



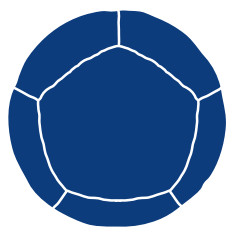
# **BOCCIA AUSTRALIA**

# **ANNUAL**

# **REPORT**

## **2022-2023**

# ABOUT BOCCIA



**Boccia is one of the world's fastest growing and most inclusive Paralympic sports**

Boccia is a unique sport, specifically designed to include people with significant physical disabilities – including the most severely affected – to get active in sport. It can be played by those able to throw or kick a ball (BC1, BC2, BC4, and BC5 classifications) and those who cannot and play using a ramp and ramp assistant (BC3). Boccia can be played sitting down or lying down, thus making it available to anyone, such as those unable to leave their bed or using ventilators.

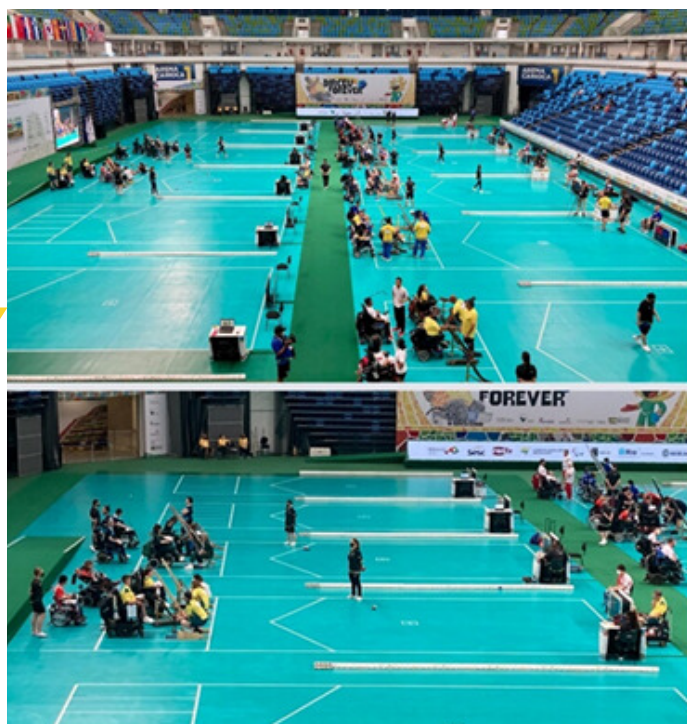
Adaptations have been made to allow for various impairments as the development of Blind Boccia shows.

Athletes have competed in Boccia in the Paralympics since 1984. Boccia tests each competitor's degree of muscle control and accuracy. Boccia was originally played by athletes with cerebral palsy, but now includes athletes with other impairments which affect motor skills.

Competing in wheelchairs or sitting on a chair, athletes with severe impairments throw, kick or use a ramp device to propel leather balls on a hard flat surface as close as possible to a white ball which serves as the jack (target). Athletes compete in team and individual events on an equal level.

Boccia continues to be played competitively at local, national, and international levels. Boccia is also widely played as an educational and recreational game, particularly in schools.

At Paralympic level, Boccia is one of only two sports which do not have an Olympic counterpart (Goalball being the other). Boccia Australia is recognised by World Boccia as the organisation responsible for Boccia in Australia.



*Cover photo: World Boccia Champions - Dan Michel/Ash Maddern and Jamieson Leeson/Amanda Leeson won gold in the BC3 Pairs. Rio De Janeiro. Boccia World Championship. Dec 2022.*

# Boccia Australia's Vision

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Boccia is Australia's number one sport for those with significant movement impairment – both recreational and competitively.

## Boccia Australia's Mission

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Australians with significant physical impairment are the most inactive section of our society. People with an impairment – whether congenital or acquired are often further disabled by assumptions that their level of impairment means they can't play sport. Boccia, however, is one of the few sports open to anyone, regardless of their level of physical ability, age, or gender.

Boccia Australia's aim is to raise the profile of Boccia so everyone who could benefit from it know the sport. Sport can help improve the quality of life for people with impairment in physical and social ways.

Recognising that long term engagement in Boccia comes from both local, low-cost access to clubs and competitions Boccia Australia (BA) will work to deliver the capability to local club managers and other officials so that local clubs are vibrant and sustainable. BA will also support high quality competitions through identifying and maintaining pathways for officials including coaches, referees, ramp operators, classifiers, and others.

