



Department of Sport and Recreation

NEWSLETTER

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE ~ JANUARY 2026



GYMNASICS
CARIFTA MEDAL
WINNERS!



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Department of Sport and Recreation



SPORTMATTERS

Gymnastics Federation of Bermuda Cont'd



Gymnastics Carifta Team 2025

Our Bermuda Gymnastics team had an impressive showing at the 2nd Carifta Artistic Gymnastics Championships, which took place on December 6th and 7th, 2025, in Couva, Trinidad earning 15 medals for Team Bermuda!!

Our team of talented gymnasts went head-to-head with competitors from Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Barbados, and Curacao, and they truly made us proud!

Madeliene Pritchard beat the competition by becoming the level 3 vault champion in the 7 to 9-year-old age group, achieving an impressive score of 9.825. Not stopping there, Madeliene also secured 3rd place on the uneven bars with a score of 8.675 and 3rd place on the floor with a score of 9.3 and rounding it off with a 3rd place All-Round!

Our very own Tyla Foote, also competing at level 3, earned a commendable 3rd place on the vault in the 7 to 9-year-old age group with a score of 9.7. Meanwhile, Samantha Tolosa, competing at level 3 in the 10 to 12-year-old age group, finished 3rd all around with a remarkable score of 37.175.

In the level 4 session, Nea Fosker shone brightly, securing 2nd place on the floor in the 7 to 10-year-old age group with an outstanding score of 9.45.

Honorable mentions: Isabella Daniels (level 4), Ty-Leah Trott (level 3), Raelyn Robinson (level 3), Courtney Burgess (level 3), Isobel Stones (level 4), Eve Wright (level 6), Jodie Denton (level 2), Evelyn Howarth (level 2), and Sadie Hocking (level 4). Each of them contributed to the team's success with their hard work and dedication.

Coaches Becky Wentling and Fred Nicholas were pleased with the performance stating that the team had a great showing with improvement from last year. The team looks forward to the next Carifta Games.



Bermuda Netball Association

Bermuda Netball Association has had quite a few busy months since we announced our team that traveled to the Battle of The Isles Tournament in October.

Battle of the Isles Tournament

The Bermuda Longtails placed second overall in the tournament. With the completion of the tournament, Bermuda was able to complete the necessary 8 ranking matches to gain a World Ranking on the World Netball Ladder. With our 6 wins and 2 losses at the tournament, Bermuda came in at #20 on the world ranking ladder, making this the highest Bermuda has ever been ranked. Along with this ranking, coming in at #20 also placed us within the top 5 countries in the Americas Region which is another huge accomplishment. Bermuda Netball Association is extremely proud of the team as they went to the tournament and completed

the task they were given to put Bermuda back on the map. A huge congratulations to the team Kimale Evans (Coach), Anthony Mouchette (Coach), Antione Williams (Team Manager), Tanika White (Assistant Team Manager), Debre Evans (Captain), Kiante Lightbourne (Vice Captain), Zariah Amory, Terita Bean, Demiqua Daniels, Zakiyah Durham, Keizhari Knight, Kaylee Lema, Khianda Pearman-Watson, Inshan-nae Smith, Jahkenya Trott, Jahtuere Trott and Selah Tuzo.

Winter League

The Bermuda Netball Association Winter League is well underway and we have seen many great games played thus far. We have 23 teams registered across our 5 division. Games are played weekly on Saturdays with teams showcasing their skills in match play.

For all the latest updates on what happening, visit our Instagram [@bdanetball](#) or our facebook Netball Bermuda.

Team photo: Provided by
21Mile Film – Deesa Booth)



National Archery Association of Bermuda

Coach Development

Trina Roberts attended the Level 2 World Archery Coach Accelerator Course in Lausanne, Switzerland in November 2025. The start of the course involved volunteering for the Swiss Open Indoor event which is one of the largest and most prestigious indoor events. As the Secretary General for Bermuda Archery and a Member of the World Archery Board of Justice and Ethics she was invited to present medals at the award ceremonies. The next phase of the course was the technical learning for one week followed by coaching and shadowing at the centre. Trina has successfully obtained her Level 2 International Coach license and will be pursuing her Level 3 in 2026.

NAAB had several archers compete in the MICA tournament. The MICA or Multi-site 18 meters Championship of the Americas is a free-to-play, mass-participation remote



Elektra Smith, Robin Selley, Jaydon Roberts, Anthony Grant, Jamie Fraser, Camerin Pickering, Bernard Wade III and Robert O'Connor.



Left to right: Tim Swane, Technical Expert, Coach Trina Roberts and Marc Dellenbach Head Coach at the World Archery Excel.

international tournament that takes place each year and the results are submitted in December with the results being published in January of each year. The tournament uses the standard World Archery format

in which 60 arrows are shot at 18 meters. The results for 2025 showed that our archers are able to compete with the top archers of the Americas.

