has been appointed to the role of Talent Development Coach for the Brisbane Talent Development Hub.

Bruna has been a long-time support person and coach in the Brisbane Boccia community, and we look forward to her bringing her passion, dedication, and willingness to create a fantastic learning environment to the Talent Development Hub. The Hub will be based at the new Sporting Wheelies facility in Milton and will kick off in Term 2.

More information to come over the coming months.



## Talent Identification Days

Boccia talent ID days will be held at the Tasmania (March) and NSW (April) State Titles and possibly South Australia and Brisbane. There will be athlete profiling and testing protocols so that we can identify potential talent for the future. If you have players in your club program that you think might be ready to take the next step, then please make sure they register to attend. (Details via event registration). Or email [Brenda.tierney@boccia.com.au](mailto:Brenda.tierney@boccia.com.au)



## Coach Development

We are well on the way to creating the new coach development program and learning opportunities. There will be acknowledgement for prior learning, with the first units planning to be rolled out in April.

### MODULE 1 – THE COACH

#### Unit 1: Know the Coach

Role of the coach, Why do I coach, What is your coaching philosophy

#### Unit 2: Coach as a Learner

Being your best self, Professional Development Plan, Athlete centred/Coach driven- what does this mean for the coach?

### MODULE 2 – COACHING BOCCIA

#### Unit 1: Know the Player

Who are you coaching, needs, expectations, How

#### Unit 2: Technical & Tactical

Preparation, Observations, Evaluation, Development

#### Unit 3: Planning the session

Why, What & Who

#### Unit 4: Deliver and Review

Conduct, review and modify

For more information check out the [website](#).



## Families in Boccia!

One of the lovely things about Boccia is the way it brings families together. They may be an athlete, ramp operator, sports assistant, or official such as referee, coach, or Board member. They are there because they love the game and the people involved in it. In recent competitions, this has included husbands & wives, fathers & mothers with their sons or daughters, sisters, aunt & niece, and partners. Do you have a boccia family photo? Send it to us for our next family page!





## North Melbourne Boccia Club



North Melbourne Boccia Club is a great extension of the Geelong based club. Each week they have anywhere from 3 to 8 people turning up, with our Vic athletes choosing to attend either just Melbourne training, or even both Geelong and Melbourne training. A club meeting consists of training with a free throw for a warmup, then perhaps some singles or teams matches, depending on what the athletes want to work on.

Boccia Vic is still very new, but everyone loves their new teammates, and are very keen for anyone who wants to give it a go!

In general, Boccia Vic had some successes in 2022, with new competitor Jessi Hooper taking off with BC1 silver at the Queensland State Titles, and experienced competitor Jack Tori taking out a variety of medals throughout the year. We are really excited to hopefully have some of our newer players from the Melbourne team in future competitions in 2023! Watch out for them at the upcoming Tassie Titles!

If you would like to know more about the Melbourne club, feel free to head to Boccia Vic's insta or FB, or email [bocciavicinc@gmail.com](mailto:bocciavicinc@gmail.com).

## Congratulations to our newest International Classifier

In November 2022 Emily Ayles, a well-known classifier from Adelaide, travelled to Bahrain where she qualified as an International Classifier. Emily reported that she had an amazing time and learnt an enormous amount which will be valuable in Australia as she continues to be part of our classification team. There were 9 other candidates from many different countries including: Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Bernai (Indonesia), and Saudi Arabia. This included observation of International Classification in a Penthouse suite!



If you haven't been classified, its easy!

Click on [Classification Information](#) on the BA website

Download the [Provisional Classification and Medical Diagnostic Form](#)

Send it with a video of you in action to [classification@boccia.com.au](mailto:classification@boccia.com.au)

Once you have Provisional Classification you will be observed by the classifiers during the next large competition you attend.

## 2022 World Boccia Championships

The 2022 World Boccia Championships, held in Rio de Janeiro in December 2022, were a resounding success for our Australian team, bringing home three medals and topping the overall medal table. Dan Michel and his ramp operator Ashley McClure won Gold becoming the individual BC3 Male World Champions. They were closely followed by team mate Jamieson Leeson and her ramp operator Amanda Leeson in claiming Silver in the individual BC3 female event. Together they continued their winning streak to become World Champions in the BC3 Pairs. Dan and Jamieson, in 2022, were undefeated winning all 14 matches across three events. So well deserved!

