

**The Status  
of USA BOCCIA  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**



**USA Boccia**

# Presidential Report



Jim Thomson; President USA Boccia

It's been a year since we started this journey and we have made some major strides! But we still have a long way to go in building a successful and sustainable disabled sports organization. There has been a huge learning curve and many bumps along the way. I'm confident that we are heading in the right direction on all fronts.



# Presidential Report



Jim Thomson; President USA Boccia

Some of our major accomplishments this past year include securing two large grants, which allowed us to conduct countless workshops all around this country. Also our athletes have competed in four international events throughout this past year. The final major accomplishment is the growth of this year's Nationals, which we will continue to build on.



# Presidential Report



Jim Thomson; President USA Boccia

The last item that I will leave you with is, in my opinion, the most critical to the long term success of this organization is that we need to find funds in order to hire an Executive Director. A totally volunteer based organization will not be successful over the long term. So we need your help! Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.



# Presidential Report



Jim Thomson; President USA Boccia

I want to end by thanking our Board and our Committee's for their countless hours of hard work and determination!



# All volunteer Based Organization



All volunteer based organization

- Over **8,600** hours of volunteer time has been given to this organization over the last year. That is over 358 days this year alone.

# Athlete Representative



Your Athlete Rep: **Charlie Brown**

- We attended more international competitions this year than in the previous three combined.
- We need to continue to make a greater effort to include all Disabilities that can be classified and compete internationally
- I spend a lot of time talking with other athletes also from around the world. We are better as a nation when we know what others are thinking about the rules, classification, competitions and movements from other athletes from all over the world.



# Competition Committee

## Cathy Drobny Chair



### Committee members:

Kathy Brinker, Pat Dalton, AB Anwar, Austin Hanson, Cathy Drobny

Hold a well-run Annual National Tournament.

National task force: Cathy Drobny, Becky Prince, Mark Flora-Swick, AB Anwar, Lee Graybeal, Lucy Berry

Develop Bid Packet, encourage bids for National Games and offer support to those who wish to bid.

Review and select the bids for a National Tournament.

Appoint the Technical Delegate and Key Staff to oversee the National Tournament Planning.

Added new divisions, BC5 and Open, to the National Tournament program.

Annually update of the national ranking system (James Thomson/Cathy Drobny)

Worked with USOC to develop High performance plan and write selection process for electing members to the USA Boccia team and staff

Submitted rule revisions suggestions to BISFed rules committee

Developing Coaching Certification ( Kathy Brinker)

Developing sanctioning guidelines for regional events

Assist with the VA Grant to develop boccia throughout the country. 2016 workshop planning encouraged the inclusion of community partners (UCP's, Area Schools, Parks and Recreation, Paralympic Clubs.)



# Competition Committee (International)

## Mark Flora-Swick Chair



Committee members: Cathy Drobny, Mark Flora-Swick ,  
Kathy Brinker, Jim Thomson, Charlie Brown

- **2015 BOCCIA WORLD OPEN, POZNAN**
- **2015 PARAPANAM GAMES**
- **2015 BISFED WORLD OPEN, SANTIAGO DE CALI**
- **BISFED 2016 WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, BEIJING**
- **BISFED 2016 WORLD OPEN, MONTREAL**
- **BISFED 2016 FAZZA WORLD OPEN, DUBAI**

# Competition Committee (International)

## Mark Flora-Swick Chair



### Paralympics in Rio 2016 (September 7-18)

USA boccia has one athlete, Austin Hanson who could be selected to attend the Paralympics. Austin is currently ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in BC3 individual in the world rankings . Garry Barraclough was selected as SA and Cathy Drobny as team leader.

For this Paralympics there are 5 individual BC3 positions open. Austin is ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. **UPDATE: Austin missed the selection by 1/2 point. Boccia will take place on September 10-16 in Carioca Arena, Rio.**

# Competition Committee (International)

## Mark Flora-Swick Chair



BISFED has released the 2017-2020 Competition System

We are committed to win a bid to host at least 2 events in this quadrennial

2017 World Open Tournament.

2018 World Championships or 2018 World Open

We are committed to work with our fundraising team to be in a position to support our best athletes in their competition

We need your help:

Will you serve on a Host Organizing Committee?

Will you help raise the funds to Recruit, Train and Send our athletes to compete?

# Governance Committee: JJ Lewis Chair



Conducted a fair and impartial board election.

The Results are:

Fionna Allen

Mark Flora-Swick

Continuing on the board are : Cathy Drobny, Jim Thomson and Charlie Brown

# Classification Committee



Created and distributed National Classifier Course and Exam. The Program goals were to: Increase knowledge of the Classification process; Increase the Classifier core of USA Boccia.

Hosted Classifier course in conjunction with US Nationals 2016

Combined the BC5 & BC6 Classifications into a single BC5 Classification based on BISFed profile.

Bruce Ashby completed his first international practicum to become an international classifier at the Open in Dubai.

Ruth Burd, Sam Williams, and Bruce Ashby attended the National Wheelchair Veterans Games in Salt Lake City and unofficially classified a number of athletes.

Employed new measurement sheet from BISFed to use at Classification at Nationals.

Bruce Ashby and Sam Williams presented at a clinic in Denver in December.

Standing Committee of



# Grants Reports-VA

## Mark Flora- Swick



Our Deliverable for VA Grant was 5 clinics/ Tournaments.

We have blown that number out of the water. We were able to be in over 20 sites and do it under budget. Sharing costs with Neilson grant was very helpful

We worked with local VA – and Community Groups to expand the sport of Boccia in each of these sites

.