Archery Competition Results Summary



Male Recurve Senior

Camerin Pickering	65 / 443
Bernard Wade III	76 / 443
Jamie Fraser	218 / 443
Anthony Grant	370 / 443



Male Compound 50+

William Pickering finished **41 out of 200**



Male Recurve 50+

Robert O'Connor finished **135 out of 227**



Male Recurve U21

Jaydon Roberts finished **22 out of 167**



Female Recurve U21

N'Dera Smith finished **97 out of 194**

Elektra Smith finished **123 out of 194**



Female Recurve U18

Robin Selley finished **30 out of 302**

Bermuda Amateur Swimming Association

Bermuda swimmers continued with their busy schedule of meets and intensive training during December and early January.

The Warwick Swim Team attended the annual NC QCD Holiday Invite December 12-15th. The team was very successful in achieving a multitude of personal best times as well as several Podium places. Logan Jones led the way with four top three finishes.

Connor Hupman qualified for the US Speedo Winter Junior Championships which took place from December 10th- 14th. Connor swam in three individual events, posting personal best times in all three events in this highly competitive junior competition.

BASA held the first of two long course qualifying meets on December 20th at NSC, and was pleased to have many of our overseas swimmers participate in this event. Nayland Harris was able to add his name to the growing list of swimmers to meet the Carifta qualifying standard.

Jack and Emma Harvey made a return to long course competition in December at the 2025 Toyota US Open Championships, Austin Texas. In a highly competitive field loaded with Olympic medallists, the siblings progressed to several finals and secured Commonwealth Games qualifying times. Jack hit the standard in both of his backstroke events while sister Emma achieved the standard in all five of her events. As an extra bonus Emma set a new National Record in the 50m freestyle with a time of 25.69.

Returning to Austin in early January in the first of the USA Swimming Pro Swim Series events, Emma broke the first National Record of 2026, beating her own record in the 50m butterfly with a time of 26.59. In addition to progressing to five A finals she was able to secure a sixth Commonwealth Games qualification standard.

In January, Basa will host a second long course qualifying times as well as a short course event at the end of January. Swimmers will have until February 22nd to qualify for Carifta. College and overseas school swimmers continue their in season meets before gearing up for Championship Meets in February.

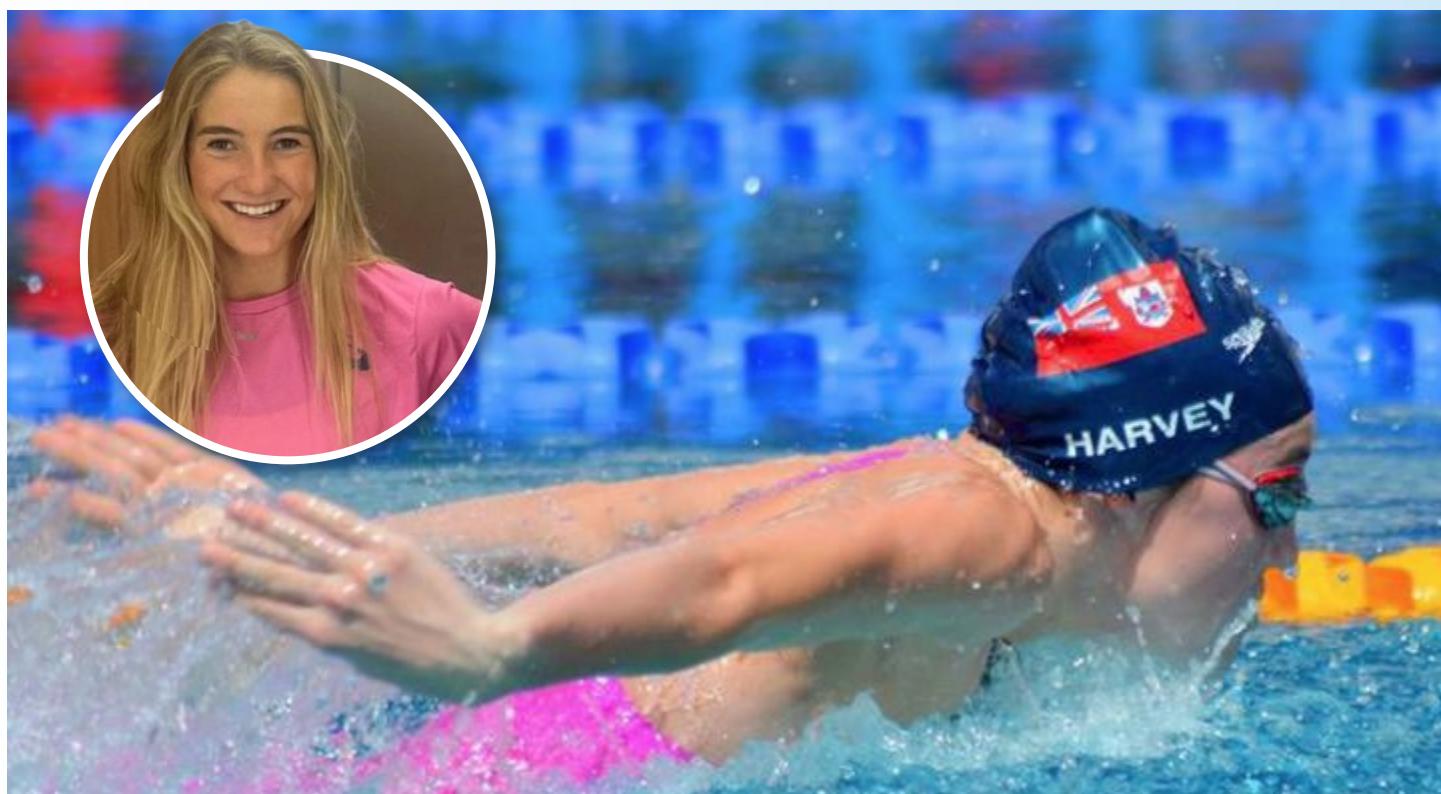
WINTER AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS FROM THE MEET AT THE END OF NOVEMBER ARE LISTED BELOW.

