

A photograph of an indoor volleyball game. A player in a red jersey is jumping high to spike the ball. A referee in a white shirt stands on the left. Two other players in white and red jerseys are in the foreground, looking towards the net. The background shows a gymnasium with a colorful mural on the wall.

CLUB SPORTS

YEAR IN REVIEW

2018-2019



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PERD) department at Boston University leads the Club Sports program. The PERD management team, reporting to Auxiliary Services, also manages the Fitness & Recreation Center, credit bearing physical education classes, intramural sports and non-credit fitness, recreation and wellness programming.

Club Sports at Boston University comprises 34 different women's, men's and co-ed teams with approximately 1,200 student-athletes who compete regionally and nationally. Over the course of its more than 45-year history, the Club Sports program has produced tens of thousands of alumni who continue to support and cheer for their teams today. The fundamental way that Club Sports differ from varsity teams is that students primarily operate the programs. The student-led nature of Club Sports, coupled with administrative team training and development allow the athletes to cultivate real-life skills in leadership and management that are transferable to work and life pursuits during and after college.

With oversight from the PERD management staff, each Club Sport elects officers to guide the team in the competitive direction desired by their teammates. While some Club Sports choose to be more recreational in nature, most elect to be highly competitive and build their schedules accordingly, to hopefully compete in regional and national championships. In 2019-2020, 12 of 34 Club Sport teams advanced collectively and individually to their respective national tournaments, including Figure Skating which captured its fifth national title in the past ten years.

Club Sports has become a staple program at nearly every top college and university in America. The last estimate by the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) placed Club Sports participation at over 2 million student-athletes nationwide, compared to less than 500,000 NCAA varsity athletes. Club Sports is increasingly a factor in the college selection process by many students, and their participation is often a critical part of their college experience.

“Skating has had a huge impact on my college experience. I am so grateful to have been able to continue skating in college while attending a university with great academics. The friendships and experiences I have had over the years at Boston University have been truly impactful.”

- Amanda Shadlock (QST '19)

FACTS, FIGURES, AND HIGHLIGHTS

Boston University has one of the largest and most comprehensive Club Sport programs in New England. Our teams continue to attract and retain a diverse mix of students who are interested in a wide range of sports from throughout the world.

- **TEAMS:** 34
- **ATHLETES:** 1,100
- **MILES DRIVEN:** 64,024
- **STATES VISITED:** 18
- **DOLLARS FUNDRAISED:** \$332,130
- **HOURS OF PRACTICE:** 7,215
- **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES:** 12

Awards and Successes

Club Sport teams continue to achieve competitive success on the regional and national level. Our athletes are regularly recognized for both their competitive skill as well as their leadership qualities. Some achievements and awards from this year include:

1. **BADMINTON:** Eastern Collegiate Playoff Champions - Division 1A (2nd straight year)
2. **CRICKET:** Home/Away Regular Season Champion - Tegveer Ghura named All-American
3. **EQUESTRIAN:** Caroline Rakip awarded the IHSA Region 4 Captain of the Year Award
4. **FIGURE SKATING:** National Champions (3rd year in a row, 5th in past 10 years)
5. **HOCKEY (M):** Club Beanpot Champions (2nd title in 3 years)
6. **SYNCHRONIZED SKATING:** 8th Place National Finish
7. **SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING:** 9th Place Nationals Finish
8. **VOLLEYBALL (M):** 5th Place National Finish
9. **WATER POLO (W):** Regional Runner-Up

COLLABORATIONS

The Club Sports program collaborates and interfaces with numerous other campus programs and departments throughout the year. Many people contribute to our success, and we strive to enhance the culture of the campus and surrounding community.

- **ATHLETICS:** The 5th annual Club Sports Spirit Night was a major success with over 400 club athletes in attendance at the January 30th Men's varsity basketball game. Club Sports also collaborated with Athletics to offer a Strength and Conditioning program to several teams this past fall, and will look to expand this program in the fall of 2019.
- **DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS:** BU Giving Day was once again a tremendous success for Club Sport teams, securing over 2,900 donations and more than \$110,000. Club Sports has now finished 2nd in total donations behind only varsity athletics each of the last three years.
- **SARP:** Once every other year, each Club Sport team participates in the *Step Up Step In BU* (SUSIBU) program offered by the Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center. Promoting awareness of SARP and their prevention programs helps to strengthen our campus community and promote leadership amongst our athletes.
- **STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES:** The Athletic Training program provides prevention, evaluation and diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for our athletes. The AT staff is extremely helpful and works tirelessly to accommodate the needs of our teams.