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# A message from the Chair of the Australian Sports Commission – Josephine Sukkar AM

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Sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud.

As we progress through this defining era in Australian sport, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is clear in our vision to lead and support the sector.

Our role is to provide opportunities for all communities to be involved in sport, while growing elite success and representation, inspiring future generations.

As the Australian Government agency responsible for supporting and investing in sport at all levels, we strive to increase involvement in sport and enable continued international sporting success.

We do this through leadership and development of a cohesive and effective sports sector, targeted financial support and the operation of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

We play a unique role in the sport ecosystem and tackle the big challenges and opportunities with and for the sector.

We're proud to do so and through our vision, we aim to bring out the best in everyone involved in sport as we establish Australia as the world's best sporting nation.

Collectively, we've already made huge strides to set Australian sport up for success.

Australia's High Performance 2032+ Sport Strategy is an industry-wide approach to harness our collective strengths, talent and resources.

It is built on creating an environment where athletes and sports can Win Well – by balancing ambitious performance goals with a culture of care, integrity, fair play and pride.

Working hand in hand with this is the co-designed National Sport Participation Strategy which calls on Australians to Play Well.

Building safe, welcoming, inclusive and fun experiences is central to the Strategy which focuses on people of all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities coming together to access the benefits of sport.

The sporting strategies, programs and facilities we deliver now have the capacity to shape Australia's long-term prosperity, well beyond sporting boundaries.

This is a defining era for Australian sport. We are well into the Green and Gold decade to Brisbane 2032, and we are focused on building sustainable success for decades to come.

As the national home of sport, we are proud of the role we play in supporting athletes, coaches and high performance staff to reach their potential.

In the past 12 months alone we've welcomed more than 5,000 athletes, coaches and support staff across 33 sports and 200 camps to the AIS campus and I look forward to seeing many of these athletes shine at the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

On behalf of the ASC, thank you to everyone who contributes to the sector as we work collectively to ensure every Australian sees a place for themselves in sport.

**Josephine Sukkar AM**



# CHAIR'S G'DAY

Welcome to our 2022-2023 annual report which provides a six month extension of our usual 12 month annual reports. We're moving to a different reporting year which is why we are expanding this year's report.



For the last 18 months my three stand out achievements were:

- Our international results.

These results were across our players, our officials and myself. In terms of our athletes, the 2022 World Boccia Championships, held in Rio de Janeiro, was an incredible success. Dan Michel and his ramp operator Ashley Maddern won Gold becoming the individual BC3 Male World Champions finishing the year at the top of the world ranking list. Team mate Jamieson Leeson and her ramp operator Amanda Leeson claimed Silver in the individual BC3 female event leading to an impressive jump to number four on the world ranking list.

As a team they became World Champions in the BC3 Pairs, taking the gold. It was another win in an incredible winning streak from Tokyo in 2021 that continued for 21 consecutive international wins.

With an ambition to field medal potential athletes in all classifications at the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games, it was great to send to the Rome Boccia Challenger in September 2022 a BC1/2 team that included Aaryan Shah (BC2), Corena Harrison (BC2), and Dylan Schwarz (BC1). As a team they made it to the playoffs but came up against world number one Brazil who were better on the day to take the win. After a hiatus of five years, JP La Fontaine (BC4) made a comeback in Rome.

Our representation in World Boccia structures, Australia continues to be very well strengthen. Dan Michel was elected to the World Boccia Athletes Committee and was then elected by committee members to be Chair. I was appointed to the World Boccia board in February.

- Increased funding.

We received new funding to establish a performance pathways program. The aim of this program is to identify high potential talent and develop that talent to high performance standards. We received AIS Performance Pathways Workforce Grant that enabled us to engage a National Pathways Manager, Brenda Tierney in the middle of 2022. The main objective of the program is to identify, develop, support and progress athletes, coaches towards future podium success. Brenda is working on building this capability in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The appointment of Bruna Accurso as our Talent Development Coach for the Brisbane Talent Development Hub was a key milestone for the program. We also secured a doubling of our high performance funding which was very welcome.

- Growth in competitions and clubs

It was fantastic to hold a state titles in South Australia, it's been a while. Shout out to Liam for doing an awesome job. There's also the continuing growth in new clubs, for example the South Coast Stingrays starting up on the south coast of NSW.