10 and Under	11-12 years	13-14 years	15 and over
Myla Desjardins	Colette Durkin	Isla Cooze	Jorgia White
Willa Wright	Madison Fox	Zara Bule	Marleigh Howes
Aine Fahy	Evelyn Fahy	Sofia Leclerc	Lila Connolly
Nikolas Block	Maxell Williams	Ethan Smith	Logan Jones
Joseph Herron	Walker Smith	Jacob Leclerc	Noah Fulton
	Kanyon Armstrong	Thomas Twilley	Joseph Lau

HIGH POINTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SWIM

Marleigh Howes and Thomas Cechini

BELOW: Emma Harvey



Bermuda Bicycle Association

Bermuda cyclists rack up medals and 2026 qualification spots

In October 2025, Bermuda's cyclists delivered a landmark performance at the Caribbean Cycling Championships in Belize, earning four medals, securing Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games qualification, and strengthening the island's international standing in elite road cycling.

Nicholas Narraway led the charge with a dominant victory in the elite men's individual time trial, beating teammate Conor White into second place. The result marked Narraway's first elite Caribbean title and capped a standout season in which he was also crowned Bermuda National Elite Time Trial Champion, confirming his progression into the top tier of regional competition.

In his first-year racing beyond under-23 ranks, Narraway was the only rider to complete the 32.5km course in under 40 minutes, stopping the clock at 39:25 (53.58km/h). His victory delivered a direct qualification place for Bermuda at the 2026 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, providing a clear and measurable benefit to the national sporting programme.

The elite women's events proved equally successful for Gabriella Arnold, who earned bronze in the time trial and followed it with a silver medal in the road race. Arnold played a decisive role in shaping the road race outcome, initiating the final split in the women's field before consolidating her effort to shed all but one competitor. Both podium finishes also secured CAC Games qualification spots for Bermuda, reinforcing the nation's continued competitiveness in women's elite cycling.

Beyond the medals, Bermuda's men's contingent, Narraway, White and Kaden Hopkins, accumulated valuable UCI points across national and regional competition. When combined with additional points earned by other Bermudian riders at the Bermuda National Championships, the results elevated Bermuda to 50th in the UCI nation rankings at a critical qualification window, earning the country one start place on the start list for the 2026 UCI Road World Championships in Montreal. A huge accomplishment for a small nation in the cycling world.

With momentum building, the Bermuda Bicycle Association is now preparing to support its Junior, U23 and Elite cyclists across a strong international programme in 2026, with targeted participation at major championships including the Junior and Elite Caribbean Road and MTB Championships, Central American and Caribbean Games, Pan American Championships both Road and Track, a Commonwealth Games, and the UCI Road World Championships, ensuring continued athlete development and international representation for Bermuda.

Top Left:

Team Bermuda Conor White, Gabriella Arnold, Kaden Hopkins and Nic Narraway

Middle:

Conor White - Silver medal Time Trial, Nic Narraway - Gold time trial and Gabriella Arnold - Bronze Time Trial & Silver

Bottom:

Gold medalist in the Time Trial, Nic Narraway, on course.



Bermuda Bowling Federation

Bermuda USBC Doubles Tournament

On Sunday, January 11th, Warwick Lanes was buzzing as teams gathered for the Bermuda USBC Annual Doubles Tournament, and the action absolutely delivered. From the opening frames to the final tally, the night was packed with momentum swings, clutch shots, and big handicap drama that kept everyone locked in.

When the dust settled, Matthew Viney and David Maycock stood alone at the summit, capturing first place with a commanding 1431 handicap series. Their performance was a model of consistency and composure, highlighted by a standout 475 high game and a strong 1359 scratch total that proved impossible to catch once the handicap was applied. Hot on their heels were Quinton Hayward and Elvin Thomas, whose steady scoring kept them in contention all night. They finished second with 1419, showing impressive balance across all three games. Not far behind, Quinn Simmons and Jamel Bean put together one of the night's most exciting runs, posting a massive 504 handicap game on their way to third place with 1393.

The middle of the leaderboard was stacked, with just a handful of pins separating several teams. Carl Reid and Rickai Binns, Deshi Smith and Donald Foley, and Vanessa Daley and Janeen Daley all delivered big games and strong series, proving that every frame mattered. Handicap swings added extra intrigue, as teams surged and slipped with every spare and strike.