Hundreds of club athletes packed the stands at the ROOF for Club Sports Spirit Night. Their infectious energy helped propel the BU Men's varsity basketball team to victory over Patriot League foe, Holy Cross, 68-54.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service is one of the founding principles of Boston University, and the BU Club Sports program is committed to carrying on the school's long history of contributing to the greater good of Boston and the surrounding communities. We urge all teams to participate in at least one community service effort per year as these efforts not only help others, but they work to build stronger bonds and shared experiences amongst teammates.

Collectively, Club Sport athletes **accumulated over 2,000 hours of community service** this school year. Some of the highlights included:

- **HOCKEY (W):** Assisted in BU's Big Brother, Big Sister program on the Fenway Campus. They participated in a day of Olympic events where the team ran stations, and made friends with the big/little pairs that were in attendance.
- **SKI RACING:** Volunteered with the Green Team at Fenway Park during a Red Sox playoff game. The team helped clean up recyclables during the game and informed the attendees about the importance of recycling.
- **TABLE TENNIS:** Collaborated with the Asian Student Union on the annual Chinatown Cleanup. The team collected trash and recycling throughout the neighborhood.
- **WATER POLO:** Both the Men's and Women's team helped clean up after the BARCC Walk for Change. Their tasks included cleaning up the event, organizing tables and chairs, assisting vendors with breaking down, and loading up the U-Haul.



Members of the Ski Racing team paused their recycling cleanup to take a picture in the bleachers at Fenway Park.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

The desire of our alumni to stay connected to their teams remains high. In addition to helping teams financially through their generous donations, each year many alumni also find their way back to campus to meet and reconnect with each other and the current team.

Collectively, our club teams hosted **20 separate alumni events this year with an estimated 400 attendees**. Some of the noteworthy events included:

- **SKATING GALA:** As part of their *#PledgeThePit* campaign, the Figure and Synchronized Skating teams worked together to host their first ever formal fundraising event, bringing back skaters, coaches, family and friends to celebrate their history. Program creator Barb Pinch was awarded the first ever Club Sports Distinguished Coaching award, an award which will also be named in her honor and presented to one current club coach per year.
- **WOMEN'S RUGBY 20TH ANNIVERSARY:** With over 50 alumni in the stands, the team took on Boston College to kick off their 20th anniversary weekend, defeating BC 59-20. The team followed their victory with a banquet where coaches, alumni, and current players reminisced and celebrated team highlights over the past 20 years.
- **WATER POLO AUSTIN BRASHEARS' MEMORIAL ALUMNI TOURNAMENT:** Both teams worked together to put on a Memorial Tournament for former Men's Water Polo athlete Austin Brashear who passed away. The annual Tournament saw over 50 alumni return to campus to honor Austin's life. The teams collected donations from businesses in the Boston area to raffle off. When all was said and done, just over \$1,600 was raised to add to the scholarship fund in Austin's name.



Students and alumni from the women's water polo team pause for a quick photo op before their next game.

YEAR END AWARDS

The recipients of these awards were selected from **over 100 nominations submitted by Club Sport teammates and coaches**. The winners will have their names etched onto a progressive plaque located on the second floor of the BU FitRec Center. We task our students with leaving their club better than they found it, and these represent some of our best and brightest.

- **COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE:** Tegveer Ghura (Cricket) – *All-American* honors. Highest ranked statistical player in College Cricket for 2018-2019 season.
- **COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE:** Nikita Limaye (Gymnastics) – 4-year standout, placing 1st in bars, beam and floor at numerous competitions both regionally and nationally.
- **TEAM ADVANCEMENT AWARD:** Maddie Thomas (Water Polo) – Spearheaded massive increases in fundraising, alumni game attendance, and planned/executed the team's first ever west coast training trip. 2-year president who made a massive and lasting impact.
- **LEADERSHIP AWARD:** Kelsey Hirsch (Women's Volleyball) – Described by her teammates as the most selfless, caring, and compassionate teammate they could ask for.
- **TEAM OF THE YEAR:** Synchronized Skating – 8th place national finish, *Spirit Night* winners, highly active in fundraising, community service, and student recruitment efforts.



