



Media Release

15 NOVEMBER 2023, 9PM

Record-breaking number of awards unveiled at the Singapore Disability Sports Awards 2023, presented by Haw Par Corporation

An exceptional array of 14 awards was presented at the Singapore Disability Sports Awards (SDSA) 2023, acknowledging both community contributions and outstanding high-performance achievements. Notably, para swimmers emerged as frontrunners, with defending double world champion Yip Pin Xiu securing the prestigious title of Sportswoman of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. Commonwealth Games silver medalist Toh Wei Soong, who had improved on his 2018 Commonwealth Games bronze, added to the night's acclaim by clinching his second consecutive Sportsman of the Year award.

The ceremony, held this year on 15 November at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre, has been organised by the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) since 1996 to honour the achievements and contributions made by outstanding individuals and groups in disability sports.

The Team of the Year award went to 2022 ASEAN Para Games boccia gold medalists Aloysius Gan and Toh Sze Ning, as well as their competition partners Kagan Gan, who is also Aloysius' father, and Chew Zi Qun. This marked the second consecutive year that 17-year-old Aloysius has clinched the Team award, this time with a different partner, highlighting his exceptional consistency in performance.

Wong Zhi Wei, a Year 1 student at National University of Singapore who claimed double gold at the 2022 ASEAN Para Games in the 50m and 100m Freestyle S13 events, earned the prestigious title of Sportsboy of the Year—an extraordinary achievement, especially considering his kidney transplant just three years prior, as he continues to manage his health while on medication. Breaking new ground for deaf athletes, bowler Adelia Naomi Yokoyama, who amassed eight medals at the Deaflympics 2022 and SEA Deaf Games 2022, made history as she secured the title of Sportsgirl of the Year.

The dedication and guidance of coaches were also lauded at the event. Former national bowler William Woo Nam Fatt claimed the Coach of the Year (High Performance) award for his stellar contribution to the deaf bowling team's successes at the SEA Deaf Games 2022 and Deaflympics 2022. Additionally, para table tennis coach Goh Chyuan was honoured as Coach of the Year (Development) for leading the para table tennis team to a series of victories at the ASEAN Para Games 2022.

This year's event introduced several new awards to honour community contributions, such as 'Coach of the Year (Community)', 'Spirit of Sport (Male / Female / Team)', and the splitting of the 'Event/Initiative of the Year' award into 'Event of the Year' and 'Community Changemaker of the Year'.

"As Singapore's disability sports scene grows, it's crucial to acknowledge that our para athletes' incredible achievements are thanks to the whole community's support. Likewise, the rising awareness of their successes has boosted the overall support for our community. We aim to highlight these combined contributions to showcase the diverse successes individuals with disabilities can achieve in para sports and the varied roles stakeholders can play in empowering these achievements," shared Ms Kelly Fan, Executive Director of SDSC.



The 2023 awards rigorously evaluated the achievements and contributions of nominees spanning from April 2022 to March 2023. This year, the nominations surged to 80, marking a notable increase from the previous year's 30. The nominees represented a diverse range, spanning from 12 to 76 years old. Mr. Eric Chua, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Social and Family Affairs, emphasised the formidable challenge faced by the judging panel. He noted the panel's struggle in selecting winners for each award due to the exceptional talent and unwavering dedication showcased within the stories of every nominee.

The Spirit of Sport (Male) award was eventually claimed by wheelchair basketballer Dexter Goh, a stalwart in the sport for more than two decades, who, at the age of 65, continues to play the sport weekly. Meanwhile, the Spirit of Sport (Female) award honoured boccia player and Paralympian Nurulasyiqah Taha. Despite facing vaccination-related travel restrictions, she persisted in self-training and channelled her disappointment into coaching others in the sport, showcasing resilience and selflessness.

Earning the Spirit of Sport (Team) accolade, the Singapore Rollers, a powerchair football team, exhibited remarkable perseverance despite enduring severe health conditions requiring arduous transfers and travel for the sport. They also overcame initial hurdles, including the lack of specialised equipment and suitable locations, to play the sport they love, epitomising resilience in the face of adversity.

Recognised as the Coach of the Year (Community), Lanny Kwok, Vice Principal of Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School (West), has been a fervent advocate for boccia for over two decades. Her efforts extend beyond the school, actively promoting boccia to individuals with disabilities in the wider community. Recently, she spearheaded the expansion of a new boccia community programme at Pasir Ris Sports Centre, underscoring her enduring commitment to the sport's growth and accessibility.