From explosive single-game performances to gritty three-game series, the 2026 Bermuda USBC Doubles Tournament showcased everything great about doubles bowling—teamwork, strategy, and the thrill of competing right down to the final pin.

Congratulations to all the competitors, and especially to Matthew Viney and David Maycock, your 2026 Bermuda USBC Doubles Champions. Warwick Lanes once again proved to be the perfect stage for a fantastic night of bowling.

BELOW: David Maycock and Matthew Viney



Bermuda Cricket Board

Katherine Bean Rosario Shines on the Regional Stage

Bermudian all-rounder Katherine Bean Rosario has continued her impressive rise in regional women's cricket with her selection to represent the Leeward Islands in both the CG United Women's Super50 Cup and the Cricket West Indies (CWI) T20 Blaze tournaments, currently being held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Her selection underscores her ongoing development and growing impact within West Indies women's cricket.

Historic Triumph in the CWI T20 Blaze

Katherine's Leeward Islands squad made history by capturing their first-ever CWI T20 Blaze title, defeating Barbados by 6 runs via the Duckworth/Lewis/Stern method on Friday, January 23rd.

Throughout the tournament, the Leeward Islands Women showcased their skill and determination, securing victories over:

- Jamaica
- Guyana
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Barbados

This landmark achievement highlights the team's progress and resilience—and marks a milestone moment for the region's women's cricket program.

CG United Women's Super50 Cup – Continuing Her Development

Katherine continues her international development with the Leeward Islands as they now shift their focus to the CG United Women's Super50 Cup.

Their competition schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, January 27 – Leeward Islands vs. Barbados
- Thursday, January 29 – Leeward Islands vs. Windward Islands
- Saturday, January 31 – Leeward Islands fixture (TBD)

Her participation in this prestigious 50-over tournament provides another valuable opportunity to refine her skills against top regional talent.

Congratulations from the BCB

The Bermuda Cricket Board (BCB) extends its warmest congratulations to Katherine Bean Rosario and the entire Leeward Islands Women's team on their historic CWI T20 Blaze championship. The BCB also wishes Katherine continued success as she competes in the CG United Women's Super50 Cup.

Her achievements continue to inspire aspiring Bermudian cricketers and showcase the growing presence of Bermuda on the regional cricket stage.

Senior Men's National Team Training Squad Announced as Preparations Intensify for 2026 International Competitions

The Bermuda Cricket Board [BCB] has officially confirmed the Senior Men's National Team training squad as preparations ramp up for a busy and highly competitive 2026 international cricket calendar. This year, Bermuda's elite cricketers will focus on two major upcoming events: the North American Cricket Cup, scheduled for April 4–12 in the Cayman Islands, and the ICC Men's T20 Sub Regional Qualifiers, which Bermuda will proudly host from June 19–27.

BCB President Lloyd Smith underscored the significance of this preparation phase, highlighting the Board's commitment to long term athlete development and international readiness.

"This marks an exciting chapter for Bermuda Cricket as we continue to invest in our elite athletes. The High-Performance Committee has developed a clear pathway designed to elevate our standards and ensure our national team is fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead."

— *Lloyd Smith, President, Bermuda Cricket Board*

A Squad Built for Growth, Competition, and High Performance



The selected training squad brings together a blend of senior leadership, emerging talent, and returning professionals, all aligned with the national program's strategic direction. This core group will participate in a structured preparation schedule tailored to enhance fitness, skill development, and team cohesion in advance of the two upcoming tournaments.

2026 Senior Men's National Training Squad

- Terryn Fray
- Delray Rawlins
- Derrick Brangman
- Tre Manders
- Dominic Sabir
- Zeri Tomlinson
- Onias Bascome
- Sinclair Smith
- Marcus Scotland
- Zeko Burgess
- Luke Fulton
- Luke Horan
- Kevon Fubler
- Dalin Richardson
- Jonte Smith
- Jermal Proctor
- Alex Dore
- MacQuille Walker
- Charles Trott
- Seth Campbell
- Amari Ebbin
- Nacori Smith
- Chare Smith
- Sharye Tavares
- Nzari Paynter

Looking Ahead: A Year of Opportunity

With two international tournaments within three months, 2026 represents a crucial opportunity for Bermuda to strengthen its place within the regional and global cricket landscape. The combination of local hosting responsibilities, overseas competition, and centralized training is expected to play a vital role in accelerating player development.

As the squad continues its preparation journey, the BCB will provide ongoing updates highlighting milestones, match results, and community engagement initiatives.



Terryn Fray Captain



Bermuda Equestrian Federation

Bermuda Equestrians shine at Inwood Hunter & Equitation Show

Bermuda's equestrian community delivered an impressive weekend of performances at the Inwood Hunter & Equitation Show, with riders across multiple divisions showcasing strong form and competitive consistency.

In the **Open Equitation Medal Series 3'6"**, Vicki Steele claimed top honors aboard *Rambo*, while Simone Sainsbury secured second place riding *Deltas Roulette*. The **Open Equitation Medal up to 3' Over Fences** saw Courtney Bromby and *Dorus Du Domain Z* take the win, followed by Sophie Greenway on *Chevy ZG Z* in second and Julia Cooper on *Colbi Moon* in third.

