

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Auckland to host 2026 NZ National Boccia Championships

Top boccia athletes set to compete for gold

New Zealand's best boccia athletes will gather in Auckland this month for four days of exciting competition, with national titles on the line at the 2026 NZ National Boccia Championships.

The event will take place from Thursday 24 to Sunday 27 September 2026 at Pulman Arena in Takanini, with around 20 athletes competing across individual, team and pairs categories. Athletes from across the country, including Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Tasman, Canterbury, Otago, and Australia, will come together to compete.

While competition is at the heart of the championships, for many athletes, it is about much more than winning. It is an opportunity for players to challenge themselves, pursue their passion, showcase their skills, and connect with a community that shares their love for the sport.

"We are thrilled to be bringing the national championships back to Auckland for the first time in 10 years," says Scott Martin, General Manager of Boccia New Zealand.

"This event will be a great advertisement for the sport in the region, and we thank Disability Sport Auckland for their support in helping us host this event and for their ongoing commitment to delivering boccia in the region"

"The national championships is the pinnacle of our domestic calendar, where athletes renew friendly rivalries and compete for national bragging rights. While the competition on court is fierce, the real highlight of the event is the opportunity to make new connections and enjoy the sense of community that exists off court."

Andrew Hocken (Canterbury) will be looking to defend his Individual BC6 title, while Lilian Exton (Canterbury) will be determined to reclaim gold after having to settle for silver in 2025. New champions will be crowned in the Individual BC1/2/4/5 and Individual BC3 competitions, setting the stage for some exciting battles across the 4 days of competition. The Individual BC1/2/4/5 competition is expected to be hotly contested, with Waikato's Maurice Toon and Vishal Chandra both targeting a place on the podium.

Australia's Cassie Brown adds an intriguing element to the competition. Relatively unknown on this side of the ditch, Brown has the potential to make an impact and will be looking to establish herself among medal contenders. In the Individual BC3 competition, Troy Robertson (Northland) and Greig Jackson (Manawatu) will reignite their friendly rivalry as they battle for gold. While the competition between the

pair will be intense, their strong friendship off court is a reminder of what makes the national championships special, competitive rivalry and genuine connections sitting side by side.

Boccia is a popular Para sport designed to be played by individuals with physical disabilities. Played on a smooth indoor court, athletes propel leather balls toward a target ball known as the 'Jack.' Athletes throw, kick, or use a custom ramp to propel the ball. Sport classes (BC1 to BC7) group players based on their impairment type and functional ability. The game relies on strategy, precision and accuracy, making it an exciting sport to play and watch, while remaining inclusive, with people of all ages and abilities able to play together.

For this event, one court will also be livestreamed via the Boccia New Zealand YouTube channel. More information and updates are available on Boccia New Zealand's Facebook and Instagram pages.

With Canberra, Australia set to host a World Boccia Challenger event in 2027, this year's national championships provide an early opportunity for aspiring athletes to highlight their skills and strengthen their potential international selection heading into the 2027 season.

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ABOUT BOCCIA NEW ZEALAND

Boccia New Zealand supports the growth and development of the sport across New Zealand, providing opportunities for people with physical disabilities to participate, compete at all levels and represent their region or country.

Our purpose is to foster belonging and sporting competition for physically disabled people from recreation to high performance.

Our vision is to transform the lives of physically disabled people through Boccia.

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