



Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation

NEWSLETTER

THE COMPETITIVE EDGE ~ JANUARY 2021



Philip Correia riding Junior Cardento



McKenzie James riding Worth the Wait



Kayla Bardgett riding Causing Chaos (photo credit: Andy Gibbs)

Bermuda Equestrian Federation Highlights

The FEI Jumping World Challenge is a major highlight on the Bermuda equestrian calendar. The event provides an opportunity for local riders to compete against other countries without having to travel overseas. Participating countries have a calendar year in which to host the three competitions that comprise the Challenge. Once all country results have been reviewed and collated by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the official results are released.

The Challenge provides Regional individual and team results as well as Overall individual and team world ranking results. In addition, the top two riders of the ten regional zones are invited to compete in FEI Jumping World FINALS, which is tentatively scheduled to be held in Honduras later this year.

Despite the difficulties faced in 2020, the Bermuda Equestrian Federation was able to host the Challenge with local riders rising to the occasion.

In the **REGIONAL ZONE 10**, Bermuda claimed **FIRST PLACE in ALL three jumping categories** with Kayla Bardgett and Causing Chaos winning category A (1.20 to 1.30m) while Philip Correia won both category B (1.10 to 1.20m) and category C (1.00 to 1.10m) on board Junior Cardento and Bon Voyage respectively. In addition, the Bermuda Team, comprising Kayla Bardgett riding Causing Chaos, Philip Correia, on board Junior Cardento and McKenzie James riding Worth the Wait, claimed **First Place in the regional Team division**.

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GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation



Wushu Coach
Stephanie Lim Changquan



Kai Yung Final with
Coach Adriano Lourenço



Wushu coach
Nathan Andrus-Hughes



Success Academy Final with
Coach Adriano Lourenço

BEF Highlights continued

Meanwhile, in the FEI Jumping World overall ranking, Bermuda's riders impressed further with their final standings. In category A, Kayla Bardgett and Causing Chaos placed fifth out of 47 competitors, while Philip Correia, finished third out of 65 competitors in category B riding Junior Cardento and second out of

110 competitors in category C on board Bon Voyage. In the world team rankings, the Bermuda team placed second overall out of ten teams. As a result of Kayla Bardgett's impressive results competing for the first time in the Category A division, she has also qualified for the 2021 FEI Jumping Finals in Honduras.

Bermuda Sanshou Association Highlights

"Wushu Development Coach Adriano Lourenço da Silva from Brazil concluded a very successful three months in Bermuda which consisted of intense training for both athletes and coaches alike. Coach da Silva spent two days a week at our member kung fu schools—Wing Lam Kung fu and Kai Yun Shaolin Academy, teaching them various elements of the curriculum established by the International Wushu Federation (IWuF), the world governing body for wushu, as well as enhancing the quality of their existing programs. An Intro to Wushu course at Aries Sports Center was also held twice a week for 10 weeks where the participants between the ages of 5 and 11 years learned the basics of wushu. Aries also played host to a Nandu – Acrobatics for Martial Arts class that was held every Sunday for athletes of all ages where many of the advanced movements of wushu and the strength and conditioning required for competition was covered. Coach da Silva also had the opportunity to visit Success Academy weekly where he engaged the students with stories of his upbringing in Brazil and of course wushu training.

A number of the advanced athletes and coaches received one-on-one training, some of them a minimum of six days a week while Coach da Silva graced with his

presence. The development training was well received by all and set the foundation for qualification for the 2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar, Senegal.

The training helped to establish a full suite of wushu classes that are now offered at Aries Sports Center for youth and adults alike. Wushu: Taolu (forms) classes for ages 5 to 12 years now takes place at Aries on Mondays and Fridays from 4:30pm – 5:15pm. Nandu – Acrobatics for Martial Arts for all ages takes place every Sunday from 2:30pm – 4:00pm. These classes are led by coaches Jecoa Burrows and Kaelin Cox. These new wushu classes have now been added to the very popular Wushu: San Da (Chinese Kickboxing) classes that are offered a number of times per week.

We are happy to announce that we will be welcoming a second set of wushu coaches to the island from the US in mid-February to help us continue with our wushu development. Stephanie Lim and Nathan Andrus-Hughes from Elite Kungfu Academy will be here to focus on the compulsory competition routines in addition to strength and conditioning training. We look forward to the continued development in 2021 with the intent of returning to international competition in the near future."



Wing Lam Final with Coach Adriano Lourenço



Bermuda Boxing Federation Highlights

The sport of Boxing is rife with controversy, scandals and political drama. Veteran boxing fans will recall Floyd Mayweather's questionable loss at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics where even the referee thought Mayweather won, raising his hand before being corrected. Twenty years later at the 2016 Rio Olympics, senior officials within the sport were removed from their roles after it was alleged a group of referees and judges got together before major championships to decide who would win. Even recently "glovegate" had boxing fans closely analyzing video footage to determine whether British heavyweight boxing superstar Tyson "Gypsy King" Fury had manipulated his gloves in his February 2020 knockout win over American Deontay "Bronze Bomber" Wilder.