We held a great fundraising lunch with Steve Waugh, Dan and Ash on the panel. This was part of our testing of new forms of fundraising channels. To support strengthening of boccia's profile we accepted revolutioniseSPORT's offer to revamp our website pro bono. We are very grateful for their ongoing pro bono provision of their platform which allows us to manage the sport digitally.

On governance we've had three new Board members join us in the reporting period. Kerri Griffiths has brought an incredible range of experiences including significant political experience and wonderful energy. We also had William Tuffley join in the role of Treasurer bringing his accounting experience and Andrew Johnson bringing his legal experience. As the Chair and leading the organisation on governance, I was pleased that my colleagues on the board continued to challenge ourselves to bring the best possible sports governance to boccia - including spending our first face-to-face day focused on building board capability. We also completed our Paralympics Health Check for our Classification process to ensure we are compliant with all governance and regulatory requirements.

We had planned to run our first Trans-Tasman in July 2023 but it didn't happen due to capacity challenges. We hope that we can soon. We held our first Nationals since 2019 in Penrith in October/November 2022. Many thanks to Boccia NSW for hosting a great event.

In the How'd We Go section below you can read about what we achieved in 2022 and the first half of 2023. There was a growing energy and momentum for boccia in Australia which was truly exciting.

I look forward to the next twelve months with great optimism for Paris at our high performance level while I'm very excited by what we have the potential to do at the grassroots/participation level. Boccia NSW has taken on a Sports Development Officer which we hope will be able to capture some of the interest generated in many areas, including the NSW Department of Education's schools knockout competition which had increased participation in 2023 from 2022.

Let me finish with some heart-felt thanks. Many thanks to our employees, contractors, and special thanks to all our volunteers, too many to name, who actively contribute everyday for the love of our sport and our players.

May your club have many new members soon!

**RICHARD BOELE**  
**CHAIR**

Boccia Australia acknowledges the Traditional owners of Country throughout Australia, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

# TREASURER'S TALE

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's report for the previous 18-month period ending 30 June 2023 highlighting the financial aspects of our esteemed organization. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of our financial health and key activities.

## **Financial Highlights:**

The organisation maintained a stable financial position throughout the period.

Diverse income streams totaling \$1,170,614, including grants, donations, AIS funding and athlete levies contributed to our financial resilience. This was an increase from 2021 of \$243,542.

## **Expenditures:**

Expenditures were up significantly on the 2021 year which was mainly due to an increase in employment, travel/competition costs. Noting that due to Covid athletes didn't travel or compete in 2021. However, a prudent approach was taken to ensure efficient use of resources and this expenditure was justified given the increase of funding that was obtained.

## **Cash Flow Management:**

Our focus on maintaining a healthy cash flow ensured the organisation's liquidity and facilitated smooth operations. Our closing cash position is extremely healthy at \$913,135 which is a significant increase from 2021 of \$378,195.

## **Future Financial Outlook:**

Financial projections indicate a positive outlook, taking into account upcoming projects, funding opportunities, and potential challenges. The organisation remains committed to sound financial management and sustainability, including a thorough review of the budgeting across the service lines.

## **Fundraising Initiatives:**

Our focus over the last 18-months has been driven by the 'Performance' activities of the organisation. However, we have initiated a number of fundraising activities that have been instrumental in supporting our mission and enhancing our market presence and financial resources. We express gratitude to our generous donors and sponsors for their invaluable contributions.

## **Reserves and Investments:**

We have a significant cash reserve which is reflected in our accounts and includes interest income of \$15,273 in a low interest rate environment. A further review of our investment strategy has been undertaken with policies to be implemented during the 2024 year, demonstrating our commitment to financial stability.

## **Compliance and Policies:**

The organisation adheres to all relevant compliance requirements, and any legal matters are appropriately addressed. Our financial policies and internal controls are designed to ensure accountability and mitigate risks.