The **Open Equitation up to 2'9" Over Fences** division was led by Vee McKey riding *Harrison*. Nathalie Rushe and *Lollipop* earned second place, with Laura Lister and *Deltas Roulette* finishing third. In the Equitation Medal up to 2'6" Over Fences, Bella Rodrigues and *Let's Play* captured the victory, followed by McKenna Redcliffe on *Tuck Everlasting* in second and Harley Greenslade on *Sunny Days* in third.

In the **Short Stirrup Over Fences** class, Chloe Mello rode *Memory Lane Paparazzi* to the win. Annie Duffin and *Wintermint* placed second, while Riley Richardson and *Worth the Wait* rounded out the top three.



Chloe Mello jumping Memory Lane Paparazzi



Laura Lister on Deltas Roulette



Vicki Steele jumping Rambo

Photo:
Bella Rodrigues aboard Let's Play
Inset Photo: Vee McKey with Harrison



The weekend also featured standout performances in the hunter divisions. In the **Hunter X Rails** division, Brinkley McCormick and *Puff the Magic Dragon* earned the championship title, with Lilabelle Trebing and *Crème De La Crème* taking reserve champion. The **18" Hunter Division** crowned Savannah Penniston and *Snickerdoodle* as champions, while Annie Duffin and *Winternmint* secured reserve.

Rounding out the results, the **Hunter Pony 2'6" Division** saw Simon Sainsbury and *Vinho Verde* named champions, with McKenna Redcliffe earning reserve champion honors.

The Inwood Hunter & Equitation Show once again highlighted the depth of talent within Bermuda's equestrian ranks, setting the stage for an exciting season ahead.



Evan Heyliger

From Grassroots to Global: Evan Heyliger Appointed ITF Development Officer

The Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association is pleased to announce another first for Bermuda tennis.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has officially ushered in a new chapter for Caribbean tennis with the appointment of Bermudian Evan Heyliger as the Development Officer for the Confederation of Tennis of Central America and the Caribbean Region (COTECC). Taking the baton from John Goede, Heyliger steps into a pivotal role aimed at modernizing the sport across a vast and diverse jurisdiction.

Evan Heyliger's appointment as the ITF Development Officer for the Caribbean is a historic milestone that resonates deeply with the pride of Bermuda tennis. At just 26 years old, Heyliger, a former junior standout and Level 2 certified coach, has transitioned from the local courts of the Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association (BLTA) to a prestigious global leadership role, overseeing tennis development across 20 nations. This appointment is a powerful validation of Bermuda's tennis ecosystem, proving that the island can produce not only world-class athletes but also elite administrators capable of shaping the sport's future. For Bermuda, seeing "one of their own" take over a position held

by the highly respected John Goede since 2015 serves as a massive inspiration for the next generation, signaling that there are no limits to where a career in Bermudian tennis can lead.

Key Aspects of the Role

The position is a "boots on the ground" role vital to the International Tennis Federation's global strategy. Heyliger will be responsible for:

- **Coaches Education:** Conducting Level 1 and Level 2 courses to certify regional coaches.
- **Grassroots Growth:** Establishing the ITF Junior Tennis Initiative to bring new players into the game.
- **Facility Oversight:** Helping nations recognize and upgrade their training centers.
- **Elite Pathways:** Ensuring promising players have the administrative and performance support needed to pursue professional careers.

A Strategic Vision for Regional Growth

Heyliger isn't just maintaining the status quo; he is launching a renewed effort to create a more cohesive talent pipeline across the islands. His primary objectives center on professionalizing the sport from the ground up:

- **Grassroots Expansion:** Boosting youth participation by integrating tennis into school-based programs through the Junior Tennis Initiative.
- **Technical Excellence:** Standardizing coaching certifications to ensure local instructors are equipped with the latest ITF methodologies and high-performance training techniques.
- **Infrastructure & Logistics:** Supporting national associations with facility upgrades and court maintenance to position the Caribbean as a premier hub for international events.

The Caribbean Remit: 23 Territories United

The scale of this appointment is reflected in the 23 nations and territories that fall under Heyliger's development umbrella. Over the coming months, he will conduct site visits to assess the specific needs of:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, U.S. Virgin Islands

Proven Leadership on the Court

Heyliger brings a multidisciplinary edge to the position. As an experienced coach and administrator with the Bermuda Lawn Tennis Association, he holds certifications in both tennis instruction and strength and conditioning.

The ITF leadership has cited his deep familiarity with the region's unique geographical and logistical challenges as a key asset. By understanding the nuances of the Caribbean landscape, Heyliger is expected to foster stronger collaboration between national associations, ensuring that talent in smaller territories receives the same level of support as those in larger nations.

The Road Ahead

With the 2026 calendar year now officially underway, the focus will be on site visits to provide crucial information, tailoring development plans to the unique cultural and economic landscapes of each member nation. Under his guidance, the ITF is doubling down on a future where Caribbean tennis is synonymous with consistency, professionalism, and international success.

