



MEDIA REPORT

BOCCIA TATRA CUP 2025

June 18 - 24, 2025, Liptovský Ján / SLOVAKIA




Alexandra
Wellness Hotel

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BOCCIA TATRA CUP 2025

DATE: **June 18 - 24, 2025**
LOCATION: **Alexandra Wellness Hotel***** Sports hall and hotel complex,
Liptovský Ján, SLOVAKIA
PROJECT WEBSITE: **www.bocciatatracup.sk**
FB: **[@boccia.tatra.cup](https://www.facebook.com/boccia.tatra.cup)**

EVENT ORGANIZER:

ZOM Prešov - the civic association of people with disabilities / SLOVAKIA

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PROJECT PARTNERS:

SC JÚ Praha – *The Sports Club of the Jedlička Institute Prague, o.a. / CZECH REPUBLIC*

PROMETEUS – *The Association of the Physically Disabled, their Families and Friends / POLAND*

FODISZ – *The National Student and Leisure Sports Association of the Disabled / HUNGARY*

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

THE PROJECT ID: 22510242

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• **Visegrad Fund**
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ASSISTANT CHIEF REFEREE: **Matúš Grega**

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PERFORMER (OPENING/CLOSING CEREMONY)

MODERATOR: **Peter Zagiba** / sports reporter and commentator STVR

CULTURAL PROGRAM: **Children's folklore ensemble CINDRUŠKA** / ZUŠ Liptovský Hrádok

PARTNERS OF THE SPORTS PART OF THE EVENT

The Slovak Association of Disabled Athletes / SZTPŠ

BASHTO SPORTS, s.r.o. / production and sale of bocce sports equipment (SVK)



COURT No.
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MEDIA REPORT

Boccia Tatra Cup 2025 – The prestigious international tournament, also the space for the boccia development, social inclusion and cross-border cooperation

The picturesque mountain environment of the Jánská Valley, high organizational level, warm atmosphere, famous names of world boccia alongside beginners and recreational players, as well as the accompanying program supporting the boccia development and the social inclusion of people with severe physical disabilities are already the integral part of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament...

The sports hall and hotel complex Alexandra Wellness Hotel in Liptovský Ján will be the venue for the 9th time on June 18-24, 2025 for the Boccia Tatra Cup event - the traditional open international tournament for individuals, pairs and teams in the Paralympic sport of boccia. This is the first and still only international boccia tournament organized in Slovakia and the largest tournament of its type in the European region. This popular and prestigious sports event with the resounding name, social context and multiple benefits to support the social inclusion of people with severe physical disabilities has been a guarantee of high-quality sports competition for almost a decade, but also the opportunity for cross-border cooperation of its target groups, new friendships, or active relaxation of its participants. The title “Tournament with a Heart”, which it has earned over the years, therefore rightfully belongs to it.

Up to 5 competition days, a traditionally high-quality player lineup while maintaining the possibility of starting boccia players of all performance levels (*without the condition of international sports classification*) and players of the so-called “integration boccia” (*with minor or other forms of health disabilities without the need for sports classification*), an accompanying program to support the boccia development, as well as the method and location of this tournament, once again attracted many of its traditional and new participants from home and abroad to Liptovský Ján.

The 9th edition of this traditional tournament called Boccia Tatra Cup 2025 brought together over 200 direct participants and the record number of classified and leisure boccia players from 8 countries of the wider Central European region and Great Britain (*Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, England and Ukraine*) with a significant predominance of players from

the V4 countries. The newcomer to this tournament was a relatively large sports team from Ukraine, which used its participation in this event to establish partnership with its organizer (*ZOM Prešov*) and improve the sports preparation of its players. Competition was held in all competition categories - Individuals BC1, BC2, BC3, mixed category BC4/5, Teams BC1/BC2, Pairs BC3 and BC4/5. The mixed category BC4/5 had the largest representation at this tournament, where up to 21 classified players started in its individual competition. In parallel with the pairs and teams tournament, the 2nd year of the 3-member Integration teams tournament was also held, which allowed international sports competition in boccia for players without sports classification.

