



BOCCIA TATRA CUP  
*Slovakia*

*... the tournament with heart.*



# BOCCIA TATRA CUP 2024

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF INDIVIDUALS, PAIRS AND TEAMS  
June 12 - 18, 2024 / Alexandra Wellness Hotel, Liptovský Ján, Slovakia

8th year

## MEDIA REPORT

### **Boccia Tatra Cup did not disappoint again**

**A few news right away and already the traditionally picturesque setting of the Jánská dolina, an amazing atmosphere, the participation of several top European and even world level players and an attractive accompanying program...**

From June 12 to 18, 2024 in the Alexandra Wellness Hotel\*\*\* Sports Hall in Liptovský Ján, Boccia Tatra Cup 2024 - the 8th year of the open international tournament for individuals, pairs and teams in the Paralympic sport of boccia took place. This friendly sports competition, popular with players, with a good name and traditionally high-quality players, is the first and still the only international boccia tournament organized on the territory of Slovakia. Its added value is an attractive accompanying program with the intention of the organizer to support the development of boccia and cross-border cooperation of the community of people with severe physical handicaps, as well as an opportunity for their social inclusion and active relaxation of the participants.

The tournament is open to boccia players of all performance levels without the condition of international sports classification. The news of its 8th year were a total of even 5 competition days, the competition categories expansion by the BC5 category, or the pilot year of the international tournament of 3-member integration boccia teams, allowing even boccia players without a sports classification to play. It was the very first international tournament in the so-called "integration boccia" within the region, which was met with a surprisingly positive response from this event participants.

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At the 8th year of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament, a total of more than 90 competitors - classified and leisure boccia players from 5 countries of the wider Central European region (*Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Croatia*) gathered, with a significant preponderance of players from the V4 countries. The unusually low number of participating countries and also the absence of some regular this event participants were mainly due to the pre-paralympic period associated with a many of scoring BISFed tournaments and the competitive workload of national representative teams members, but also due to simultaneous important national tournaments outside the region, which is why, for example, players from Great Britain were absent from this tournament this year. But, nothing has changed about the traditionally high quality of this event, nor about its wonderful atmosphere.

Despite the aforementioned, the organizer once again managed to attract several well-known names of European and world format to Liptovský Ján. Among the domestic players, there were, for example, long-term representatives Tomáš Král (*BC1*), Róbert Mežík (*BC2*), Rastislav Kurilák (*BC2*), Boris Klohna (*BC3*), but also the upcoming generation of young players such as Štefan Bartek (*BC1*), Samuel Sloboda (*BC1*), Daniela Drotárová (*BC1*), Nina Melicherová (*BC2*) or Ivana Kováčová (*BC2*), for whom the Boccia Tatra Cup is the ideal opportunity to acquire valuable sports experience. Famous names from abroad included Simona Blažková (*CZE/BC1*), Vivien Nagy (*HUN/BC2*), Jarosław Plewa (*POL/BC3*) or Davor Komar and Anamarija Arambašić (*both CRO/BC4*). After the official end of the competitive career of the top Slovak pair Samuel Andrejčík and Michaela Balcová, these two experienced representatives of Croatia sovereignly ruled the mixed BC4/5 category both in the pairs competition and in the individual competition, where it was no surprise that the final was exclusively Croatian. On his very first international start and in the strong competition of seasoned BC3 players, the young, only 16-year-old Polish talented player Marcin Ostrowski (*BC3*) held on bravely. In the individual category, a medal only narrowly missed him, but in a pair with teammate Jaroslaw Plewa, he managed to reach even the medal position.