The Community Changemaker of the Year award was claimed by Playbuddies, a ground-up initiative launched in 2016, dedicated to providing the joy of sports free to children with disabilities every weekend. This volunteer-driven program introduces a specific sport to participants for four to eight weeks before transitioning to another, fostering a diverse sports experience.

The Volunteer of the Year title went to Yeo Jia Chyang, a dedicated senior volunteer at Special Olympics Singapore who has committed weekly to training members with intellectual impairment in swimming, come rain or shine, for more than a decade. Meanwhile, the Event of the Year award recognised Run for Inclusion 2022, organised by grassroots group RunningHour. The event had seen more than 2000 participants of all abilities run side by side at the Singapore Turf Club in December 2022.

This year's awards coincided with the 50th anniversary of the SDSC, which was formed by the then Ministry of Social Affairs in 1973 to promote sports for persons with disabilities in Singapore. Nearly 300 contributors and supporters within the disability sports sector were in attendance at Wednesday's award ceremony to commemorate the golden jubilee. Notable figures included Mr. Raja Singh, one of the first Paralympians to represent Singapore in athletics in 1988; Ms. Theresa Goh, the first Singaporean world record holder in para sport, and Mr Ismail Hussain, the first blind bowling world champion for Singapore. Young athletes like 10-year-old Ryan Chandru, the youngest medalist of the National Boccia Championships 2023, were also present, signifying a continuum of excellence across generations.



During the event, a time capsule, holding aspirations for para sports over the next 50 years, was sealed by Mr. Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, who served as the guest of honour.

For the 9th year in a row, Haw Par Corporation reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to improving the access of persons with disabilities to sports, by generously presenting a \$120,000 contribution to the SDSC. Notably, this marks the fifth consecutive year that Haw Par Corporation has backed the SDSA, aiding its revival in 2019 after an 11-year hiatus. Beyond the awards, Haw Par's substantial donation secures enhanced training and competitive opportunities for the Boccia team, fostering their development and promoting Boccia as an inclusive sport within the broader community. The donation also helps to sustain essential national youth competitions in athletics and swimming, crucial for identifying and nurturing emerging para-sports talents by SDSC.

"Since our partnership with the SDSC began in 2015, we've been privileged to witness the unwavering resilience of our para athletes and dedication of the entire community, including coaches, caregivers, and volunteers. Their indomitable spirit serves as a profound inspiration to our society. Supporting the SDSC is our honour, allowing us to give these remarkable individuals the well-deserved recognition they have earned. We're equally committed to ensuring more persons with disabilities can access a better quality of life through sports," stated Mr. Wee Ee Lim, President & CEO of Haw Par Corporation Limited.

Annex A – List of Award Winners and Profiles

[Link to SDSA 2023 Photo Folder](#)

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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 Corporation Limited

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 List of Award Winners

Award title	Award Winner	Sport, Age and Impairment	Profile
Pathway and Performance Category			
Sportsman of the Year 2023	Toh Wei Soong	Swimming 25 Physical Impairment (Transverse myelitis)	<p>While transverse myelitis affected his lower nervous system, it didn't deter Wei Soong from excelling in competitive swimming and marking milestones in his career. His journey began with his inaugural international medal at the 2013 Asian Youth Para Games, and since then, he's consistently delivered exceptional performances. Notably, at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, he secured a bronze in the S7 50m freestyle event, earning Singapore's second Commonwealth swimming medal after Joseph Schooling. The Commonwealth Games is distinctive for hosting events for both athletes with and without disabilities. His success continued at the 2018 Asian Para Games, where he clinched gold in the S7 50m and 100m freestyle events, receiving recognition for his achievements. In 2019, Wei Soong was nominated for The Straits' Times Athlete of the Year Award and received the inaugural Goh Chok Tong Enable Award (UBS Promise). He actively promotes inclusion, advocating through talks to students, educators, and university administrators.</p> <p>In the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Toh Wei Soong secured a remarkable Silver medal in the Men's 50m Freestyle (S7) event, clocking 29.10 seconds, closely trailing Australia's Matthew Levy at 28.95 seconds. Not only was this an improvement from his 2018 bronze, but it also marked a historic moment for Singapore as the nation's first silver para sports medal at the Commonwealth Games.</p>

