

INSIDE THE LINES

Monday 26th May, 2025

Vol.1

IN THIS ISSUE

25 Year Celebration - p2

What's New(s) - p3

Website & Classification

Events - p4

Halberg Games

Around the Regions - p6

Bay of Plenty

The Call Box - p9

Information - p10

Player profile - p8

Andrew Hocken



NEWSLETTER



"Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court and you really can't tell whether he won or lost, when he carries himself with pride either way."

Jim Courier

www.boccia.org.nz

25 YEAR CELEBRATION



In December 1999, Boccia New Zealand became an incorporated society. We are proud to commemorate this with the release of a temporary logo.

Boccia, however was being played in New Zealand for a few years prior to 1999. This included local events, National Championships and international representation.

The first National Championships took place in 1997 in Wellington. Since then there have been 27 such events held in seven different regions. Many people and teams have been crowned 'National Champion' over the years.

In 2024 Boccia New Zealand launched Representative Numbers for New Zealanders that have competed on the world stage. At the start of 2024 there had only been 23 athletes that had represented NZ at World Boccia events (including Paralympic games).

In 1995 Henk Dijkstra (Rep #1) and Tom Simeon (Rep #2) competed at the World Cup in Sydney as our first representatives. Since then we have attended 23 more world events (including 4 Paralympic Games). Each representative is issued with a numbered card and cap. All athlete number cards can be viewed on the website.



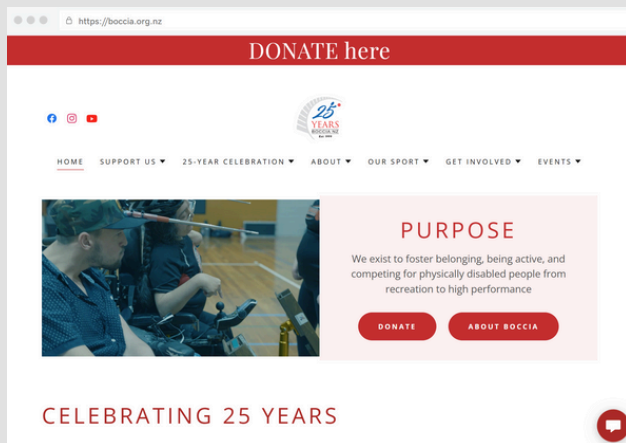
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WHAT'S NEW(S)?

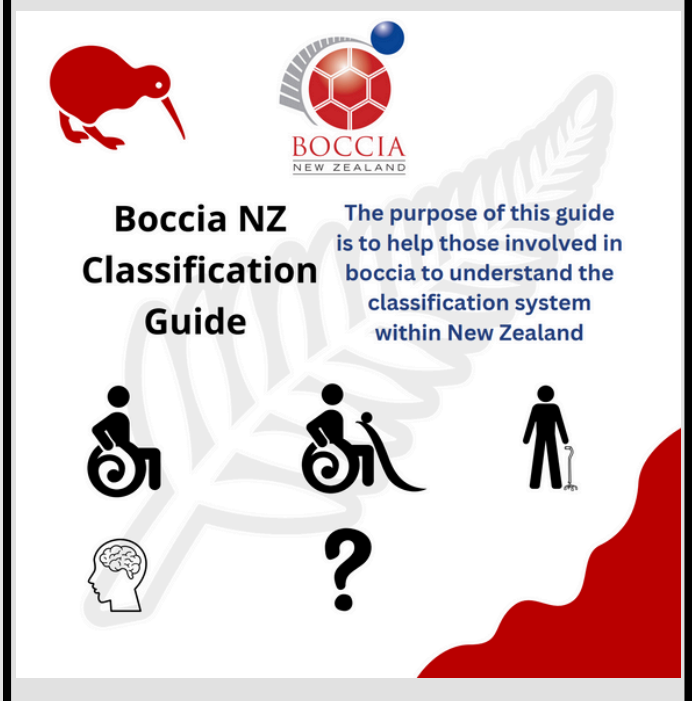
Early in 2025 we launched our new website. You can click on the link below to enjoy the content.

New Website



Boccia New Zealand have released a new classification guide to support individuals and organisations. It provides profiles of the different classes and pathways for each. Click on the link below to view and download the guide.

Classification Guide



Two of New Zealand's international referees were appointed by World Boccia to officiate at the Pattaya 2025 World Boccia Asia-Oceania Regional Championships in Thailand in May. Congratulations to Daniel Henderson and Scott Martin. The hotel looks awesome!