In conclusion, we extend our sincere appreciation to all members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who play a crucial role in sustaining the financial health of Boccia Australia. Your commitment enables us to continue making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

Best regards  
William Tuffley



**Profit and Loss Account**  
**For the 6 Months Ended 30 June 2023**

	30 June 2023	31 December 2022
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Performance funding	278,876	1,051,956
Donations	10,458	8,000
Government grants	18,000	-
Levies	7,000	75,000
Membership income	-	200
<b>Total income</b>	<b>314,334</b>	<b>1,135,156</b>
<b>Less: Expenses</b>		
Accounting fees	6,887	12,335
Accrued annual leave expense	10,778	2,291
Administrative expenses	3,130	506
Affiliation fees expense	1,704	1,903
Bank charges	248	273
Consultants	-	3,575
Contract workers expense	-	5,760
Depreciation	283	934
Domestic Competitions	4,000	-
Entry fees	35,420	98,008
Event and Functions	369	-
High performance coaching	15,377	42,600
Hire - court and sports centre	(2,095)	12,970
Infrastructure grant - coach development	5,350	-
Infrastructure grant - technology	4,795	-
Insurance	6,481	8,256
Performance services	833	(716)
Postage	263	373
Printing and stationery	39	126
Professional development	3,807	-
Wages & salaries	95,032	128,456
Staffing	1,375	4,100
Subscriptions	625	162
Superannuation	9,978	12,934
Talent identification	1,226	-
Technology and equipment	1,764	688
Travel - domestic	4,627	6,763
Travel - overseas	83,389	163,710
Uniforms	6,356	11,728
Web page costs	-	1,215
	30 June 2023	31 December 2022
	\$	\$
Workers compensation insurance	1,833	5,163
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>303,874</b>	<b>524,113</b>
	<b>10,460</b>	<b>611,043</b>
<b>Other items:</b>		
Interest income	3,806	11,467
	<b>3,806</b>	<b>11,467</b>
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>14,266</b>	<b>622,510</b>



**Balance Sheet**  
**As At 30 June 2023**

	Note	30 June 2023 \$	31 December 2022 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	913,135	982,164
Trade and other receivables	3	3,502	8,804
Total Current Assets		<u>916,637</u>	<u>990,968</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	2,924	6,670
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,258	1,542
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>4,182</u>	<u>8,212</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>920,819</u></u>	<u><u>999,180</u></u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	807,802	15,813
Short-term provisions	6	25,409	11,095
Total Current Liabilities		<u>833,211</u>	<u>26,908</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Total Liabilities		<u>833,211</u>	<u>26,908</u>
Net Assets		<u><u>87,608</u></u>	<u><u>972,272</u></u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained surplus	7	<u>87,608</u>	<u>972,272</u>
Total Equity		<u><u>87,608</u></u>	<u><u>972,272</u></u>

# How did we go?



Ken Halliday  
World Champion  
Head Coach

## Implementation of the Boccia Australia Strategic Plan 2020 to 2024 continued during the reporting period.

Over the past eighteen months there has been great progress as the sport continues to strengthen.

Reported below are the measures under each of the Strategic Plan's three ambition pillars. The letters/numbers in brackets are taken directly from the Strategic Plan. Those with an O in front are Outcomes, A in front is an Action, and M is Measurement. This report is focused mainly on our medium-to-long term actions. These are defined in the Strategic Plan as happening 1.5 to three years from January 2022.

### **PILLAR 1 - Our Boccia experiences are well organised, fun & inclusive**

In the **first pillar** we started or completed short-term actions while also commencing medium-to-long term actions (M0).

Covering off the final short term action, we were able to start developing a venue program. This was commenced in Victoria as we were preparing our bid to be considered for inclusion in the Victorian Commonwealth Games (M1). Our biggest ambition remains to increase our membership, in particular the number of players (M3). At the end of September 2023, we had 493 members. An increase from 372 members when we wrote the 2021 annual report, 256 members in 2020 and under 70 members in January 2019.

***(O5) Wherever Boccia is played in Australia it is well organised, well presented, safe, fair, and inclusive.***

In 2022 and emerging from the COVID pandemic we were able to resume competitions across the country and internationally.

Our athletes competed in the following competitions between January 2022 and 30 June 2023:

- National Titles (BANT), Penrith, October/November 2022
- Canberra Cup, February 2022 and February 2023
- South Australia State Titles, June 2023
- QLD State Titles, September 2022
- NSW State Titles, May 2022 & March 2023
- Tasmania State Titles, March 2022 and March 2023
- World Boccia Championships, Rio de Janeiro, December 2022
- World Cup, Montreal, May 2023
- Boccia Challenger, Zagreb, March 2023
- Boccia Challenger, Rome, September 2022
- World Cup, Bahrain, November 2022



We were able to uphold the ambition of having our competitions well organised, well presented, safe, fair and inclusive, with the support of our state member organisations.