Also this year, the organizer managed to attract several well-known names of European and world format to Liptovský Ján. Among the domestic players, there were, for example, experienced representatives of the Slovak Republic Tomáš Král (*BC1*), Róbert Mežík (*BC2*), Rastislav Kurilák (*BC2*), Kristína Kudláčová (*BC2*), Martin Strehársky (*BC4*), Kristína Vozárová (*BC4*). There was also an upcoming generation of young and novice representatives of the Slovak Republic such as Martin Ducký (*BC1*), Samuel Sloboda (*BC1*), Rebeka Husvéthová (*BC1*), Daniela Drotárová (*BC1*), Nina Melicherová (*BC2*) or Ivana Kováčová (*BC2*). The Boccia Tatra Cup is the ideal opportunity for them to gain valuable sports experience. Among the well-known names from abroad, there were Vivien Nagy (*HUN/BC2*), Jiřina Kreibichová (*CZE/BC2*), Radek Procházka (*CZE/BC4*), Anamarija Arambašić (*CRO/BC4*), but also others. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Davor Komar (*CRO/BC4*), the loyal participant and top player in the world rankings, had to cancel his planned participation in this tournament. The Slovak top player in the BC3 category, Boris Klohna, who is also the director of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament, started only in the pairs and teams tournament for the same reasons. Several players from the otherwise exclusively national BC5 category from Slovakia and abroad did not miss the unique opportunity to compete in high-quality international competition. In proportion to the number of starting players, the most successful team of the 9th year of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament was the team from England. England, represented in this tournament by only 4 players, managed to win 2 out of 8 categories and none of the English players left this tournament without a medal.

In addition to the high organizational and game quality, the added value of the Boccia Tatra Cup tournament is also its wonderful, friendly atmosphere, supported by the organizer through the accompanying program and purposefully adjusted rules of the Pairs and Teams tournament. These allow players to create competitive groups regardless of their sports club and nationality. Also this year, several pairs and teams with international composition participated in the pairs and team competitions of this tournament, and their medal placements were no exception. The space for joint evening training, personal mentoring from experienced players, and the willingness of “free” Slovak stars present to compete in pairs alongside a beginner from another country is



exactly what makes the Boccia Tatra Cup project exceptional, thereby fulfilling its mission to actively participate in the boccia development and raising the playing level of beginners and less experienced players from the entire region, and at the same time enriching the sports competition with the social context. One of the concrete contributions of its 9th year was the joy of two young players from their initially unexpected international medal success. Alongside their sports role models from Slovakia as teammates, the young Bor Tit Jerlah from Slovenia (*together with Boris Klohna/SVK - 3rd place Pairs BC3*) and Máté Meszáros from Hungary (*together with Samuel Andrejčík/SVK - 2nd place Pairs BC4/5*) also received their medals in the pairs competition.

The novelty of the 9th year of this tournament and the tribute to the memory of the English boccia player Harry Thompson, who succumbed to his difficult diagnosis in 2023 at the age of only 28, is the “Harry Thompson Traveling Cup”. This valuable trophy was donated to the tournament organizer by Harry’s mother Michelle. Harry fell in love with the Boccia Tatra Cup and was its loyal participant. He participated in its first year in 2015 and has been returning to it regularly since then. He still has quite a few friends in Slovakia, including among the foreign participants of this tournament. Harry Thompson’s legacy in boccia remains alive and this valuable traveling trophy, which arrived in Slovakia from England this year, will also be the regular reminder of him at the Boccia Tatra Cup tournaments in its following years. The organizer decided to present this traveling cup to the winner of the Individual BC4/5 category, since Harry competed in the BC4 category at the Boccia Tatra Cup tournaments at one time. This year winner of this category was Czech representative Radek Procházka, the first holder of the “Harry Thompson Traveling Cup”.

This year, the Boccia Tatra Cup program also included traditional evening training workshops with the official name “Workshops with Michaela and Samuel” with the intention of organizer to create the space for joint professionally led evening trainings as part of the event accompanying activities and at the same time offer less experienced boccia players and their support staff the opportunity to personally meet, train and play with their sports “idols and stars”. The traditional pair of their lecturers - the golden Slovak Paralympic Pair BC4 consisting of Michaela Balcová and Samuel Andrejčík - was this time joined by the foreign star - the silver Paralympic medalist from the Czech Republic Radek Procházka (*BC4*). Workshops aimed primarily at improving the players’ sports preparation were used for joint training, but also for personal consultations and mentoring by experienced lecturers for individuals and entire teams, especially young and novice boccia players from Slovakia, as well as from Hungary, the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.