			<p>Beyond his sporting triumphs, Wei Soong is a committed advocate for various causes. His participation in the 2022 SDSC Charity Golf event significantly contributed to raising funds for disability sports programs and services.</p> <p>Moreover, in 2022, Wei Soong undertook a documentary project, 'The Lives of Farrer Park,' celebrating the stories of individuals connected to sports in Farrer Park during its redevelopment. The documentary was featured at the Singapore Heritage Fest in May 2023, showcasing his dedication to preserving and promoting the community's heritage.</p> <p>Sportsboy of the Year in 2019 and 2020, Wei Soong achieved his first title of Sportsman of the Year in 2022.</p>
<p>Sportswoman of the Year 2023</p>	<p>Yip Pin Xiu</p>	<p>Swimming 31 Physical Impairment (Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease)</p>	<p>Yip Pin Xiu, the youngest member of the Singapore contingent at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, emerged as a shining star, securing Singapore's first-ever Paralympic gold medal despite being born with Charcot Marie Tooth, a condition that leads to progressive muscle degeneration.</p> <p>Talent-spotted by a Singapore Disability Sports Council volunteer at the age of 12, Pin Xiu swiftly delved into competitive swimming, swiftly amassing medals in regional and international meets. Her remarkable journey reached a pinnacle in Beijing in 2008, where she not only claimed Singapore's inaugural Paralympic gold in the S3 50m backstroke final but also secured a silver in the 50m freestyle event. In recognition of her achievements, she was awarded the Public Service Medal upon her return.</p> <p>In 2016, at her third Paralympic appearance, Pin Xiu clinched two gold medals in the Women's 50m and 100m Backstroke S2 events, simultaneously setting world records in both with times of 0:59.38 and</p>

			<p>2:07.09, respectively. Her triumph continued at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, where she added two more golds to her impressive tally, bringing her total to five golds and one silver.</p> <p>Recognized for her exceptional contributions to society, she received the inaugural President's Award for Inspiring Achievement. Despite her busy schedule, Pin Xiu actively contributes to the community, serving on various boards and commissions advocating for para athletes and inclusivity.</p> <p>Her excellence persisted at the 2022 Madeira World Para Swimming Championships, where she defended her championship titles and set a new record in the Women's 100m Backstroke S2, reaffirming her status as a swimming legend. Further highlighting her prowess, she shattered four world records at the 2022 Australian Short Course Championships, showcasing her exceptional skills on a global platform.</p> <p>Beyond her sporting feats, Pin Xiu is a fervent advocate for inclusivity, serving as the Co-Chairperson of The Purple Parade 2023 Organizing Committee, actively championing the celebration of persons with disabilities. Her involvement in the 2022 SDSC Charity Golf event, which raised \$500,000 for vital causes, underscores her commitment to making a tangible difference.</p> <p>Pin Xiu's dedication extends beyond sports, as she volunteers her time and expertise to several boards, driving initiatives for an inclusive and accessible world. Her multifaceted contributions, both in and out of the pool, affirm her position as a leader in effecting positive change.</p> <p>Pin Xiu was Sportswoman of the Year 2019, 2021, 2022.</p>
Sportsboy of the Year 2023	Wong Zhi Wei	Swimming 21	Zhi Wei's standout performance at the 2017 Asian Youth Para Games saw him clinch 5 medals for Singapore, triumphing in the S13 Men's

		<p>Visual impairment</p>	<p>100m freestyle, 100m butterfly, and 400m freestyle events. At the 2017 ASEAN Para Games, he secured a runner-up and second runner-up position in the S13 Men's 100m freestyle and 50m freestyle events, respectively. Zhi Wei's qualification for the 2018 Asian Para Games marked his debut at the event as one of Singapore's youngest participants.</p> <p>He underwent a kidney transplant in 2020.</p> <p>At the Madeira 2022 World Para Swimming Championships, Zhi Wei participated in the Men's 400m Freestyle S13, securing 9th place, and in the Men's 100m Butterfly S13, he claimed the 10th place.</p> <p>During the 2022 ASEAN Para Games, Zhi Wei showcased exceptional performance, earning two Gold medals in the Men's 50m Freestyle S13 and Men's 100m Freestyle S13. Additionally, he secured the Silver medal in the Men's 100m Breaststroke SB13.</p> <p>Known for his supportive nature, he mentors younger swimmers in the para swimming community and generously shares his experiences to aid those with visual impairment. In 2019, Zhi Wei received the Goh Chok Tong Enable Awards (UBS Promise). Zhi Wei is an advocate for para sports, actively engaging in talks and sharing sessions to promote awareness.</p>
<p>Sportsgirl of the year 2023</p>	<p>Adelia Naomi Yokoyama</p>	<p>Bowling 24 Deaf and hearing loss</p>	<p>At the Deaflympics 2022, which took place on May 1, 2022, in Malaysia, Adelia Naomi showcased her exceptional skills, securing a Gold medal in Women's Singles, a Silver medal in Women's Doubles, and a Bronze medal in Women's All Events. Her impressive achievements continued at the 1st SEA Deaf Games 2022, held from November 20 to November 27, 2022, where she clinched an astounding five Gold Medals in Women's Singles, Doubles, Trios, Overall, and Masters.</p>