To support the competitions, we had an increased number of referees joining or advancing their accreditation levels with competitions domestically and internationally recommencing.

We had two internationally accredited referees, eleven Level 2 and nine Level 1 referees with three signed up as trainee referees (M1). One person completed the Level 2 online theory course in 2022.

Australia's Head Referee hosted two online meetings to train our referees on new World Boccia rule changes in 2022. The first implementation was carried out during the Canberra Cup in early 2022.

	Trainee	Level 1	Level 2	International	TOTAL
<u>NSW</u>	2	2	4	2	10
<u>QLD</u>	1	5	3		9
<u>TAS</u>	1	1	2		4
<u>ACT</u>		1			1
<u>SA</u>	2				2
<u>VIC</u>	1				1
TOTAL	7	9	9	2	29

Our Australian Head Referee, Lisa Hanssens and Assistant Head Referee Lucy Bates attended and refereed at the World Boccia Championships in Brazil in 2022. The pair was joined by our former Head Referee Pam Johnson who was there as the Referee Evaluator. Lisa also attended the Boccia Challenger in Bahrain.



*Australian Head Referee Lisa Hanssens in Rio*



*Assistant Head Referee Lucy Bates in Rio.*



*Our two Australian Boccia referees, Lisa and Lucy on either side of Pam at the World Championships in Rio.*

## **(O6) Players develop their physical and social skills and have fun.**

We've had continuing growth in membership numbers and new clubs. In 2023, we had a total of 17 clubs across Australia (M3). The Stingrays club was established on the south coast of NSW in 2023, and Central Coast Boccia on the Central Coast of NSW was established in early 2023. We are aiming to continue this trend as popularity of the sport grows in Australia.

For the next generation and grassroots level, the future is bright. In NSW, a new Sports Development Officer position was created to develop the sport further in the state. The School Boccia knockout competition, which was cancelled in 2021 due to COVID, was run in 2022 with 160 schools participating. Engagement levels boosted in 2023 with over 400 schools competing out of a total of around 2,000 government schools in the state(M3). There was no doubt a lot of fun involved with this competition as schools competed against each other for the win.

## **(O7) Boccia knowledge is retained and shared**



*2022 Meet The Athlete – James Roe, ACT – on social media.*

We are committed to sharing knowledge and insights about boccia, including highlighting the volunteers who help support boccia across Australia.

As flagged in the previous annual report, we keep our members informed by implementing a 'meet the player' section in addition to our regular recognition stories of volunteers on the Boccia Australia Facebook page and in the 'Around the Courts (A1.3) quarterly newsletter.



*Section of the Spring 2022 Around the Courts.*



## **(O8) Boccia players access the support workers and assistants they need**

In this area, we continue to support our athletes and their support workers and assistants. We engaged with the NDIA at a policy level to outline the requirements and needs of our athletes. Unfortunately, this interaction was unsuccessful in progressing positive changes to the current NDIA guidelines.

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### **PILLAR 2 - Our Athletes are well prepared for competition**

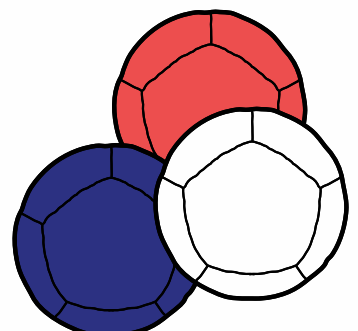
In this **second pillar** we started or completed the nine medium-to-long term actions (M0). We also achieved the short term outcome of having clear athlete development pathways for everyone who wants to play or compete (O10).

Brenda Tierney joined Boccia Australia as our National Performance Pathways Manager in July 2022, with key responsibilities for the talent development strategy (performance pathway), building partnerships, establishing hubs (daily training environments), and creating the system and pathway for both athletes and coaches. 2023 was spent by Brenda deepening her understanding of the Boccia landscape, planning and starting to operationalise the talent program with a particular focus on Queensland and NSW. Her goal is to deliver athlete driven, coach supported talent into our pathway to deliver elite athletes at all classifications to Brisbane 2032 Paralympics.