Pickleball Association of Bermuda

International Representation

Hosting the 2026 Caribbean Championships

Bermuda's pickleball community is counting down to hosting the Caribbean Championships on home soil from March 17-21, a milestone that firmly positions the island as a rising regional hub for the sport. These events will bring together many of the same Caribbean nations that battled in Grand Cayman in 2025, where Bermuda collected an impressive 12 medals across Open, Senior, and Junior divisions and helped with event organization, showcasing both playing strength and technical expertise. Bermuda is poised to deliver a memorable championship experience while giving local fans the chance to watch our national team compete at the highest level on home courts.

For players, the Championships will provide invaluable match play against regional opposition building on the success of last year's Elite team gold medal run in the 2025 Caribbean Championships in Cayman Islands and the Senior team's bronze medal winning

performance. Beyond the courts, these events align with the PAB's strategy to elevate competition, expand tourism partnerships, and showcase Bermuda as an attractive destination for visiting players and their families.

Gold Medal – Marco Island Police Foundation

Pickleball Slammer in Florida

At the Marco Island Police Foundation Pickleball Slammer in Florida, PAB members Leslie Jackson and Maclean Smith delivered a standout performance, capturing the gold medal in the Women's Doubles 3.0–3.99 skill division on January 24–25, 2026. Facing a strong eight team field, they won their semifinal convincingly 11–3 before closing out the final 11–3, finishing the medal round unbeaten and securing top spot ahead of teams from Virginia, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and Florida.

This result adds an important international title to Bermuda's growing list of overseas achievements and reflects the depth of our women's program at the 3.0–3.99 level.



Leslie Jackson and Maclean Smith

Bermuda Sailing Association

ILCA Oceana & Australian Open and Youth Championships, Hobart, Australia.

Campbell Patton raced his ILCA 7 Laser dinghy to 11th. place overall in the 40 boats fleet, following 6 days of competition. Campbell faced "short, sharp waves" and strong tidal currents and yet managed to finish in the top 10 in most of his races. His best was a 2nd. place in race 5. Campbell is building towards his International World Cup plans having recently won the New South Wales & ACT State Championships



December's Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta, Miami.

It took until day 3 of the event before the winds filled in sufficiently for racing to begin.

In the ILCA 6's Miguel Power flew the Bermuda flag to an exciting 16th. place overall out of a fleet of 85 competitors. Meanwhile in the ILCA' 4's Sean Pedro fought his way to an impressive 23rd. place.

In the 225 strong, Optimist Fleet, Thomas McBain demonstrated his steady climb in the rankings, thrilling all with his surge late in the series into 37th overall. Teammate Rex Henagulph captured 72nd.

Other Bermudians followed: Miguel Leite, Aaron Riker, Calypso Coulter, Ishmael Dill, Benjamin De Couto, Alfie Jansma, James DeCouto, Leo DeCouto, Hudson Pitcher, and Ethan Adelsberg. Young Thatcher Coulter gained experience in the Green Optimist class clinching 76th. place.

Inset Photo: The Bermuda Optimist Team

Below: Campbell Patton Racing His ILCA7 In Hobart, Australia

Top right: Sean Pedro Racing His ILCA 4 in Miami

Middle right: The Optimist Fleet in Miami

Bottom right: Miguel Power Racing His ILCA 6 in Miami





Bermuda Volleyball Association

Paradise Hitters Volleyball Compete at the Florida Holiday Challenge

The Bermuda Volleyball Association proudly announces the strong showing of its teams, Paradise Hitters 15 and Paradise Hitters 17, at last weekend's regional volleyball tournament in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Paradise Hitters 15 delivered an outstanding performance, demonstrating skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition. Their impressive record reflects the hard work and preparation that went into the season, and the team's success is a testament to their commitment both on and off the court.

Sean Tucker, Head Coach of Paradise Hitters 15 said this: "I'm beyond proud of our U15 girls at the Daytona tournament. They dominated day one, going undefeated to secure their spot in the gold bracket out of 20 strong teams. We fought tough for 3rd place, taking it to a nail-biting tiebreak third set before narrowly falling short. The girls left everything on the court—skill, heart, and pure grit. It is an amazing result, and the BVA and I overjoyed with their performance."

Meanwhile, Paradise Hitters 17 faced tough opponents and did not achieve the record they had hoped for. However, the team's resilience and effort were evident in every match. Coaches and supporters alike praised the athletes for their perseverance, positive spirit, and ability to rise to the challenge. Despite the results, Paradise Hitters 17's tournament experience was marked by growth, camaraderie, and memorable moments that will fuel their continued development.

Mike Gazzard commented, "While the results didn't fall our way, I'm extremely proud of how the girls competed throughout the tournament. Four of our five matches went to a deciding third set, which shows how close we were against such strong opposition. The effort, resilience, and composure displayed by the girls at this level was impressive, even in difficult moments. Experiences like this are invaluable, and we'll use them as motivation as we return to training with a clear focus on improvement and preparation for the Nike Boston National Qualifier in March 2026."

