



Attention
Frank Funari
Bocce Australia
Via email
frank@bocceaustralia.com.au

Dear Frank,

National Policy on Gender Equity in Sports Governance – Bocce Australia Status

As you are aware, the National Policy on Gender Equity in Sports Governance (**Policy**) was launched in September 2024 by the Minister for Sport and Minister for Communications, the Hon Anika Wells MP. The Policy was also adopted by each State and Territory Government and sets a national target for Australian sport to achieve gender balance across the key leadership roles of all Australian sporting organisations.

The Policy is a priority for the Australian Sport Commission (**ASC**). Given the essential role of sport in Australian life and its central role within communities across the nation, the ASC expect National Sporting Organisations and National Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (**NSO/D**), as recipients of significant taxpayer funding, to take a leadership role in introducing and maintaining diverse, equitable and inclusive organisational practices, starting with diversity within their leadership positions.

The first target date under the Policy was for NSO/Ds to meet the following targets by 31 May 2026:

- 50% of all board directors as women and/or gender diverse (or as close as possible where the board has uneven numbers)
- 50% of their Nominations Committee and Finance, Audit & Risk Committee as women and/or gender diverse (or as close as possible where the committee has uneven numbers)

I am writing to congratulate Bocce Australia on your success in meeting these targets. Your proactive approach to achieving gender equity provides outstanding leadership for your sport and community and is an important contribution to providing more opportunities for women to take up leadership roles across Australian sport.

The initial Policy outcomes have demonstrated a significant positive shift in gender equity across the leadership NSO/Ds. In 2020, there were 166 women directors, which accounted for 40% of the total director cohort. As of 31st May 2026, I am pleased to advise that there are now 240 directors that are women or gender diverse, who now make up 48% of all funded NSO/D directors. In addition, across funded NSO/Ds women and gender diverse people currently comprise 47% of Chairs and Deputy Chairs, 46% of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee members, and 52% of Nominations Committee members.

To support the talent pipeline of women and gender diverse directors, the ASC has recently launched the [Minerva Sports Governance Mentoring program](#) and continues to provide co-funding to women and gender diverse directors wishing to undertake the Institute of Community Directors Australia (ICDA) Diploma of Governance. Additional funding for individuals and organisations is also available through the Women Leaders in Sport (WLIS) Program.



A key focus of the Policy is to ensure that gender equity is sustained. To that end, the ASC will be conducting a check-in on 30th November 2026 asking all NSO/Ds to:

- ensure all policy requirements continue to be met and;
- provide your organisation with any support it may need in advance of the final target coming into effect – namely **50% of chairs/deputy chairs are women and/or gender diverse**, which is due 31 May 2027.

If your organisation has a change in circumstance, we strongly encourage you to reach out immediately to your ASC Sport Governance Adviser, Cara Honeychurch so that they can continue to proactively support your organisation to fill any gaps and ensure you remain compliant with the policy requirements.

The ASC is also eager to support your organisation to embed inclusive governance practices that entrench diversity. Your governance advisor would welcome the opportunity to discuss the programs available through the ASC to support this, including inclusive governance workshops, online education programs, organisational inclusion audits, and best practice inclusion toolkits.

Congratulations again on successfully meeting the initial Policy targets and thank you for your positive leadership which sets the tone for gender equity across your community. We look forward to working with you to further embed diverse, equitable and inclusive leadership within Australian sport.

Regards

Richard McInnes
Executive General Manager
Sport & Community Capability
Australian Sports Commission

22 June 2026