Coaches are an important part of our growth and we acknowledge the important role they play in ensuring our athletes are well prepared for competition (athlete driven, coach supported). Our new approach to coaching was established through our AIS supported Coach Development Strategy which was completed in August 2022.



Head Coach Ken Halliday with  
BC3 Pairs, AIS  
'Team of the Year trophy'



Our Small Infrastructure Grant was realigned so that we were able to deliver a new Coach Learning and Development approach. This funding meant we could consult with an external provider to design and provide content and we engaged Alex Jago, Coach Development Advisor - Paralympics Australia, to deliver the first modules of the new approach. The new approach is designed to support our current coaches to develop from a volunteer coach to a career coach as well as attract new coaches to our sport. Overall the number of coaches increased during the reporting period. (A8.2)

In 2023, the Boccia Australia Performance Pathway document was implemented and will be used as the road map for BA's goal of an incremental growth of the number of athletes, coaches, and ramp operators in our Paralympic (BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC4) Performance Pathway.

NOTE: Boccia currently sits as a Prospective 2 in the AIS Sport Categorisation.

*Module 1: Know the Coach was delivered in NSW (April 2023) to eight current coaches.*

*Module 2: Building the environment delivered in Canberra at the National Camp (Sept 23) to an additional four coaches.*



Additional international expert experience for our coaches in 2022 was achieved through Bruna Accurso who completed the Experiential Coach learning for Women, Elevate Coach & Elevate learning grants and an additional learning opportunity through the Mental Performance in Competition program all supported through the AIS. (A1.3)

At the time of writing, Boccia Australia had 20 accredited coaches of which 13 are at Level 1 and 7 are at Level 2 (M1).



*Lachlan Kavanagh (BC2)*

**(O12) Number of boccia competitions increase yearly**

As mentioned above, the number of competitions was significantly higher compared to the previous year due to the easing of COVID restrictions and borders reopening. This included the National Titles which had been postponed during the pandemic – hosted in Penrith in October/November 2022 (A12.2). The National Titles for 2023 were scheduled for the end of the year in Logan City, south of Brisbane (the host city of the 2032 Paralympics). State competitions (12.4) were held in NSW, ACT, SA, QLD, and TAS, and local competitions included the Hunter Cup in NSW.



Competitors at the 2023 BANT event in Logan.

Athletes competed in ten competitions across Australia, and five international boccia competitions. We were also able to provide competition grant funding via the pathways funding to encourage each of the competitions to be consistent and use the resources of boccia to find ways to promote the sport before, during and after the event. Noting in 2024 it is intended that all funded competitions will be required to run a ‘Come & Try’ event to receive their funding.

<b>ParaQuad Tasmania State Titles (Mar 2023)</b>	14 athletes (4 interstate)
<b>Boccia South Australia (Jun 2023)</b>	13+ athletes
<b>Boccia NSW State Titles (Apr 2023)</b>	38 athletes
<b>3x Tri-Sporting events QLD State Titles Sporting Wheelies (July 2023)</b>	56 athletes across all three competitions 33 (13 interstate athletes)
<b>Boccia Australia National Titles (BANT) Logan City, QLD (Nov 2023)</b>	53 athletes (3 from NZ) 14 accredited referees (2 from NZ) 30 volunteers (3 SW staff)

### ***(O13) Increase the number of female competitors relative to males***

We are continuing to encourage all genders to be involved in the sport of boccia.

When assessing (O13) progress, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of female athletes registering since 2019-2020 from 44.9% to 46.4% in 2020-21.

### ***(O11) Australian athletes qualify for and podium at international competitions***

Australian athletes had huge success during this reporting period. In December 2022, at the 2022 World Boccia Championships, held in Rio de Janeiro, Daniel Michel and his ramp operator Ashlee Maddern won Gold becoming the individual BC3 Male World Champions. They finished the year at the top of the world ranking list. Team mate Jamieson Leeson and her ramp operator Amanda Leeson claimed Silver in the individual BC3 female event leading to an impressive jump to number four on the world ranking list at the end of 2022.

As a team they became World Champions in the BC3 Pairs, taking the Gold and retaining the world number one ranking. It was another win in an incredible winning streak from Tokyo in 2021 that continued for 21 consecutive international wins.



