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For immediate release

Aloysius Gan and Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha win first-ever World Cup pairs medal for Singapore



(From left to right: Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha and her athlete competition partner, Nur Azizah; right: Aloysius Gan Kai Hong with his athlete competition partner, Eve Cher) (Photo credit: SDSC/Singapore Disability Sports Council)

Singapore's Aloysius Gan and Nurulasyiqah Mohd Taha clinched the nation's first-ever World Cup pairs medal at the New Taipei City 2024 World Boccia Cup yesterday, with a decisive 6-0 win in the bronze medal match against Thailand, currently world ranked number four in the Pairs BC3 category.



Thailand was represented by Ladamanee Kla-han and Akkadej Choochuenklin, who are ranked world number 7 in Female Individuals BC3 and world number 10 in Male Individuals BC3 respectively.

This achievement comes despite a shaky start to the duo's Mixed Pairs BC3 campaign on Monday when they faced off world number three, South Korea, and suffered a 10-0 defeat. South Korea was represented by Jeong Ho Won and Kang Sun Hee, the Asian Para Games 2023 Mixed Pairs BC3 gold medalists. Jeong himself has been quite the legend in the Pairs BC3 category, having medalled at every edition of the Paralympic Games since Beijing 2008.

This is the first time that Aloysius and Nurulasyiqah have teamed up for an international competition.

The pair recovered their composure fairly quickly to beat Japan's Kazuki Takahashi and Syaka Sekine 5-3 in the next round. Kazuki was part of the team that won the silver medal in the Mixed Pairs BC3 competition at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

In a nail-biting semifinal match against the world number one team, Australia, the pair equaled the score 4-4. Australia, represented by Daniel Michel and Jamieson Leeson, eventually won in the tiebreaker round.

Both Daniel and Jamieson are set to compete in Paris 2024. Daniel, currently ranked number one in the world in the Male Individuals BC3 category, is considered the biggest threat to Adam Peska, the Tokyo 2020 Male Individuals BC3 gold medalist, in his title defense.

Earlier on Monday, Aloysius won his first World Cup medal—a silver—after a narrow 3-2 loss to South Korea's Jeong Ho Won in the Male Individuals BC3 finals.

Aloysius shared: "This is the best result I have achieved so far at the World Cup level for the individual event. I have been working hard to improve my floor adjustment and aiming before the competition, and I'm glad that I also managed to adapt to the competition environment better, which helped me play better."



Aloysius is currently ranked number 15 in the world in the Male Individuals BC3 category, while Nurulasyiqah is ranked number 18 in the Female Individuals BC3 category.

Ms. Kelly Fan, Executive Director of the Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC), commented, “Although the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games have yet to begin, we need to prepare for the end of this Paralympic cycle and start planning for the next one. Our para athletes and support teams work tirelessly to qualify and represent Singapore well at every major game. Currently, we are testing different strategies to find the best way forward, even as we focus on the final preparations with our Paris-bound para athletes. The results from this competition have been very encouraging, and we will have valuable takeaways to build on in the coming years towards Los Angeles 2028.”

The New Taipei City 2024 World Boccia Cup, the final World Boccia competition before Paris 2024, is taking place from July 23 to August 1, 2024.

[Link to images](#) (Please credit “SDSC/Singapore Disability Sports Council”)

Annex A – About Boccia Sport Classes

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For media enquiries and interviews, please direct to:

Ms Sylvia Quek

Contact: +65 9731 8005

Ms Chiara Soh

Contact: +65 9125 5241

Email: corpcomm@sdsc.org.sg



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

3 Stadium Drive Singapore 397630

T: +65 6342 3501 F: +65 6342 0961 E: sdsc@sdsc.org.sg 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](#)