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For immediate release

Electric atmosphere at the Tiger Balm National Boccia Championships 2023, which returned after a three-year hiatus

- ASEAN Para Games and Asian Youth Para Games medalist Aloysius Gan won the BC3 male category in the championships
- Paralympian Nurulasyiqah Bte Muhd Taha wins every round robin match in the BC3 female category, emerging first
- Handprinting ceremony held at at Championship to mark 50 years of parasport in Singapore



From left to right: Mr Brian Loo, Mr Kagan Gan, Mr Aloysius Gan, Mr Eric Chua, Ms Angeline Peh, Ms Yurnita Omar

Organised by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), the Tiger Balm National Boccia Championships 2023 saw an electric atmosphere at the Pasir Ris ActiveSG Centre on 11 and 12 March 2023, as 26 para athletes sparred relentlessly across four categories - BC1, BC2, BC3, and BC4/5 - to fight for the national titles. The championship finally returned after a hiatus of almost three years, since the disruption from the pandemic from 2020.



Ryan Chandru, 3rd place in the BC3 Men's

Though the championship saw familiar names emerging tops in their various categories - ASEAN Para Games and Asian Youth Para Games medalist Aloysius Gan in the BC3 males category, Paralympian Nurulasyiqah Bte Muhammad Taha in the BC3 females category, and world ranked number 3 Jeralyn Tan in the BC1 females category - the chase by new kids on the block was evident, with 10-year-old Ryan Chandru taking the bronze in the BC3 males category, making a name for himself in his debut nationals as the youngest medal winner of the championship.

To spread awareness and understanding for para sports, SDSC also organised an I'mPossible learning journey for schools and organisations to try out their hand in boccia at the event, elevating their spectator experience.

Guest of Honour Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Social and Family Development, graced the occasion to cheer on the para athletes. Together with Mr Brian Loo, Group General Manager of Haw Par Corporation; Ms Yurnita Omar, coach representative; Aloysius Gan, athlete representative; and Ms Angeline Peh, Vice President of the SDSC, Mr Eric Chua participated in a handprint ceremony to commemorate the SDSC's 50th anniversary.

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For media enquiries and interviews, please direct to:

Singapore Disability Sports Council
M: +65 9012 1928 (Shaun)
Email: corpcomms@sdsc.org.sg

Annex A: Championship Results

Annex B: Info on boccia

About Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)

Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) is the only organisation in Singapore that caters to sports for persons across all kinds of disabilities. It aims to help persons with disability lead full and independent lives through sports. Besides providing sporting opportunities for them to realise their potential, SDSC trains talents to represent Singapore and pursue excellence at regional and international competitions. More information at www.sdsc.org.sg

About Haw Par

Haw Par Corporation Limited, a Singapore-grown multinational Group, has been listed on the Singapore Exchange since 1969. The Group is an enterprise with a strong consumer healthcare business that promotes healthy lifestyles through its healthcare products. The largest contributor to the healthcare business comes from a brand that it owns — Tiger Balm, one of the world's leading and most versatile topical analgesic brands. Besides the consumer healthcare business, the Group also engages in the leisure business and holds significant investments in securities and properties.

www.hawpar.com

Annex A

BC1 - FEMALE (Round Robin - Final Results)	
Name:	Placing
Jeralyn Tan	1st
Koh Kai Hui	2nd
Sow Zi Xuan	3rd
Seri Nuratiqah Binte Abdullah	4th

BC1 - MALE (Best of Three - Final Results)	
Name:	Placing
Neo Kah Whye	1st
Jovin Tan	2nd

BC2 - (Round Robin - Final Results)

Name:	Placing
Lex Goh	1st
Ong Ding Kai	2nd
Muzayna Begum	3rd
Ong Kang Li	4th

BC4/5 (OPEN) - (Round Robin - Final Results)

Name:	Placing
Syed Amsyar bin Ahmadz Alhamid	1st
Leong Jun Hao	2nd
Bhramarueban Premakumar	3rd

BC3 - FEMALE (Round Robin - Final Results)

Name:	Placing
Nurulasyiqah Mohammad Taha / Wiyah	1st
Toh Sze Ning / Chew Zi Qun	2nd
Faye Lim / Jesmond Lim	3rd
Yan Jia Yi / Gan Shu Ting	4th
Elaine Eng / Desmond Eng	5th

BC3 - MALE (Final Results)

Name:	Placing
Aloysius Gan / Eve Cher	1st
Gareth Ho / Loh Siew Kay	2nd

Ryan Chandru / Lim Yi Yu	3rd
Timothy Chan / Melanie Olario	4th
Edmund Tan / Soo Kam Tatt	5th
Anthony Tan / Evelyn Khoo	6th
Ethan Wong / Steven Wong	7th
Nicholas Tham / Tan Boon Lee	8th

Annex B

Info about boccia

Boccia is a Paralympics sport that does not have an Olympic counterpart. Initially used as an intervention technique, it is now an official sport played by para-athletes with neurological conditions or impairments that impede motor skills.

Boccia is played on a smooth, hard ground, using leather balls of three colours, red, blue and 1 white (also known as the jack). The objective of the game is simple: to throw the ball as close as possible to the jack. Players can throw, roll, kick, or release the ball down a ramp. Athletes may even use a head pointer to release the ball. Athletes are allowed the help of a ramp assistant, if they are unable to release the ball independently.

Classes

BC1 athletes have severe activity limitations affecting their legs, arms and trunk, and typically depend on a powered wheelchair.

BC2 players have better trunk and arm function than those in class BC1. The abilities of their arms and hands often allow them to throw the ball overhand and underhand and with a variety of grasps.

BC3 class athletes have significant limitations in arm and leg functions, and poor or no trunk control. They are unable to consistently grasp or release the ball and are unable to propel the ball consistently into the field of play and allowed to use a ramp with the help of a Sport Assistant.

BC4 class contains players with non-cerebral impairments that also impact their co-ordination.

BC5 athletes who are diagnosed with conditions of cerebral and non-cerebral origin, and have less impairment than BC2 or BC4. The impact of impairment is on their throwing arm, they use a wheelchair for everyday mobility, they may walk with assistance or with a walking aid over short distances.