Club Director, Gary LeBlanc, commented, "We are incredibly proud of both teams. Paradise Hitters 15's success highlights their dedication and Paradise Hitters 17 showed the kind of grit and sportsmanship that makes us confident in their future. This tournament was a win for our program, as a whole. I look forward to building on these achievements as both teams continue their training and prepare for upcoming competitions in Boston next year"

Bermuda Volleyball Association continues their Season with a Trip to Boston

Over the weekends of February 28th and March 7th, the Bermuda Volleyball Association will be sending six of its junior teams to participate in the annual Nike Boston Volleyball Festival to be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in the Seaport District of Boston, Massachusetts. The Bermuda Volleyball Association will be sending three Paradise Hitter Volleyball Club teams (U13, U17 and U17) and three Big Wave Riders Volleyball Club teams (U15, U16, U17). All teams have been training hard since their season started in September 2025 and are looking forward to successful results.

Beach Volleyball – Qualification for 2026 CAC Games

We are pleased to report that Bermuda's National Beach Volleyball Programme has officially secured two qualification entries for the 2026 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games, scheduled for July 2026. Qualification was achieved through points earned by our National Beach Team athletes while competing in multiple NORCECA Beach Tour stops throughout 2025. Accumulating the required points through strong performances at these highly competitive international events represents an exciting milestone for the programme.

This marks the second time Bermuda has qualified a women's beach volleyball team for the CAC Games and, notably, the first time in history that both genders have qualified. Bermuda will be represented by one Senior Men's team and one Senior Women's team at the Games.

The CAC Games will feature the top 16 ranked teams from participating countries across the region, making this qualification a significant achievement. This milestone reflects meaningful progress in the development of Bermuda's beach volleyball programme. The athletes are now entering an intensive training cycle, with plans to participate in additional NORCECA events ahead of the Games to ensure continued high-level match experience and preparation.

The internal selection process for these teams will take place locally and will be based on athlete performances at a series of tournaments scheduled for April and May.



Top left: Paradise Hitters U15 girls



Bottom right: Paradise Hitters U17 girls

Bermuda Motorcycle Racing Association

Jesston Thomas' Breakout BMRA Season

At just 14 years old, Jesston Thomas didn't just enter the BMRA this season, he made history for himself. What began on May 18, 2024 as his very first-time racing motorcycles quickly turned into an unforgettable championship run.

For Jesston, the season was full of firsts: first races, first battles, first pressures and ultimately, his first championship title. *"It was my first time ever racing motorcycles, and I won the championship,"* he said. *"That's something I'll never forget."*

Winning didn't come easy. Jesston describes his toughest opponent as himself. Learning to trust his instincts, push past fear, and stay mentally strong became just as important as speed on the track. *"I made things harder for myself than they needed to be,"* he explained. *"I had to be more forceful and believe in myself."*

Over the course of the season, Jesston grew both physically and mentally. Beyond getting stronger, he learned patience, emotional control, and resilience—skills that carried over from the racetrack into everyday life. That growth showed in his riding, especially when the pressure was highest.

Behind every successful racer is a strong support system, and Jesston is quick to recognize his. He credits his sponsors Self Made Maintenance, Thyme Restaurant, Roc Art Grafix, and Social Cycles, along with the unwavering support of his parents. *"This season wouldn't have been possible without them,"* he said.

Looking back, Jesston is most proud of his resilience. No matter the challenges, he stayed focused all the way to the end. And when asked what advice he'd give younger riders who want to follow in his footsteps, his answer is simple and confident:

"Go fast or go home."

As he looks ahead to next season, Jesston is already focused on improving—becoming stronger, racing with less fear, and continuing to sharpen both his body and mind. If his first season is any indication, this championship is only the beginning.

Jesston sums it up best himself:

"An incredibly unpredictable, title-fighting season."



Carter Burgess' Championship Season with BMRA

Carter Burgess proved that heart, hard work, and listening to good coaching can take a rider a very long way. **Carter entered the season ready to learn and he did, finishing the year as the BMRA Junior Division Champion.**

One of the defining moments of Carter's season came when he lined up in a combined Juniors and Experts mini moto race. Competing against older and more experienced riders, Carter crossed the line in third place, beating one of the experts and nearly winning the race. It was a standout performance that showed just how quickly he was closing the gap.

Like many racers, Carter faced challenges early on. A crash during one of his first races shook his confidence and made overtaking feel scary for a while. Instead of letting fear stop him, Carter found inspiration by watching MotoGP riders crash—and then get right back on the bike. Seeing even the best riders fall and recover helped him understand that crashing is part of racing and part of learning. That mindset shift paid off. Over the course of the season, Carter's improvement was clear and measurable. Early on, expert riders would overlap him after just a few laps. As the season progressed, that gap shrank, four laps became seven, and eventually, he wasn't being overlapped at all. It was proof of steady progress, growing confidence, and real development on the bike.

Beyond speed, the season taught Carter important lessons on and off the track. On the track, he learned to push his limits and test himself more. Off the track, he learned that it's okay to try new things without fear you might discover you're really good at them. Carter credits much of his success to his support system, especially Coach Burgess, who pushed him to keep trying, improve his turns, and find more speed every race. That consistent guidance helped Carter build the skills and confidence needed to compete at a championship level.

