

Name: Patrick Parkes, BA MA, MBA

(Current Athlete Representative, USA Boccia Board of Directors, January 2019-January 2023)

Please share the highlights of your Career history.

After discovering the sport of Boccia locally in April/May 2016 with the Blue Valley Boccia Club at the Mid-America Games in Kansas, my USA Boccia career began a few months later with a BC2 silver medal finish at the 2016 USA Boccia Nationals in Kansas City, Missouri. Since then, I have won two individual gold medals: one each in the BC2 (2018) and BC1 (2019) classes respectively. Furthermore, Team play has allowed me to compete and build friendships with athletes across our USA Boccia network from states like Ohio, New York, Illinois, North Carolina, and more. These teammates and I earned two Team bronze medal (2017 & 2018) and a Team silver medal (2019) on court.

Beyond domestic competition, I was blessed to earn a place on the U.S. National Team from 2016-2020, competing as a member of the BC1/BC2 Team sent to the 2017 BISFED Kansas City World Open. Additionally, I was selected and competed in individual play of the 2019 Americas Regional Championships in Sao Paulo Brazil.

In short, my competitive experiences across the entirety of the Boccia ecosystem regionally, nationally, and internationally have equipped me uniquely well to serve athletes at all levels of our sport during my first term on the USA Boccia Board (2019-2023). My strong desire to grow our sport in the U.S.—particularly to expose more youth to the same blessings Boccia has given me—leave me eager to continue serve you as Athlete Representative for my second and final term.

How have you been connected with Boccia?

As I detailed above, I have been connected with Boccia as both a six-year athlete and a four-year USA Boccia Athlete Representative to the Board of Directors. While on the Board, I have held the positions of Vice President (2021-2022) and Treasurer (2020-2021). I have also served on two rounds of Bylaw Revision committees, last year's High-Performance Taskforce, the Nationals Committee, and an early iteration of the Youth Development Taskforce (2017-2019)

Beyond the USA Boccia Board, I was also elected by current U.S. National Team members and alumni to serve in the newly separate position of U.S. Paralympics Boccia's Athlete Representative to the newly renamed Team USA Athlete Advisory Council for the 2021-2024 quadrennium.

I view my ability to serve in both roles important for keeping all levels of Boccia in the United States connected and working together in a mutually beneficial fashion.

What are your strengths to bring to the Board to advance the sport?

Aside from my widespread Boccia-specific experiences, I also bring graduate degrees in business and public policy as well as professional experiences working in both sectors to the Board. I have been able to use these experiences to effectively evaluate, suggest ideas for, and help shape the direction of USA Boccia's programs, Independent Board Director candidate searches, and (unfortunately due to turnover) two Executive Director candidate searches and interview processes over the last two years.

Going forward, I look forward to bringing these skills to the table again to substantially grow/improve USA Boccia's fundraising and Board Member recruitment efforts as well as "best practice" processes over the next four years.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, I look forward to using my experiences and passion as a former multi-year K-12 Substitute Teacher to bring more youth athletes into our uniquely inclusive and beautiful sport!

Please send a photo to add to your interview.