*Jamieson Leeson and ramp operator  
Jasmine Haydon*

### ***The 2022/2023 HPP consisted of the following athletes and officials;***

Role	Name
Athlete	Daniel Michel
Athlete	Spencer Cotie
Athlete	Jamieson Leeson
Ramp Operator	Ashlee Maddern (nee McClure)
Ramp Operator	Thomas Lunn
Ramp Operator	Amanda Leeson
Head Coach	Ken Halliday
Team Leader	Caroline Walker
Team Leader	Sarah Skidmore
Team Support	Jessica Michel (nee Dover-Ferraren)
Performance Analyst (PA)	Sam Wells
Data and Systems Analyst (PA)	Sarah Taylor



The Boccia HP Program training remained at Netball Central in Sydney Olympic Park for three days a fortnight for four hours each day during this reporting period under the guidance of High Performance Coach Ken Halliday.

*Results of our HP Program for 2022/2023 include*

FINAL RESULTS 2022/2023				
Event	BC3 PAIRS	D Michel	J Leeson	S Cotie
2022 Rio World Cup	GOLD	GOLD	6th	7th
2022 Rome Challenger			4th	
2022 Bahrain World Cup	GOLD	7th	5th	11th
2022 World Boccia Championships	GOLD	GOLD	SILVER	20th
2023 Montreal World Cup	GOLD	5th	BRONZE	11th

**PILLAR 3 -**  
Australia  
recognises  
boccia as our  
most inclusive  
sport

In this **third pillar** we started or completed all four of the medium-to-long term actions.



*Australian team at World Boccia Championships in Rio.*

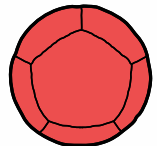
**“GO AUSSIES!”**



## **O18 - The Australian public's awareness and understanding of boccia is increased**

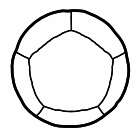
Promotional activities have been undertaken in the reporting period including gaining support publicly from former Australian test cricketer Steve Waugh, engaging in the NSW schools competition, and highlighting the success of our athletes in domestic and international competitions via social and mainstream media. We do not have a baseline nor current mechanism to be able to measure change in this area.

We believe the broadcasting of the upcoming Paris Paralympics in 2024 will make another contribution to the Australian public's awareness of boccia.

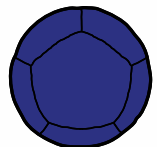


## **O19 - BA members are present in BISFed activities & committees**

Representation with World Boccia has strengthened for Australia. In February 2023, Board Chair Richard Boele was appointed to the World Boccia board. In 2022, Daniel Michel joined the World Boccia Athletes Committee and was appointed as Chair.



Lucy Bates joined the World Boccia International Referees Committee (A19). Shail Maharaj remains on the International Classification Committee.



*Richard Boele measuring balls*

## **O20 - Funding increases**

We had several sources of funding increases to support boccia over this reporting period.

Boccia Australia held a fundraising event in Sydney to highlight the sport and celebrate our world champion athletes.

We were also fortunate to receive Government funding to support athletes:

- AIS Performance Pathways Workforce Grant (National Performance Pathways Manager + State Hubs x3).
- AIS Strategic Investment for Performance Pathways for two years to 30 June 2024.
- An increase into baseline high performance funding through to 31 December 2024.



*Supporting boccia at a Sydney fundraiser - Steve Waugh, Ashlee McClure, Richard Boele, Kerri Griffiths, Andrew Johnson, Dan Michel, Liam Titterton.*

## **O21 - Greater engagement with state and federal governments.**

A proactive stakeholder engagement plan was undertaken for key stakeholders (A17.2) including for the Victorian Commonwealth Games boccia bid, and engagement with Ministers, Sport departments and agencies, Paralympics Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport, Australian Sports Commission, Sport Integrity Australia, and the media.

This report also continues to deliver on A17.1 to provide a professional public face for Boccia Australia. Around the Courts continues to be delivered on time and offers high quality, engaging content. This is in addition to regular social media posts which involves highlighting our elite athletes' successes.

Delivering on M17, a number of governance documents were developed and released to the boccia community including the Website Terms of Use 2022, Electronic Comms Policy 2022, Privacy Policy 2022, and Code of Conduct 2023. Boccia Australia takes integrity seriously, and with the commencement date of 1 July 2022 released the National Integrity Framework document for Boccia (May 2022). Work followed to develop supporting policies within the framework.





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