*Team of the Year:
Synchronized Skating,
awaiting their placement
at the 2018-2019 National
Championships.*

TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **BADMINTON:** Won their 2nd consecutive Division 1A Eastern Collegiate Playoffs Championship besting 41 other schools. Finished in 2nd Place in the Spring MassBad Tournament. Finished in 3rd Place in their Division 1A Eastern Collegiate Fall Tournament.
- **BASEBALL:** Won the NECBA Southeast conference. Competed in Florida against Florida Gulf Coast University on their annual Spring Break training trip. The team is excited to increase their on-field practice time next fall and continue to rank at the top of their conference.
- **CRICKET:** ACC Home and Away Regular Season Champions. Sophomore Tegveer Ghura was named BU Club Sport's Male Competitive Athlete of the Year after being named an ACC All-American, representing the United States in a match against Canada.
- **CYCLING:** Finished 11th out of 55 schools in the ECCC. Had 1 rider qualify for nationals. Took a training trip to the White Mountains in the fall. Broke the \$1,000 donations mark for the 1st time in team history on Giving Day. Will look to increase their roster size with the purchase of 2 team bikes.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **EQUESTRIAN:** Coming off their remarkable 4th Place Nationals finish last year, the team was once again able to field one of the strongest teams in the region and send a senior rider to nationals. With consistently strong leadership and coaching, they should remain strong for years to come.
- **FENCING:** 8th Place finish at Nationals including great individual finishes (3rd Place Women's Epee - Kathrine Vella, 3rd Place Men's Epee - Jack Gillman). Hosted successful NFC Winter Invitational as well as their annual Alumni Tournament at FitRec.
- **FIGURE SKATING:** Earned their 5th National Championship and 3rd in the last three years. Added a club-mentorship program, which connects skaters of the same major/area of study with each other for academic help and support. Increased Home Show attendance and used the event to fundraise nearly \$2,000.
- **GOLF:** Hampered by New England's long winters and wet springs, the golf team still managed a successful season earning a wild-card invite to spring nationals. The team will be looking to revamp their schedule for the 2019-2020 school year to try to play more golf and enjoy their time together as a team.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **GYMNASTICS:** Nominated for NAIGC Club of The Year along with 4 other schools. Traveled to Nationals in Orlando, FL with male athlete Kento Minagawa finishing 4th in the country. Hosted their annual home meet “Rhett Bowl”, which brought 9 schools and 200 gymnasts to their off-campus gym.
- **ICE HOCKEY (M):** Defeated rival Boston College to win the Club Sports Beanpot Championship for the 2nd time in three years. Held a successful alumni game with over 40 alumni returning to campus. Collaborated with Army ROTC to hold the 1st annual Army ROTC Club Hockey Game.
- **ICE HOCKEY (W):** Held their 1st alumni game. Hosted Michigan State for the 1st time in program history. Had their most successful fundraising year to date, raising over \$7,500 dollars. Held 2 sold out skills clinics for youth girls in the Boston area.
- **INLINE HOCKEY:** Celebrated their 20th Anniversary season with an unexpected trip to NCRHA Nationals. Continued their involvement in the *Movember* campaign by raising over \$1,200 and awareness for men’s health issues. With the bulk of the team returning next season, Inline looks to continue to build on this season’s positive momentum.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **JIU-JITSU:** Participated in three new competitions throughout the school year. Increased their Giving Day total by over 145%, and had a team high in total donations. Will be looking to increase their alumni presence by hosting a tournament next school year.
- **KENDO:** Attended the biggest Intercollegiate Kendo Tournament in North America at Harvard University, bringing 25 total athletes. Held their 10th Anniversary Tournament in FitRec in the spring finishing in 3rd Place. Raised over \$1,000 in total donations during this year's Giving Day.
- **KUNG FU:** Performed for multiple groups and clubs, both on and off campus. Hosted an Alumni event centered around a Dodgeball Tournament. Hoping increased practice space will help retain new athletes.
- **RUGBY (M):** Went undefeated in regular season play in their conference. Completed their first official 7s season, finishing 2nd in the circuit, only 1-point behind the winners. Competed against the Barbados National team twice while on tour in Barbados during Spring Break in March.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **RUGBY (W):** Celebrated 20th Anniversary by holding an alumni event in which the team defeated rival Boston College 59-20. Over 50 alumni in attendance. Won 1st Place in four separate tournaments they competed in. Three members named to the NEC7C All-Star Team.
- **SAILING:** Qualified for the Women's and Co-ed ICSA National Championships, in which both placed 10th. Maia Agerup (QUES '20) was named to the Women's All-American Team. Javier de Urdanibia Pera Panos (CAS '21), Lexi Pline (COM '19), and Emily Croteau (SED '19) were named 2nd Team Co-ed All-Americans.
