



CLUB SPORTS

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019-2020



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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 1,100 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 are the leadership roles and opportunities for student-athletes. 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 guidance, mentorship, and 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 compete in regional and national championships. In 2019-2020, Women's Soccer, Squash, Synchronized Skating, and Men's Rugby advanced to their respective national tournaments. Furthermore, our program had planned to send an additional 10 teams to their national tournaments prior to the onset of COVID-19.

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.

“When I look back at my four years at BU, I think about all the life-long friends I've made, the important matches I've played in, and the leadership opportunities I was fortunate enough to receive thanks to the Cricket Club. The team has really been a home away from home for me, and has provided me with memories that will last a lifetime.”

- Maaz Elahi (SAR '20)

FACTS, FIGURES, AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019-2020

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:** 1,060
- **MILES DRIVEN:** 30,754
- **STATES VISITED:** 12
- **DOLLARS FUNDRAISED:** \$57,453
- **HOURS OF PRACTICE:** 3,500

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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 fall include:

1. **Figure Skating:** Jane McCready visited campus following her generous donation to the “Pledge The Pit” campaign. The team finished in 1st Place at three different competitions.
2. **Women’s Soccer:** Competed in the NIRSA National Championship Series for first time in program history.
3. **Squash:** Won the Sereus Cup, making them the Collegiate Squash Association’s Group F National Men’s Champion.
4. **Synchro Skate:** Finished 8th in the nation at the United States Synchronized Skating Championships.
5. **Men’s Rugby:** Finished in 2nd Place in the NEWCRC after being promoted to a higher tier. Qualified for a USA Rugby National Championship Series play-in game.
6. **Men’s Hockey:** Qualified for the NECHA Finals and were selected to the ACHA Regional Tournament.
7. **Sailing:** Finished in 1st Place at the NEISA Co-Ed Showcase Finals in the fall semester. Five sailors earned All-NEISA Awards.

SPIRIT NIGHT

In collaboration with Athletics, the 6th annual Club Sports Spirit Night was the program's largest to date. Over 500 Club Sports student-athletes were in attendance on January 22nd to cheer on the Men's Varsity Basketball team as they competed against conference rival, Navy.



“The existence of the Squash Club played a role in my decision to attend and stay at BU. I have been playing competitive squash since middle school, so the sport is very important to me. Luckily, BU had squash courts and a Squash Club, so that is why I chose this prestigious University.”

- Julian Lee (QST '20)

AWARDS

Each year our program highlights a select few student-athletes who have gone above and beyond in a specific aspect of their club responsibilities. These students usually receive their recognition at our Club Sports President's Dinner on the last day of classes. This year that was not possible, so we adapted our recognition process to create videos for each student that can be found on our program's Facebook and Instagram page. These videos generated over 5,160 views from our audience. Our award winners from the 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

- **Competitive Excellence: Mats Najberg, Men's Rugby**
This award is given to a student-athlete who achieves greatness on the field of play.
Mats led the NEWCRC Tier 1 in scoring during the fall semester. For this he was selected to the All-Conference team. He was also an instrumental part of the club's 5-1 conference record and eventual Nationals play-in game bid.
- **Competitive Excellence: Maia Agerup, Sailing**
This award is given to a student-athlete who achieves greatness on the field of play.
Maia was selected as the NEISA Senior Trophy winner, Co-Ed 1st Team Skipper, and Women's 1st Team Skipper. Her accolades and leadership as a Co-President were a big part of the club finishing 2nd in the nation in the fall semester.
- **Leadership: Hanna Gootee, Women's Ice Hockey**
This award is given to the student-athlete that takes charge of their club and steers other towards excellence whether on or off the field.
During her senior year as President of her club Hanna organized a trip to Michigan, made cards for everyone during the holidays, held countless social events, and most importantly kept her club connected via Zoom during the difficult times of the pandemic. She was also inducted into the prestigious Scarlet Key Honor Society.



Mats Najberg, MRUG



Maia Agerup, Sailing



Hanna Gootee, WIH

AWARDS

- **Advancement: *Phil Harrington, Snowboarding***

This award is given to the student-athlete that took their club to a higher level than expected.

During his second consecutive year as President, Phil took his club which was relatively recreational in nature and had them competing in the USCSA for the first time in years. With his influence the club claimed 13 medals this year and also had a record breaking Giving Day in 2019.

- **Team of The Year: *Men's Rugby***

This award is given to the club that exceeded our program's expectations and succeeded on and off the field.