When asked what he's most proud of, Carter's answer is simple and powerful: becoming the **BMRA Junior Division Champion**. His advice to younger riders hoping to follow the same path is to listen to the coaches and practice turning over and over. Looking ahead to next season, Carter is focused on sharpening his cornering, getting through turns faster, and braking later into corners. With his dedication and love for learning, his future on the track is bright.

Carter sums up his championship season best in his own words:

"It was an amazing season where I learned, improved every race, and became a champion by working hard and listening to my coaches."

Photo: Jesston Thomas

CARTER BURGESS



Bermuda Motocross Association

Mikah Alves Leads Novice Class, Sets Sights on Daytona Main Event

Young motocross rider Mikah Alves is making waves this season as the current points leader in the Novice class, proving that hard work, dedication, and a lifelong love for the sport are paying off.

Alves has been riding since the age of five, first introduced to motocross by his father, who also rode. What began as a family passion quickly turned into a competitive pursuit. Today, one of Mikah's favorite parts of racing is still sharing time at the track with his dad, along with the thrill of speed and the satisfaction of winning.

This season has been a standout one for Alves, highlighted by his consistent performance and position at the top of the points standings. With momentum on his side, he is now focused on a major goal: qualifying for the main event at Daytona, one of the most prestigious stages in motocross.

While he doesn't follow a strict pre-race ritual, Alves makes it a priority to walk the track before every race, studying lines and preparing mentally. His favorite track is South of the Border in South Carolina, where he enjoys the flow and overall layout.

Off the bike, Alves spends his time training and playing games, staying sharp both physically and mentally. After a long race day, his go-to meal is simple and classic spaghetti.

Alves credits much of his success to the support system around him and would like to thank his parents along with his sponsors: Clear Choice Doors, Windows and Glass; Mass Ltd Perfect Pass Welding; Crawl Gas Station Red Laser; and Elite Fitness Belvin's.

As the season continues, all eyes will be on Mikah Alves as he pushes toward Daytona and continues his rise in the Novice ranks.

Photo: Mikah Alves



Bermuda Rugby Football Union

Bermuda Rugby Union continues Schools Outreach Programme as Middle School Students take to the field

Bermuda Rugby proudly welcomed more than 140+ middle school students from across the island this month for a dynamic and inclusive rugby coaching session at the National Sports Centre. The event marks another milestone in the BRFU's schools development pathway and growing grassroots engagement.

Below: Students participating in the BRU's Pitch-Up and Play programme

Students from Francis Patton Primary School, Warwick Academy, Saltus Grammar School and Somersfield Academy took part in the session on Tuesday, 13 January, as part of the BRU's Pitch-Up and Play programme, led by Rugby Operations Director Jason Hendrie.

"This initiative is about making rugby accessible to all students, not just those who have played before," Hendrie said. "We are encouraging schools to bring as many participants as possible, so the focus is on exposure, enjoyment and broad involvement."

The Pitch-Up and Play format rewards schools for participation: rather than gaining points only for match wins, schools earn one participation point for every student who comes out to take part. For example, Warwick Academy brought 60 children, earning 60 participation points in the schools league.

Hendrie also delivered a session for high school learners on Monday, with around 25 older students taking part. Combined with this week's middle school turnout, the BRFU coaching team has now worked with hundreds of young rugby hopefuls since October when Hendrie assumed his role.



Bermuda Rugby Football Union cont'd

"We had about 25 high school students on Monday, and on Tuesday we had 140 from four different schools," Hendrie explained. "We're hoping that more schools will buy into the programme as it develops."

The programme's theme for January is 'Inspire', with February focusing on core skill development—including passing, movement and safe contact fundamentals—and March moving into competitive play, where schools will earn points for match results.

Hendrie was keen to emphasize that rugby can be welcoming and fun at first exposure, dispelling misconceptions that the sport is all about physical contact. "We've been showcasing fun passing and movement games, similar to netball, that help build confidence and transferable athletic skills," he said.

He also highlighted Bermuda's emerging youth talent, including a 13-year-old standout player who impressed coaches so much she was invited to the Bermudians Rugby Academy camp at Warwick Academy in December.

"There is a tremendous amount of natural ability in our schools," Hendrie added. "Our goal is to build clear pathways so young Bermudians can progress—whether they choose to continue playing socially, develop into competitive school and club rugby, pursue overseas opportunities, or represent Bermuda at national level."



Below: Students participating in the BRU's Pitch-Up and Play programme





2026 UPCOMING EVENTS





BERMUDA RENDEZVOUS

44TH OPEN BOWLING TOURNAMENT
SCRATCH AND HANDICAP
FEBRUARY 13TH - 16TH 2026

PRIZE FUNDS

Doubles \$7,500 Based on 150 entries	Singles \$5,000 Based on 200 entries
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 **DOUBLES** \$90 per team

 **SINGLES** \$45 per entry

 **SCRATCH OPTIONAL** \$10 per entry



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- Entry forms available at the front desk
- Use the QR code to sign up online.
 - <https://tinyurl.com/5yds99jh>



Bermuda Bowling Federation
See flyer above for details