The Boccia Tatra Cup 2025 event also included the one-day international workshop for boccia referees. It was held the day before the start of the competitions under the leadership of international referee and member of the WorldBoccia International Rules Committee Martina Kinčešová





(Slovakia). She was assisted by experienced international WorldBoccia referee Iga Naskręt from Poland. The workshop covered the implementation of the most important changes in the boccia rules for the period 2025-2028 and also practical training of referees on the court with the aim of improving the work of the referee team at the Boccia Tatra Cup event, as well as theoretically and practically retraining national boccia referees in the V4 region. The methodological Guidebook for boccia referees, which was prepared during the preparation of this workshop and which mainly contains the main changes in the boccia rules (*Version of the rules 2025–2028 V1.1.*, author: *Martina Kinčešová*) is available as the pdf document for free download on the Boccia Tatra Cup event website (www.bocciatatrakup.sk).





MEDALISTS

BOCCIA TATRA CUP 2025

INDIVIDUALS BC1

1st place: Tomáš Král (SVK)
2nd place: Richard Armstrong (ENG)
3rd place: Martin Ducký (SVK)

INDIVIDUALS BC2

1st place: iřina Kreibichová (CZE)
2nd place: Róbert Mežík (SVK)
3rd place Rastislav Kurilák (SVK)

INDIVIDUALS BC3

1st place: Lee Maddison / RO: Christopher Foster (ENG)
2nd place: Rafael Young / RO: David Ellis (ENG)
3rd place Dalma Ujpál / RO: Gabriella Ivócs (HUN)

INDIVIDUALS BC4/5

1st place: Radek Procházka (CZE)
2nd place: Marián Klimčo (SVK)
3rd place: Gergő Gigacz (HUN)

TEAMS BC1/2

1st place: SLOVAKIA 1 - Róbert Mežík (SVK), Nina Melicherová (SVK), Tomáš Král (SVK)
2nd place: POLAND / SLOVAKIA - Wojciech Lamch (POL), Łukasz Sudoł (POL), Martin Ducký (SVK)
3rd place: SLOVAKIA 2 - Rastislav Kurilák (SVK), Ivana Kováčová (SVK), Samuel Sloboda (SVK)

PAIRS BC3

1st place: ENGLAND

Rafael Young (*ENG*), Ruby Curtis (*ENG*) / RO: David Ellis (*ENG*), Charlotte Scurr (*ENG*)

2nd place: HUNGARY / ENGLAND

Dalma Ujpál (*HUN*), Lee Maddison (*ENG*) / RO: Gabriella Ivócs (*HUN*), Christopher Foster (*ENG*)

3rd place: SLOVAKIA / SLOVENIA

Boris Klohna (*SVK*), Bor Tit Jerlah (*SLO*) / RO: Michal Kall (*SVK*), Vesna L. Komar (*SLO*)

PAIRS BC4/5

1st place: CROATIA / CZECHIA - Anamarija Arambašić (*CRO*), Radek Procházka (*CZE*)

2nd place: SLOVAKIA / HUNGARY - Máté Meszáros (*HUN*), Samuel Andrejčík (*SVK*)

3rd place: SLOVAKIA 1 - Kristína Vozárová (*SVK*), Martin Strehársky (*SVK*)

3-MEMBER INTEGRATION TEAMS

1st place: SLOVAKIA 1 - Michaela Balcová (*SVK*), Vladimíra Balcová (*SVK*), Marián Ducký (*SVK*)

2nd place: HUNGARY - Kinga Kienle (*HUN*), Gábor Kienle (*HUN*), András Sipos (*HUN*)

3rd place: SLOVAKIA 2 - Anna Mihová (*SVK*), Tamara Klohnová (*SVK*), Dominik Dvorčák (*SVK*)

OTHERS PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

EPERA COFFEE – Prešovská pražiareň kávy / Prešov coffee roastery (www.praziarenepera.sk)

VINÁRSTVO / WINERY BOGNÁR (www.vinobognar.sk)

AQUA PRO EUROPE a.s. (www.aquapro.sk)

ŠPES & Partners, s.r.o.

ALEXANDRA WELLNESS HOTEL***, Liptovský Ján (www.alexandrawellnesshotel.sk)

Municipality of Liptovský Ján (www.liptovskyjan.sk)

JARO JANOVČÍK - Photographer (www.slovenskojeliptov.sk)

Milan Kosec – Filmmaker and documentarian (*YouTube*: @milankosec1232)







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