

BLACKBALL AUSTRALIA POOL ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Prepared by
Samantha Cottingham
Vice President
23 August 2022

Passed by BAPA Executive Committee

Executive Summary

The document aims to provide guidance not only to the Executive Committee but also our partners, stake-holders and players around Australia of the aims and objectives of BAPA for the next 3 years. This plan will incorporate short term initiatives (6 – 18 months) and also long-term projects (18-36 months) of the BAPA. This Strategic Plan has been reviewed by the current Executive board and has been agreed to be adopted.

Background

BAPA was established in 2022 and has already grown significantly within Australia. BAPA was created when the original Australian body resigned from Blackball International. Therefore BAPA was given the recognition as the official blackball body in Australia.

BAPA will be sending nearly 40 players to Tangier, Morocco to compete in the 2022 World Championships in October 2022 and we have already had an official invite to the next Blackball International event, the Hawley Cup being held in Johannesburg in October 2023.

The exposure that the organisation has reached throughout the world is astounding and the organisation is continuing to see increased numbers in playing. The use of social media has enabled the BAPA to develop its brand in large areas of the world where blackball is played and competed and we continue to get large international responses.

Oceania Blackball Association

We have also created quite recently Oceania Blackball Association (OBA) which will aim to develop the continent of Oceania for blackball. OBA will try to affiliate all Oceania continents which will in turn be the continental member of Blackball International. When there are multiple nations under the continental body then BAPA will join the other nations. We will be arranging the first ever Oceania Championships towards the end of 2023/early 2024.

Our Vision, Values and Mission Statements.

Vision

‘To create endless possibilities for blackball players’

Values

- Empowerment – We support, trust and empower all of our players to further develop the confidence of every individuals talents and capabilities
- Integrity – We are trustworthy, reliable, and loyal. What we say we will do, we do. We have the courage to do the right thing. We welcome accountability and conduct the BAPA with honesty and transparency.
- Respect – We honour the intrinsic dignity, autonomy and worth of each person. We treat others the way we would want to be treated. We are considerate of each other’s feelings, values, and points of view and take responsibility for fostering trust, respect and good-will.
- Service – We choose to serve, embracing our roles as leaders in our organisation and to motivate every member of our organisation. In the spirit of service, we freely give our time, energy and resources.
- Excellence – We are committed to pursuing the highest possible standards at every level and strive to continue to raise the standards through innovation and initiatives. We are committed to putting forward our personal and professional best.

- Teamwork – We work as a team, achieving more collectively than individually. We are a cohesive unit with the desire to work together to a shared mission. We are committed to creating synergy by encouraging each other and working collaboratively.

Mission Statement

‘To inspire players to achieve their best and to provide the best opportunities for all players both Nationally and Internationally’.

Strategies

BAPA will concentrate on specific areas over the next 3 years to enhance the position of BAPA as an organisation that develops its players opportunities and supports their development both Nationally and Internationally.

Juniors – Short Term Initiatives

We will be looking to develop junior teams which will be able to compete within our National Championships in 2024. The concentration on these players are to develop the future of the game and also ensure that we have younger players coming through the ranks to continue the longer term survival of blackball within Australia. Our initial focus will be to create teams which will experience international tournaments and our ambition is to take junior teams to the Hawley Cup which is taking place in Johannesburg in October 2023.

Juniors Nationals – Long Term Initiatives

BAPA have the opportunity also to take Juniors teams (under 15’s, Under 18’s and Under 23’s) to the 2024 World Championships and BAPA need to ensure that this is achieved and that Australia are represented well with players who will challenge the other countries. This will be supported with the development of a Junior National Championship in a couple of years, numbers allowing.

National Tournament – Short Term Initiatives

BAPA, currently is provided by Samantha and Mark Cottingham privately, has access to 16 new Blackball Tables, Lights, balls etc including equipment. This was done to ensure that the equipment for a Nationals was of the highest quality. It is BAPA’s intention to purchase its own tables for the future to ensure that it has equipment to run the National Championships with them.

The National Tournament being held in 2023 will gain massive ground with the number of players and it is expected to have around 250 – 350 players attend. The Executive Committee need to ensure that they have venues for next year’s event already in place prior to this year’s event being held.

BAPA has just created its own you tube channel for all of the play and tournaments that it runs and we will have the streaming from the World Championships and also the Hawley Cup streamed to the channel. This should have the opportunity for all players to upload their tournaments and competitions for future reference and watching.

The 2022 National Championships will be the selection tournament for the teams that will be representing Australia at the 2023 Hawley Cup.

National Tournament – Long Term Projects

BAPA needs to focus on the marketing of this event and ensure that we have all the relevant social media posts in place. We have already secured streaming of the event to ensure that we are providing the best streaming service which should incorporate pre and post interviews with players/teams. We may need to work on how we can get exposure to our players worldwide and ensure that we maintain our brand.

Sponsorships

Whilst it is difficult for many organisations we should attempt to develop a base of sponsors who support our players national and international opportunities. This is built up over a number of years and we have already gained interested parties which we need to follow up with.

Learning Difficulties/Physical Disabilities Category

Within the National Tournament we also have a Learning Difficulties/Physical Disabilities (LD/PD) category who compete for the Australian title. We have a LDPD Co-ordinator which focuses on the arrangements and assessments of the players. He aims to develop this category and continues to forge links with organisations whereby we can offer our sports to them. We have made initial efforts with Australian Sporting Alliance for People with Disabilities and we are corresponding with Deaf Sports Australia with the view of forming a partnership. We are hoping to work alongside Deaf Sports Australia to help with arrangements for the Deaf Games in 2024 in Newcastle. We feel that this alliance with ASAPD will be a huge benefit to their affiliates and we hope to progress the sport to any player with a learning difficulty or physical disability.

Referees

We have a few referees within Australia that are qualified and we will be appointing a referee co-ordinator once final negotiations and criteria for the position has been agreed. The referee co-ordinator will head up the National tournaments and also give guidance to the players on behalf of BAPA.

National Centre of Excellence.....the future

BAPA would like to find premises which allow our tables to permanently sit. We would like to develop a venue with streaming facilities which can provide all 8 ball cue sports tournaments with a high standard facility. We would like to appoint a juniors coach who will champion coaching weekends, one to one etc for all players. Not only will we as an organisation be able to provide junior coaching we have the opportunity to also have LDPD coaching sessions also. This will provide the players a smaller environment to learn the key skills of the sport. This category of player will find this less intimidating and will provide players with a safer feeling to express their concerns, ask questions etc. We believe as an organisation this will develop cue sports here in Australia and whilst progressing players abilities will take away the stress on finding suitable larger venues for major Championships. We will also have the Oceania Championship titles each year and we will be looking for a venue whereby international travel arrangements would be easy for players to get too. We have made initial enquiries with one or two venues and we are hopeful that we would be able to negotiate suitable premises in the not too distant future.

The Strategic Plan is to be reviewed by the Executive Committee every 6 months as part of the Executive Committee meeting to ensure that we are on target and in line with this plan.

Signed by –

Mark Coltham

President
Blackball Australia Pool Association