			<p>Adelia Naomi's impact extends beyond the lanes. She actively engages in various charity events and outreach programs, embodying her commitment to making a positive difference in the community. In addition to her charitable endeavours, Adelia takes on the role of coaching junior bowlers, passing on her wealth of knowledge and expertise to the next generation of athletes. Her willingness to mentor and support others underscores her dedication to the growth of her sport and her genuine desire to see others achieve success. Undoubtedly, she stands as an incredible inspiration to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.</p> <p>Additionally, Adelia Naomi made history as the first deaf athlete to be nominated for the SDSA. She also holds the distinction of being the first deaf athlete in the Singapore Para Athletes Commission.</p>
Sports Team of the Year 2023	Aloysius Gan Toh Sze Ning	Boccia 17 (Aloysius) 29 (Sze Ning) Physical impairment (Cerebral Palsy)	<p>Beginning his sports journey as part of the Boccia co-curricular programme in Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) School when he was seven years old, Aloysius grew to love the sport and enjoyed applying different strategies against various opponents. Aloysius had his first taste of competing against international opponents at the Tiger Balm Singapore Boccia Open 2018, earning a respectable 4th placing in the BC3 Individual event. Aloysius made history by winning Singapore's first-ever Boccia medal at the Asian Youth Para Games 2021. Boccia is very much the Gan family's sport, as Aloysius' mother started out as Aloysius' first athlete competition partner before Aloysius' father took over. Aloysius' brother has expressed a desire to be his athlete competition partner in the future.</p> <p>At the Zagreb 2022 World Boccia Challenger, held from April 2 to April 10, 2022, Aloysius Gan and Toh Sze Ning demonstrated their skill and determination by securing the Bronze medal in the BC3 Mixed Pairs event, finishing 3rd out of 7 participating teams.</p>

			<p>Subsequently, during the 2022 ASEAN Para Games, the duo achieved a historic milestone by clinching the gold medal in the BC3 Mixed Pairs event. This remarkable victory marked Singapore's first-ever Boccia Gold medal at the ASEAN Para Games.</p> <p>In addition to their impressive athletic accomplishments, Aloysius Gan and Toh Sze Ning actively participate in various outreach events aimed at raising awareness for the sport of boccia.</p> <p>Aloysius had won Team of the Year in 2022 with Yan Jia Yi, and Sports Boy of the Year in 2021.</p>
<p>Coach (High Performance) of the Year 2023</p>	<p>William Woo Nam Fatt</p>	<p>Bowling 63 N.A.</p>	<p>As a former national bowler himself, Coach Woo's dedication and commitment to the success of deaf bowlers have been truly exceptional. His teaching methodology is characterized by its clarity, which has had a profound and positive impact on the athletes' performances. Coach Woo possesses remarkable analytical skills, allowing him to provide invaluable insights into the sport. With over two decades of experience, he stands as an exemplary coach within the bowling industry, setting the standard for high performance.</p> <p>In the local bowling community, William Woo is a widely recognized and respected figure, known for his significant contributions. After retiring from the sport, he made a remarkable comeback, driven by his passion to assist deaf bowlers in achieving their goals and fulfilling their aspirations.</p> <p>Under Coach Woo's tutelage, the team achieved remarkable success, securing 1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze at the Deaflympics 2022, and an impressive tally of 5 Gold medals at the SEA Deaf Games 2022. His guidance and mentorship have undeniably propelled the deaf bowlers to extraordinary achievements.</p>