Have applied for a new grant in 2016/17 and will find out details in late July **UPDATE: USA Boccia was awarded a grant to promote boccia from the Veterans Administration.**

# Grants Reports- Neilsen Foundation

Kathy Brinker



Our Deliverable for 4 trainings, equipment, workshops. Met all deliverables in training and equipment. Hosted a classification workshop this week to highlight SCI classification.

Sharing costs with VA was very helpful

Currently working on:

Webinars for classification and athlete profiles of individuals with SCI.



# Fundraising Committee Report



**Committee Chair:** Tim Dalton

Mary Ann Keating

Marck Harrison  
A.B Anwar  
J.J. Lewis

Standing Committee of





# Fundraising Committee Report

**Committee Chair:** Tim Dalton



Developed funding priorities and mechanism funding for USA Boccia with the help of Martha Johnson Associate Director of NGB fundraising development USOC which begins with:

- The hire of a National Director for USA Boccia.
- Development of functional website for USA Boccia.

## Accomplishments:

Wrote the fledgling documents for a USA Boccia funding packet designed to acquire funding for a National director. These documents included a budget narrative and a flow diagram which begin to quantify the specific financial needs of USA Boccia and clarify the role of USA Boccia in National and International bocce communities.

Worked on the format for individual and corporate donations made through the USA Boccia website.

Wrote the renewal for the VA Adaptive Sport Grant. Standing Committee of



# Fundraising Committee Report

**Committee Chair:** Tim Dalton



Current Goals for: 2016-17

Finalize USA Boccia funding packets and send personalized versions to individual and corporate donors to acquire sufficient funding and benefits to hire a National Director of USA Boccia for at least two years.

Finalize the USA Boccia website to allow online donations.

Renew VA adaptive sports grant

Standing Committee of



# Referee Committee

## Chair: Louis Mitchell



Referee committee members; Louis Mitchell, Cathy Drobny, Harold Johnson  
This year we hope to add two members ( an athlete rep & another referee). Will vet candidates at Nationals

### **US International Referees have been active:**

Mary Knudsen: 2014 BISFED World Open Event- Defi Sportif, Montreal Ca. Head Referee  
Toronto 2015 ParaPan Amer. Games Toronto, Canada Head Ref.  
2015 World Open Boccia Cali, Colombia

Harold G. Johnson: Toronto Parapan American games, 2014 BISFed World Open, Montreal, Beijing world Championships, Invited to 2016 Paralympics,

Cornell Markham: Toronto Parapans, World Invitational Colombia

Louis Mitchell: Test Event Rio 2015 Nov. 11-14 2015

Standing Committee of



# Referee Committee

## Chair: Louis Mitchell



Referees have been helping with boccia trainings.

Cathy Drobny, Mark Flora-Swick, Micah Flora-Swick have been active in Boccia workshops.

Harold Johnson to Southeast Valor games in May

Cornell and Louis train at the Rehab Institute of Michigan and the Veteran Golden Age Games (Cathy Drobny conducted webinar prior to this event)

Mark & Harold conducted a Boccia workshop in Turkey in May of 2016

Mary Knudsen train referees at Texas Regional Games in April

Cathy Drobny train referees in St. Louis VA program in May

Mary Knudsen will train referees prior to US Nationals.

Louis

Mitchell is Head Referee for 2016 Nationals Standing Committee of



# Referee Committee

## Chair: Louis Mitchell



US Referee committee is maintaining a data base of national and international referee activity

The committee worked with the Competition Committee to submit rule revisions to BISFed  
When invited, the committee makes recommendations for international referee nominations.

This year we will continue our outreach to new athletes and coaches and the recruiting of new referees. From the Michigan Victory Games and the Nat. Vets. Golden Age Games, we have recruited three new refs who want to take our referees course.

Future:

Review Referee Guidelines Update

Referee Course for new rules.

Inform Athletes about new additions or clarifications to rules.

Standing Committee of



# Open Meeting: Discussion



Sam Williams; Athlete

## Selection Criteria that placed increased emphasis on Team and Pairs play

**UPDATE:** Teams and Pairs need to be standardized. Competition committee will consider parameters for changes in team make up, for evaluating subs, dealing with free agents, etc. And make a recommendation for developing a ranking system for Teams and Pairs. US Athletes are encouraged to seek out Team Members and practice throughout the year.( even if it is 'virtual' practice.)



# Discussion regarding selection of US Team



- Objective: Create strongest possible US Squad

## 3 Goals

- A: Increased emphasis on Team and Pairs
- B: Allowing Individual results and other technical criteria to be used
- C: Create a National Coach position to develop standards and monitoring abilities

# Open Meeting: Discussion



Mary Hodge; coach

## Ramps

Nassau Thunderbolts have a grant to build a prototype for our BC3 players. Goal: meets the needs of the athlete, cost efficient and easily shipped. Please send ideas, request to [usaboccia@gmail.com](mailto:usaboccia@gmail.com) through September.



**USA Boccia**



# Open Discussion



- Other thoughts Questions????

**Attn-Veterans:** Rec therapists have an opportunity to get adapted equipment thru funds for prosthetics

VA Rec therapist can recommend the purchase of equipment after A trial period. Ramp company needs to get 'vendorized'. (Charley Wright )

**Other Topics:**

- Finding practices space is a common problem across the country.
- National PVA is listing USA Boccia as a partner/2 groups coming together as one.
- Check out Paralympic Sport clubs in your area for support or to help them develop the sport
- make use virtual training practice through universal drills for team members across the country
- USA Boccia athletes to clinics