The Bermuda Boxing Federation found itself in the midst of its own scandal when

it was recently accused of corruption. In the Fall of 2020, AIBA which is the international boxing association, the world governing body for the sport, suspended Bermuda Boxing Federation along with nine other Caribbean countries over what the American Boxing Confederation (AMBC) called a "disturbing case." The matter in question was that the Dominican Boxing Federation (FEDOBXA) had transferred a total of \$4,800 to the (AMBC) to cover the membership dues to AIBA, for Bermuda, Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Suriname, Dominica, Saint Maarten, the US Virgin Islands and the Bahamas in order for them to be eligible for an upcoming election.

The AMBC claimed the funds being paid were in return for having those countries

align their votes for the Dominican candidate. It was further alleged that it was requested for the source of the funds to be "covered up." The Caribbean Steering Committee for Boxing, a group of mostly English speaking Caribbean boxing associations came to the defense of the suspended countries and sent in a unified appeal demanding justice as the countries were suspended without a hearing. Ultimately Bermuda was found not guilty of the charges by the AIBA Disciplinary Commission.

Gymnastics Federation of Bermuda Highlights

As for all sports clubs, the corona virus pandemic has bought many challenges to the Bermuda Gymnastics Association. Back in March 2020, when the country went into lock down and the gym was closed, our competitive level gymnasts for example, could only participate in online conditioning to try and maintain a basic level of fitness.

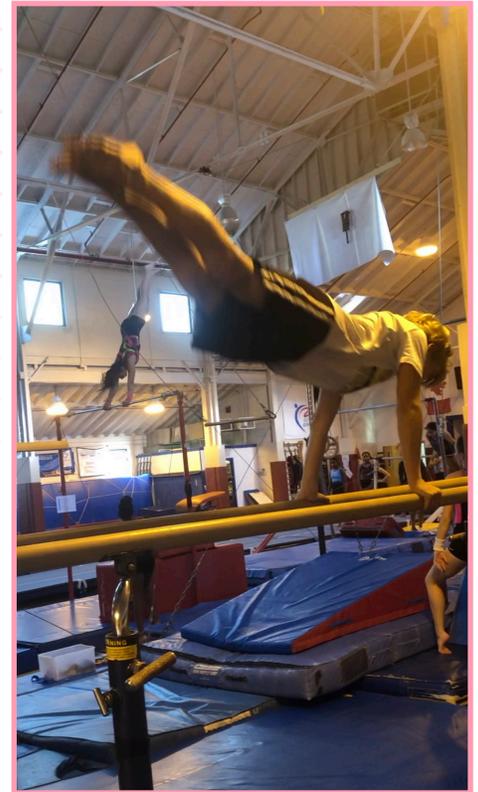
Once these gymnasts were able to return to the gym, a lot of time and effort was put into getting the gym ready and enforcing the regulations and guidelines from the Health Department and Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. Most of our athletes had lost some skills, flexibility and strength so we slowly introduced low impact conditioning and getting back onto the equipment. We gradually intensified our training programs and our athletes started showing a return to form, until December when the second Covid-19 wave hit, and training schedules were curtailed again. However, as restrictions are gradually eased, we can move forward once more to get our athletes back to their full potential. We are even hopeful that our competitive team athletes will be able to compete in virtual competitions over the next few months.

We had two new coaches, senior coach Almaas Harris and Assistant Head Coach Anna Balada, join in 2020, and they along with Head Coach Brian Le Roux, and Recreational Coach Pilar Sanchez, have kicked off 2021 with a brand new recreational gymnastics program

“FUNdamentals”. This program provides a solid foundation in gymnastics for children from walking age up to age 12, teaching strength, flexibility, agility, self-esteem, social and emotional skills (visit bermudagymnastics.bm for more information.)

Catering to all age groups, BGA continues to offer Parkour (which is now a recognized Olympic sport) and runs a fun adult gymnastics class. There are also children’s classes on Saturdays at Saltus School, and we hope to return to providing classes in nursery schools once regulations allow. Our philosophy at BGA is that gymnastics caters for activities for ALL children .Our organization is not just catering for high level competitive gymnastics.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook [[@bermudagymnastics](https://www.instagram.com/bermudagymnastics)] to see what talented gymnasts we have on the island.







Sports has an amazing and unique way of making a positive impact in society and it's no different in Bermuda. The local sporting scene has adapted well to the complexities of hosting sporting events during these unprecedented times. In an effort to raise awareness of the many positive sporting lights permeating through our country, it is the perfect opportunity for Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation to partner with National Sports Governing Bodies to share exciting news and highlights within all sports in Bermuda monthly.