			Former national bowler and now owns a bowling alley
Coach (Developmental) of the Year 2023	Goh Chyuan	Table Tennis 66 N.A.	<p>Goh Chyuan, the lead coach for para table tennis, has played a pivotal role in the training and development of players, especially during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond his coaching duties, he has been a guiding and fatherly figure for the athletes, offering mentorship and support during competitions. It is his leadership that contributed significantly to the remarkable results achieved at the 2022 ASEAN Para Games.</p> <p>In addition to his coaching role, Coach Goh has also taken on the responsibilities of a team manager, ensuring that all administrative and logistical aspects are meticulously organized for the players. His exceptional ability to plan and execute events, such as the TTADS OPEN, has provided a crucial developmental platform for the sport, establishing it as an annual event that fosters growth and competitiveness in the para table tennis community.</p> <p>Furthermore, Coach Goh's dedication extends to his role as the lead trainer for the Table Tennis Coach Certification Level 1, focusing on the disability portion of the program.</p> <p>Under Coach Goh's guidance, the following notable achievements were made at the ASEAN Para Games 2022:</p> <p>Women's Single Class 2 Silver: Claire Toh Bronze: Christina Lau</p> <p>Women's Double Class 1-2 Bronze: Claire Toh and Christina Lau</p> <p>Men's Singles Class 1-2</p>

			<p>Bronze: Eric Ting</p> <p>Men's Singles Class 3 Bronze: Dinie Asyraf</p> <p>Coach Goh's multifaceted contributions to para table tennis have undoubtedly left a lasting impact, making him a significant figure in the sport's development and success.</p>
Community Category			
Spirit of Sport (Male) 2023	Dexter Goh Thean Tye	Wheelchair Basketball 65 Physical Impairment (Polio)	<p>For over two decades, Dexter has been a prominent figure in the local disability sports scene, contributing his passion and dedication to wheelchair basketball and wheelchair badminton. His enduring commitment and active involvement continue to make a significant impact on the sports community.</p> <p>Dexter remains actively engaged in wheelchair basketball and wheelchair badminton, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to both sports. He not only participates but also inspires others with his dedication.</p> <p>Beyond the courts, Dexter extends his influence by actively participating in outreach programs in schools. His aim is to raise awareness about disability sports, encourage inclusivity, and inspire future athletes to pursue their passions.</p> <p>Dexter's remarkable journey is a testament to his dedication, resilience, and invaluable contributions to the disability sports community. His commitment to training and outreach has left a lasting impact, and he continues to be an inspiring figure for aspiring athletes.</p>
Spirit of Sport (Female) 2023	Nurulasyiqah Bte Mohd Taha	Boccia 38 Physical Impairment	<p>SMU alumna Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha has played boccia for 19 years. She was the first Singaporean to have qualified for boccia at the Paralympic level in 2012. She finished 7th in the BC3 Individual event at</p>

			<p>the London 2012 Paralympic Games and 4th in the BC3 Pairs event with her partner, Toh Sze Ning, at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.</p> <p>Nurul is a certified Proud Paralympian Educator with the Agitos Foundation. She also serves as a board member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore.</p> <p>Nurul has been a strong ambassador for boccia. She has partnered with her alma mater SMU to provide boccia tryouts to raise awareness on campus and participated in SOTA's Gotong Royong. Her segment was the "Science of Boccia" and demonstrated the use of her ramp and its precision in competitions. She is also a regular at schools for sharing sessions on her journey to sports and boccia.</p> <p>She is resilient, independent and intellectual. Despite having some time off competitions, she has never stopped her training and stepped up on supporting community outreach efforts. She served as competition manager for Play Inclusive, was facilitator and athlete ambassador for the i'mPOSSIBLE educator workshop. She works well with volunteers to support her efforts and consistently provides clear and concise instructions that serves to meet objectives.</p>
Spirit of Sport (Team) 2023	Singapore Rollers	Powerchair Football	<p>Powerchair Football started in Singapore in 2009 by MDAS. Initially, the guards were built using cardboard, chopping boards and wire mesh using beach balls and players' personal wheelchairs. Despite the limited resources, the enthusiasm didn't diminish. Our members with muscular dystrophy, which causes severe physical disabilities, were thrilled that they were able to play soccer on their motorised wheelchairs. Overtime, we designed and fabricated customised guards to suit the different wheelchair designs, made our own goal posts and bought proper soccer balls. Over the years, the team even participated at national competitions. We had a player who could no longer sit up to control his powerchair but because of soccer, he was motivated to sit-up, fix the</p>

