

UNITED STATES BOCCE FEDERATION QUARTERLY



SEPTEMBER 2019

I hope you have had a great summer and played lots of Bocce. The USBF Nationals that were held in **Methuen, MA** were a great success. It was one of the largest turnouts we have had in many years. My congratulations go out to the entire **Sons of Italy Lodge** for the visible support and cooperation that was needed to run a tournament of that magnitude. The new format was very well accepted, in particular, the mixed doubles. The top two Doubles Women's team qualified and are preparing to represent the USA in December. That leads me into the next topic I wanted to share with you.



Open A Division Gold Medal
Scotts Valley Bocce Club



Open A Division Silver Medal
High CAL



Open A Division Bronze Medal
Volorama



From December 3rd - 8th this year, the **Highwood Bocce Club** as accepted the responsibility to host the 2019 PanAmerican Federation Championship for Women. I was waiting to announce this event because in the past it has been difficult to receive confirmation from South American countries let alone travel to the US.

This all began when our team played in Uruguay last November and I was asked by the Federation to host the 2019 event. Amidst all the chants of USA! USA! it was extremely hard to say I would not try. It was then that I approached one of the best facilities with the best courts to expose the South Americans to real Bocce courts!! The Highwood Board and membership conducted a meeting and the vote was unanimous to Host the event. I just recently (unbelievably) received written confirmation that the following countries will attend. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela with the addition of Canada and the USA we will have a complete 8 team round robin. Plans are moving forward and as always volunteers are greatly appreciated, especially referees. Donations can be sent directly to the Highwood Bocce Club, Attention: Dave Marsella.

I would be remiss if I didn't discuss the subject of encouraging young players to play bocce. We all know the difficulty but there are many kids that simply need a venue and incentive to begin playing. We constantly see on Facebook all the different areas in the US that bocce is played and some times even young faces in the crowd.

Recently, the very large tournament in the **Cleveland** area had over 100 teams and the finals had two teams that all the players were in their 20's or 30's. I call on all Directors to approach these Clubs and first of all solicit membership, but more importantly, discover the secret in attracting these younger participants.



2019 Cleveland Challenge Cup of Bocce
ABV Contractors brought home the Gold: Dennis Strand, Antony Croce, team sponsor Val Frobotta, Mike Frobotta and Dominic Aveni

We need to replenish our core and that means we all need to try harder to get ourselves involved directly and seek out any possible method to create more activity in the novice players. Instead of Clubs not allowing kids to play, change that mentality and let them play and even better teach them how to play!!! I thank you all for your support and continued health and good Bocce playing.

Sincerely,

Danny Passaglia, USBF President



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