2025 HALBERG GAMES

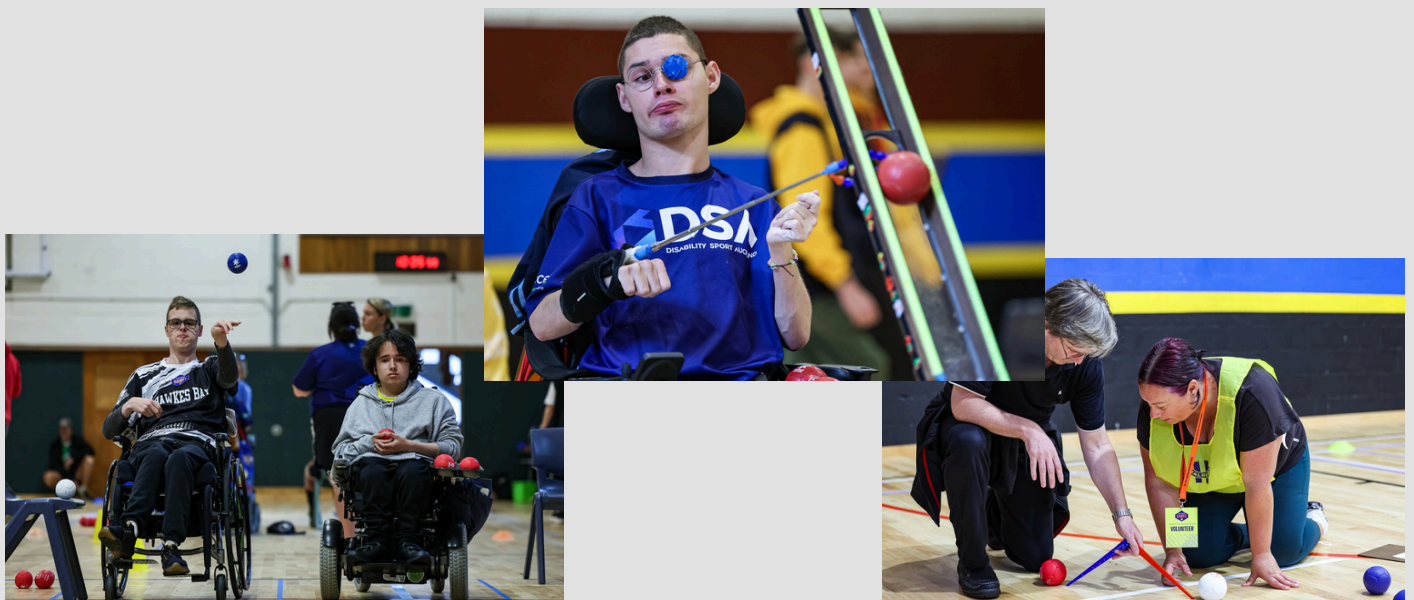


Competitive boccia was a feature of the 2025 Halberg Games in April. Over 40 athletes from all around the country took part. 40 games had to be squeezed into 3 hours of mild madness during a straight knockout tournament.

Regular local competitors took part, Max Wymer (Auckland), Georjah Cooper (Auckland), Arthur Murfitt (Waikato) and Connor Fa'asenga (Otago).

Congratulations to Arthur who was the 'last one standing' and took out the title by winning 6 elimination games. All games up to the semi finals were only 2 ends due to the time available.

The volunteers at the event did a great job in learning the sport for the first time and refereeing the games.



2025 HALBERG GAMES – ARTHUR MURFITT



My name is Arthur, and I am 16 years old. The Halberg Games are held each year and is a national sports tournament for young people with a physical disability or visual impairment. I am not a runner, or a discus thrower, but I do compete in boccia and table tennis. This year we had a knockout boccia tournament. I did not know how good or bad the other players were so I was a bit nervous that I would be knocked out in the first round.

Luckily for me, I won the first round. Did I mention that my opponent didn't turn up, so I won by default? But a win is a win.

For the next game I had a real person to play against. I won each end, sometimes by 4 or so points, sometimes by just 1 point. One rival appeared easy to beat, and their first couple of balls were quite far away from the jack. I was confident I could win, but then they threw one right on the jack. All of a sudden, my easy win was looking like it could be hard work. I did win in the end, but I learnt you can't judge a book by its cover.

I won each game, and then I was in the final! I knew I had won every game up to this point, but I also knew my opponent had also won every game up to this point. And so, the final game began. There was silence as I threw, and silence as my opponent threw. My opponent threw all of their balls, so it was me to play out. They had one of their balls somewhat close to the jack, so knowing my fate rested in my next couple of throws, I threw my ball. The silence was deafening, and I heard the thud of the ball as it landed. But it wasn't close enough. My heart was pumping. I threw again, and my ball rolled right up to the jack and touched it. As the ball touched, I realised that I had won the tournament.