			<p>controller back to his motorised wheelchair and played using his BiPAP, until he passed away suddenly - happy to have fulfilled his dreams.</p> <p>Funds were raised to purchase 2 customised powerchairs suited for powerchair football. Over the years, as players health deteriorated, they played in different positions from attack, defender and eventually as the goalkeeper.</p> <p>Fast forward to today, with hep from SDSC, we managed to purchase 4 powerchairs. These customised powerchairs have enabled played to improve their games. Though most of the players who played in the early days can no longer play, the sport continues to attract many new and younger enthusiastic players. We also recognise that sports have helped build the individual's motivation and confidence to be better versions of themselves.</p> <p>The powerchair football group has been training regularly on a weekly basis. With less powerchairs than players, most players have had metal frames modified to fit their daily motorised wheelchairs for them to join the game. Regular players have consistently showed up however exhausted or bad they feel. Through their participation, the players have bonded as friends and new friends have been made with new players.</p> <p>This programme relies heavily on volunteers, paid medical support and expensive, sometimes complex equipment. It is also one of the more rewarding sports to have materialise as regularly. The team has gone through displacement from their sheltered training space and now use an unsheltered space as it has not been possible to find a suitable space for their sessions due to space and storage requirements. When new powerchairs arrive, the fittings and adjustments to make it suitable for the players also require much time and group effort. It takes a lot of dedication and resilience on the part of the team to keep the sport alive and grow participation. The group has also supported a lot of outreach</p>
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			<p>events for their sport. They made an appearance at the Sportshub Carnival and participated in MDAS' annual event Go The Dystance. They are determined to grow powerchair football's presence in Singapore and their efforts do shine through. Their dream is to take powerchair football to the next stage by competing in regional tournaments.</p> <p>The following as additional points;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customisation of wheelchairs: Very specific adjustments are needed to suit the players different 2. Health: Despite adversities, our players health are a concern as they deteriorate as they grow older. We currently have player who plays using his bipap machine. 3. Nursing Care: Nurse and/or health care staff are always needed during trainings to monitor the vital signs and to handle emergency situations. In addition, they are also needed to transfer players between the different wheelchairs using a hoist or physically lifting them. 4. Volunteers: We work with SDSC to get volunteers from schools or individuals. Volunteers play essential roles in assisting the nurses and helping out during training - in particular during drills. 5. Training venue : Getting a training venue can be challenging in terms of location, storage and cost. 6. Community Engagement - To promote awareness, we have participated in the President Challenge at Hong Kah North CC on 2 July 2023.
Coach (Community) of the Year 2023	Lanny Kwok	Boccia 53 N.A.	Lanny Kwok is the Vice Principal at Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) School (West), joining the school in 1999. She was exposed to Boccia as part of the Boccia extra-curricular programme catered for students under CPAS' partnership with SDSC. Alongside fellow teachers at CPAS, Lanny provided extra training for students as interest in the sport grew. Her first exposure to international competitions was at the 2003 FESPIC Youth Games, where she

