



Building Boccia at Every Level and Every Corner! USA Boccia February Announcements 2024: Final Updated Version

From the Executive Director Desk

This new year has kicked off with a BANG! In January we hosted our first US West Coast clinic and developmental tournament in California at Santa Ana College. Michael Rosenkrantz, SoCal Adaptive Sports, has volunteered to be our West Coast Developmental Contact and led the charge with getting this project going along with Courtney Doussett. Congratulations and thank you!

USA Boccia has three big Regional Tournaments beginning in March followed by several local & developmental tournaments around the country including adding the PVA local tournaments for USA boccia members to participate. Check out our website for details.

Our 2024 Nationals is being hosted by the Omaha Sports Commission/Council Bluffs at the gorgeous new Iowa West facility with many hotels in rolling distance!

Everyone don't forget to check out our memberships' Ball Buy Back Program for all of those older balls or unlicensed balls. See below for details.

Welcome to USA Boccias' Newest Board Member Nick Taylor! Nick has joined the USA Boccia Board of Directors beginning January 1, 2024 as an athlete representative. Nick will be a great addition. Welcome!

USA Boccia Membership: DEADLINE: EXTENDED TO MARCH 30.

Due to a computer glitch, the deadline will be extended to March 30 in order to provide additional time for those unaware of the normal renewal dates being on a calendar year beginning January 1. USA Boccia Memberships for both Individual and Club categories annually renews on a calendar year: January 1. Renewal membership prices are standard until Feb 28 normally. Afterwards, the renewal membership fee will rise up by \$25. Please renew now! Our website has a membership benefits breakdown for more details. Please ask if you have questions. Benefits List

Link: (<https://usaboccia.org/membership-benefits/>). PLEASE reach out to eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org for questions.

[Membership Renewal Button: Click Here](#)

USA Boccia National Ranking Clarification

USA Boccia along with the Regional & Ranking committees are excited to present a new way for athletes to increase their US Rankings with USA Boccia. **The bonus points earned at a regional, will go towards the ranking, which will then be used for seeding for nationals. The clarification that needs to be emphasized, is that there will not be multiple divisions within a classification. There is only one division per classification. Sorry for any confusion!**

Athletes, Coaches and Teams are encouraged to compete at Regional Competitions in 2024.

Why?

Athletes will earn "bonus points" towards the national ranking list for competing in at least 1 regional every year. These points will be added to the national ranking points before seeding is determined at nationals and then will combine with the ranking points earned at nationals to stay in the calculations for the coming years. Athletes that win gold will get 4 points, silver 3 points, bronze 2 points and every athlete that competes will get 1 point.

If an athlete competes at multiple regionals during a year only their best result will get used. For competitions where classes have to be merged after the final ranking list for that competition has been produced the list will be split by class and points awarded for each class separately.

It is not required to attend a Regional in order to attend Nationals. It is greatly encouraged to attend Regionals and you'll be able to add additional points to your national ranking by participating in Regionals.

Regional Tournaments

USA Boccia standard membership is required. It is highly recommended to participate in the 2024 USA Boccia Regional Tournaments. As we move forward, these regional qualifiers are expected to expand as our membership grows. These tournaments are open to all youth, novice, and elite players while space allows. It is not required to attend a Regional in order to attend Nationals. It is greatly encouraged to attend Regionals and you'll be able to add additional points to your national ranking by participating in Regionals. For membership questions: eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org.

This is an exciting way for athletes to increase their ranking which will be in effect as of Jan 1, 2024. Regional's in 2024 that will be included are:

1) Jack Attack Regional Tournament

March 23 & 24, 2024, Columbus, Ohio

Event Registration: [LINK](#)

Questions: jlfinton@columbus.gov

2) St. Louis Regional Tournament

April 13 & 14, 2024, St. Louis, MO

Event Registration: <https://event.racereach.com/boccia-stl-rdt>

Questions: meghanm@dasasports.org

3) Mid-West Lucy Berry Memorial Regional Tournament

May 4 & 5, 2024, Overland Park, KS

Event Registration: <https://event.racereach.com/boccia-west-rdt>

Questions: timdaltont@me.com

California Developmental Clinic & Tournament!

In January 2024, USA Boccia through a grant, ventured to the West Coast to continue expanding the awareness of Boccia across the country. With the assistance of a SoCal Adaptive Sports' Michael Rosenkrantz local outreach Boccia clinics and developmental tournaments were conducted in the Los Angeles area of Southern California. This was not only the first trip out west BUT also the FIRST time USA Boccia officially held a BC7 Visually Impaired Boccia Game. This is an evolving division but interest has been expressed by a number of athletes. Additionally, a number of local colleges and connections have been established in efforts to introduce and hopefully begin Boccia programs. Upon leaving three new boccia programs were in the process of launching with City of Mission Viejo amongst those interested parties.