In 2020, Men's Rugby was promoted to the top tier of the NEWCRC where they finished the regular season in 2nd Place with a 5-1 record, and were selected to participate in a Nationals play-in game. The club also raised \$13,375 on Giving Tuesday and saw a 42% increase in their roster size.



Phil Harrington, SNOW



2019-2020 Men's Rugby

“Being a part of the Women’s Ice Hockey Club allowed me to make friends that will be a part of the rest of my life. I am so thankful to have the ability to be a part of the family that this club is. This team gave me the confidence to be the person I want to be without feeling shy around my fellow teammates. My time on the team actually changed my life.” - Julia Kolar (SAR '20)

AWARDS

BARBARA PINCH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In March of 2019, our program honored former Figure Skating Coach Barbara Pinch by naming our Distinguished Service Award in her honor. Barbara worked at the University for over 35 years. In her time at Boston University, she started the skating program which included recreational PDP classes, the Learn to Skate Program, and the competitive skating clubs – both Figure and Synchronized Skating. She is also credited as the founder of the Intercollegiate Team Competition, which now has blossomed into over 140 colleges across the country. Current Figure Skating Coach Andrea Mohns-Brillaud said this of her, “Barb’s most important contribution to the University was her smile and welcoming personality. That brought her students and athletes together in a community that supported them and helped them to navigate college successfully.” Each year we will honor an individual who has had a lasting impact on the Club Sports program at Boston University.

- **2019 Distinguished Service Award: Phyllis Cervelli, Equestrian Coach**

This award is given to the individual who provides significant contributions to the Club Sport program and service to the students of Boston University.

Phyllis has been a great attribute to the Equestrian Club for 29 years. One of her greatest accomplishments was leading the club to a 4th Place finish at Nationals in 2018 where they defeated countless varsity teams. She is an instrumental part in the growth and success of the club at the University. The team would not be a top-notch Regional and National program without her.



Phyllis Cervelli received the award at the club’s Home Show in mid-October.

AWARDS

SCARLET KEY HONOR SOCIETY

Inductees to the Scarlet Key Honor Society are those students in their senior year who have exhibited exceptional leadership among their peers during their years at Boston University. Selection for Scarlet Key is based on excellence in University student activities and organizations, commitment, involvement in the individual's School or College, and in scholarship. Each year our program nominates a select few student-athletes that take their leadership responsibilities in their club and go beyond our staff's expectations. In 2019, we nominated nine students and were able to have one inducted, which was a first in some years.

- **2019 Scarlet Key Honor Society Inductee: *Hanna Gootee, Women's Ice Hockey***
Hanna was a transfer student to BU from the Wheelock merger, and although she was only on campus for two years she made a lasting impact throughout the University. During her time she was a Resident Assistant, program manager for the Siblings Program at the Community Service Center, Campus Partnerships Manager for the Community Service Center, and was an Outdoor Trip Leader in our department's new program, "FitTrekks". Hanna also prided herself as being named the Women's Club Ice Hockey President despite her shortened time on the team. Even with all these extracurricular activities she excelled academically and was named to the Dean's List. Hanna is currently employed at Mount Prospect Academy in New Hampshire where she works with high-risk students.



Hanna Gootee is pictured here with WIH coach Luke Stanton on her induction night.

STAYING CONNECTED

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected each and every one of our 34 club sports. Our program had clubs cancel Nationals trips, alumni games, banquets, and regular team activities. Our clubs also were unable to say goodbye to the Class of 2020 in a proper fashion. Many of our teams were creative and are still staying connected via Zoom. Here are some examples of how our clubs are staying connected and fostering a community mentality during these difficult times:

- 1. Synchronized Skating:** They have been keeping their student-athletes' health and wellness at peak performance by holding weekly hour long workouts. The club was even highlighted in a BU Today video.
- 2. Kendo:** The club has been hosting workouts and stretching seminars during their regularly scheduled weekend practice times. The seminars were so popular that they have decided to still run them throughout the summer.
- 3. Figure Skating:** Their longtime coach Andrea Mohns-Brillaud has been checking in numerous times a week to make sure her student-athletes are maintaining their mental and physical health. Weekly zoom meetings often run past their scheduled time as team members are enjoying the check in so much.
- 4. Women's Ice Hockey:** They usually host their annual team banquet at a restaurant in the Boston area, but this year it was held virtually. The whole team and their coaches were on the call for almost two hours.



Synchronized Skating featured in BU Today video.

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