**USA Boccia into the Future**

Eric Pfeifer, Executive Director

Hello USA Boccia membership! My excitement to lead USA Boccia into the future is tremendous! The last few months have been rapid fire with my onboarding, our organizational grow and development planning at the grass roots level while continuing our assistance with the elite athletes and building our organizational support infrastructure to service our membership.

As we move forward in the next year, there will be some very exciting initiatives enacted for our sport. We will be rolling out a large grass roots marketing & development initiative to really expand Boccia. Developing new athlete & club financial support programs to make our sport more affordable is on the agenda.

As we move forward we will need everyone’s support and efforts in our various programs to develop the sport we love! I look forward to meeting many of you at Nationals in Gardner, Kansas in October!

**USA Boccia Nationals 2021: Will be Held**

**October 7-10, Gardner, Kansas!**

We are pleased to announce USA Boccia Nationals are scheduled from October 7th-10th at New Century Field House in Gardner, Kansas!

Everyone is HIGHLY encouraged to be vaccinated! Nationals will follow various COVID-19 protocols but vaccinations are the number one way to help prevent issues. Full information about tournament details is posted: [www.usaboccia.org](http://www.usaboccia.org).

Registration is now at [www.usaboccia.org](http://www.usaboccia.org)

Deadline is September 1, 2021.

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| **For Nationals Questions Please Contact as Indicated Below:** |
| Cathy Drobny | cathy.drobny@gmail.com  | Event staff, Officials, Classification & Rules |
| Lucy Berry | zanywoman64056@yahoo.com  | Food & Local information Q’s |
| Melanie Yules | myules125@gmail.com  | Volunteers & Transportation Q’s |
| Becky Prince | beckyp@wdsra.com | Sport Engine Registration & Competition Q’s |
| Lee Graybeal | lagraybeal2@hotmail.com  | Lodging & Veteran Mentoring & Q’s |
| Eric Pfeifer | eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org | Sponsorship, COVID details & Other Q’s |

#### Jack Attack Boccia Tournament:

#### August 21, 2021

Adaptive Sports Club of Columbus Regional Boccia Tournament. Individual tournament play only. All BC classifications (BC1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Open) and disabled veterans. 1) $35 per Athlete 2) $15 Disabled Veteran Athlete 3) $15 Sports Asst & Coaches. If BC class spots are full, contact Jeremy Finton, Tournament Director: paralympicsportsclubcbus@gmail.com.

Registration Deadline: Friday, August 20, 2021 @ 11:30pm

Register here: <https://event.gives/cbusboccia>

As of 8/16, Masks are required for all participants/visitors. Masks can be removed during physical activity.

**Social Media Follow USA Boccia**

Follow the Paralympics from our website: [www.usaboccia.org](http://www.usaboccia.org) under BISFED then Paralympics page.

Make sure to add our social media accounts and ask your networks to follow us too:

* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USABoccia1>
* Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/usa_boccia/>
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/usaboccia>
* You Tube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkVIy15TYw4IxQkdcedbKYQ>

**Desert Palms Coaching Clinic Webinar**

Peter Hornig

 On September 8, 2021 at 10:00 AM PST - in cooperation with the Desert Recreation District and Palms to Pines Parasport, USA Boccia coach Peter Hornig will be delivering a webinar introducing participants to the concept of delivering boccia locally.

Learn about coaching the basics of boccia within your community, how to deliver an inclusive session for all abilities and some advanced tips on taking existing or talented players to new heights.”

<https://drd-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcOusqz4tEtwLZfC17uG6NU6jHQMD4qZ9>

**Licensed Balls in USA Boccia**

You may have been hearing or seeing things on the internet and/or Facebook about licensed balls in the sport of boccia around the world. Here are the facts and the approach that USA Boccia will take:

* Domestic games (including nationals) **will NOT** require licensed balls
* All balls are subject to circumference, weight, and roll test before and during competition, including random ball checks (this has not changed)
* Our goal is to make boccia accessible to all in the U.S. Some athletes may choose to place their balls up for sale at the 2021 Nationals (ball buyback program) in order to save up money for upgraded ball purchases as well as benefit up and coming athletes in the sport. We will have a table at nationals to sell these balls. All balls sold at this time are nonlicensed, yet very suitable for domestic games. Most of the balls sold will be well worked in and will be playable the day you buy them. You will be hearing more about the ball buy back program in the coming months as we get closer to nationals.
* All athletes competing in World Boccia international competitions (not domestic) from January 2022 on will be required to compete with World Boccia licensed balls.
* Want to know more about licensed balls? Click [Here](https://www.worldboccia.com/about-boccia/sport-equipment/#ballLicensing)
* Still have questions? Contact Kathy Brinker

**Handi Life Sport:**

Will have Licensed balls for purchase at USA Nationals.   There is no price change from previous years.  More information is available at [www.boccia-usa.com](http://www.boccia-usa.com).

**U.S. Boccia Coach Selection**

Kathy Brinker

We will be using a mixed methods approach to coaching selection including: virtual interview, questionnaire, rules test, athlete/coach’s references, and video simulation of training sessions.

There will be a 5-point rubric for selection. Rating of coaching performance will be based on these 5 categories:

* Communication that is consistent, fair, specific, timely, and which is helpful to athletes’ needs in both physical and mental performance
* Knowledge of the sport of boccia, that when purposefully implemented into routines/practices/ and continuous feedback, which leads to significant improvements in both individual and team/pair athlete(s) technical and tactical skills
* Knowledge of sport psychology/mental performance that leads to the development of athlete performance on the court, and overall positive mental health on and off the court
* Building athlete initiative and commitment
* Great work ethic of preparedness in coaching (i.e., quality scouting reports), which in turn equates to athletes being prepared in all aspects of the game

\*\* Coaches will also show competencies in use of technology through submission of written questionnaire, videotaping and submitting virtual training session, and navigating testing site.

Interested in applying? Send email to Kathy Brinker; usabocciahpmanager@gmail.com

HP Manager for USA Boccia and consultant for the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

**Nationals Lodging 2021**

Lee Graybeal, Lodging & Veteran Coordinator

Hampton Inn

The Hampton Inn has reserved 42 rooms for the 2021 Boccia National Games. They would like to release some of these rooms, so please get your reservation in as soon as possible. If you have any difficulty with your reservation, or you're unsure how to reserve your Team, please contact Lee Graybeal at 785-224-0264.

The Hampton Inn serves a complimentary continental breakfast. They do not however have a restaurant on site. There are two restaurants, one a sit down and one fast food, within walking distance. If you do not feel like walking, they provide a very extensive list of a variety of foods that can be either picked up by a team member or delivered for a small fee.

I had the opportunity to tour each type of room at the Hampton Inn. We realized that if we removed one or two pieces of furniture (they were on wheels just for that purpose), I could get my power wheelchair into every single room. The shower, tub, and toilet area, although they do not have handrails on any bathroom wall, except the accessible rooms; was easy to roll into with my wheelchair and a PCA. The bathroom doors were very wide and the actual doors were of a barn door style.

The accessible shower was large enough to accommodate a four-person family. The hotel has only one roll-in shower, but there is a USA Boccia member willing to share their shower given enough notice. This athlete will donate their roll-in shower chair for the accessible roll-in shower for the duration of the competition.

Bathtubs ran an average size, making it easy for a Kansas Independent Living Resource Center to temporarily donate bathtubs seats on every hotel floor.

Some rooms furniture could be removed accommodating the room for either larger powerchairs or more than one wheelchair. ​

The Hampton Inn also has thick mattress rollaway beds available.

Super 8

Super 8 has blocked off 20 rooms for USA Boccia. The hotel has no elevator, but does have a second floor. We recommend that able-bodied individuals use this hotel as it is not the best for wheelchaired utilizing individuals.

The hotel serves a basic continental breakfast of fruit, cereal, breakfast rolls, coffee and tea.

For the purpose of evening visiting, remember there is a low traffic access road between the two hotels. It accommodates wheelchairs.

Transportation

If you need transportation to and from the venue you need to stay at the Hampton Inn. Also, on your registration you need to check that you need transportation. This will cost you an extra $100. Please remember that the bus will not be going anywhere except the Hampton Inn and the venue and back.