This is the first tournament I have won so I was quite excited about the win. Someone asked me "How do you feel!", and being the 16-year-old boy that I am, my reply was "Good". Luckily for you (the reader), I have converted my one-word response into a few paragraphs, but overall I would say winning this tournament was "pretty good".

AROUND THE REGION – BAY OF PLENTY



Boccia in the Bay of Plenty has been taking off. In Rotorua there have been weekly sessions in collaboration with Arthritis New Zealand, Halberg Foundation & Linton Park Community Centre. In Whakatane they have been running have-a-go sessions approximately every month in collaboration with Disabilities Resource Centre and Parent to Parent.

Parafed Bay of Plenty has also been taking boccia to some of the schools and they are loving it as it is such an inclusive sport that can be modified so easily.

In Tauranga there are weekly sessions at QEYC Memorial Hall on a Monday at 3.30pm-4.30pm prior to our wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball. Some of those players join in too from time to time.

There are also sessions in Te Puke every second Wednesday at Te Puke Baptist Church 3.30-4.30pm.

For more information about boccia in the Bay of Plenty region, please email info@parafedbop.co.nz



2025 HEALTHVISION FESTIVAL OF DISABILITY SPORT

The Healthvision Festival of Disability Sport is a dynamic two-day event that brings together physically disabled athletes from across the nation. It features multiple sports codes over one weekend and fun HAVE-A-GO sessions across various codes for youth, whānau, and low-vision athletes. It took place on May 10 & 11 in Tauranga.

Boccia was a feature and was played as a pairs competition, open to a wide range of impairments. There was a mixture of new and old players. Arthur Murfitt led his pair (consisting of his Dad and another local player at times) to victory in the final.

It was an awesome event hosted by Parafed Bay of Plenty and great to have boccia played alongside other sports. Including, Boccia New Zealand Representative #4, (and Paralympian) Stacey Roche playing wheelchair rugby for the Bay of Plenty Steam Rollers!



PLAYER PROFILE – ANDREW HOCKEN

Andrew is a member of the ParaFed Canterbury Boccia club, which is based in Christchurch. He was introduced to boccia via a junior sports program and fun days and decided it was for him.

Boccia has provided Andrew with an opportunity to travel around the country to play his sport. He has been successful thus far, says his best result was winning his grade at the National Championships three years in a row – 2020, 2021 and 2022.



Andrew credits Jeremy Morriss and Matthew Whiting for their support while playing boccia – but neither are his favourite sportsperson. That accolade goes to basketballer, LeBron James.



His hardest opponent is Lillian Exton – especially when she is 'on a roll' and forces him to change his game plan.

Andrew's future goals in boccia are to simply win more tournaments and enjoy meeting new people to compete against. His advice to new players is to listen to people you respect and in doing that you will get better over time.

THE CALL BOX



We'd love your feedback on boccia within your region. The surveys are anonymous and there is one for **players** and one for **coaches/activators**. Survey is very short and requires box ticking.

Player Survey

Coach / Activator Survey



The **2025 Wellington Regional Boccia Championships** are happening on **July 5 & 6** in Wellington. Entries close June 22.

Enter here;

Wellington Entry



Become a Boccia New Zealand Member;
Associate Membership (\$10) – for coaches, officials and volunteers

Player Membership (\$20) – for athletes

Club Membership (30\$) – for clubs / groups / organisations / schools

Friend of Boccia NZ (free!) – to receive newsletter

Membership Form



gatheredhere

Remembering Boccia New Zealand in your Will is a great way to help New Zealanders living with a severe physical disability to transform their lives through boccia, the most inclusive sport in the world.

We have partnered with the leading and most trusted online will platform Gathered Here to launch a free online will service.

To find out more or to write your free Will today simply follow this link:

gatheredhere Wills

Thank you for considering a gift in your Will to Boccia New Zealand! You will create a legacy that lives beyond your days and will make a difference in future generations!

INFORMATION



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www.boccia.org.nz



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Boccia New Zealand is a registered charity (CC48725) and here is a link if you wish to donate.

[**DONATE**](#)

Newsletter Content

If you have anything you'd like to share, promote or include in future issues, please contact;

[**sportdevelopmentlead@boccia.org.nz**](mailto:sportdevelopmentlead@boccia.org.nz)

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