			<p>participated as an athlete competition partner (ACP) for her student. Over the years, she has played the role of both ACP and coach, focusing more on her role as a coach in recent times.</p> <p>Lanny has played a pivotal role in nurturing the vibrant boccia community, actively supporting their weekly boccia sessions. Her dedication to the sport of Boccia spans more than two decades, making her a true stalwart in the field.</p> <p>Her contributions go beyond coaching. Lanny has taken charge of the weekly sessions and skillfully coordinated with two other volunteer coaches to ensure that both ramp and thrower participants enjoy seamlessly organized boccia sessions. She has also been instrumental in offering guidance to caregivers and players during these sessions.</p> <p>Moreover, Lanny serves as a vital point of contact for SDSC volunteers. Her leadership extends to overseeing the onboarding process at boccia sessions and mentoring new volunteers to ensure they have the best experience while supporting the players during play.</p> <p>Thanks to her encouragement, the community of players has not only participated in various boccia competitions and friendlies but has also proudly brought home medals as a result of their hard work. Lanny's tireless efforts have cemented strong bonds and a supportive network within the boccia community.</p> <p>Her profound knowledge and unwavering passion for Boccia have fostered a shared love for the sport among both players and volunteers. Thanks in part to her dedication, the sport now has a robust growth pathway in place. What makes Lanny truly special is</p>
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			her genuine and humble nature, always ready to extend a helping hand wherever it is needed.
Community Changemaker of the Year 2023	PlayBuddy	N.A.	<p>PlayBuddy, a remarkable initiative launched in 2016, has been a shining beacon of hope and opportunity for children with disabilities. This free, volunteer-driven program has met every Saturday morning, consistently delivering the joys of sports to these children, leaving a trail of empowerment and inclusivity in its wake.</p> <p>PlayBuddy's unique approach involves teaching a specific sport for a duration of four to eight weeks before transitioning to another. This approach ensures that participants not only experience a wide range of sports but also have time to truly engage with each one. This method isn't just about sports; it's about building resilience, learning life skills, and overcoming challenges together.</p> <p>The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 didn't deter PlayBuddy's mission. With agility and creativity, they shifted their courses online via Zoom. The result? Parents attested to the continued benefits their children derived from the virtual sessions, proving that PlayBuddy's impact goes beyond the physical and into the emotional and mental well-being of the participants.</p> <p>PlayBuddy's commitment to excellence is evident in the thorough screening of their volunteers. Ensuring that the programs are delivered in the highest quality and a safe environment is a top priority, cementing their dedication to the children they serve.</p> <p>The PlayBuddy committee, despite having full-time jobs, tirelessly plans their activities a month in advance. They've created an invaluable resource guide that covers equipment and adaptations tailored to various disability groups. Their dedication to the cause is evident in the amount of effort they invest in these planning endeavors.</p>

			<p>PlayBuddy's remarkable journey showcases the transformative power of sports when coupled with unwavering dedication. Their commitment to inclusivity and empowerment through sports goes beyond the ordinary, proving that even with limited resources and busy schedules, remarkable change can be achieved. This remarkable initiative exemplifies the best in promoting disability sports, and their commitment is a testament to the positive influence they've had on the children they've served.</p>
<p>Event of the Year 2023</p>	<p>Run for Inclusion 2022</p>	<p>N.A.</p>	<p>Run For Inclusion, an annual event in Singapore, stands as a shining example of a grassroots initiative dedicated to fostering inclusivity and nurturing an inclusive society for individuals with special needs. This remarkable event has grown exponentially in strength and reach over the years, playing a pivotal role in uniting Singaporeans and inspiring them to show unwavering support for the integration of people with special needs.</p> <p>What sets Run For Inclusion apart is its unique approach, as it is one of the few running events in Singapore where participants of all abilities run side by side, creating a powerful and heartwarming display of unity and solidarity. This event goes beyond promoting physical activity; it symbolizes a broader effort to bring people together, regardless of their abilities, and empower them to lead healthier lives.</p> <p>Run For Inclusion has become a significant annual gathering that unites communities, promotes inclusivity, and encourages collective action toward creating a more welcoming and diverse society. Year after year, it inspires people from all walks of life to come forward, run together, and celebrate the strength and potential of every individual, regardless of their abilities.</p>
<p>Volunteer of the Year 2023</p>	<p>Yeo Jia Chyang</p>	<p>Swimming 48</p>	<p>Jia Chyang has served as a Senior Volunteer for Special Olympics Singapore's Swimming Outreach programme for over a decade. In his</p>

		N.A.	<p>long-standing role, he plays a pivotal role as a steady and guiding presence for the higher functioning athletes who have a passion for swimming. He takes charge of organizing and supervising their training sessions, showing unwavering commitment to their growth and development. Mr. Yeo consistently strives to motivate these athletes, pushing them to improve each time they enter the pool. His priority is to ensure that they not only excel but also have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience, preparing them for competition.</p> <p>What sets Jia Chyang apart is not just his dedication but also the unique bond he shares with the athletes. He has become a father figure to the team, and they hold him in high regard. The athletes eagerly anticipate his sessions at Delta Swimming Complex, knowing that they will not only improve their skills but also have a memorable and enjoyable time.</p> <p>Jia Chyang's dedication as a volunteer has been instrumental in the development of Special Olympics Singapore athletes, enabling them to participate in SDSC's national championships. His remarkable ability to connect with the athletes and bring out their best qualities is what truly distinguishes him from others in his role.</p>
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