The opening of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament for the BC5 category was used not only by several players who paid extra for the change in the BISFed rules for sports classification and were reclassified from the BC4 category to the only national BC5 category, but also several players included in this category from the beginning, since starting at high-quality international boccia tournaments was completely inaccessible for them until now. At the same, thanks to the inclusion of the pilot year of the competition of 3-member Integration teams in the official program of the Boccia Tatra Cup 2024 tournament, for the first time the organizer managed to include in the competitive part of the event also participants with milder forms of physical handicap or with other types of handicap, which do not meet the criteria for paraboccia players sports classification. This type of official competition already has a roughly 10-year national tradition in, for example, our neighbors in Poland, but it is practically unknown in Slovakia. The tournament of 3-member Integration teams took place under the direction of the Hungarian team from Pest, consisting of Kinga Kienle, Gábor Kienle a András Sipos, who thus became the first ever winners of the absolutely first international tournament in the so-called integration boccia within the V4 region.

The main accompanying program in the non-competitive sports part of the event were "Workshops with Samuel and Michaela" open to all those interested in joint training and personal consultations "with their idols and stars". The workshops were aimed at improving the training preparation and game tactics of both classified and unclassified players. After the official end of competitive career, their leadership was personally taken over by the most professional - world-class top Slovak boccia players and multiple Paralympic winners Samuel Andrejčík and Michaela Balcová.

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## MEDALISTS

### BOCCIA TATRA CUP 2024

#### Individuals BC1

1. place: Štefan Bartek (SVK)
2. place: Simona Blažková (CZE)
3. place: Daniela Drotárová (SVK)

#### Individuals BC2

1. place: Vivien Nagy (HUN)
2. place: Róbert Mezík (SVK)
3. place: Rastislav Kurilák (SVK)

#### Individuals BC3

1. place: Boris Klohna / ass. Michal Kall (SVK)
2. place: Michal Tižo / ass. Lukáš Hurajt (SVK)
3. place: Václav Herzinger / ass. Krištof Amcha (CZE)

#### Individuals BC4/5

1. place: Davor Komar (CRO)
2. place: Anamarija Arambašić (CRO)
3. place: Ľuboš Kondela (SVK)

#### Teams BC1/2

1. place: Róbert Mezík, Nina Melicherová, Tomáš Král (SVK)
2. place: Rastislav Kurilák, Ivana Kováčová, Daniela Drotárová (SVK)
3. place: Wojciech Lamch, Łukasz Sudoł, Martin Ducký (POL/SVK)

#### Pairs BC3

1. place: Michal Tižo / ass. Lukáš Hurajt, Miroslav Bielak / ass. Ján Kunik (SVK)
2. place: Boris Klohna / ass. Michal Kall, Ľuba Škvarnová / ass. Júlia Marušáková (SVK)
3. place: Jarosław Plewa / ass. Zbigniew Plewa, Marcin Ostrowski / ass. Jerzy Ostrowski (POL)

#### Pairs BC4/5

1. place: Davor Komar, Anamarija Arambašić (CRO)
2. place: Marián Klimčo, Peter Merten (SVK)
3. place: Jiří Marsín, Marek Schmid (CZE)

#### 3-member Integration teams

1. place: Kinga Kienle, Gábor Kienle, András Sipos (HUN)
2. place: Mario Cierpiat, Ilona Orłowska, Daria Tomżyńska (POL)
3. place: Dušan Sotoniak, Martin Tomaško, Marcel Bonk (SVK)





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#### **EVENT ORGANIZER:**

ZOM Prešov - *the civil association of people with disabilities*



**ZOM Prešov**

*občianske združenie ľudí  
so zdravotným postihnutím*

#### **FOREIGN PROJECT PARTNERS:**

SC JÚ Praha – *Sportovní klub Jedličkova ústavu Praha, o.s. / CZE*

FODISZ – *Fogyatékosok Országos Diák-és Szabadidősport Szövetsége / HUN*

PROMETEUS – *Stowarzyszenia Osób Niepełnosprawnych Ruchowo ich Rodzin i Przyjaciół / POL*



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*The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable  
regional cooperation in Central Europe.*

More information on the project website [www.bocciatatrakup.sk](http://www.bocciatatrakup.sk)

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