- **SHOTOKAN KARATE:** Hosted NACKC Tournament for the 1st time bringing nine schools to BU's campus and 70 total martial artists. Participated in four tournaments throughout the year, resulting in athletes finishing in the Top 3 podium positions in all divisions.
- **SKI RACING:** Held their annual pre-season training program in Canada, followed by a very successful season. Both the men's and women's team made regionals with the women's team placing 3rd in the Thompson Division of the USCSA. Three athletes placed in the Top 10 overall in the Thompson Division.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **SNOWBOARDING:** Traveled to numerous mountains throughout the Northeast. Increased their Giving Day total by 250%. Started a relationship with USCSA, and will be returning to competitive meets next year.
- **SOCCER (M):** Led by a young core of players, the team competed against teams throughout New England, increasing the number of matches played. Next year they will look to finish atop their division and get a bid to Regionals. The team also continued to increase their overall fundraising.
- **SOCCER (W):** Hosted their 1st ever alumni game on Nickerson Field. Finished 2nd in their conference, only losing one match. The team is looking to once again compete in their highly competitive conference and qualify for Regionals for the first time.
- **SQUASH:** Men's side increased their National Ranking from the previous year. Increased their Giving Day total by 65%, and had team record 71 total donations. Have seen a steady increase in female athletes and will hope to continue that trend in the years to come.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **SYNCHRONIZED SKATING:** BU Club Sport's team of the year was firing on all cylinders this year. The team captured their highest ever finish at nationals (8th) and hosted another successful Prospective Skater's Weekend with 15 high school students coming to campus to experience all BU has to offer.
- **SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING:** Placed 9th overall at Nationals in San Antonio, TX. Finished 2nd at the US Synchro Regional Championships. Hosted the largest synchro meet in the Region in FitRec in early February. Increased their Giving Day total by 35%, and had their 2nd highest donor total in team history.
- **TABLE TENNIS:** Hosted a Divisional Tournament in FitRec finishing in 3rd Place in their division, and qualifying for Regionals. Raised \$841 during this year's Giving Day, which was the highest total in team history. Purchased a new professional table, with the hopes of increasing hosting opportunities.
- **TRIATHLON:** Sent two riders to Nationals in Tempe, Arizona. Had a handful of alumni race with the team in the Hyannis Marathon in mid-February. Increased their Giving Day total by 44%, and eclipsed the \$4,000 mark for the first time ever.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **ULTIMATE (M):** Building off of last season's success, the team was invited to compete in a premiere early season tournament in South Carolina. Collaborated with the women's team to host a charity tournament called "Huck for Hope". More than doubled their Giving Day donors from 64 to 138.
- **ULTIMATE (W):** With a brand new coaching staff, the team took 5th in Sectionals and 8th in Regionals. After a trip to the CENTEX tournament in Texas, team chemistry was at an all-time high. The team will look to continue and build on this success next year.
- **VOLLEYBALL (M):** A 5th Place finish at Nationals capped off another busy season for men's volleyball which included multiple community service efforts, a large home tournament, a big jump in Giving Day donations, and another successful alumni weekend co-hosted with the women's team.
- **VOLLEYBALL (W):** Placed 1st in three tournaments, 2nd in two tournaments, and 2nd overall for the season at the League Championships. Competed in the highest division at the National Tournament and improved by three games over past years. More than doubled their Giving Day earnings.



TEAM BY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **WATER POLO (M):** Finished 2nd in the Region. Won the UMASS Spring Invitational. Hosted their league's Regional Championship in FitRec in the Fall. Increased their Giving Day total by 62%, and amassed over \$5,000 in total donations.
- **WATER POLO (W):** Finished 2nd in the Region. Traveled to Los Angeles, CA for an alumni and training trip using strictly fundraised money. Finished as the top team on Giving Day with 263 total donations totaling just over \$7,000. Were featured in BU Today highlighting their team's commitment.



“As a transfer student, I was nervous about adjusting to BU and about making friends. Joining BU Women's Club Hockey made that transition so much easier than it would have been otherwise. I wouldn't have adapted to my life here so seamlessly without the team. When transferring, I knew that I wanted to choose a school that offered a club hockey team and BUWCH has become my family. I can't imagine not being a part of this team. I'm so thankful for my time here and as a club sports athlete.

- Lauren Bennett (CAS '19)