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Golds for all at Pajulahti World Boccia Challenger 2024



(Left: Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha and her athlete competition partner, Nur Azizah; right: Toh Sze Ning and Aloysius Gan Kai Hong with their athlete competition partners, Chew Zi Qun and Eve Cher)
(Photo credit: Singapore Disability Sports Council)

Ten years after her gold medal at the 2014 Montreal Boccia World Open, Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha once again claimed the top podium spot at an international competition - this time at the Pajulahti World Boccia Challenger 2024 held in Finland from 9 to 17 May 2024.

After a 10-1 win against Saudi Arabia's Lujain Althaqfi and 7-1 win against Denmark's Tanija Madsen, Nurulasyiqah earned a BYE in the third round to enter the semi-finals.

She won 5-3 against Italy's Giulia Marchisio, before taking 6-2 against Germany's Nancy Poser to seal her gold medal win in the BC3 Female Individuals event.

This was a sweet victory marking her 20th year in boccia, but also a fresh start for Nurulasyiqah who only returned to the international scene in late 2023, after close to 3 years' break from the international circuit due to COVID-19 measures.

This win is especially significant as it marks Nurulasyiqah's 20th year in boccia and her return to the international scene in late 2023 after nearly three years away due to COVID-19 restrictions. Despite a scare early in the competition when her motorised wheelchair's battery charger malfunctioned, compatriot and fellow competitor in the BC3 female individuals event Toh Sze Ning lent her a replacement, allowing Nurulasyiqah to continue her competition.

Nurul shared, "I'm so grateful for the people who have patiently stood and stuck by me, especially during my "gap" years of 2020-2023. A new chapter is being written and I'm only looking forward. Thank you, Sze Ning, for extending to me a "lifeline"!"

While Toh did not podium in the BC3 Female Individuals event, she and Aloysius Gan Kai Hong dominated in the BC3 Mixed Pairs event. They won 7-1 against Finland, received a bye in Round 2, and triumphed 8-0 against Saudi Arabia. In the semi-finals, they beat Germany 6-2 and clinched the gold with a convincing 9-0 win against Italy.

This achievement adds to Team Singapore's remarkable success in boccia this month, following Jeralyn Tan Yee Ting's gold in the BC1 Female Individual event at the 2024 Montreal World Boccia Cup on May 6.

Ms. Kelly Fan, Executive Director of the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), commented, "These wins are tremendous confidence boosts for our boccia team, who have trained very hard despite the sport's limited accessibility in Singapore and our coaches being non-full-time. This success wouldn't be possible without the support of our partners, Sport Singapore and Haw Par Corporation, as well as our dedicated volunteers and community."

[Link to images](#) (Please credit "Singapore Disability Sports Council")



[Link](#) to Official Results

Annex A – About Boccia Sport Classes

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About Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)

Established in 1973 by the then Ministry of Social Affairs, the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) is Singapore's national sports body for persons with disabilities. Committed to transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities through sports, the SDSC engages, develops, and promotes excellence among persons with disabilities.

In partnership with its members - an alliance of social service agencies, parasport and mainstream sport organizations - the SDSC drives Singapore's movement towards greater inclusivity. SDSC's efforts have produced inspiring success stories such as Aloysius Gan, Asian Youth Para Games medalist, and Yip Pin Xiu, Singapore's most decorated Paralympian.

More information at www.sdsc.org.sg

Annex A – About Boccia Sport Classes

Sport Class	Description
BC1	Players in this class throw the ball with the hand or foot. They may compete with an assistant who stays outside of the competitor's playing box, to stabilize or adjust their playing chair and give the ball to the player when requested.
BC2	Players in this class throw the ball with the hand. They are not eligible for assistance.
BC3	Players in this class have very severe locomotor dysfunction in all four extremities. Players in this class have no sustained grasp or release action and although they may have arm movement, they have insufficient range of movement to propel a Boccia ball onto the court. They may use an assistive device such as a ramp to deliver the ball. They may compete with an assistant; assistants must keep their back to the court and their eyes averted from play.
BC4	Players in this class have severe locomotor dysfunction of all four extremities as well as poor trunk control. They can demonstrate sufficient dexterity to throw the ball onto the court. Players are not eligible for assistance.

Reference: [About Boccia – World Boccia](#)