
Message from the BISFed President

Dear BISFed Member,

Let me begin by thanking you all for your commitment and support, both to our wonderful sport of Boccia and to your new Federation. At the end of what I hope you will agree has been a very successful first year for BISFed, I thought it would be appropriate to provide a short summary of what we have achieved so far, and to set out some of our plans for the future.

Review of 2013

2013 was indeed a momentous year for Boccia; here are some of the highlights:

- **BISFed launch:** following the unanimous vote by CPISRA members to approve a new independent Federation, BISFed took over responsibility for governing Boccia on 1st January 2013.
- **Membership:** During 2013, BISFed has approved over 50 new members, including several countries that have not previously belonged to a governing body for boccia.
- **Website:** our new website went live in early January, showcasing the branding and providing a channel of communication with members.
- **Competitions:**
 - We sanctioned and delivered three major **Regional Championships** together with the Host Organising Committees in Portugal, America and Australia. Our thanks go to all of the HOCs for running such successful events;
 - We agreed that the most significant competition during 2014, the **World Championships** will be held in Beijing, China during September 2014; and
 - We sought bids from members to host other competitions during 2014 and 2015; thus far we have sanctioned **World Open** events in 2014 for the Americas (Canada) and Europe (Portugal.) News of the Asian World Open will follow.
- **Competition System:** in consultation with our members, we approved a new, expanded Competition System designed both to provide many more competitive opportunities for a wider population of athletes, and to provide a clear pathway to the Paralympic Games.
- **World Ranking System:** we designed a new World Ranking system to complement the Competition System. Following input from many members, this has now been agreed and published.
- **Classification:** we reviewed, clarified and republished the Boccia Classification Rules.
- **Boccia Rules:** we revised the existing Boccia Rules to make them more consistent and easier to read. We also made important changes to the time allowed per end so as to speed play up and to make it more exciting.
- **Anti-Doping:** we reviewed and re-published the BISFed Anti-Doping Rules.
- **International Paralympic Committee:** David Hadfield (President) attended the IPC's general Assembly meeting in November; Sandy Hermiston (Secretary General) was also present, representing CPISRA. BISFed's application for full membership of the IPC was approved at the meeting. In September we applied successfully for a grant from the IPC's Agitos Foundation; we will use the grant to develop a project called 'Making Boccia Accessible' which will deliver low cost boccia sets to parts of Africa and Central America in order to encourage the growth of the sport in those regions. We have also agreed parameters for the Paralympic Games in Rio, including 4 more slots for Boccia than in London.
- **Governance and Management:** The BISFed Board has met at least monthly by telephone, and held a full meeting in Portugal at the time of the European Regional Championships. The

President has attended all of the Regional Championships in 2013, and several Board members have been able to attend other Boccia competitions.

- **Commercial relationships:** we have a formal agreement with a major international legal firm, Hogan Lovells who provide BISFed with legal support when necessary. Hogan Lovells are happy to provide individual BISFed members with support if possible, and we have introduced them to several members on this basis.

Our plans for 2014

As you can see, we covered a lot of ground in 2013, and we plan to keep the momentum up in the coming year:

- **Website:** we will re-launch the website to make it more interactive. The new website will provide a much more responsive communication channel with our members and anyone who is interested in Boccia. We will be making more use of social media.
- **Competitions:** we have sanctioned four competitions so far in 2014: 2 World Opens, the World Championships and the Asian Continental Cup (part of the Asia Para Games.) The bidding window is still open until the end of March for 2014 for members to apply to host competitions in 2015. We still need a Host for the 2014 Asian World Open.
- **Rules:** we continue to review the specification of competition boccia balls with a view to ensuring fair competition, and expect to introduce any changes during the first half of 2014.
- **World Ranking:** the first BISFed World Ranking list has now been published; we are developing a system which will integrate the capture of data at competitions directly into the World Ranking lists, providing constant up-to-date information.
- **Systems and processes:** we have signed an agreement with a specialist sport management company, Sport80 to support our new website and to design a set of integrated processes and systems which will allow more efficient management of membership services.
- **Event Management:** we plan to develop systems which will be made available to help members host and run competitions.
- **Membership:** we will continue to encourage countries to join BISFed and we will work to introduce boccia to new areas.
- **Making Boccia Accessible:** we will begin to distribute low cost boccia balls in our targeted regions as part of the Agitos Foundation grant.
- **Commercial opportunities:** we plan to develop new sources of income through relationships with other suppliers, service providers and sponsors.
- **IPC:** We will continue to work with the IPC on boccia matters and sport in general.
- **2014 General Assembly Meeting:** We will hold BISFed's first General Assembly meeting immediately after the World Championships in Beijing on 28/29 September. I encourage you to put these dates in your diaries as this will be an important meeting during which we will:
 - Discuss matters of importance to BISFed members;
 - Receive a full report on activities over the previous 18 months;
 - Debate any motions submitted by members; and
 - Elect a new Board for the coming period.

As ever, if there are any matters you would like to bring to our attention, please contact me directly at bisfedpresident@gmail.com or through the BISFed website: www.bisfed

David Hadfield
President

5th February 2014