Ball Buy Back Program

For a while, it has been discussed that many athletes have "old" Boccia balls sitting in their closet and want to get rid of them for a variety of reasons.

In USA Boccia's continuing efforts to grow the sport, a Ball Buy Back program is being initiated for USA Boccia's current member players and member clubs. This is a two-step process:

Step one:

Any interested USA Boccia Member, needs to complete this simple survey listing some basic ball information. This must be completed in advance for us to best prepare. [LINK](#)

Step two:

At four designated events, the interested member will bring the equipment to be inspected by USA Boccia. The four collection points will be the 3 regional tournaments and the 2024 Nationals.

- Full sets are NOT needed. Individual balls are eligible.
- Non BISFED labelled balls are fully eligible for exchange.
- The balls must be usable and meet basic playing requirements.

Any eligible balls/equipment that can be immediately re-issued to a new grass roots player, will be purchased at \$10 per ball or \$120 per set. USA Boccia understands that this will not purchase a new, high-level set of balls for HP athletes but it will provide some funding back to our HP members and other club members assisting them in replenishing some equipment with this limited funding. These Buy Back Balls will be re-issued in the loan back to mostly new Boccia player members across the country.

Equipment Loan Bank Program

USA Boccia is replenishing its Ball Loan Bank program. We have also added ramps and pointers to the equipment inventory list. First priority is for SCI and veteran athletes, but all current USA Boccia members are eligible to participate. The loan bank program's purpose is to provide a "bridge" for our athletes from the time they want to start playing Boccia until the time they can acquire their own equipment. Check out our website for further details.

USA Boccia National Championships: 2024

One exciting format change will be the addition of multiple divisions at Nationals. For divisions that have enough registrants, we will be ranking and dividing players into two divisions based on several factors with a priority on how the players participate and finish in one of the three Regional USA Boccia tournaments this year. Everyone will benefit from this new format with awards at both levels. Attending this year's regional tournaments will be highly valued for National rankings points.

The Omaha Sports Commission and Council Bluffs Iowa will host our 2024 National Championships on August 7-11, 2024. This gorgeous 8 court basketball facility will bring us to new heights and experiences. Many hotels are in rolling distance and will be posted on the website by Feb 28.

Volunteers & Committees

2024 is a brand new year and USA Boccia has a renewed energy to develop our sport. We are seeking individuals that have the passion to grow our sport. We need Individuals that have passion, skills, and the time to serve on many of our various committees, task forces, and workgroups. Email: eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org if interested.

[Membership Renewal Button: Click Here](#)

New Club Member Grant & Fund-Raising Program

Our new Club Fundraising Program is almost ready for implementation. Hours of local research has occurred during the fall in each club's local market identifying potential sponsor targets.

We will be reaching out to EACH club administrator to confirm local participation. Clubs will earn a significant financial grant if they decide to participate in this program. Much of this joint grant / fundraising program will be completed by the National Office with local assistance from the club. Contact Eric Pfeifer for any questions or if interested in signing up for the program: eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org.

Annual National Competition Calendar Structure

There has been a need to create a standardized national competition structure so that athletes and programs can adequately plan their finances, travel and avoid conflicts. Going forward the following will be USA Boccia's competition structure: Competition Calendar: Sept 1 – August 30 will be the competition year.

- Nationals: August Time Frame
- Regionals Time Frame: January through May: for 2024:
 - Columbus, OH March 23 weekend
 - St. Louis, MO April 13 weekend
 - Overland Park, KS May 4 weekend
- Nationals 2024: August 7-11. Location is final, details will be announced shortly.
- Nationals 2025 & 2026: out to bid with early-mid August dates.
- June-July: State Championships & State Games Boccia Tournaments
- September-July: Open for local competitions

Intern Program

USA Boccia has a multifaceted college internship program. Our intern programs include virtual and hybrid onsite positions. College students from various majors are eligible including those that just have a passion for Boccia or adaptive sports populations no matter their major! If you know of someone who may be interested in our unpaid college intern program, please contact Eric Pfeifer: eric.pfeifer@usaboccia.org

About USA Boccia

USA Boccia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, with headquarters in Bay Shore, New York, and Atlanta, Georgia, whose mission is to provide an inclusive opportunity for all persons, especially those with physical disabilities the opportunity to play, learn and compete in the sport of Boccia on the local, regional, national and international level. USA Boccia is the National Organization for the sport of Boccia. For more information about USA Boccia, visit <http://www.usaboccia.org>.