Unfortunately, not all athletes had the event that they had hoped for with Spencer Cotie finishing in 20<sup>th</sup> position. Spencer however has refocused for 2023 with a view to learn from his World Championship experience to become the player he is capable of being.

The event was not without its hiccups however with the team arriving into Rio de Janeiro without their electric wheelchairs. The athletes demonstrated incredible resilience to not let this interrupt their preparation for competition by undertaking two training sessions in airport wheelchairs. 48 hours later, they were reunited with their chairs to reset and refocus for the event to begin.

The organising committee ran a fantastic event, even if the food at times was questionable! The team were a cohesive unit all with a role to play in our overall success. Many thanks to Paralympics Australia for supporting the inclusion of Data Analyst Sam Wells whose inclusion may well have been the 1% we are always searching for to get that winning edge.

Head coach Ken Halliday had a motto for this event which he further attributes the team success...

***“Do the common things uncommonly well – get the fundamentals right and don’t fear the results, deliver on your skills”***

Boccia is a game of strategy and having the mental resilience to be able to remain calm, to be able to make decisions under pressure, to execute strategy and to have the fundamentals is what it means to be successful!

Congratulations to the entire team! Bring on Paris 2024!





## New Look Website!

Can't find your BA number?

As part of our new look website, we have helped create a member finder with revolutioniseSPORT (our website platform) to help members locate their IDs easily at [Member Number Finder](#)

## Athletes Representatives

Congratulations to Dan Michel who has just been elected to the BISFed Athletes Committee. The role of the committee is to represent the views of Boccia athletes and to make the athletes' voice heard within BISFed.

While Dan is looking at broad issues which affect Boccia athletes, many states have their own athletes' representative who speak for the concerns of local athletes.

BA is currently looking at ways we can engage with State Athletes Reps. Contact your state body if you are unsure who your Rep is.



## New Home for Boccia in Queensland

Sporting Wheelies have just signed the lease on the first Para Sports Clubhouse in Milton (Brisbane). will be an inclusive sports hub supporting people with a disability to get active, have fun and catch up with friends. The centre will combine industry leading facilities, sports courts with world-class rehabilitation and support services, bringing together disability experts, allied health specialists, Para Sport coaches to improve the lives of people with a disability There will be a full size Wheelchair Basketball court, Boccia and Goalball courts, as well as a café

This is an exciting development for Queensland boccia. We look forward to hearing more about it.

## National Rankings

In December, following the National titles the latest national rankings were uploaded onto the website. It is based on attendance at the Boccia Australia National Titles over the previous 3 years – that is 2018, 2019 and 2022 - regardless of an athlete's registration as an independent or as a member of a state team.

All athletes were awarded points ranging from 5 for the athlete who came first in their classification to 0.5 for those who attended. Rankings are on the BA website at:

<https://www.boccia.com.au/test/nationalranking/>

		2018	2019	2022
Open				
ACT	James Roe	0.5	0.5	5
Qld	Trina Dawson		4	2
QLD	Laura Dawson	0.5	5	
Qld	Tony Watson			4



### *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 Summer 2023 Volunteers is...

Ally Wood of Brisbane!

Everyone who knows Ally know what a great contribution she has made to boccia over recent years. She attended all the Brisbane boccia competitions last year, providing much need support and expertise throughout the competitions including before (e.g., marking the court, collecting keys of the venue), during (assisting athletes and officials) and after (packing up equipment) events. Ally is also an active member of the Sporting Wheelies Boccia Advisory Committee.



## REFEE UPDATE

2022 was a busy year for our Referees, with Nationals, State Titles and Local competitions occurring across the country. Our 2 International Refs, Lisa Hanssens and Lucy Bates also went to Rio to referee at the World Championships – a very exciting time for them.

This year promises to be just as busy, with our Refs working hard to ensure that the athletes have the best possible experience they can on the courts. It's not always easy being a Ref, but it is very rewarding to see the athletes compete to the best of their ability and know you are part of a great sport.

A big welcome to our new referees. I look forward to supporting you on your referee journey I'm hoping to get to as many state titles as I can to meet everyone in person but please send me an email and say hello as I'll be running a few more zoom sessions this year. That's [referee@boccia.com.au](mailto:referee@boccia.com.au)

If you are interested in being a referee, go to the BA website at [Become a Referee](#) to find out more - *Lisa*

### *Need to check something? Look for it on the BA 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](#)

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

